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\$2.1 million software gift to aid geosciences research

A geosciences instructor is receiving cutting-edge computer software and technical support worth more than \$2 million to help sharpen student research skills and greatly enhance the study of the state's existing petroleum resources.

Jonathan Harris of the university's Geosciences Department said Seismic Micro-Technology Inc. of Houston, Texas, is providing Kingdom Suite of Geophysical Data Processing software and technical support valued at \$2.1 million.

"The Kingdom Suite system is the industry's leading Windows-based seismic interpretation software package," said Harris.

He said the software will be used to teach modern geophysical interpretation to the next generation of geoscientists at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Harris also predicted it will enhance the marketable skills of MSU students "in their search for employment in the 21st century energy industry."

He added: "This software will allow cutting-edge processing and research of existing geophysical data to be studied to better locate and manage Mississippi's existing petroleum resources."

Harris said the software is used to analyze data with a variety of tools that

include animations, horizon and volume attribute calculators, phase rotation, and trace attributes, among others. Other features include integration of borehole information, gridding and contouring of both seismic and well data.

"With newly added functionality, interpreters now can set up a project with all major map projections and datum that a domestic or international working area requires," said Harris.

Long-running public admin program gets another six years

The public administration graduate program is being reaccredited for six more years.

In a recent letter to Edward Clynch of the university's department of political science and public administration, Jeffrey Raffel said the master's degree curriculum in public policy and administration "has been found to be in conformity with NASPAA standards" and continues on the organization's roster of accredited programs. Six years is the standard time between the organization's required reviews and assessments.

Raffel is peer review/accreditation commission chairman of the Washington, D.C.-based National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. Clynch, a veteran professor and government budgetary specialist, coordinates the MSU program.

Established some two decades ago, the MPPA degree program currently enrolls nearly 30 full-time students. Slightly more than that number participate on a part-time basis, many in an intense weekend-class section.

"Our program serves both pre- and in-career students," Clynch said. "We are especially proud that our graduates work at all levels of Mississippi government, with several serving as legislators and senior state officials."



Dr. Donald Downer (second from left) and Jamie Inmon receive congratulations from Atly Jefcoat (left) and President Charles Lee after being honored for career student academic advising. They are MSU's first Irvin Atly Jefcoat Excellence in Advising Award winners. Downer is a veteran biological sciences professor; Inmon, a longtime University Academic Advising Center staff member. The honor, which included \$5,000 stipends, is made possible by alumnus Hunter Henry and named for the current Henry Endowed Professor of Chemical Engineering.



Chemical engineering assistant professor Rafael Hernandez (c) is congratulated by President Charles Lee (l) and Colin Scanes, vice president for research, on being awarded a 2005 Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award. Presented by Oak Ridge Associated Universities, the \$5,000 grant honors MSU's late vice president for research, who served for 16 years as the university's representative to the regional consortium.

New book follows Sherman's 'march'

Civil War scholars and buffs interested in Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's famous "march to the sea" may want to march over to a favorite bookstore for a copy of historian John F. Marszalek's latest work on the controversial subject.

Researched and written by the longtime Mississippi State faculty member, "Sherman's March to the Sea," is a new release of the McWhiney Foundation Press at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. The 160-page paperback is part of "Civil War Campaigns and Commanders Series," which is under the general editorship of well-known Southern historian Grady McWhiney.

"Grady asked me to write a book for the series on the march to the sea," said Marszalek, a William L. Giles Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the Starkville institution. "The series is aimed at classroom use and purchase by anyone with an enthusiasm for the Civil War."

Marszalek, who retired in 2002 after a nearly 30-year MSU career, won critical acclaim for his 1993 biography on Sherman. Titled "Sherman: A Soldier's Passion for Order," the 635-page work was a finalist for the Lincoln Prize, considered the most prestigious award for Civil War books.

A nationally recognized researcher and lecturer, Marszalek recently returned to campus as the university's director and mentor of distinguished scholars—those holding the most prestigious undergraduate scholarships.

