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MSU implements conservation efforts

With natural gas costs projected to climb this winter by as much as 70 percent, Mississippi State is seeking assistance from the university community to help minimize the impact.

“We’re asking everyone to become a part of the conservation effort to make the most effective use of our resources,” said Ray Hayes, vice president for finance and administration. Energy costs for fiscal year 2006 are projected to be 35-40 percent more than in 2005, he added.

Annual energy costs have increased from \$4.8 million in 1996 to a projected \$14.6 million in 2006—approximately \$5 million more than budgeted for the fiscal year.

“This is a tremendous challenge for an institution as large and complex as Mississippi State,” Hayes said. “Responding to the challenge will depend on the cooperation and patience of all of us. We’re seeking to minimize unprecedented expenses and still accommodate the needs of our campus.”

As part of the response, Hayes said the Office of Facilities Management is implementing measures designed to contain natural gas costs as much as possible, as well as developing steps for electricity conservation. Measures now under way include, among others:

- Thermostats are being lowered to 70 degrees campus-wide. While for most buildings the change is being made from the master control system in the central heating plant, Hayes said, occupants of other buildings will be asked to make the adjustment individually.

- For buildings controlled centrally, heating will be shut off at 4:30 p.m. and resumed at 6 a.m. each day. Buildings formerly were heated until 7 p.m., and those

MSU honors eight alumni

Eight prominent graduates are the Mississippi State Alumni Fellows for 2005.

New Fellows include Phyfa D. Eiland of Clinton; Charles E. Faries of Portland, Ore.; R. Gerald Moore of Petal; James Smith of Cleveland; Timothy W. Nichols of Atlanta; David L. Watson of Atlanta; Marion B. Harris of Plymouth, Mich.; and Jimmy Webb of Turlock, Calif.

Eiland represents the College of Education; Faries, Bagley College of Engineering; Moore, College of Forest Resources; Smith, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Nichols, College of Architecture, Art and Design; Watson, College of Business and Industry; Harris, College of Arts and Sciences; and Webb, College of Veterinary Medicine.

Sponsored and organized by the MSU Alumni Association for the 16th year, the fellows program brings graduates of distinction back to campus each November to share with students specific competencies, attitudes and efforts required for success. Fellows carry the title for life.



President Charles Lee and first lady Pat Lee took on additional roles recently by serving as grand marshals of the annual Starkville Christmas Parade. The university’s leader since being named interim president in 2001, Lee recently announced plans to retire by the end of the 2006 spring semester. He formally became MSU’s 17th chief executive in January 2002.

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Four faculty members busy editing books

Four Mississippi State faculty members have published—or will publish—books on subjects ranging from counseling research to innovation to a Union spy.

University archivist Michael B. Ballard co-edited “Chickasaw, A Mississippi Scout for the Union—The Civil War Memoir of Levi H. Naron”; Dr. Franz W. Kellermanns, assistant professor of management, is one of the editors of “Innovating Strategy Processes”; and Dr. Carl Sheperis, assistant professor in counseling education, and Dr. Scott Young, associate professor in counseling education, will co-edit “Research in Counseling: An Introduction to Quantitative, Qualitative and Single Subject Designs.”

Ballard’s book is a newly edited version of Levi Naron’s dictated memories. Naron was a planter and slave owner who lived in Chickasaw County, Mississippi, and served as a spy for the Union where he was known as “Chickasaw.”

Naron’s story was published by the Louisiana State University Press and is co-edited by Dr. Thomas D. Cockrell, a history professor at Blue Mountain College. Ballard and Cockrell also collaborated as editors on “A Mississippi Rebel in the Army of

Northern Virginia: The Civil War Memoirs of Private David Holt.”

Kellermanns edited “Innovating Strategy Processes” along with Steven W. Floyd of the University of Connecticut, and Johan Roos and Claus D. Jacobs, both with Imagination Lab Foundation in Lausanne, Switzerland, for Blackwell Publishing. The book presents a series of reflective essays by established and emerging scholars on the subject of innovation, considering it both as an outcome of

strategy and as a process in itself.

Sheperis’ and Young’s book, also edited by Dr. M. Daniels of the University of Florida, will be published by Prentice Hall in fall 2006. “Research in Counseling” is an introductory textbook for graduate-level students on the various research methods related to counseling. Divided into five sections, it will cover everything from the multi-cultural aspects of research to data analysis.

HRM issues reminder

The Department of Human Resources Management reminds Careflex Flexible Spending Account participants that any money remaining in their Careflex accounts must be used by Dec. 31.

Beginning in 2006, the claims period for Mediflex Flexible Spending Accounts has been extended and now includes the current calendar year (2005), plus a grace period that includes Jan. 1-March 15, 2006.

More information about the new Mediflex grace period may be found on the HRM Web site: www.hrm.msstate.edu.

The grace period does not include the Careflex Flexible Spending Accounts.

All 2005 claims must be received by the Third Party Administrator, Glynn Griffing & Associates, P.O. Box 16509, Jackson, MS 39236-6509, on or before April 15, 2006.

Participants may contact GGA toll-free at 800-326-4885, or HRM, 325-3713, for questions on filing.



Head football coach Sylvester Croom led the celebration following the Bulldogs’ 35-14 defeat of Ole Miss to win the Egg Bowl Nov. 26. Senior running back Jerious Norwood (to Croom’s right) scored four touchdowns during his final football game for the Bulldogs, and Mississippi State captured the Golden Egg trophy for the first time since 2001.

