

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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Freshman increase drives enrollment above 16,100

A 12 percent increase in new freshmen pushed Mississippi State's fall enrollment to 16,101, up by 167 students from last year. The 1,966 first-time freshmen outnumber last year's newcomers by 213 and make up the largest entering class at MSU since 2000.

About 77 percent of MSU's new freshmen and 77 percent of all students are Mississippi residents. African-Americans make up 19.5 percent of the total. The student body is 51.5 percent male and 48.5 percent female.

This fall's unduplicated headcount includes 14,395 students on the Starkville campus, 723 at the Meridian Campus, 923 enrolled exclusively in online courses, and 60 in graduate centers at Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis and at the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg.

MSU also saw growth in graduate and professional students, who total 3,546 this fall, while the number of international students continued a decline that began after 2001, dropping to 574 this year.

Fall semester classes began Aug. 18 and this fall's preliminary headcount was calculated Sept. 2, following the last day to drop a class without receiving a grade.

Although regular registration for the semester ended Aug. 24, the university continued to accept students who had planned to attend classes this fall at institutions disrupted by Hurricane Katrina until Sept. 9. The late-enrolling students displaced by the hurricane will not be included in official fall enrollment figures.

Mississippi State marshals resources to respond to Katrina

In response to the mounting losses now being realized from Hurricane Katrina, the university continues to respond in significant ways to the needs of its students, faculty and staff, as well as reaching out to others around the state.

"It is sobering to realize the enormous impact this disaster has had on the Mississippi State family and on our state," said President Charles Lee. "From the first day after the disaster, individuals, departments and units of the university have mobilized to assist those in need."

Lee said that Mississippi State has at least 1,200 students and numerous university employees from the areas most directly affected. "We know that many of them have suffered extensive losses."

With reports of devastation mounting daily, Lee said that a top priority is the welfare of MSU students from the affected areas. Late last week, he announced formation of a task force chaired by first lady Pat Lee and drawing on key constituencies from around campus.

"One of the first efforts will be to make personal contact with as many students as possible from the most affected regions along the Coast," Mrs. Lee explained. "We will be making telephone calls to students from those areas to help identify immediate individual needs, or just to let them know we're here if a need arises."

Called "Bulldogs in Response," the task force will focus on humanitarian needs rather than on university policy matters. "Some adjustments to the academic calendar, as well as special assistance in financial aid, already have been put in place," President Lee said.

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Photo courtesy of the Department of Geosciences

The Department of Geosciences recently hosted a barbecue for faculty, staff, students, and evacuees of Hurricane Katrina staying on campus.



MSU ranked in top 100 of those cited for service

Mississippi State is among the top 100 national universities in a new college ranking based on “what colleges are doing for the country.”

MSU is at No. 95 among 245 major public and private institutions in the Washington Monthly’s first college rankings, which appear in the magazine’s September issue.

The guide assesses universities on the basis of community service, research and how frequently they admit and graduate low-income students.

“While other guides ask what colleges can do for students, we ask what colleges are doing for the country,” according to Washington Monthly editors.

The ranking formula includes the percentage of students serving in ROTC or the Peace Corps, the percentage of federal College Work-Study grants devoted to community service, total research expenditures, and the number of doctor of philosophy degrees awarded in science and engineering.

The formula also considers the percentage of students who qualify for federal Pell Grants for lower-income students, and the university’s actual graduation rate compared with what would be expected, given the economic status of its students. Statistically, lower-income students are less likely to graduate than wealthier ones, the magazine says.

Thirty percent of MSU students receive Pell Grants, and 57 percent graduate within six years. The university devotes more than one-fourth of its federal work-study grants to community service programs.

MSU ranked sixth highest overall among the 12 Southeastern Conference universities, after Florida, Vanderbilt, Auburn, Kentucky, and Georgia.

Washington Monthly also ranked separately 200 liberal arts colleges across the country.



More than 200 people joined longtime higher education proponent S. Bryce Griffis (at podium) Sept. 3 to break ground on a new residence hall to be named in his honor. Speaking from the grand lobby of the newly opened Roy H. Ruby Residence Hall, Griffis described his 40 years in higher education. The 115,000-square-foot facility to be built east of Ruby Hall also will house the University Honors Program.

Delta research center gains new leadership

Dr. Joe Street has been named the new head of the Delta Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State’s facility in Stoneville.

