

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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IHL announces Presidential Search Advisory Committee

As the process to identify Mississippi State's 18th president begins, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning has appointed a campus advisory committee to assist in the search.

Members of the Mississippi State University Presidential Search Advisory Committee were chosen based on recommendations by university constituencies and include key members of the university community as well as the public and private sectors.

The committee is charged with identifying the most capable and qualified applicants and nominees to be presented to the Board of Trustees Search Committee for review.

"Our goal is to conduct a search of integrity to hire the best person possible for the university and for the state of Mississippi," said commissioner of higher education Thomas C. Meredith. "I am confident this committee will help us achieve that goal."

Meredith said he anticipates that the search process will be completed by April.

"Our work will be to screen a national pool of candidates and narrow the recommendations to five names that will be forwarded to Commissioner Meredith and the Board search committee," said Ruth H. Prescott, chair of the advisory committee.

As the MSU committee formally begins its work, Prescott added that Commissioner Meredith has assured the 24-member group that its recommendations will be a key part of the process.

"We have confidence in the integrity of the process the Board has established to identify the best possible choice for Mississippi State," she said.

Mississippi State Presidential Search Advisory Committee members include:

- Ruth Hernandez Prescott, J.D. (chair of Search Advisory Committee), associate vice president for academic affairs and executive assistant to the president;

- Alicia Aiken, MSU graduate student, Department of English, and secretary, MSU Graduate Student Association;
- Bruce Brumfield, owner, Brumfield Plantation;
- Joe Bryan, national president, MSU Alumni Association;
- Jon David Cole, president of Student Association;
- Dr. Linda Cornelious, professor of instructional systems, leadership, and workforce development;
- Dr. Arthur Cosby, director, Social Science Research Center and professor of sociology;
- LaDonne Delgado, professor at MSU Libraries;
- Dr. Mark Goodman, president of Robert Holland Faculty Senate and associate

professor of communication;

- Cedric Henson, cost analyst, Office of Controller;
- Dr. Thomas Hosie, past chair, Department Head Executive Committee and head and professor of counselor education and educational psychology;
- Aretha Jones-Cook, director, Holmes Cultural Diversity Center;
- Dr. William Kibler, vice president for student affairs;
- Dr. Roger King, associate dean, Bagley College of Engineering, and distinguished professor of electrical and computer engineering;
- Dr. Nancy McCarley, director, Honors Program and associate professor of psychology;

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A \$100,000 gift from former congressman and MSU alumnus G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (second from right) will support the MSU libraries and student scholarships at MSU-Meridian. Joining MSU President Charles Lee in expressing appreciation to "Mr. Veteran" were Dean of Libraries Frances Coleman (left) and Nick Nichols, dean of the Meridian Campus (right).



White new head of chemical engineering

Former longtime Georgia Tech professor and research administrator Mark G. White is the new director of Mississippi State's Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering.

White's appointment as the Earnest W. Deavenport Jr. Chair and school director became effective Jan. 1. He succeeds Clifford



White

George, who served as interim director of the chemical engineering school during 2005.

"The Swalm school is well-positioned to become recognized as one of the leading chemical engineering programs in the Southeastern United States," said White. "It was this

sense of imminent success and a record of proven achievements that attracted me to Mississippi State University."

White comes to the state after 28 years at the Georgia Institute of Technology's School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, where he served both as a professor and director of the Focused Research Program in Surface Science and Catalysis.

"Mark is an enthusiastic leader who will provide excellent leadership for the Swalm school," said Kirk H. Schulz, dean of MSU's Bagley College of Engineering.

While at Georgia Tech, White received the Sigma Xi Award as an undergraduate thesis adviser in 1991 and 2002, and as a doctoral thesis adviser in 1988. In 1998, he also received Order of Omega's Outstanding Professor Award.

White is the author of a textbook and has published more than 70 journal papers, holds nine patents, and has supervised more than 30 postdoctoral fellows, doctoral dissertations and master's theses.

White earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1971, a master's from Purdue University in 1973 and a doctorate from Rice University in 1978, all in the field of chemical engineering. His doctoral thesis at Rice was selected for the Sigma Xi Excellence Award in 1978.



Three College of Forest Resources' faculty members have been honored with outstanding achievement awards for 2005. Recipients include (l-r) forestry associate professor Don Grebner for service, wildlife and fisheries professor Stephen Demarais for teaching, and wildlife and fisheries professor Menghi Li for research. The awards were presented at the college's annual advisory banquet.

Work by MSU prof featured at state confab

Some 80 literary educators and other lovers of the language arts are expected to attend the annual conference of the Mississippi Philological Association.

To be held at Mississippi State Jan. 27 and 28, the gathering will include presentations on such topics as literature, folklore, film, and other subjects of related professional interest. Organizers of this year's program have encouraged entries on contemporary fiction and poetry.

A public portion of the conference will involve the reading of "Fleur Carnivore," an award-winning poetic manuscript by MSU English professor Richard Lyons. To begin at 7 p.m. on the 27th, Lyons' presentation in Simrall Hall auditorium is open to all.

Lyons directs the university's creative writing program. His full-length manuscript was honored with the 2005 Washington Prize, a national literary award established in 1981 to recognize outstanding contemporary American poetry.

Selected by competition judges from more than 340 other entries, "Fleur Carnivore" features meditations on Eastern philosophy, African-American jazz and modern paintings, among other subjects. Included are examinations of the lives and works of Clifford Brown, John Coltrane, Cecil Taylor, Francis Bacon, Paul Klee, and other artists.

The MPA conference is being directed by Dr. Noel Polk, Lyon's English department colleague and editor of the MSU-based Mississippi Quarterly, a 58-year-old scholarly journal dedicated to Southern life and culture.



Research focusing on hearing, vision of aging Americans

A team of Mississippi State researchers will discuss the preliminary results of an ongoing five-year study of hearing and vision problems faced by aging Americans during an upcoming national conference.

The specialists from the university's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision will summarize the initial results of their national survey during the Feb. 8-10 gathering in Atlanta, Ga. "Persons Aging with Hearing and Vision Loss: Creating Roads to Independence" is the conference theme.

Established in 1981 as the only one of its kind on a U.S. university campus, the RRTC, as it's usually referred, is a part of the College of Education.

The 2002-07 study, titled "Persons Aging with Hearing and Vision Loss," is a collaborative research effort among the MSU center, San Diego State University and New York-based Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults. It is funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research in Washington, D.C.

"We are looking at the impact of both hearing and vision loss on the independence, functioning and lifestyles of seniors," said B.J. LeJeune, senior research associate and director of the MSU center's Office of Deafblind Programs.

"It has been an exciting project in that we have gathered great information from a

nationally representative study sample of more than 400 folks who are responding to a series of surveys, as well as data from numerous focus groups and personal interviews," LeJeune said.

"The conference will highlight some of our research findings," she added. "We are hopeful the research results will translate into public policy that will improve services and life options for seniors with dual sensory loss."

LeJeune, MSU team leader, will provide an overview of the project. Colleagues Michele McDonnell, an assistant research professor, and research associates William Sansing and Stacy Butler will discuss specific aspects of the project.

Other national specialists, including representatives of the Keller Center and San Diego State, will be among featured speakers at the conference, which is being

co-sponsored by the Atlanta-based Veteran's Administration Rehabilitation Research and Development Center.

"This conference represents the transition of research findings into applied training programs," said center director Elton Moore, one of MSU's William L. Giles Distinguished Professors.

Moore said the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project consortium is focusing on the exploration of strategies to improve the lives of people 55 years or age or older who are blind, visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, and who are now experiencing secondary vision or hearing problems resulting from the aging process.

