

# MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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## New NSF grant supports tree-flowering research

A major federal grant recently designated for Mississippi State will enable university researchers to examine the regulation of genes associated with the flowering process in poplar trees.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, the \$1.75 million award includes faculty collaborators in the departments of biochemistry and molecular biology, and forestry. Also involved are research colleagues at Pennsylvania State and Virginia Tech universities, universities of Alabama and Florida, and at Umea University in Sweden.

“The initiation and formation of flower buds are critical events in life cycles of trees,” said co-investigator Cetin Yuceer, an assistant professor in MSU’s Forest and Wildlife Research Center. “Without flowering, there

would be no seed formation for the propagation of subsequent generations.”

Timely and adequate seed yields also are essential for wildlife nutrition, he explained, adding that the scientific team will conduct experiments on poplars—the only tree with a previously sequenced genome.

The three-year project also will include the organization of biotechnology workshops for Mississippi high school teachers, as well as minority high school and university students.

“On one hand, teachers will learn about recent technology developments in gene research, so that they can transfer this experience to their students,” Yuceer said of the outreach effort. “On the other, minority high school and college students

will learn how to conduct research at early stages in their career.”

Project investigator Dawn Luthe said, “The goal of our research is to discover the major genes and their associated factors that regulate flowering in trees. The information we gain from poplars can be applied to other tree species such as oaks and pines.”

## MSU new member of national ag info center

The diaries, letters, photographs, maps, ledgers, and other documentation of the South’s agricultural past will be part of Mississippi State’s contribution to a national network that provides information about food, agriculture and the environment.

Mitchell Memorial Library has been accepted for membership in the Agricultural Network Information Center, an online consortium of universities, libraries and professional organizations founded in 1995 at Iowa State University and now based in Beltsville, Md.

Partners in the 10-year-old network, often referred to as AgNIC, provide publicly accessible information, news and calendar items to users around the globe. AgNIC Web sites receive nearly one million hits each year.

“This is a one-stop information resource about subjects that range from chili peppers to agricultural law,” said Frances N. Coleman, MSU dean of libraries. Members include major land-grant universities, as well as organizations such as the American Society for Horticultural Science and National Agricultural Library, which hosts AgNIC.

As a new member of AgNIC, Mississippi State will “serve as the coordinating institution for a broader initiative to create a site on Southern regional agricultural history and rural life,” said Melanie Gardner, AgNIC coordinator.

“This is a perfect fit for our institution,”

*Continued on page 3*



Dan Brook, head of computer applications for the MSU Extension Service, stacks computers that are scheduled for delivery to schools in Hancock County affected by Hurricane Katrina. He is leading a “Bulldogs in Response” effort that will furnish and set up approximately 75 computers to schools most in need. Computers are being provided by extension, the College of Education and MSU Libraries.



## Library's IMC awarded international membership

The Instructional Media Center in Mitchell Memorial Library is being recognized by an international consortium as a world leader in its innovative approaches to the use of technology.

The New Media Consortium invited the IMC to join its membership as part of an unprecedented search for excellence and proven leaders among higher education institutions in the application of technology to teaching, learning, research, and creative expression.

NMC is a not-for-profit consortium of nearly 200 leading colleges, universities, museums, corporations, and other learning-focused organizations dedicated to the

exploration and use of new media and new technologies.

"The Instructional Media Center is honored to be selected for membership in the NMC," said Patty Archer, center coordinator. "The IMC staff is dedicated to assisting the faculty, staff and students of Mississippi State understand new technologies and how they can enhance the overall educational experience. We see the difference we can make every day, but to be recognized for our efforts by such a prestigious organization as the NMC is humbling.

"We look forward to collaborating with the NMC and its member institutions as we work to improve the quality and reach of our services," she added.

The selection process is competitive and all applications were ranked in a criteria-based system of peer review, according to Larry Johnson, NMC chief executive officer.

In addition to the honor of the designation itself, institutions who are NMC members become part of the community of innovators that is the NMC, working with colleagues across the world to help set the agenda for technology in higher education.

