

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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Philanthropy expands multi-level support of MSU

Major new support from the Robert M. Hearin Foundation is enhancing nationally recognized programs at Mississippi State.

The Jackson philanthropy recently committed more than \$4.4 million over three years. Of that amount, more than \$3.8 million will go to the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering and \$600,000 to the College of Architecture, Art and Design.

Previous Hearin support during 1997-2004 allowed the colleges to focus on key undergraduate and graduate enhancements and research areas fueled by industry needs.

"The generous support from the Hearin Foundation is what gives the Bagley College the funds needed to continue our quest for increased national recognition and visibility,"

said Dean Kirk H. Schulz. The engineering college will apply the latest grant to several key areas, he added.

"These monies help support economic development, assist in partial funding for the Center for Engineering Student Excellence, provide much needed seed money for cutting-edge research infrastructure, and fund the Hearin Eminent Scholars program to assist us in recognizing faculty excellence," said Schulz.

Engineering research funding at MSU now is ranked in the top 10 percent among U.S. programs.

The \$600,000 grant earmarked for the College of Architecture, Art and Design will be used to enhance housing research in the

Carl Small Town Center and the Design Research Informatics Laboratory. The money also will aid the college's graduate program, which has broadened in keeping with its expansion to include art, interior design and technology.

Dean James L. West said the Hearin Foundation's support for the college "has played a significant role in the development of research related to outreach and engagement in the architecture graduate programs.

"This new funding will continue to be used to advance this research and the implementation of technology in a number of industries within the State of Mississippi," he added.

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Californian to donate land for research development

A retired California architect plans to donate 15 acres of land to Mississippi State for a research facility that could serve as the centerpiece for broader commercial development at the site near the Golden Triangle Regional Airport.

Wayne Fishback of Simi Valley, Calif., a facility planning and design specialist throughout his 40-year career, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the university. It confirms his intention to give MSU land north of the airport and on the western side of Airport Road near the Highway 82 interchange.

Fishback owns an adjacent 285 acres that he hopes to develop for light industry, professional buildings, restaurants, service stations, retail shops and other commercial uses in the area about midway between Starkville and Columbus.

"I believe Mississippi State represents the

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Renovation of the historic Lee Hall auditorium is under way as the spring semester begins. The 1,000-seat facility is being refurbished and enhanced, providing an improved performing arts venue for Mississippi State.



'Everything about MSU' book takes top honors

The 2004-05 Factbook of Mississippi State University is being recognized as the best of its kind in the Southeast and beyond.

The 83-page, spiral-bound compendium of current information about the 127-year-old land-grant institution received the first-place award at the recent annual meeting of the Southern Association for Institutional Research. The 8½-by-11-inch notebook is produced by MSU's Office of Institutional Research.

The award represents two in a row for director Gary Pike and others in the Allen Hall-based office. Last year, their online version—www.msstate.edu/dept/oir—received SAIR's Best Electronic Factbook Award.

SAIR is the umbrella professional organization representing nearly 20 state institutional research associations, with membership including public and private institutions of higher learning in states from Maryland to Arizona and Oklahoma to Florida. The Mississippi association includes 18 community and senior college campuses, as well as the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning office in Jackson.

Starting with "Quick Glance," the MSU book's eight major sections cover more than 70 specific topic areas. The sections include organizational charts, enrollment, faculty, student characteristics, and resources, among others.

Lone Star State supporter provides boost

A recent \$2 million bequest from Texas native Lila Harlow Henry is designed to "enhance Mississippi State's future."

Lila Henry and husband Hunter of San Marcos long have been leading university supporters. To date, the couple's commitments exceed \$10 million to the ongoing "State of the Future: The Mississippi State Campaign."

Their generosity has made possible various faculty enhancements, an endowed chair in chemical engineering, an engineering lecture series, and a new alumni and foundation building named in Hunter Henry's honor. They also support student scholarships in the Bagley College of Engineering, and the colleges of Arts and Sciences and Business and Industry.

