

# MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

October 17, 2005

Volume 30

Issue 10

## Toxicologist wins top international chemical award for research

Mississippi State toxicologist Janice E. Chambers is being honored with a top research award of the American Chemical Society, Agrochemicals Division.

At the organization's recent national meeting in Washington, D.C., she received the International Award for Research in Agrochemicals in recognition of her "pioneering research



Chambers

on the mammalian toxicity of organophosphorous pesticides and other neurotoxicants."

Chambers is the first woman to receive the honor, which has been presented annually since 1969. A William

L. Giles Distinguished Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, she directs the university's Center for Environmental Health Sciences.

Her research is particularly significant in identifying the potential impacts of pesticides on adults and children, said Vance

Watson, vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine. "Her work has far-reaching implications for the state of Mississippi and for the nation as a whole, and Dr. Chambers continues to earn international recognition for her contributions in this field," he added.

Founded in 1876, the ACS represents more than 150,000 professionals in all fields of chemistry in industry, government and education. The Washington-based body is generally recognized as a leading provider of chemical information to the scientific and engineering communities.

Funded primarily by the National Institutes of Health, the center is an interdisciplinary campus effort specializing in pesticide toxicology. With about 30 associated faculty, staff and students, its primary research areas include neurotoxicology, biochemical toxicology, analytical chemistry, biostatistics, epidemiology, computational chemistry, and mathematical simulation.

A fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences and a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology, she has served within the National Research Council Committee of Toxicology, International Life Sciences Institute/Health and Environmental Sciences Institute, Society of Toxicology, and American Chemistry Council.

Most recently, Chambers was named to EPA's permanent Scientific Advisory Panel, one of only three selected for the panel from 12 national nominees provided by the NIH and NSF.

Chambers holds a bachelor's degree from the University of San Francisco and a doctorate from Mississippi State.

## Engineers conducting 'virtual soldier' research testing

Mississippi State engineers are helping test computer-generated animation techniques the U.S. Army hopes will simulate real soldiers performing tasks in real time.

The university's Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems recently was awarded a \$500,000 contract to develop methods for testing and validating digital human models created at the University of Iowa as part of the Virtual Soldier Research program.

A division of the Bagley College of Engineering, CAVS was subcontracted by Iowa to conduct the testing because of CAVS' leading-edge research in human ergonomics, human factors and product design/development.

"This coincides with the ongoing research we are pursuing in the area of ergonomics, product development and work-place safety," said Zach Rowland, the project's principal investigator at CAVS.

Four MSU graduate students and one undergraduate in the fields of industrial engineering and cognitive science also are participating in the research project.

Ergonomics and human factors are fields of science that study the interactions between humans and the environment in which they operate, and are concerned with safety and efficiency in the performance of tasks, Rowland explained.

The validation process requires the ability to accurately record the performance of human subjects in given tasks and compare them to the motions predicted by the computer models.

Experts say the work has the potential to save time and money in testing and evaluating products, equipment, vehicles, and armaments before they are manufactured—thereby eliminating expensive, real-world prototypes.

### Blast from the past?

No, we're not going retro with this black-and-white issue of Memo.

Because Printing Services is relocating, its four-color press is temporarily out of commission.

Printing Services now is open for (most) business at the old Goose Hollow/Ashley Furniture building at the corner of Old West Point Road and Highway 182.



## MSU playing key role to help migrant kids get education

Mississippi State's Foreign Languages Department will use a \$330,000 federal grant this year to seek out hundreds of children of migrant workers in North Mississippi and make sure they are attending school.

The U.S. Department of Education is providing money to the university under provisions of the Federal Migrant Education Program, which authorizes grants to state educational agencies to ensure that migrant children fully benefit from a free public education.

"Depriving children of the right to an education only creates problems—whereas, providing an education can help children become productive and responsible citizens," said Dr. Patricia M. Lestrade, an associate professor of foreign languages and director of the MEP in the state's northernmost 28 counties.

In existence since the 1960s, the MEP has been reinforced in recent years by the federal No Child Left Behind Act, and its administrative structure varies from state to state. This year, the state Department of Education consolidated the program's administration in Mississippi from nine consortia into three districts.

"Since 87 percent of the migrants are Latino, it makes sense that the program be housed in a foreign languages department," said Lestrade, estimating there are about 1,500 migrant children statewide and some 200-500 in the northern counties.