The NMC is headquartered in Austin, Texas. Members include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton Harvard, Yale, Tulane, and Virginia Tech universities, and the universities of Texas, Michigan, California at Los Angeles, and Tennessee.

## Psychology professor recognized for digital scholarship contributions

Psychology professor Gary L. Bradshaw is being honored for significant contributions to digital scholarship.

Bradshaw recently received the 2005 Classics Award for Psychology of the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching. The international Web-based organization recognized



Bradshaw

his digital learning module, "ePsych."

MERLOT is a free and open resource designed primarily for faculty and students in higher education. Its awards are designed to recognize

and promote outstanding online resources designed to enhance teaching and learning, as well as honor the authors and developers of

resources for their contributions to the academic community.

Bradshaw, director of the Psychology Department's Applied Cognitive Science Doctoral Program, conducts research in Web-based education, individual differences, decision-making and errors, complex problem-solving, and the psychology of scientific discovery and invention.

MERLOT executive Gerry Hanley said Bradshaw's Web site won "because of its comprehensive and exemplary quality of content, its design, which engages students in interactive learning experiences, and its intuitive navigational design that draws the student into wanting to learn more about psychology."

Michelle Pilati, the organization's psychology editor, observed that Bradshaw's site serves to bring psychology to life through various means such as video clips and interactive exercises.

"The site is designed to make learning about the biological, deliberate, descriptive and adaptive mind interactive and fun," she said. "ePsych world features activities that really bring the concepts to life."

Bradshaw received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Missouri in

1974 and 1979, respectively, and a doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University in 1984.

In designating the annual award winners, separate MERLOT editorial boards select an outstanding resource from each of 15 disciplines: biology, business, chemistry, engineering, health science, history, information technology, math, music, physics, psychology, statistics, teacher education, teaching and technology, and world languages. A Classics Award is presented for each discipline.

The Editors' Council, composed of editorial board leaders, further reviews the classics awardees and selects MERLOT Editors' Choice award winners to represent exemplary models for all disciplines.

The 2005 honors were presented during the MERLOT International Conference in Nashville, Tenn.

The ePsych Web site at [epsych.msstate.edu](http://epsych.msstate.edu) includes more than 2,500 html pages, 6,000 images, 200 video clips, and numerous java applets that permit students to experience psychology rather than just read about it. Students also can perform experiments and collect data just by visiting a Web page.



## Area singers invited to participate in December 'Messiah' production

Following its successful introduction last year, a Mississippi State-Starkville community musical collaboration will return in December.

Area singers are being invited to join the Starkville Symphony and the Starkville Symphony Chorus in preparing for a Dec. 11 performance of Handel's "Messiah."

The two-performance production will be directed by Dr. Michael R. Brown, the Music Education Department head who also leads the Starkville Symphony.

Rehearsals will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. on successive Mondays beginning Nov. 28 and culminating with a 1-3 p.m. dress rehearsal the day of the event. The concert will be offered at 4 and 6 p.m. at Starkville's First United Methodist Church.

"Last year's program was so successful that 100 people were turned away for lack of seats, so we hope to accommodate local interest by offering two performances," Brown said.

While the program is free, Brown said donations will be accepted for support of the all-volunteer symphony.

"Messiah" performers are being asked to provide their own scores for the rehearsal sessions. Those without should contact Brown in advance to borrow a copy.

"We hope that singers will be able to participate in all three rehearsals, but we do ask that their schedules allow them to attend at least one rehearsal and the dress rehearsal," Brown said.

Choral selections will include "And the Glory," "Glory to God," "O, Thou That Tellest," "For Unto Us," and "Hallelujah!" The program also will include an arrangement of "Adeste Fideles" for choir, congregation, orchestra, organ, and handbells.

Soloists for the musical event will include Bruce Lesley, MSU's director of choral activities, and Eleanor McClellan, a music education department lecturer. Shelly Buchanan, a doctoral student at Louisiana State University, also will be featured.

Other performers will include MSU trumpet instructor Michael Huff and Virginia Huff, who will join with the orchestra for the Manfredini Double Trumpet Concerto.

