

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

February 13, 2006

Volume 30

Issue 22

Personal information protection, new ID cards in the works

To protect the personal information of students, faculty and staff, Mississippi State is reducing the number of people with access to Social Security numbers, as well as the number of databases using SSNs. The university also will improve safeguards where such information is required.

Following the recommendations of a task force appointed last fall by President Charles Lee, the university this semester will begin implementing an alternate identification system that does not use Social Security numbers.

Beginning in March, all students and employees will be issued a new nine-digit ID number. After the numbers are assigned by Information Technology Services, the university will begin an approxi-

mately six-month process of providing new identification cards to nearly 20,000 students, faculty and staff members, said Jerome Gilbert, associate provost and chair of the Alternative ID Task Force.

At the same time, the number of people with access to Social Security numbers will be greatly reduced, he said.

"Identity theft is a growing national concern, and Dr. Lee charged our task force with creating strategies to transition from Social Security numbers as the primary identifier of individuals in our record systems to a new identifier unique to Mississippi State," Gilbert explained.

All new IDs will be in the following format: 9xx-xxx-xxx.

The Social Security numbers of students and employees will continue to be stored in MSU secure data systems, but all now will use their nine-digit ID as an identifier for the library, cafeteria and other university services.

Beginning in early April, ITS will begin a re-carding process at the Campus Card offices in 108 Allen Hall and subsequently at McArthur Hall.

Units currently using Social Security numbers as primary identifiers should begin making plans to transition to the new ID numbers.

Those units with systems and procedures that must continue to use Social Security numbers will be required to secure permission according to recently proposed policies on SSN

usage. "Only a few approved units will continue to use Social Security numbers," Gilbert said.

"The university will continue to collect Social Security numbers for employees, tuition-paying students, students receiving financial aid, and other individuals as required by state and federal law," Gilbert said. "There will now be much stricter access to this information, and the university will establish a permanent committee to oversee the information security efforts."

For more information, see NewID.msstate.edu.

Alternative ID Task Force members include Jerome Gilbert, chair, Academic



Front of new MSU ID card

Polk wins Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award

English professor and scholar Dr. Noel Polk is a 2006 winner of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award.

He and other award winners will be honored Feb. 25 during the annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration at the Natchez Convention Center.

The award was established by the Natchez-based organization in 1994 to honor the internationally known author, Richard Wright, who was born near Natchez in 1908. Wright, who died in 1960, authored such novels as "Native Son" and "Black Boy."

A specialist in American fiction and noted authority on the works of Mississippi writers William Faulkner and Eudora Welty, Polk joined the university's English Department in 2004. He currently serves as editor of the Mississippi Quarterly.

A Picayune native, Polk is being honored for a body of work that includes: "Faulkner's Requiem for a Nun: A Critical Study," "Eudora Welty: A Bibliography of Her Work," "Reading Faulkner: The Sound and the Fury," "Outside the Southern Myth," and as editor of "Sanctuary: The Original Text."

Past Wright honorees include Eudora Welty, Margaret Walker Alexander, Ellen Douglas, Willie Morris, Shelby Foote, Elizabeth Spencer, Richard Ford, Will Campbell, Barry Hannah, Beth Henley, John Grisham, Bill Minor, and retired MSU history professor John Marszalek.

Celebration sponsors include Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

Continued on page 3



Dr. Richard Holmes of Columbus (c) is Mississippi State's 2006 national alumnus of the year. A physician at the Longest Student Health Center, he became in 1965 the first African-American to enroll at MSU. Holmes received a bachelor's degree in 1969 and a master's in 1973. Presenting the honor during a recent banquet were MSU Alumni Association President Joe Bryan of Starkville (l) and MSU President Charles Lee.

Riley Center to host first performing arts event

The world renowned Vienna Choir Boys will perform at the Riley Center in Meridian, the first event the venue has hosted as a part of MSU.

The choir will appear Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. in the center's Temple Theatre.

For centuries, the famed Vienna Choir Boys have delighted music lovers around the world with their purity of tone, musical depth and distinctive charm. The ensemble's diverse repertoire includes the works of its famous alumni, such as Franz Schubert and Michael Haydn, Austrian folk songs and waltzes, classical masterpieces and world music. Only an elite 100 boys are chosen for the choir's prestigious school.

The event is supported by the Community Foundation of East Mississippi and sponsored by Rush Foundation Hospital and local Meridian media, including WTOK-TV and Fox-Meridian television stations, the Radio People's 97-OKK, and 93.5 SAM radio stations.