The MSU department serves as the Local Education Agency for the northern third of the state, which includes Desoto, Marshall, Benton, Tippah, Alcorn, Tishomingo, Tunica, Tate, Prentiss, Coahoma, Quitman, Panola, Lafayette, Union, Pontotoc, Lee, Itawamba, Bolivar, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Yalobusha, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Monroe, Webster, Clay, Oktibbeha, and Lowndes counties.

The education of migrant children often is interrupted because of the need of their parents and other family members to follow jobs linked to planting and harvest season changes, MEP officials point out.

## 'Father' of computer virus defenses among fall speakers

The inventor of computer virus defense techniques is among scheduled speakers at an annual fall lecture series sponsored by Mississippi State's Center for Computer Security Research.

Fred Cohen—best known for developing computer defenses in the 1980s—will be the second of three guest lecturers Nov. 3. Cohen is widely considered one of the world's leading authorities in information protection.

Also scheduled next month are:

- IBM Software and federal security architect John F. McLaughlin, who kicks off the series Nov. 1; and

- Gary Smith, principal security engineer for Science Applications International Corp., the concluding speaker on Nov. 17.

All public presentations begin at 9:30 a.m. in 103 Butler Hall. The series is supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Defense and National Science Foundation.

"The purpose of the series is to expose our students and other interested parties to current thinking in the field," said CCSR director Ray Vaughn, a Billie J. Ball Professor of Computer Science and Engineering. "We normally get a mix of industry, government and academic speakers each year."

Cohen is the owner and driving force of Fred Cohen and Associates, a Livermore-Calif.-based consulting firm that has specialized in information protection for a wide variety of corporate and governmental clients since 1977. He also was the principal investigator for a team that defined the computer information assurance problem as it relates to critical infrastructure protection today.

"Fred Cohen did the original work on computer viruses and published the first papers in this field," Vaughn said. "He is an expert on malicious code (automated attacks on computer security) with international credentials."



Student workers Jessica Crittenden (foreground) and Ashley Brown awaited their first customers recently in the new, spacious and more accessible MAFES Sales Store at the Herzer Food Science Building. Relocated from the rear to the front of the familiar Stone Boulevard facility, the "Cheese Store" continues selling its line of MSU-manufactured dairy products, meats, preserves, and muscadine grape juice. The store's telephone number remains 325-2338.



## Theatre: MSU announces performances

The first of four Theatre: Mississippi State performances sponsored during the 2005-06 school year will take place later this month in McComas Hall.

The first, second and fourth of the scheduled public programs will be held in the main theater, while the third in February will be staged in the basement-level laboratory theater. All begin at 7:30 p.m.

Theatre: MSU is a learning collaboration of the Communication Department. Its just-announced schedule includes:

- Oct. 27-29, "Omnium Gatherum" by Thresa Rebeck and Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros. The main theater production is designed for mature audiences. General admission is \$10; \$5 for MSU students and employees, and all senior citizens.

- Nov. 17, "Story Theatre" by Paul Sills. General admission to the main theater is \$5;

\$2 for children 11 years and younger.

- Feb. 22-24, "The Exonerated" by Jessica Blank and Eric Jensen. This performance also is recommended for mature audiences. General admission to the lab theater is \$5.

- April 6-8, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. General admission to the main theater is \$10; \$5 for MSU students and employees, and all senior citizens

Other scheduled theatrical events also in McComas include:

- Dec. 2 and 3, MSU High School Drama Festival. General admission to the main theater is \$5.

- Jan. 13-16, Mississippi Theater Festival 2006. General admission to the main theater is \$10; \$5 for MSU students and employees,

and all senior citizens.

- Feb. 7, "Dracula," based on the Bram Stoker novel. A part of the MSU Lyceum Series' 2005-06 season, the main theater event is part of the National Players' 57th annual tour.

- April 26-28, MSU Student Showcase. General admission is \$5 for the annual series of student-directed, one-act plays.

Also, the campus improvisational troupe "Runnin' with Scissors" is planning a 2006 spring semester production.

Specific information on these other performances will be announced at later dates.

For additional information on Theatre: MSU's 2005-06 season, contact the Communication Department at 325- 3203 or [theatermsu@comm.msstate.edu](mailto:theatermsu@comm.msstate.edu).

