

# MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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## Honorary degree nominations open

Nominations for honorary doctoral degrees to be awarded by Mississippi State at the spring commencement ceremony are being accepted until Feb. 13.

Nominations, including supporting materials, should be sent to the Honorary Degree Committee in care of the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Under Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning guidelines, persons eligible for the doctor of laws, doctor of science, doctor of humane letters, doctor of creative and performing arts, or doctor of public service must have demonstrated nationally recognized sustained achievement in scholarship, public service, creative and performing arts, or professional activity. Faculty, staff and administrators of the university and elected or appointed public officials are ineligible for an honorary degree until one year after leaving their position.

Candidates for public office also are ineligible.

Any member of the university community may submit nominations. All information that nominators wish to present to the Honorary Degree Committee should be provided along with the nomination by the Feb. 13 deadline. The committee ultimately will recommend names to the president and degrees will be presented at May 2006 commencement ceremonies.

The state College Board authorized state universities to begin awarding the degrees in 1999 and generally allows each institution to give up to two each year. Mississippi State has awarded nine honorary degrees since then.

Prior recipients of MSU honorary degrees are John H. Bryan Jr., former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Sara Lee Corp.; Leo W. Seal Jr., chairman and

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## Senators question MSU presidential search process

Responding to the state College Board's announced plan (see Jan. 17 Memo) for naming a new Mississippi State president to replace the retiring Charles Lee, the university's Robert Holland Faculty Senate is expressing disagreement with the process.

A letter dated Jan. 12—also the day of the representative body's first 2006 meeting—was signed by Senate President Mark Goodman and 12 other members of a specially elected advisory committee representing the various colleges as well as MSU-Meridian. Addressed to Ed Blakeslee of Gulfport, the correspondence evolved from "real strong discussions" that took place during a series of

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Steel framework for the highest roof point on the Cullis Wade Depot is almost completed. When finished, the \$9 million facility near the intersection of B.S. Hood and Creelman streets will house a clock museum, Barnes and Noble bookstore and other units.





## Class public service campaign: a 'voice' to help Mississippi

Inundated by images of destruction and overwhelming need following Hurricane Katrina, a class of Mississippi State graphic design majors decided to use their skills to create an image of hope.

The resulting media campaign designed by nine university seniors urges long-term volunteering to help thousands on the Gulf Coast recover.

Dubbed "Mission Mississippi," the public service campaign—which the students want to make available nationwide—includes a 30-second video spot produced with assistance from the University Television Center, as well as supporting print materials.

"I wanted my students to get a sense of working with a real client, as well as to focus on social responsibility in graphic design," said Rebecca Davis, an assistant art professor whose background includes commercial advertising.

"Advertising agencies may donate a small amount of their time and talent to non-profit organizations," she explained. "I want to increase that time and change the perception of graphic designers," she explained. "We asked ourselves, 'What can we do to help in the rebuilding?' This campaign is our answer."

The students were emphatic that they wanted a positive message, Davis said. "Some of the graphic design students from affected areas have no home," she said. "We wanted to show that we can pick up the pieces and that volunteering is a long-term undertaking.

"Our goal is to make our work available at no charge to tourism and economic development groups to generate continued support for Mississippi," she added.

Davis said the students are committed to getting their positive message out to encourage others to assist Mississippi.

For more information about "Mission Mississippi," visit [www.dac.msstate.edu](http://www.dac.msstate.edu).

## MSU Libraries expands online access

MSU Libraries recently entered into agreements with the Institute of Physics that will expand users' online access to the institute's journals dramatically.

IOP is known worldwide as the publisher of more than 30 of the most important and influential journals in physics and related disciplines. Previously, MSU users had online access to IOP journal content published only within the last two years. Beginning in 2006, users' access will be expanded to include virtually all journal content published by IOP from 1874 to the present. In total, this change enables users to access approximately 150,000 articles of significant scientific research.

According to Frances Coleman, dean of libraries, "Usage statistics indicate that the journal content acquired through these agreements is in high demand. This is an exciting development that will significantly enhance our users' ability to conduct research in the physical sciences."