Lila Henry, a native of Port Arthur, Texas, is a Southern Methodist University art graduate. She married the Canton native and chemical engineering major in 1951, a year after he had graduated from MSU. They are the parents of three sons.

Her bequest is being made through the MSU Foundation's Donor-Advised Fund Program. As with many others, the gift is designated through the separate, nonprofit corporation formed in 2000 and modeled on similar programs offered by some community foundations and financial brokerage firms.

"Donor-advised funds are quite common in the private sector," said Dennis A. Prescott, MSU vice president for external affairs. "The MSU version works just like those in that donors may make an irrevocable gift to the fund and take an immediate tax deduction, but may wait until later to make final decisions about the distribution of funds."

The gift funds may benefit MSU programs, or they may be directed to other qualified charitable organizations.

Lila Henry's philanthropy also extends to two Texas institutions. An SMU scholarship bears her name, while another gift to Lamar University in Beaumont honors her relatives. These awards annually support students in nursing, engineering and veterinary medicine.

University head, alumna to lead MLK program

Priscilla Dean Slade will be the featured speaker Jan. 16 for Mississippi State's observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday.

Slade, an MSU alumna from Yazoo City who has served since 1999 as president of Texas Southern University in Houston, will lead the annual community breakfast. Open to all, the free public program gets under way at 7:30 a.m. in the Bost Extension



Slade

Center auditorium.

Slade received a bachelor's degree in business administration from MSU in 1972. She also holds a master's in professional accounting from Jackson State

University and a doctorate, also in accounting, from the University of Texas.

She joined the TSU faculty in 1991 as chair of the accounting department. A year later, she was promoted to dean of the institution's Jesse H. Jones School of Business.

She currently serves on the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank's Houston Branch. She is active in the Greater Houston Partnership, Houston 2012 Foundation and Houston Technology Center, among other community organizations.

For more information on MSU's 2006 MLK community breakfast, contact Carson Cook at 325-2493.

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Planned Jackson cyber crime center gets \$2.5 million boost

Mississippi State will move forward with plans to establish a Jackson-based training center for cyber crime investigators, thanks to an anticipated new \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Justice Department.

The university's Center for Computer Security Research received an initial DOJ grant of nearly \$1 million last summer to plan creation of the Joint Cyber Crime Fusion Center. It will be located downtown at the Sillers State Office Building.

CCSR director Ray Vaughn said the latest grant will allow expansion of the scope and capabilities of the Jackson center, which will open early next year as a centralized operational and training facility devoted to fighting computer-related crimes. The state Attorney General's Office, FBI, Jackson State University and the University of Mississippi School of Justice and Law are other partners in the project.

"Right now, the training is taking place

here at MSU," said Vaughn, the university's Billie J. Ball Professor of Computer Science and Engineering. "We have courses scheduled for the future and have taught some already. They are being taught by David Dampier, who heads the Computer Forensics Training Center within CCSR.

"We are developing a training program for state and local law enforcement officers in the Southeast that will focus on computer forensics investigation, and the specific process and procedures that must be followed," added Vaughn, a retired U.S. Army colonel. "JSU will be developing a forensics training capability to help us train."

Vaughn and Dampier, who created and teaches a popular MSU computer forensics course, conceived the idea for the federal/state/university collaboration. With the help of Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., they were successful in pushing for funding through the DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

"Dr. Vaughn and Dr. Dampier have done an outstanding job of creating a successful collaboration that will provide great benefits to the state of Mississippi, as well as the nation," said Julia Hodges, professor and head of MSU's Department of Computer Science and Engineering, which is part of the Bagley College of Engineering.

While the attorney general's office has only one computer forensics examiner and three cyber crime investigators, authorities note most state and local law enforcement officials have no background in the special investigative techniques needed to solve cyber crimes. Attorney General Jim Hood expressed hope the joint center will help bridge classroom instruction on the Starkville campus with on-the-job training in Jackson.

"We want to set up a computer security training center in Jackson," Hood said during a visit to the MSU campus last spring. "State and local law enforcement officers will get classroom training at MSU, then come to Jackson for the hands-on work."

