

# MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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## Hurricane expert probes Katrina's impact

A Mississippi State hurricane expert whose waterfront home was swept away by Hurricane Katrina says the Aug. 29 monster—with a gigantic storm surge approaching 35 feet—set a new standard for U.S. catastrophes.

Dr. Pat Fitzpatrick also predicts more big storms may be on the way—and soon.

An associate research professor at the Stennis Space Center office in Hancock County of the university's GeoResources Institute, Fitzpatrick said Katrina's "catastrophic effects have changed the face of the Southern United States."

"What remains in the aftermath of this horrific storm is total devastation," added the New Orleans native and author of "Hurricanes: A Reference Handbook." Scheduled for release in November by ABC-CLIO, the 325-page book will be his second on the subject.

GeoResources Institute director David Shaw called Fitzpatrick a "tremendous resource for Mississippi and the nation" on the topic of hurricanes, and said his work "complements GRI's multi-disciplinary team of researchers and professionals."

"Hurricane Katrina is likely to be

recorded as the worst natural disaster in the history of the United States," said Fitzpatrick, whose two-story townhouse on Lake Pontchartrain's north shore was demolished by the storm. "The extent of the devastation to property and human lives from this hurricane is yet to be measured."

The MSU researcher, now living and working temporarily in Starkville, said computer simulations measuring Katrina's storm surge near the mouth of the Pearl River on the Mississippi-Louisiana state line were

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Even before its doors open, MSU's Riley Center in Meridian already is supporting area schools with events to help teachers incorporate arts across the curriculum. Kathleen Gaffney, nationally recognized arts educator, recently led Clarkdale Attendance Center students in "Civil War Tapestry," a teaching model that uses music, acting, writing, and movement to bring history to life. Gaffney is president of Artsgenesis, a nonprofit arts-in-education organization.





## MSU providing Web help for Katrina-ruined timberland

Landowners, loggers and forest products companies now may quickly locate each other through a newly opened Web site devoted to hurricane forestry salvage operations.

Developed at Mississippi State University, [www.wssg.cfr.msstate.edu](http://www.wssg.cfr.msstate.edu) enables landowners to find or request loggers, while also providing loggers the opportunity to announce their company's capabilities and other information. Additionally, forest products companies can list their needs, including the sizes and types of wood they desire.

Parties without Internet access may obtain the same information by telephoning toll-free 1-866-706-8869.

"Immediately after Hurricane Katrina, we received telephone calls from numerous loggers who were willing to provide contract services to landowners with timber damage from the storm," said Dr. Laura Grace, a professor in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

"In response, we designed this Web site to serve as an avenue for communication," she added. "Now, landowners and companies can find loggers, loggers can find companies and landowners, and everyone benefits."

Grace said the online resource initially focused on the thousands of damaged acres left in the wake of Katrina's swath through Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. Following a comparably ruinous visit two weeks ago by Hurricane Rita, Texas was added to the directory.

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Editor—Kay Fike Jones



The Colvard Union's small auditorium recently became Fowlkes Auditorium, named for three brothers who graduated from MSU. On hand for the dedication ceremony were Bill Fowlkes (left) a 1941 graduate, and his daughter Patsy Fowlkes Brandon, a 1974 graduate, and her husband Steve, a '72 grad. The newly named auditorium also honors Fowlkes' brothers Tom and Hal, both 1935 MSU graduates.

## Communication teacher-researcher honored

A member of the Communication Department faculty is receiving one of the highest honors given by the American Journalism Historians' Association.

Assistant professor Glenn D. "Pete" Smith recently was notified of his selection for the 2005 Margaret A. Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Prize. Chosen from among approximately 20 entries from colleges and universities around the country, his award recognizes excellence in the research and composition of the discourse required for a doctoral degree.

Named for the late distinguished First Amendment and journalism history scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Blanchard Prize commends the originality of the author's argument, thoroughness of primary-source research material and clarity of writing.

Smith's work, "It's Your America's:

Gertrude Berg and American Broadcasting, 1929-1956," is a biography of the broadcast pioneer whose radio series, "The Rise of the Goldbergs," debuted in 1929 on the National Broadcasting System. Written, produced and starring Berg, the program is considered a precursor of modern radio—and later, television—soap operas.

