

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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Don Bufkin of Brandon works on the circular roof of a conference hall that will adjoin the Rafael Palmeiro Center. Scheduled for completion in the spring, the meeting facility is a major addition to the just-finished indoor training complex for university football and baseball teams.

MSU named 'best value' public college

Mississippi State again is among the "100 Best Values in Public Colleges," according to the February edition of Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine.

The publication ranks MSU at 93rd in the nation, using costs for in-state students.

According to Kiplinger's, the best-value schools "are noteworthy for their combination of top-flight academics and affordable costs."

To arrive at its rankings, the magazine took into account the percentage of 2004-05 freshmen scoring 24 or higher on the ACT, admission rates, freshman retention rates, student-faculty ratios, and four- and six-year graduation rates.

Then, schools were ranked based on cost and financial aid. Factors considered included tuition and fees, room and board, expenses for books, average cost after subtracting grants, average percentage of need met by aid, and average debt at graduation.

Kiplinger's calculates that MSU's total cost for in-state students is \$11,071, or \$7,713 after taking into account financial aid.

In 2002, Kiplinger listed the 128-year-old land-grant institution among its "100 Baccalaureate Bargains."

RRTC receives gift for upgrade

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision recently received a \$50,000 gift from a national foundation.

The monies from the George B. Storer Foundation of Saratoga, Wyo., will be used to upgrade the center's assistive technology laboratory.

"New purchases will include updated synthetic speech and screen magnification software, as well as refreshable Braille hardware and other assistive technology to allow students who are blind or have low vision to use the center's computers," said J. Elton Moore, center director.

He added that the funding will help the center conduct a variety of research and training projects in blindness and low vision. Upcoming is a spring 10-week graduate training program for vision specialists in vocational rehabilitation.

The Storer Foundation gift also will expand the center's ability to offer distance education training opportunities to persons who are blind or have low vision.

The center is funded primarily by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and the Rehabilitation Services Administration. RRTC was founded at MSU in 1981 and is the only one of its kind in the United States.



Athletics completes 'MSU Warms the Coast' drive

Sixteen Mississippi State student-athletes representing six varsity sports delivered more than 1,000 jackets and coats to the Mississippi Gulf Coast in January.

The donation marked the athletic program's final contribution in its "MSU Warms The Coast" drive to assist Hurricane Katrina victims. MSU employees and students delivered more than 6,000 warm weather items to the coast during the nearly two-month-long drive.

"On behalf of the entire Mississippi State family, I want to thank those involved for their outstanding support in helping MSU make this drive special," said Director of Athletics Larry Templeton. "I also want to thank our sister institutions around the country for their donations. I'm not sure that the gesture made didn't bring more warmth than the coats themselves."

The delegation of Bulldog student-athletes, coaches and administrators made stops at Pass Christian High School, Biloxi High School, Gulf Coast Boys and Girls Club, and two regional distribution centers. At each stop, the MSU group met with displaced hurricane victims and distributed coats and jackets.

MSU acquired the charitable donations



MSU freshman volleyball player Nicole Palazzo assists a coastal resident with the selection of a donated coat.

from a variety of sources, including a public coat drive at its final two home football games and a solicitation to NCAA Division I athletic programs around the country.

The initial donations from the football games were shipped to the coast in time for

Christmas, while the jackets acquired through the contributions of approximately 80 other colleges and universities were taken to the coast just after the holidays.

MSU focusing on hearing, vision problems 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.

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

McDonnall, an assistant research professor, and research associates William Sansing and Stacy Butler will discuss specific aspects of the project.

"This conference represents the transition of research findings into applied training programs," said center director Elton Moore, a William L. Giles Distinguished Professor.

Specific areas addressed in the study include employment, use of assistive technology and communications systems, transportation, housing, specialized services, and psycho-social adjustment to sensory loss.

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.



MSU promotes exercise with 'Girls' Sports Day'

Mississippi State again is seeking local participants for a half-day program of exercise training for girls ages 6-14.

The departments of Recreational Sports and Athletics will jointly sponsor the third "Girls' Sports Day" 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Joe Frank Sanderson Center.

Participants will receive instruction in aerobics, yoga, soccer, and volleyball. Parents also are encouraged to attend with their daughters. Snacks will be provided and participants should wear athletic shoes and gym clothes.

All participants will receive complimentary tickets to a Lady Bulldog vs. University of South Florida softball game at 1 p.m. on the 11th and a Lady Bulldog vs. Alabama basketball game on the 12th at 2 p.m. Girls also are invited to attend the Lady Bulldog basketball game with South Carolina Feb. 5 at 2 p.m.

Deadline for pre-registration is Feb. 3. For more information on Girls' Sports Day, or to register, contact Marcia Turner at 325-1295. Other ways to register include accessing www.recsports.msstate.edu, e-mailing meh7@saffairs.msstate.edu or faxing 325-8792.