Fishback—continued from page 1

kind of quality that will act as a catalyst for more development," Fishback said during a recent visit to the state. "I would like to emulate the symbiotic relationship here that exists between Stanford University and the Silicon Valley in California. It will be good for MSU and a big attraction for business."

MSU research vice president Colin Scanes said it is too early to determine exactly what kind of university facility would be located at the site, but predicted it likely would be linked to aerospace engineering and defense-related research.

"Mr. Fishback has a vision for development of this land and we want to help make his vision a reality," said Scanes. "We want to continue to play a pivotal role in the economic development of the Golden Triangle.

"We believe the MSU research facility can serve as an anchor for the development of private business in the future," he added.

As a senior partner at Chicago design firms, Fishback successfully practiced architecture and managed offices in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles and Hong Kong during his lengthy career, including projects in 22 states and 11 foreign countries.

Although he has never lived in Mississippi, Fishback said his late parents, Dr. Woodson and Mildred Fishback, resided in Columbus for a decade during their retirement years. A late aunt who worked in real estate, Lucille Garton, also a resident of Columbus at the time, tipped him off about the then-available land near the airport.

"I had been doing some work around the research triangle in the Raleigh-Durham, N.C., area, in 1980 and was passing through Columbus to visit my parents," he recalled. "My aunt called me and asked me to look at a piece of property.

"I did and it struck me that the site had a lot of potential," he said. "I didn't quite envision that it would take 25 years for this (planned development) to evolve—but, as they say, better late than never."



Wildlife and Fisheries professor Louis D'Abramo recently was recognized for his "tireless work in the establishment and continued promotion of the freshwater prawn industry in the United States." Dolores Fratesi presented D'Abramo with a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Freshwater Prawn and Shrimp Growers Association during the group's annual meeting in Tunica.



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.

January 10 and 11

ITS workshop: BANNER: Requisitions (two-day), McArthur Training Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. 325-0631.

15

MSU vs. Tennessee, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 2 p.m.

18

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

19

ITS workshop: BANNER: Leave Entry, McArthur Training Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-0631.

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.



25 and 26

ITS workshop: BANNER: Invoice Processing (two-day), McArthur Training Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-0631.

25

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

26

MSU vs. Mississippi, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

Sidewalk closed until Jan. 16

Pedestrians walking from the Drill Field to Perry Cafeteria must find an alternate route through Jan. 16 while construction is taking place.

While underground electrical service associated with the McCool Hall addition is being completed, pedestrians may walk through the Colvard Union, go around the Lee Boulevard side of the union, or walk around the Allen Hall side of McCool.

Workers are trying to complete the underground construction prior to the start of spring semester.

For more information, telephone Facilities Management at 325-5830.

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West said the Carl Small Town Center—named for Fred Carl Jr., the Greenwood businessman and Viking Range Corp. founder—will apply its allocation toward community design and economic development work, "with a heightened focus on the housing needs of our state."

The college has worked for several years to develop alternative designs and production methodologies for affordable housing, which West said now is at the point of prototype development and testing. "This very specialized area of research has the potential for significant economic impact in the state by providing affordable, sustainable, energy efficient, and fully code-compliant housing models," he observed.

"We cannot overstate the important role that Hearin Foundation support has and will continue to play in the College of Architecture, Art and Design's success in outreach and engagement," West added.

Established in 1973, the college offers Mississippi's only professional program in architecture.

The Hearin Foundation was established in the will of Robert M. Hearin Sr., the Mississippi Valley Gas Co. chairman and chief executive officer who died in 1992. The organization primarily supports the state's universities and colleges and economic development.



College of Forest Resources research associate Alexis Londo, left, and forest maintenance supervisor Bridget Carr recently were honored with 2005 Doris Lee Memorial Staff Awards for outstanding service. In nomination letters, Londo was praised for teaching an undergraduate forestry course in dendrology and developing a herbarium in the college. Carr, considered an ambassador for the college, was noted for her team spirit and positive attitude.