Specific areas addressed in the study include employment, use of assistive technology and communications systems,

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DataBasics

By Deborah Lee
MSU Libraries

Journal Citation Reports on the Web

The JCR on the Web is here. The Journal Citation Reports is produced by Thomson/ISI, the same company responsible for core databases such as the Web of Science. The JCR is a unique research resource, providing statistical information about the impact of a journal based on the articles' cited references. It offers a systematic, objective way to evaluate the world's leading journals and the information is available at the journal and category level.

Who would be interested in the JCR Web? Authors can turn to the statistical data presented to identify an appropriate journal in which to publish, examine the status of journals within which they have published, and examine the relationship (in terms of citing and cited journals) between journals in their field. Scholars studying bibliometrics and citation patterns also will find the JCR useful. Statistical data available in the JCR includes information concerning the most frequently cited journals in a field, the "hottest" journals in a field (via an immediacy index), the highest impact journals in a field, and subject category data that permits the comparison of journal impact factors and cited half life statistics across titles in a field.

The JCR on the Web comes in two editions: Science and Social Science. Web access covers 2000 to the present, although because of lag time for inclusion in the database, the most recent data is for 2004. The 2005 data will be available next summer. The new Web edition also provides additional graphical analysis of statistical data not previously found in the CD-ROM editions. Access to the JCR Web edition is available via the Mississippi State Libraries' indexes and databases Web page.

For additional instruction concerning use of the JCR, telephone the Reference Department at 325-7667.

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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 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

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.

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.

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.



26

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

31

ITS workshop: BANNER: Electronic Approvals, McArthur Training Lab B, 10 a.m.-noon. 325-0631.

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transportation, housing, specialized services, and psycho-social adjustment to sensory loss. Oversight is provided by a participatory action research team comprised of older persons with hearing and vision loss problems.

LeJeune said learning objectives of the Atlanta conference will include creating an understanding of issues faced by seniors with both hearing and vision loss, identifying the best methods of addressing those issues, and locating available resources to assist that growing segment of the American population.

"We are still analyzing much of the data for publication over the next two years," she noted.

In a separate development, Moore announced the MSU center has received a \$50,000 gift from the George B. Storer Foundation in Florida for the purpose of upgrading a computer laboratory that will be used to teach a vision specialist course.

"This represents the largest gift the center has ever received from the Storer Foundation," said Moore. "It underscores the importance of networking."

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. For more information, telephone HRM at 325-3713, e-mail employment@hrm.msstate.edu or visit 150 McArthur Hall.

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- Dr. Melissa Mixon, associate vice president, Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine and associate professor of human sciences;
- Dr. Melissa Moore, associate professor of marketing;
- Roderick Moore, president, MSU Foundation;
- Dr. Harold Nichols, dean, Meridian Campus and professor of communication;
- Dr. Phil Oldham, dean, College of Arts and Sciences and professor of chemistry;
- Hal Parker, president, Bulldog Club;
- Juli Rester, chair, Professional and Support Staff Advisory Council and senior human resources generalist;
- Tommy Tomlinson, president, Cadence Bank, Starkville; and
- James West, dean and professor of the College of Architecture, Art and Design.

MSU offers replacement of diplomas lost to Katrina

Mississippi State graduates whose university diplomas were destroyed or swept away by Hurricane Katrina may receive a replacement at no cost.

Registrar Butch Stokes said alumni should submit their requests—in writing only—to the Registrar's Office, P.O. Box 5268, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

While use of the U.S. Postal Service is strongly encouraged, Stokes said inquiries, if necessary, also may be made via e-mail to either cynthia@registrar.msstate.edu or jvance@registrar.msstate.edu.

Each correspondence should include the following information:

- Name as it appeared on the original diploma;
- Year and semester of graduation;
- Major and college (or school) awarding the degree;
- Social Security identification number; and
- Return mailing address.

For questions about the process, contact Sharon Nobles at 325-9410.