There are two components to MSU Libraries' expanded access to IOP journals. The first is the IOP Archive, which gives users access to virtually all IOP journal content published from 1874 to 2004. Mississippi's membership in the EPSCoR Scientific Information Group consortium provided the libraries a significant discount to make a one-time purchase guaranteeing users' perpetual access to the archive. The archive's yearly update is available for a small fee shared by all members.

The second component is online access to the most recent IOP journal content through a program called EBAND. By maintaining subscriptions to the eight IOP print titles currently held, the libraries is able to provide online access to nearly 30 IOP journals. MSU Libraries will determine on a yearly basis whether it will be able to continue its subscription to EBAND.

To see a list of the journals published by IOP, go to [www.iop.org/EJ/main/-list=all/](http://www.iop.org/EJ/main/-list=all/).

## Analyst Cook to 'report' on U.S. politics at program

One of the nation's leading authorities on elections and political trends will share some his latest findings during a Feb. 2 public program at Mississippi State.

Charles E. Cook Jr. will be featured at the university's first Morris W. Collins Lecture Series of the 2006 spring semester. Cook is editor and publisher of the Cook Political Report and an analyst for the National Journal Group, where he writes weekly for the National Journal magazine and online CongressDailyAM.

Cook's presentation begins at 3 p.m. in the John Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library. A reception in his honor follows in the same location.

Over his career, Cook has received widespread praise for his understanding of and ability to communicate about the American political system. He has been called "one of the best political handicappers in the nation," "the Picasso of election analysis" and "perhaps the best non-partisan tracker of Congressional races."

A frequent analyst for the major commercial and cable networks, Cook worked for more than a decade at Roll Call, the newspaper of Capitol Hill, before joining the National Journal Group in 1998.

The visiting speaker series is an ongoing program of the MSU library system and its Congressional and Political Research Center, as well as the student John C. Stennis-G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Association and Stennis Institute of Government. It also is a memorial to Collins, the Stennis Institute's founding executive director.

For additional information on the program, telephone 325-3328 or 325-0812.



**Senate**—continued from page 1

strategy meetings following the State Institutions of Higher Learning’s launch of the presidential search shortly before Christmas, Goodman said.

An MSU alumnus who is among College Board appointees of first-term Gov. Haley Barbour, Blakeslee is a retired Mississippi Power Co. executive who chairs what formally is known as the Institutions of Higher Learning Presidential Search Committee. The letter to him reads, in full:

Dear Mr. Blakeslee:

Faculty representatives from every college on campus have met to discuss the presidential search and the search process. The faculty is not pleased that their only contact with the candidates will be indirect through the four faculty members who are serving on the screening committee. We understand the purpose behind Commissioner Tom Meredith’s decision not to bring the finalists to campus. However, this process of secrecy will have negative consequences.

Campus visits would serve several valuable purposes that include:

- Allow the faculty to hear what the candidates have to say and their vision for the institution;
- Allow the faculty to express their opinions of the candidates to the search committee;
- Signify that IHL members and the search committee value the input of the faculty;
- Give candidates an important opportunity to visit Starkville and MSU;
- Allow candidates to engage in candid conversations with the faculty, staff, students, and administrators; and
- Allow the candidates to build support for their presidency.

Secrecy will mean that the new president cannot start establishing credibility with the MSU community and the Starkville community until taking office.

If campus visits are ruled out, then an alternative would be to allow three to five people from the screening committee to advise the search committee. This group

would meet with the candidates and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates with the IHL search committee. Although this is not a satisfactory replacement for campus visits, it could enhance trust in the new president.

The faculty and the rest of the MSU community believe they have a great stake in the selection of the next president. Therefore, it is essential that the best possible candidate for president be hired and that the new president arrives on campus with the support of the MSU community.

Sincerely,  
The Robert Holland Faculty Senate Advisory Committee

By virtue of his senate presidency, Goodman is a member of the IHL-designated advisory committee that is to screen candidates and send a list of those deemed acceptable to Blakeslee and others on the College Board search committee.

During his briefing to senate members shortly after leaving the IHL advisory committee’s inaugural meeting at the Hunter Henry Center, Goodman told colleagues he was considering resignation from the candidate-screening group to protest the confidentiality agreement required of all members.