For more information, telephone Brown at 325-3070.

### Ag center—continued from page 1

said Dr. Vance Watson, vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine, noting that a variety of campus units in 2002 came together to establish the Consortium for the History of Agricultural and Rural Mississippi, or CHARM.

"Through this program, we have been successful in establishing and enlarging collections of historical materials that are unique, irreplaceable and of great value to scholars of rural and agricultural history," he said.

CHARM initiatives include collecting and cataloguing original documents and artifacts, creating an ongoing oral history program, and providing Internet access to a growing proportion of the materials.

Among documents and artifacts included in the collection are nearly 300 handwritten scripts and 17,000 photographic negatives from the 1954-61 television feature, "Farm Family of the Week," produced by WLBT-TV in Jackson; diaries of farmers; business ledgers, deeds and other records; and correspondence.

CHARM collaborators include the MSU Libraries; Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station; MSU Extension Service; and colleges of veterinary medicine, forest resources, and agriculture and life sciences.

"We believe the MSU model can very successfully be translated to a national model that will benefit thousands of scholars," Coleman said.

## Office records management help available

Anyone who could not attend the University Archives Records Management Program in mid-October can still receive help with records.

University Archivist Mike Ballard invites faculty and staff members to contact him at the Congressional and Political Research Center with questions or concerns about how to handle office records.

Ballard may be reached by telephoning 325-7680 or 325-9773, e-mailing [mballard@library.msstate.edu](mailto:mballard@library.msstate.edu), or visiting the center in Mitchell Memorial Library.

## Looking for a job?

View and apply for current MSU positions (executive, faculty, professional, and support staff) on the Human Resources Management Online Employment System at [www.jobs.msstate.edu](http://www.jobs.msstate.edu). For more information, telephone HRM at 325-3713, e-mail [employment@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:employment@hrm.msstate.edu) or visit 150 McArthur Hall.

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## 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 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 24

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

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

Internal Controls workshop: "Back to the Basics: The Fundamentals of Internal Controls," for employees handling personnel or financial transactions, Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium, 2-4 p.m. Registration required. 325-3713 or [helms@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:helms@hrm.msstate.edu)

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

Educational forum: "Disaster: How Do We Cope?" sponsored by the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center and the Department of Philosophy and Religion—"Impact on Victims of Manmade Disasters vs. Natural Disasters," Fowlkes Auditorium (formerly the small auditorium) of the Colvard Union, 4-6 p.m. 325-2033.

### 27

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

National Bank of Commerce (now Cadence Bank) 2005 Issues Forum: Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, Forbes magazine publisher Rich Karlgaard, and former Federal Communications Commission chair Michael K. Powell, Wise Center auditorium, 7:30-11:45 a.m. 323-1341.

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.

Morris "Bill" Collins Speaker Series lecture: state Sen. Michael "Mike" Jackson Chaney, chairman of the senate Education Committee, John Grisham Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3 p.m. [library.msstate.edu/collins](http://library.msstate.edu/collins).

### 27-29

Theatre MSU: "Omnium Gatherum," McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-3203.

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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.

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

## November

### 1

Library Instructional Services workshop: "Cheating 101: Keeping Plagiarism Out of the Classroom," ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. Deborah Lee, 325-0810; [dlee@library.msstate.edu](mailto:dlee@library.msstate.edu).

### 2

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

IRB training: "Protecting Confidentiality," presented by Dr. Duane Gill, Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium, 10 a.m. Register at [www.msstate.edu/dept/compliance/irb/irbtrainschedule2.htm](http://www.msstate.edu/dept/compliance/irb/irbtrainschedule2.htm).

### 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.

Library Instructional Services workshop: "Copyright or Copywrong?" ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 11 a.m. Brad Brazzeal, 325-3834; [bbrazzeal@library.msstate.edu](mailto:bbrazzeal@library.msstate.edu). "EndNote 101: Managing Your Citations and More," ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2-3:30 p.m. Deborah Lee, 325-0810; [dlee@library.msstate.edu](mailto:dlee@library.msstate.edu).

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