Street replaces Dr. Jimmy Smith, who served as head of the center for 11 years before requesting reassignment as a research professor. On Aug. 15, Street transferred to Stoneville from the North Mississippi Research and Extension Center in Verona.

“Dr. Street has a unique mix of training and experiences for this role,” said Dr. Vance Watson, vice president of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine.

“He served for 17 years as a research

scientist at Stoneville, six years in a joint appointment as research scientist/extension specialist, and most recently as head of the North Mississippi Research and Extension Center. I have the utmost confidence in his leadership abilities.”

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Free movies rescheduled

Campus radio station WMSV’s free movie night for faculty, staff, students, and community residents was rescheduled to Sept. 12.

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.



University pitches in to help in weeks since hurricane

The **Student Association** has established a Student Relief Fund to aid MSU students affected by the disaster. At the Sept. 3 MSU-Murray State game, the effort raised more than \$35,000.

Those seeking to make a contribution may do so online at www.msstate.edu/web/ecommerce/gift/, with 100 percent of the funds contributed going to the student-initiated relief effort.

The university currently is housing approximately 113 evacuees in guest housing on campus. For **shelter information**, contact Shay McDonnall, assistant director for conferences and guest housing, at 662-325-2867.

The **Extension Service** is offering refuges Internet access through county extension offices as a way of helping locate family and friends. The Extension Service also is conducting a statewide survey to assess the needs of those in every Mississippi county.

The **MSU Communication Department** and the **Holland Faculty Senate** worked with community groups to coordinate delivery of an 18-wheeler filled with supplies to the Gulf Coast. The effort received support from the Starkville Community Theater, local churches and other groups. The use of a truck was donated by Royal Trucking of West Point, and the group estimates it delivered approximately \$100,000 in supplies collected from MSU and community contributions.

Faculty and staff of the **College of Forest Resources** and the **Forest and Wildlife Research Center** are assisting the Civil Air Patrol search and rescue activities in the lower six counties of Mississippi for missing persons. The college has provided personnel, trucks, boats, generators, air conditioners, chainsaws, bulldozers, water, and food to help get MSU Research and Extension Centers in Poplarville, Pascagoula, and Biloxi back in operation. MSU also assisted with clean-up efforts in Picayune.

The **Bagley College of Engineering** will accommodate participating engineering faculty members and administrators from Tulane University, as well as graduate students, during the time it takes for Tulane to reopen. The college is offering research laboratories and office space as needed to

assist displaced Tulane engineering students. Faculty members also are available to assist Mississippi businesses and industries with engineering-related issues related to rebuilding.

The **College of Veterinary Medicine** has volunteers staffing a primary rescue center in Jackson and Hattiesburg, and has provided medical supplies and equipment to the areas. The college also has established communication centers and is coordinating private veterinary hospital-related activities, among other initiatives.

Among **College of Architecture, Art and Design** initiatives is an ongoing clothes and toiletry drive for Red Cross relief efforts in Vicksburg. In addition, both the architecture college in Starkville and its fifth-year program in Jackson have offered studio and classroom space to displaced Tulane architecture students and professors. The college has contacted Gulf Coast architects to offer assistance with repair and rebuilding efforts and will collaborate with other schools of architecture in establishing a community design outreach effort to expedite the rebuilding process.

In the **College of Agriculture and Life Sciences**, animal scientists are assisting with livestock-related issues following Hurricane Katrina. An Instant Command Center is located at the Forrest County Agricenter, and MSU personnel are helping organize relief efforts. Agricultural economists are developing economic assessment of agricultural-related damages from the disaster, and the Department of Landscape Architecture has offered temporary working space, Internet connection and other support for displaced landscape architects, among other activities.

The **Meridian Campus** is disseminating enrollment information for displaced students through the Department of Human Services in counties surrounding Meridian. East Mississippi Center for Educational Development, whose offices are on the Meridian Campus, is collecting school supplies for distribution to refugee students enrolling in area schools.

The **T.K. Martin Center for Technology and Disability** is launching a drive to collect assistive devices such as

wheelchairs, walkers and other equipment for those displaced.

The **Early Childhood Institute** in the College of Education is launching a nationwide solicitation for age-specific educational materials that will be distributed this fall as part of a campaign dubbed, "Hurricane Relief: Embrace Mississippi Children." The institute is collaborating with the MSU Extension Service, MSU School of Human Sciences, Mississippi Public Broadcasting Network, Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church, and the Mississippi Early Childhood Association.