"We are thrilled to have so much support for our first event and couldn't ask for better partners," said Dennis Sankovich, executive director of the MSU Riley Center. "In everything we do, we are focused on forging strong, positive relationships whether they are with individuals, corporations or organizations that will help contribute to the center's overall vitality in this community."

He added that the center will introduce its new ticketing software powered by tickets.com, begin building marketing databases and start recruiting a volunteer base that will aid in preparing for the grand opening of the newly renovated facility this fall.

"We are committed to providing a very special place for social interaction and to enjoy the arts. That commitment will carry over to everything we do, from our theater's acoustics, lighting and décor, which will be unlike any in this region, to the process of purchasing tickets and the performances themselves," said Penny Kemp, marketing director for the center. "Our intent is to get our feet wet hosting a few events in the spring at the Temple before launching a full schedule of events that are sure to surprise and delight audiences when our facility opens in the fall."

Tickets are \$32, \$22 and \$10 and may be purchased by telephone at 601-696-2200, online at www.rileycenter.msstate.edu, or at the center's temporary box office located at 2120-A Fifth Street, Meridian (located behind UBS financial offices on the corner of 22nd Avenue and Fifth Street). Box office hours are 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Monday-Friday.

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

Mississippi State
UNIVERSITY

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 e-mail to jonesk@ur.msstate.edu.

Editor—Kay Fike Jones

Contributors—Maridith Geuder

Phil Hearn

Sammy McDavid

Russ Houston

Megan Bean



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.



MSU posts 'significant' gain in endowment ranking

In its annual survey of the endowment rankings for more than 740 institutions, a national organization is ranking Mississippi State 35th in the percentage of increase from the previous year.

The National Association of College and University Business Officers conducts the study, which is considered the primary source of institutional endowment data in the United States, said Dennis A. Prescott, vice president for external affairs.

Mississippi State's 2005 endowment was reported at more than \$211 million, up 23 percent from the \$172 million in 2004.

"The university continues to generate significant financial commitment from alumni and friends in the form of outright gifts and pledge payments to endowed funds," Prescott said. "These funds, coupled with an 8.4 percent endowment return, account for the 2005 NACUBO rankings."

He said that the contributions provide a direct benefit to students, with about half of the 128-year-old land-grant institution's

endowment earmarked specifically for scholarships.

Mississippi State currently is in the midst of a \$400 million capital campaign officially titled "State of the Future." Scheduled to conclude in 2008, the effort, to date, has received commitments of more than \$277 million in gifts and pledges.

Mississippi State to welcome guitar virtuosos

A statewide guitar festival at Mississippi State is bringing together national artists, leading state performers and students for competition, master classes and concerts.

To be held Feb. 23 and 24, the annual gathering is sponsored this year by the university's music education department, along with the Golden Triangle Guitar Society, Starkville Area Arts Council, William Carey College of Hattiesburg, and Hinds Community College in Raymond.

Julian Gray will be the featured guest artist. He is a principal in the Gray/Pearl

Donors contributed more than \$56 million in FY 2005 alone, Prescott observed.

MSU also recently took a 124-place jump in annual rankings compiled by the national Chronicle of Philanthropy. On a list of the nation's top 400 charities, the university is ranked 262—which makes it the top Mississippi charity.

Classical Guitar Duo, as well as a faculty member at Johns Hopkins University's prestigious Peabody Institute.

In addition to master classes during the day, Gray will present a free concert on the 23rd in the Bettersworth Auditorium of Giles Hall. Featuring a range of guitar literature, his program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

In addition to Gray's performance, two other free programs are scheduled during the conference. They include combined festival faculty concerts at 11 a.m., also on the 23rd, in the Colvard Union ballroom, and at 7:30 p.m. on the 24th in the Bettersworth Auditorium.

Other guitarists taking part in the campus festival include:

- Barry Hause, instructor of guitar and humanities at Belhaven College in Jackson;
- Miroslav Loncar, a native of Croatia serving as artist-in-residence at William Carey College;
- John Ingwerson, director of the guitar program at Hinds Community College; and
- Michael Patilla, assistant professor of guitar at MSU.

Gray has performed throughout the U.S., Canada and England. As part of the Gray/Pearl Duo, he also has been featured on National Public Radio's "Performance Today." He additionally serves as a member of the Baltimore Consort, an early-music ensemble that specializes in medieval and Renaissance music.