"The Goldbergs," a prototype of today's television situation comedies, first aired on the Columbia Broadcasting System in January 1949. In the small-screen setting, Berg continued her role as the wise matriarch of a New York Jewish family.

Smith is a 1993 communication studies graduate of MSU who went on to complete his master's in 1995 from Auburn University. The doctorate for which his award-winning dissertation was written was awarded last year by the University of Southern Mississippi.



## Hurricane—continued from page 1

### Little focuses on forestry fund raising

A Mississippi State alumnus and fund-raising veteran now is concentrating his efforts exclusively for the university's College of Forest Resources.

Jeff Little is the college's new development director. Most recently, he has served as assistant development director for both the colleges of Forest Resources and Veterinary Medicine.



Little

Little is a 1995 MSU English graduate from McComb who went on to complete a juris doctorate degree in 1999 from the Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson. Before joining the MSU Foundation, he was a senior attorney with the State Tax Commission.

He also has legal experience with two professional law firms, and with the Hinds County municipalities of Raymond and Edwards.

For information regarding support for the College of Forest Resources, contact Little at 325-7000 or [jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu).

performed by GRI scientists at Stennis. The data was gathered with the cooperation of WorldWinds Inc., a Stennis-based weather company.

"Storm surge values of 30-33 feet can be seen west of Bay St. Louis," he said. "I personally think the model is still resulting in storm surge values that are two to three feet too low. But it does a very good job showing the overall flow pattern and inland penetration of the storm surge."

Fitzpatrick said GRI scientists currently are working on a proposal that would utilize the storm-surge model to investigate new levee configurations in Mississippi and Louisiana. They also would study the impact of wetland erosion and man-made canals—such as the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet—on the storm surge in Louisiana, he said.

Fitzpatrick, who was born in New Orleans right after Hurricane Betsy in 1965, said Katrina initially made landfall just south of Buras, La., with winds of 140 miles an hour as a Category 4 storm. It was a Category 3 hurricane with winds of 125 miles per hour by the time it hit the Mississippi-Louisiana line hours later, he added.

"Although Katrina weakened as she moved inland, she remained a hurricane 100 miles inland near Laurel," he continued. "Only when reaching Clarksville, Tenn., some 440-plus miles away [on the Tennessee-Kentucky border], did Katrina down-

grade to a tropical depression" five days later.

Technically not as strong at landfall as historic Hurricane Camille—which devastated the Mississippi coast in 1969 with winds of near 200 miles an hour and a 25-foot storm surge—Fitzpatrick noted Katrina was a "significantly larger storm." It had an eye about 35 miles across, compared to Camille's tightly wound eight-mile-wide eye.

"Katrina's hurricane-force winds extended 120 miles from the storm center compared to Camille's 60 miles, and tropical storm-force winds reached 230 miles outwards compared to Camille's 180 miles," he said. "Katrina also moved slower than Camille, thereby increasing the storm surge potential and time of wind exposure."

Unfortunately, Fitzpatrick suggests more big storms may be looming. According to a Sept. 28 report in the *Los Angeles Times*, meteorologists examining the conditions that spawned hurricanes Katrina and Rita say there is a strong likelihood that another intense hurricane will occur this month.

"We are probably 10 years into a 30-year cycle of above-average hurricane activity, especially major hurricanes," said Fitzpatrick, who also lived on the Louisiana Gulf Coast and in Houston, Texas, as a youth.

The scientist said a one-degree warming of Gulf waters since 1995—a primary cause of increasing hurricane activity—may be directly related to the so-called "ocean conveyor belt system." The system involves cyclical salinity changes in the northern Atlantic that, operating on a scale of 30 years, speed up or slow down ocean currents, and in turn make the ocean warmer or cooler than normal.

"The historical record shows that the late 1920s through the 1960s were prolific in terms of major hurricanes, followed by nearly 25 years of much fewer major hurricanes from 1971-94," he said. "Unfortunately, this downturn corresponded with unparalleled coastal development and a population largely unaware of past hurricane activity."

"Regrettably, it also appears this quiet trend ended in 1995 when 19 storms occurred, followed by above average hurricane seasons in most years since," Fitzpatrick added. "Even more alarming is that this active phase probably will continue for another 20 years, perhaps more."