The **GeoResources Institute** worked

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Among initiatives the task force is launching is a database of volunteers who can be called on in the coming months as the university continues to coordinate with appropriate agencies.

Task force members are Jimmy Abraham of the Alumni Association; Thomas Bourgeois of Student Affairs; Dan Brook of the MSU Extension Service; Gemma Camp of the Starkville community; Jon David Cole of the MSU Student Association; Art Cosby of the Social Science Research Center; Joe Farris of the President's Office; Rodney Foil of the Association of Retired Faculty; Bennet George of University Relations;

Jerry Gilbert of Academic Affairs; Melissa Mixon of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine; Lynn Pike of the School of Human Resources; Ruth Prescott and Melvin Ray, both of the President's Office; Donna Reese of the Bagley College of Engineering; Beatrice Tatem of the Counseling Center; and John Tomlinson, state government relations.

The task force welcomes ideas and volunteers, said Pat Lee. "We encourage the university community to communicate directly with us by e-mail at president@msstate.edu or by calling 662-325-5825."

An MSU Web site devoted to information and resources for those affected by Hurricane Katrina has been established at www.msstate.edu/web/katrina/.



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. For additional information or to book tours, contact the department at 325-2970.

WMSV radio's free Live and Stripped Down Acoustic Series will be held every Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m., on the new patio in front of the State Fountain Bakery. Local acoustic musicians will be featured in a relaxed atmosphere. In case of inclement weather, the series will move to the DawgHouse Coffee Shoppe in the lower level of the Colvard Union. 325-8481.

Art Exhibition: "The Voluptuous Return: Still Life of Walter Inglis Anderson," Sept. 19-Oct. 28, McComas hall gallery. Opening reception is Sept. 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. For additional information or to book tours, contact the department at 325-2970.

September 13

Women's Studies Program: Gender Lecture Series begins with Dr. Benjamin Harvey of

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the MSU Art Department speaking on Virginia Wolfe and her reaction to the portrayal of women by two London institutions: the National Portrait Gallery and the British Museum Reading Room, Ellen Bryant Women's Resource Center (lower level of Rice Hall), noon. Lunch will be provided to the first 25 persons who RSVP to msusw@hotmail.com or telephone 325-1466.

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

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Women's Studies Programs's first meeting of the year is open to any faculty members who are interested in women's studies and women's issues, Ellen Bryant Women's Resource Center (lower level of Rice Hall), 3:30 p.m. One student representative each from graduate and undergraduate studies also are being sought as members. lynne.cossman@msstate.edu; bartkowski@soc.msstate.edu.

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

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

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MSU vs. Charlotte, women's soccer, MSU Soccer Field, 1 p.m.

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All new faculty and staff members are invited to attend the MSU Newcomers Club's welcome meeting at 1766 Hawks Crest in Browning Creek, 7-9 p.m. Cathy Shepard, 615-5514.

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

IRB recertification session, "How to Navigate the IRB Process," Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium, 2 p.m. Register at www.msstate.edu/dept/compliance/irb/irbtrainschedule2.htm.

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

HRM Workshop: "Recognizing and Resolving Workplace Harassment: It's Not Just About Sex," Officials' Training Room, Joe Frank Sanderson Center, 2-4 p.m. Open to all employees. Registration required. 325-3713; helms@hrm.msstate.edu.

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with Gulf Coast emergency responders to identify precise geographic locations for rescue efforts. The MSU team provided expertise in geocoding emergency response calls, Web mapping support, and integrating geographic information systems with remote sensing data sets.

The Counseling Center will extend its hurricane-related counseling services to faculty and staff, as well as students, without charge.

Psychology faculty members and **Social Science Research Center** research scientists will conduct a Web-based survey of student needs resulting from Hurricane Katrina. Included will be a measure of student stress and mental health issues, as well as the kinds of resources students say would be most helpful.

The **MSU Libraries** created a Web site, library.msstate.edu/Katrina, providing avenues through which students and others could make possible contact with families and agencies. The library also is working closely with the Mississippi Library Commission and the state Department of Archives and History, among others.

The university's hurricane Web site is www.msstate.edu/web/katrina/.