Veteran Coahoma ag leader, journalist adds to collections

A World War II-era Mississippi State graduate who went on to successful careers in farm management and journalism is donating a collection of his photographs and slides to the university's library archives.

Harris H. Barnes Jr. of Clarksdale recently provided 80 boxes of images dating back to 1946.

"All are related to agriculture," said Michael Ballard, head archivist at Mitchell Memorial Library. "Most of the material focuses on the Mississippi Delta, but other parts include images from throughout the United States and several foreign countries."

Ballard said portions of the Barnes Collection will be used to enhance the library's ongoing CHARM project. An acronym for the Consortium for the History of Agricultural and Rural Mississippi, the multi-unit university effort seeks to promote a better understanding and appreciation of the major role played by agriculture, forestry and rural life in the state's development, he explained.

"I join Dean Frances Coleman, the director of our campus library system, in thanking Mr. Barnes for this significant contribution," Ballard said. "It will greatly enhance our collection."

Barnes, a 1941 MSU agricultural administration graduate, became a Delta farm manager following war service in the Marine Corps. Concurrently, he began recording agricultural scenes through the lens of his personal cameras.

Over his career, the Coahoma native has received several major honors. In addition to being named Progressive Farmer magazine's Man of the Year in Service to Southern Agriculture, he was chosen to serve as president of the American Soybean and MSU Alumni associations.

After nearly a quarter-century in agricultural management, he became a full-time journalist and photographer. He worked for the Clarksdale-based Delta Farm Press newspaper, as well as Progressive Farmer and Farm Quarterly magazines, among others.

As a freelancer, Barnes completed publication in 2002 of "Cotton: A 50 Year Pictorial History," a 144-page, coffee-table-sized historical record of 20th century U.S. cotton production. Two years later, he produced another similar-sized photograph collection titled "The Beauty of Southern Agriculture." Both are released by Rural Services of Clarksdale.

Ballard said Barnes currently is completing work on a third book covering the years 1946-70 and titled "The Good Old Days on the Cotton Farm."

Aiken Village Preschool now open for evening child care

Aiken Village Preschool now is open for evening child care for children ages 3-7 of students, faculty and staff.

A professional staff member and two student assistants welcome up to 10 children Monday-Thursday with a hot meal and play activities. Child care is available on a flexible entry time until 9:30 p.m. and parents pay only for the night the service is used.

Parents who wish to enroll in the program may telephone 325-3909 to request an application, or may stop at Aiken Village Preschool, Wallace Circle, Building 20, to pick up a form.

The application must be accompanied by the child's Form 121 immunization record, Social Security card, and other items specified in the application. The fees for the program are assessed on a sliding scale, based on income and family size.

In addition, student parents may contact the preschool for information on enrolling a child (ages 3-5) in the preschool/Child Care Access Means Parents In School program. The CCAMPIS grant is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. MSU is one of only 116 institutions to be awarded funding for 2005-09 through the competitive grant program.

Aiken Village Preschool has been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children since 2003.

Memo is published for the faculty and staff of Mississippi State University by the Office of University Relations. It is published weekly during

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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 e-mail to 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 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.

34th MSU Art and Design Competitive Exhibition, Feb. 6-March 2; opening reception Feb. 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall. 325-2970.

January 30

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

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

IMC Workshop: "Macromedia Flash MX

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.



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 "Criss-crossing the Atlantic: Historical Patterns of Military Technology Transfer between Europe and America," first-floor auditorium, Mitchell Memorial Library, 7 p.m. 325-7075.

February 1

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

2

Workshop: "How to Use YOUR Library," ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 5:30 p.m. 325-3834.

4

MSU vs. Auburn, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 6 p.m.

5

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

6

Bits & Bytes Workshop: "Acrobat," Giles Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 9-11 a.m. 325-7676.

7

Lyceum Series: "Dracula," National Player's 57th annual tour, McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-4201.

50-Minute Madness Workshop: "Flash: Tweening," Giles Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-1:50 p.m. 325-7676.

Workshop: "Developing a Literature Review (Survival Skills for Graduate Students)," ELI

Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2-3 p.m. 325-0810.

8

ITS workshop: ADMIN BANNER: Navigation and Financial Query, McArthur Training Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-0631.

Workshop: "Finishing Touches: Formatting Your Thesis or Dissertation (Survival Skills for Graduate Students)," ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3-4 p.m. 325-0778.

9

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

Bits & Bytes Workshop: "Dreamweaver," Giles Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-3 p.m. 325-7676.

12

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

14 and 15

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

14

ITS workshop: Intro to PhotoShop CS, McArthur Training Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-0631.

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ITS workshop: Intro to Dreamweaver, McArthur Training Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-0631.

18

MSU vs. Mississippi, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 2 p.m.

19

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

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Vienna Choir Boys, Temple Theatre, Riley Center, Meridian, 7 p.m. 601-696-2203.