IHL Commissioner Thomas Meredith has said the group’s workings should remain confidential in order to help protect the careers of potential presidential candidates who may wish to keep private their interest in the MSU presidency.

After sharing his views of the process to date, Goodman apparently surprised some senators when he announced that “I have contacted three of those who have been talked about as the ‘prominent candidates’ and invited them to campus to meet with members of the faculty senate, the campus community and the Starkville community,” Goodman said.

“Whether or not they’ll be finalists, I don’t know; I don’t even know if they will respond,” he continued. “I made it clear in

the letter that this is not part of the formal search process, but I wanted, at least, to provide an option to the candidates to meet with us if they thought it would help them decide whether to take the job or not.”

Goodman said he felt “that one of our goals needs to be making it clear to IHL what our sentiments are and what our voices are in this process.”

The second-term senate leader did not provide the names of those persons to whom he had sent the personal invitations—and no senator asked during the meeting. He did say he’d extend similar invitations to other potential candidates whose names he felt were receiving widespread mention in the news media.

“If I stay on this (IHL advisory committee), I will do my best to represent all of you, but that is not the way this process should be done,” Goodman told his colleagues. “I should not be speaking for every member of the faculty.”

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/](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).

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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](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 inside the bakery. 325-8481.

### January

#### 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

IMC Workshop: "Macromedia Dreamweaver MX 2004: Creating Frames," Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1 p.m. 325-7669.

Workshop: "How to Use YOUR Library," ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3 p.m. 325-3834.

### 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.



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

#### 26

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

Workshop: "How to Use YOUR Library," ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 11 a.m. 325-3834.

IMC Workshop: "Adobe PhotoShop CS," Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1 p.m. 325-7669.

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Workshop: "How to Use YOUR Library," ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 10 a.m. 325-3834.

### Military technology transfer to be examined Jan. 31

A key administrator with a major branch of the Smithsonian Institution will speak here Jan. 31.

Sponsored by the History Department, the public program featuring Barton C. Hacker begins at 7 p.m. in the first-floor auditorium of Mitchell Memorial Library. He is curator of military and diplomatic history at the Washington, D.C., institution's popular National Museum of American History.

"Crisscrossing the Atlantic: Historical Patterns of Military Technology Transfer between Europe and America" will be Hacker's topic.

Before joining the Smithsonian, the University of Chicago doctoral graduate was historian for the University of California's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the top U.S. research and development institute for technology applied to national security.

He is the author, among others, of "The Dragon's Tail: Radiation Safety in the Manhattan Project, 1942-46" (1987).

For more information on the program, contact department head Alan Marcus at 325-7075 or [aimarcus@history.msstate.edu](mailto:aimarcus@history.msstate.edu).

#### 31

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

IMC Workshop: "Macromedia Flash MX 2004," Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1 p.m. 325-7669.

Spring Career Day, Humphrey Coliseum, noon. 325-3344.

Workshop: "How to Use YOUR Library," ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. 325-3834.

Lecture: Barton C. Hacker presents "Crisscrossing the Atlantic: Historical Patterns of Military Technology Transfer between Europe and America," first-floor auditorium, Mitchell Memorial Library, 7 p.m. 325-7075.

### Honorary—continued from page 1

CEO of Hancock Bank in Gulfport; Harry Charles F. Simrall, dean of engineering at Mississippi State until his retirement in 1978; Dave C. Swalm, retired petroleum products company owner; G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, former 3rd District congressman from Meridian; Hunter Henry, retired Dow Chemical Co. executive; Bobby Martin, president of The Peoples Bank in Ripley; Jack Cristil, radio play-by-play announcer for MSU football and basketball games for the past 50 years; Charles B. Cliett, head emeritus of the aerospace engineering department; and Hartley D. Peavey, owner and chief executive officer of Peavey Electronics in Meridian.

Members of the Honorary Degree Committee are Peter Rabideau, chair, provost and vice president for academic affairs; Connie Forde, professor of instructional systems and workforce development; Kirk Schulz, dean of engineering; Jamie Mixon, professor of art; David Shaw, director of the Remote Sensing Technologies Center; and Bill Wilson, professor of chemistry.