"After writing my biography and giving lectures around the country, I noted how little people actually knew about the march to the sea and how much myth surrounds it," the author said. "My aim in this (new) book, therefore, is to present the facts about the march and demonstrate its place in the history of the Civil War."

"I also want to give an accurate picture of Sherman, particularly in his relations to the South," he added.

Endowment to benefit Deltans

A new scholarship is being established specifically to benefit MSU students from two Delta counties.

Offered in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Frank T. and Virginia Brumfield and Harris S. and Margaret M. Swayze Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to qualified students from Sunflower and Yazoo counties.

The scholarship was established anonymously in June to honor the late couples for whom it is named, both of whom headed longtime farming and cattle operations in their respective counties.

"The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is pleased that the legacies of these two families, who have contributed so much to Mississippi agriculture, are being commemorated through this scholarship," said Jud Skelton, development director for the college. "Through the scholarship, students without the means to earn a college education will have help in achieving that goal."

The Frank T. and Virginia Brumfield and Harris S. and Margaret M. Swayze Endowed Scholarship is an open fund in the MSU Foundation which may be increased through additional contributions.

For more information, telephone Skelton at 325-0643.

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Engineering college names new endowed profs

Five members of the Mississippi State faculty are new appointees to endowed professorships in the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering.

They include:

- Mechanical engineering professor Dr. David L. Marcum,
- Electrical and computer engineering professor Dr. Robert J. Moorhead II,
- Electrical and computer engineering associate professor Dr. Noel N. Schulz,
- Mechanical engineering department head Dr. W. Glenn Steele, and
- Computer science and engineering professor Dr. Rayford B. “Ray” Vaughn Jr.

The college currently has 23 endowed faculty positions, including 14 endowed chairs and nine endowed professorships. The new endowed positions were formally recognized during a recent investiture dinner.

Marcum, Moorhead and Vaughn all were named to professorships honoring Dr. Billie J. Ball of Starkville, professor and head emeritus of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

These professorships were established earlier this year by Jean and Jim Bagley to acknowledge the impact Ball had on the engineering college and the university, and to perpetuate excellence in research and teaching.

A native of Louin and Laurel, Ball served on the MSU faculty from 1964 until his retirement in 1992. His leadership and support provided a substantial foundation for the National Science Foundation-MSU Engineering Research Center—now known simply as the ERC—that was established in 1990.

Marcum, a 1985 doctoral graduate of Purdue University who came to MSU in 1991, currently serves as director of the ERC/Computational Simulation and Design Center. Over the years, he has generated nearly \$4 million as a principal research investigator and been co-principal investigator on an additional \$6.5 million in externally funded research.

Moorhead, an MSU faculty member since 1989, directs the university’s Visualization, Analysis and Imaging Laboratory. A 1985 doctoral graduate in electrical and computer

engineering of North Carolina State University, he formerly served as deputy director of the ERC/Computational GeoSpatial Technologies Center.

Vaughn, who joined the MSU faculty in 1997, directs the university’s nationally recognized Center for Computer Security Research. A 1988 doctoral graduate of Kansas State University and a retired Army colonel, he formerly served as a senior computer scientist with the National Security Agency.

Steele is the Bobby Shackouls Professor in Engineering, a position established in 1998 by the Burlington Resources Foundation to further advancements in research, education and service within the engineering college. Steele, who joined the university in 1979, also is one of the university’s William L. Giles Distinguished Professors. A 1974

North Carolina State doctoral graduate, he is the author of two books and has been principal or co-principal investigator on 31 NASA research contracts totaling \$7 million.

Schulz was named to the Tennessee Valley Authority Professorship in Power Systems Engineering, established by TVA in 2000 for a professor in electrical and computer engineering. Focusing on research and teaching power systems and energy systems, her professorship was instituted to provide leadership in the areas of power generation, distribution and management.

Schulz, who joined the MSU faculty in 2001, specializes in research centered on the application of computers, including intelligent systems, to solve problems in power systems operations. She earned a doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1995.