### Faculty promotion awarded in ag division

Faculty promotions for 2005-06 for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine include:

John Braswell, associate Extension professor to Extension professor, Plant and Soil Sciences; Laura Grace, associate professor to professor, Forestry; Sharon Grace, Clinical Science, associate clinical professor to clinical professor, College of Veterinary Medicine; Anna Hood, associate Extension professor to Extension professor, Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion; Gregg Ibendahl, assistant Extension professor to associate Extension professor, Agricultural Economics; Patricia Knight, associate research professor to research professor, Plant and Soil Sciences; Steve Martin, Agricultural Economics, assistant Extension professor to associate Extension professor, Delta Research and Extension Center; Larry Oldham, associate Extension professor to Extension professor, Plant and Soil Sciences; Alfred Rankins, assistant professor to associate professor, Plant and Soil Sciences; and Mark Shankle, assistant research professor to associate research professor, North Mississippi Research and Extension Center.



## 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](mailto:jonesk@ur.msstate.edu) at least **TWO WEEKS** in advance. For updates, check [www.msstate.edu](http://www.msstate.edu) and click on "Calendar of Events."

To list calendar events online, access [www.ur.msstate.edu/news/today.asp](http://www.ur.msstate.edu/news/today.asp) and follow the instructions.

### Ongoing Events

WMSV radio's free Live and Stripped Down Acoustic Series is held every Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m., on the new patio of the State Fountain Bakery. Local acoustic musicians are featured in a relaxed atmosphere. In case of inclement weather, the series moves 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," through Oct. 28, 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.

### October

**4**

Workshop: "Landing on the Tenure Track: Job Hunting in Academe (Survival Skills for Graduate Students)," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. 325-0810.

HRM workshop: "Using the Online Employment System," McArthur Hall Lab A, 10 a.m.-noon. For employees involved in hiring, Registration required. 325-3713 or [helms@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:helms@hrm.msstate.edu).

**5**

Workshop: "EndNote 101: Managing Your Citations and More!" ELI Electronic

Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3:30 p.m. 325-0810.

**6**

Workshop: "Research and Dissertation Basics (Survival Skills for Graduate Students)," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. 325-0810.

**7**

MSU vs. Auburn, women's soccer, MSU Soccer Field, 7 p.m.

Workshop: "Developing a Literature Review (Survival Skills for Graduate Students)," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. 325-0810.

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

**8 and 9**

Fall Plant Sale, Crosby Arboretum, Picayune, Members only sale--9-10 a.m.; general public--10 a.m.-3 p.m. (601) 7992311.

**9**

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

MSU vs. Alabama, women's volleyball, Newell-Grissom Building, 1:30 p.m.

**10**

Gender Studies Lecture Series, Dr. Kelly Marsh of English on "Bridget Jones's Diary and the American Myth of Self-Perfection," Women's Studies Resource Center (ground floor of Rice Hall), noon. Lunch is provided for first 25 who RSVP by e-mailing [msuws@hotmail.com](mailto:msuws@hotmail.com) or telephoning 325-1466.

### Correction

Last week's Memo gave the wrong telephone number for obtaining campus maps.

Updated campus maps are available from the Office of University Relations by calling Cathy Oswalt at 325-3442.

**11**

Association of Retired Faculty panel discussion on student-athletes with MSU Athletic Director Larry Templeton and NCAA campus representatives, first floor of Bryan Athletic Building, 2:30 p.m. [maynor@ra.msstate.edu](mailto:maynor@ra.msstate.edu).

**12**

IMC "Bits & Bytes" workshop: "PhotoShop CS," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3-5 p.m. 325-7676.

**13**

IMC "Bits & Bytes" workshop: "Advanced PhotoShop," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3-5 p.m. 325-7676.

**14**

MSU vs. Florida, women's soccer, MSU Soccer Field, 7 p.m.

**16**

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

**18-28**

Second Annual International Campus Games: 10 days of Olympic-patterned athletic competition for students. Register at [www.recsports.msstate.edu/int\\_games/](http://www.recsports.msstate.edu/int_games/). Deadline is Sept. 30. 325-1295.

**19**

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

IMC "Bits & Bytes" workshop: "InDesign CS," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 10 a.m.-noon. 325-7676.

**20**

IMC "Bits & Bytes" workshop: "Flash," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 9-11 a.m. 325-7676.

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