## Percussion to highlight Lyceum Faculty Chamber concert

An African jembe will join a vibraphone, drum set and marimba as the percussion instruments featured in an Oct. 30 Lyceum Faculty Chamber Series performance at Mississippi State.



Damm

Dr. Robert J. Damm of the Music Education Department will headline the 3 p.m. concert in the Betterworth Auditorium of Giles Hall. General admission tickets are \$5 at the door; Lyceum season ticket holders and MSU students with identification are admitted free.

Titled "A Recital of Rhythm and Percussion of an Eclectic Nature," the musical event also features departmental colleagues Lana Johns on flute and Jason Baker on conga drums.

The program begins with "Tiriba Kan," a jembe solo based on "Tiriba," a traditional welcome rhythm of the Baga people of coastal Guinea, West Africa. A goblet-shaped drum, the internationally popular instrument originated in what now are the nations of Mali and Guinea.

Damm will be joined by Johns for movements from "How Sweet the Moonlight Sleeps," a suite composed for Damm by Johns and former MSU faculty composer Duncan McMillan. The suite conveys the intimacy and reflective communion that parent and baby share through lullabies.

Baker and Damm will collaborate on a conga-drum duet. Their piece was written in honor of Dizzy Gillespie, whose collaboration with Cuban conga drummer Chano

Pozo brought about the rise of a new style now known as Afro-Cuban jazz.

Concluding the program will be an original piece, "Ghana Blue Skies," recorded by Damm and guitarist Edwin Daniel; and "Classic-African," a two-part timpani solo, one in classical symphonic style and the other in West African drumming.

For more information, telephone the Music Education Department at 325-3070.

---

Memo is published for the faculty and staff of Mississippi State University by the Office of

**Mississippi State**  
UNIVERSITY

University Relations. It is published weekly during the

fall and spring semesters and twice a month during the summer. It also is available on the Web at [msuinfo.ur.msstate.edu/msu\\_memo/](http://msuinfo.ur.msstate.edu/msu_memo/). Editorial material should be sent to Kay Fike Jones, Mail Stop 9512, or via e-mail to [jonesk@ur.msstate.edu](mailto:jonesk@ur.msstate.edu).

Editor—Kay Fike Jones

Contributors—Maridith Geuder

Phil Hearn

Sammy McDavid

Russ Houston

Megan Bean





## 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](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 bakery. 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 17 and 18

Fall Break.

### 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.

Presentation: "Should Women Become

Engineers? The History of Female Engineering Students in the U.S., 1880-1980," nationally recognized historian Amy Bix, Dorman Hall auditorium, 7 p.m. 325-7075.

### 20

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

### 22

MSU vs. Houston, Homecoming, Scott Field, 1:30 p.m. **Full schedule available at [www.gameday.msstate.edu/](http://www.gameday.msstate.edu/).**

### 23

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

### 24

IMC "50-Minute Madness" workshop: "Word: Creating Forms," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-1:50 p.m. 325-7676.

### 26

IMC "Bits & Bytes" workshop: "Illustrator CS," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-3 p.m. 325-7676.

General faculty meeting, Parker Ballroom North, Hunter Henry Center, 3:30 p.m.

### 27

Halloween Carnival, Drill Field, 6-8 p.m. 325-2930.

IMC "50-Minute Madness" workshop: "Pub: More than Templates," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-1:50 p.m. 325-7676.

Lambda Professionals for MSU GLB faculty and staff, Colvard Union faculty lounge, 12:30-1:30 p.m. 325-1965.

### 27-29

Theatre MSU: "Omnium Gatherum," McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-3203. (see story page 3)

### 28

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

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

### 30

MSU vs. Mississippi Valley State, women's soccer, MSU Soccer Field, 1 p.m.

## November

### 2

IMC "Bits & Bytes" workshop: "InDesign CS," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-3 p.m. 325-7676.

### 3

IMC "50-Minute Madness" workshop: "Flash: Tweening," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-1:50 p.m. 325-7676.

### 4

IMC "50-Minute Madness" workshop: "Dreamweaver: Frames," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-1:50 p.m. 325-7676.

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

### 5

MSU vs. Alabama, football, Scott Field, time to be announced.

### 6

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

### 7

IMC "50-Minute Madness" workshop: "PhotoShop: Collage," ELI Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-1:50 p.m. 325-7676.

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.