Participants in the ATOMS² Summer Institute listen as Dr. Paul Cuicchi discusses teaching points the teachers can use when addressing physics concepts with their eighth-grade science classes. The teachers were among 18 middle school sciences teachers who participated in the workshop, which is sponsored by MSU’s Center for Educational and Training Technology. Cuicchi was one of five MSU instructors leading the two-week workshop. Also on hand was Dr. Betty Latimer, second from left, who is the ATOMS² principal investigator, and LaShundra Colvert, third from left, of the state Department of Education. ATOMS² was awarded funding as part of the math and science grants offered through the state DOE.



Calendar of Events

Send your calendar items to

Kay Fike Jones, 102 George Hall; Mail Stop 9512; FAX 325-7455; e-mail jonesk@ur.msstate.edu at least **TWO WEEKS** in advance. For updates, check www.msstate.edu and click on "Calendar of Events."

To list calendar events online, access www.ur.msstate.edu/news/today.asp and follow the instructions.

Ongoing Events

The works of 20 members of the Art Department faculty are being featured through Sept. 16 in the McComas Hall gallery. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. As with the entire campus, the exhibit will be closed for the Sept. 5 Labor Day observance. For additional information or to book tours, contact the department at 325-2970.

August 29

Workshop: "How to Use Your Library!" ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 4 p.m. 325-3834.

30

ITS workshop: "BANNER: Electronic



Approvals," 10 McArthur Hall, 10 a.m. 325-0631.

Open Mic Night, Colvard Union Dawg House, 7 p.m. 325-2930.

Honors Forum: presentation by student Alan Lovett, "Adventures on the Appalachian Trail," 13 Allen Hall, 12:30 p.m. 325-2522.

September 2

Workshop: "How to Use Your Library!" ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 10 a.m. 325-3834.

3

Groundbreaking for Bryce Griffis Residence Hall (and University Honors Program offices) and dedication of Roy Ruby Residence Hall. Ceremonies adjacent to Ruby Hall, 11 a.m. 325-3557.

MSU vs. Murray State football game, Scott Field, 6 p.m.

5

University closed for Labor Day.

6

Workshop: "Crafting the winning Curriculum Vita," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 9 a.m. 325-0810.

14

Workshop: "EndNote 101: Managing Your Citations and More," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. 325-0810.

16

MSU vs. Louisiana-Lafayette, women's volleyball, Newell-Grissom Building, 7 p.m.

17

MSU vs. Tennessee-Martin, 9 a.m.; vs. Arkansas-Little Rock, 3 p.m.; women's volleyball, Newell-Grissom Building.

20

Career Day, Humphrey Coliseum concourse, noon. 325-3344.

21

Workshop: "Formatting Your Thesis or Dissertation," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2:30 p.m. 325-0778.

22

Workshop: "Avoiding Plagiarism: Strategies for Research," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3 p.m. 325-0810.

23

MSU vs. Florida, women's volleyball, Newell-Grissom Building, 7 p.m.

Free movies offered

Campus radio station WMSV is sponsoring a free movie night for faculty, staff, students, and community residents Aug. 29.

The complimentary screenings include all 11 Hollywood Premier Cinemas in Starkville and are good for the 7 p.m. showtime only.

For more information, call WMSV at 325-8064.

Mississippi State University complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate against anyone protected by law because of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, handicap, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran.

Another successful year of giving announced

Mississippi State continues its successful streak in private support by surpassing \$51 million in total funds raised during the just-concluded fiscal year—the third-highest total ever.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, immediate and deferred financial gifts, as well as pledges payable to the university over five years, had been received from individuals, corporations, foundations, trusts, and estates.

"We are grateful for the continuing generosity of alumni and friends who value the university's contributions to Mississippi and the nation and share its vision for the future," said MSU President J. Charles Lee. "We are determined to justify the confidence in Mississippi State that these gifts demonstrate by making the best possible use of all of our resources as we strive to create new opportunities for the youth of Mississippi and for all of our citizens."

The combination of current gifts immediately available and income produced from previously existing endowments translated into a record amount—more than \$22 million—made available for immediate use to beneficiaries across the university community during the past fiscal year.