Memo is published for the faculty and staff of Mississippi State University by the Office of 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/. Editorial material should be sent to Kay Fike Jones, Mail Stop 9512, or via mail to jonesk@ur.msstate.edu.

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Holiday Safety Tips

By Leslie Woolington
University Safety Officer

A few common-sense precautions can help keep your holidays safe and happy.

Decorating and Lighting:

- Candles, colored lights, Christmas trees, artificial snow, and plants add a lot of beauty to festive occasions. Unfortunately, young children and pets often like to play with them. Make sure decorations are kid-safe or out of reach.

- Candles also are popular, but don't let yours go up in smoke! Never leave them burning unattended, and never place them too close to other objects. Keep lighters and matches out of children's reach, too.

- Inspect new and used strings of lights, replacing damaged ones before plugging them in.

- Don't overload electrical outlets. Do not link more than three light strands together, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.

- Turn off all lights and decorations before leaving the home or going to bed.

Food:

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S.

- The holidays often mean preparing large meals for family and friends. Wash hands, utensils, sink, and anything else that has come in contact with raw poultry.

- Refrigerate or freeze leftovers in covered shallow containers (less than two inches deep) within two hours after cooking.

Alcohol, Parties and Driving:

- Being a smart party host or guest should include being sensible about alcoholic drinks. Use designated drivers—people who do not drink—to drive other guests home after a holiday party.

Don't let accidents spoil your holidays. Plan now to play it safe this year and every year.

Work on new parking lot to begin after graduation

To enable construction of a new 237-vehicle lot, Mississippi State officials are alerting university students and employees to the planned Dec. 12 closing of a large area between McComas Hall and Hardy Road.

For safety reasons, the east-campus construction area will be fenced off to commuter and pedestrian traffic.

Construction and paving of the lot is scheduled to take 150 days, with a completion date of May 10. RAFCO of Columbus is the contractor.

All vehicles should be removed from the area no later than the morning of the 12th, which is the first university workday following the Dec. 9 and 10 fall graduation ceremonies.

For more information about the project, telephone the Office of Facilities Management at 325-5830.

Private giving to MSU makes big 'jump'

Mississippi State continues to move up through the ranks of the nation's top beneficiaries of private giving, according to a national publication.

The university now is 262 on the latest list compiled by the Chronicle of Philanthropy. Reporting more than \$56 million in gifts received during the 2004-05 fiscal year, the institution took a 124-place jump in the rankings, making it the top Mississippi charity.

For 15 years, the Washington, D.C.-based weekly publication has focused on the top 400 charities raising money in the United States.

The new ranking positions MSU above several other larger land-grant institutions on the list. They include Iowa State, 272; Colorado State, 312; Oklahoma State, 353; and Clemson, 390. The Starkville school also now outranks three fellow Southeastern Conference members: Auburn, 273; Mississippi, 300; and Alabama, 347.

Harvard University, which received about \$540 million in private gifts, led all universities in the rankings.

The Mississippi State endowment currently stands at more than \$211 million, up from \$171 million at the close of FY04.

Energy—continued from page 1

previously equipped to override the central plant thermostat no longer will be able to do so.

"We appreciate the cooperation of faculty, staff and students during this period of extremely high energy costs and planning for the future," Hayes said.

For additional information about the changes, contact Jim Jones, executive director of facilities management, at 325-2052 or jaj143@msstate.edu.

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.



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

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 inside the bakery. 325-8481.

December 5-9

Final exams.

6

Lecture: "Kindergarten Violence," Room 114, MSU-Meridian Campus, 9 a.m.-noon. Dr. Ingrad Smith, 601-484-0467; jsmith@meridian.msstate.edu.

8-10

Prescribed burn demonstration, Crosby Arboretum, Picayune, 10 a.m. Persons under 18 must be accompanied by adult; admission fee waived. Register at 601-799-2311.

9

Commencement, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

Receiving Station to close on 19th

The Receiving Station will close on Dec. 19 for winter holidays. Rushes or perishable items will not be accepted after Dec. 15.

The Receiving Station will re-open Jan. 2 at 8 a.m.

For more information, telephone 325-2544.



10

Army and Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps joint commission ceremony, McComas Hall, 1 p.m. Carolyn Smith, 325-3810; csmith@afrotc.msstate.edu.

Commencement, Humphrey Coliseum, 10 a.m.

MSU vs. Troy, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

11

Faculty and Professional Women's Association Holiday Luncheon, noon, 325-0537. MSU vs. Maine, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 2 p.m.

15-17

Prescribed burn demonstration, Crosby Arboretum, Picayune, 10 a.m. Persons under 18 must be accompanied by adult; admission fee waived. Register at 601-799-2311.

19

MSU Classic, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum: MSU vs. Morehead State, 7 p.m.

20

MSU Classic, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum: MSU vs. Purdue or Centenary, 4:30 or 7 p.m.

20-30

Winter holidays.



Dora Herring (l) of the Association of Retired Faculty explains the new Medicare D plan to Virginia Prisock (c) and Dot Phillips during a Medicare D networking session held for Medicare-eligible retirees. Herring was among volunteers who led the sessions, with help from the Department of Human Resources Management. Workshop attendance was high as the State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan no longer will offer prescription drug coverage for Medicare-eligible retired participants and their dependents once the new Medicare drug coverage takes effect Jan. 1, 2006. For more information, access the Public Employees Retirement System Web site at www.pers.state.ms.us/pdf/memberservices/newsletters/Retiree/october2005.pdf.