For more information on the guitar conference, telephone the Music Education Department at 325-3070.

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.

ID cards—continued from page 1

Affairs; Butch Stokes, Registrar's Office; Mary Sowers, Human Resources Management; Wayne Bland, Controller; Mike Rackley, ITS; Lisa Harris, Student Affairs; John Usher, Industrial Engineering; Cory Carter, student representative; Julie Reeves, MSU Extension Service; Rita Burrell, Graduate Studies; Gary Pike, Institutional Research; Bill Broyles, Student Affairs/Student Health Center; Vicky McCarthy, Accounts Payable; Marilyn James, Meridian Campus; Don Zant, Internal Audit; Charles Guest, University Counsel; Debbie Fulton, ITS; and Tom Ritter, ITS.

Public information sessions scheduled

Task force members will present information about the transitioning process and answer questions during two approximately hourlong public information sessions Feb. 21 and 24, both in McComas Hall theater.

Faculty, staff and students are invited to attend either the 3 p.m. session on the 21st or the 9 a.m. session on the 24th.

Both sessions will be webcast and available from the MSU home page, msstate.edu.

Timeline for transitioning to new ID cards

- **February 2006:** Units assess their need to access Social Security data and obtain appropriate approvals
- **March 13:** New ID numbers issued in BANNER
- **April:** New ID cards begin to be issued
- **June 12:** Only the new MSU ID number to be used in BANNER
- **Oct. 8:** Old MSU ID cards deactivated



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, through March 2, Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall. 325-2970.

Each Sunday the Presbyterian Collegiate Connection is sponsoring "The Bridge: A Worship Experience Connecting Past and Future," Chapel of Memories, 5-5:40 p.m. 312-6833; www.msstate.edu/org/pcc.

February 13

50-Minute Madness Workshop: "PhotoShop: Creating a Collage," Giles Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-1:50 p.m. 325-7676.

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.



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

15

Bits & Bytes Workshop: "HTML," Giles Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3-5 p.m. 325-7676.

16

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

MSU vs. UAB, women's tennis, Pitts Tennis Centre, 3 p.m.

17

MSU vs. South Alabama, men's tennis, Pitts Tennis Centre, 2 p.m.

18

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

MSU vs. Texas Tech, women's tennis, Pitts Tennis Centre, 1 p.m.

19

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

MSU vs. Tulane, men's tennis, Pitts Tennis Centre, noon.

20

Vienna Choir Boys, Temple Theatre, Riley Center, Meridian, 7 p.m. 601-696-2203. (see story page 2)

Bits & Bytes Workshop: "Advanced PhotoShop CS," Giles Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 10 a.m.-noon. 325-7676.

Gender Studies Lecture Series: "Women and Fear of Crime," Nicole Rader of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, Women's Studies Resource Center, basement of Rice Hall, noon. Lunch is provided for the first 20 participants who RSVP by e-mail or telephone by Feb. 17. 325-1466; msuws@hotmail.com.

Florida alum, wife give sizeable boost to honors program

A major gift to Mississippi State from a Florida couple will establish a guest lecture series designed to enhance one of the region's oldest and largest honors programs.

Alumnus Lamar Conerly and his wife Tracy of Destin have committed \$150,000 for a special university lectureship. To be named for Lamar Conerly, the visiting speaker sequence will enable the University Honors Program to greatly expand its relationships with leaders in a variety of academic professions and career fields.

Now in its 37th year, the UHP provides focused, personalized academic experiences for talented students in all fields of study at Mississippi State. A charter member of the Southern Regional Honors Council, it has gained national recognition because of its size and structure.

Though involving more than 1,000 students, honors classes typically are limited to approximately 20 participants. Top faculty members selected to lead the classes provide individualized instruction that constantly challenges the students to achieve their maximum potential.

Lamar Conerly, a 1971 accounting/pre-law graduate, is a practicing attorney and president/owner of the law office of Lamar A. Conerly, P.A. Long active in university affairs, he served as national MSU Alumni Association president in 1999 and was named an Alumni Fellow of the College of Business and Industry in 2004.

"The Conerly Honors Lecture Series will become a premier lecture series at Mississippi State," said Dennis A. Prescott, vice president for external affairs. "It will provide students, faculty and other interested members of the Golden Triangle community with continuing opportunities to interact with professional men and women of pre-eminent character and accomplishment."

Prescott said the University Honors Program will get another boost later this year when its offices and meeting rooms move into S. Bryce Griffis Residence Hall, scheduled for completion in August.