

# MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

February 20, 2006

Volume 30

Issue 23

## MSU to celebrate birthday with 'Maroon and White' commemoration Feb. 28 on Drill Field

Birthday cake, barbecue sandwiches, Mississippi State ice cream, and entertainment will combine Feb. 28 to help commemorate the university's 128th birthday.

The free 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. come-and-go event on the central-campus Drill Field is an annual commemoration of the university's late 19th century founding. In case of inclement weather, activities will move to the Newell-Grissom Building just east of the MSU Amphitheater.

Mississippi State was chartered by the state Legislature Feb. 28, 1878, as Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College. From humble beginnings, the institution has developed into a nationally recognized, comprehensive university of more than 16,000 students.

"We're creating a party atmosphere to celebrate the proud history of our institution, as well as its many contributions to our state and nation," said Dr. Jimmy Abraham, executive director of the MSU Alumni Association that is organizing the event. "We hope the 'Maroon and White Birthday' will expand in the future to alumni chapters around the nation."

Starkville-based Cadence Bank is providing corporate support for the celebration.

"We're very thankful to Cadence for their generous commitment to this celebration," Abraham said, adding that the campus and Starkville communities "have joined together to make this a festive and special day in the life of Mississippi State."

While a large birthday cake created by MSU Dining Services will be cut and served at noon, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and area residents

may visit the tent as their schedules permit.

"We will serve food until supplies run out, but we hope to serve at least 1,000 barbecue sandwiches during the two hours," Abraham said.

For those unable to attend, campus radio station WMSV-FM, 91.1, will provide a live broadcast during the noontime period. WMSV's Web cast via [www.wmsv.msstate.edu](http://www.wmsv.msstate.edu) also will carry the event around the world.

Additionally, a Drill Field-based webcam maintained by the industrial engineering department at [www.ie.msstate.edu/netcam/](http://www.ie.msstate.edu/netcam/)

netcam.htm will provide computer users with a visual report of the activities.

"We want as many people as possible to be part of the two-hour festivities," Abraham said. "We have an outstanding academic program, with students consistently earning national honors, and our research program is making major contributions to the economy of the state and region."

"Mississippi State has much to celebrate," Abraham said.

### Three inducted as Fellows in engineering

Three faculty members recently were inducted into the Bagley College of Engineering's Academy of Fellows.

They are chemical engineering professor Clifford E. George, who became a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in 2005; mechanical engineering professor Randall M. German, director of the Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems, named a Fellow for both the American Society for Metals International and American Powder Metallurgy Institute International in 1989 and 1998, respectively; and civil engineering professor James L. Martin, selected as an American Society of Civil Engineers Fellow, also in 2005.

"It is a privilege to honor faculty who

have contributed so much in their specific fields," said college Dean Kirk Schulz. "Our faculty members are the cornerstone of the engineering program."

George joined the MSU faculty in 1981 and served during

2005 as interim director of the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering. His three degrees from MSU include a doctorate in engineering with a minor in computer science.

Continued on page 3



George



Martin



German





## First 2006 play set

“The Exonerated,” a play based on the true stories of six wrongfully accused death row inmates, will be presented Feb. 22-24 in McComas Hall’s lab theater.

All performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. Directed by Jo Durst of the Department of Communication, the play is recommended for mature audiences as it follows the six who have been exonerated by DNA evidence.

Since its inception in 2002, royalties and collected monies from “The Exonerated” have been donated to the Exonerated Fund. The fund provides money to those who have been wrongfully accused and are now trying to reclaim their lives.

Thursday, Feb. 23, Theatre MSU continues its post-show symposium series as Drs. Peter Wood, Jim Unnever and Greg Dunaway from the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work examine the use of capital punishment in the United States. Moderated by Kevin P. Kern of communication, the symposium is free to those who attend Thursday evening’s performance.

Tickets are \$5, and may be purchased the night of the show. For more information telephone 325-3203.

## Prof named to national committee

A widely recognized sociologist is a new member of a national committee advising the U.S. agriculture secretary.

Dr. Frank M. Howell, an authority on social statistics, is among nine new members recently appointed by Secretary Mike

Johanns to serve a two-year term on the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics. The 25-member body, which represents a broad range of disciplines and interests, held its annual meeting in mid-February in Washington, D.C.



Howell

The ACAS advises the agriculture secretary on issues related to the Census of Agriculture, a survey conducted every five years, most recently in 2002. Through its collective expertise, the committee helps the National Agricultural Statistics Service, a USDA agency,

keep current with national data needs and trends in a rapidly changing agricultural environment.

Howell is considered a pioneer in the application of geographical information systems in social research. He also is co-founder of the research journal Social Science Computer Review.

“Mississippi State has a long and proud tradition of excellence in social science, particularly as it relates to agriculture and rural health,” said Dean Philip B. Oldham of MSU’s College of Arts and Sciences.

Howell said he feels his work over several decades with the Census of Agriculture, NASS crop statistics, experience with spatial technology, and service as panel manager of the National Research Initiative led to his selection.

## Stone Boulevard to close

As part of the ongoing Junction Project, part of Stone Boulevard will close March 6 for storm water drainage construction.

The street will be inaccessible from just north of the service drive to Herzer Building to just west of B.S. Hood Road.

Pedestrians may travel from Dorman Hall to Newell Grissom and Fraternity Row by way of the Herzer service drive and the steps leading to the Newell Grissom parking lot.

For a map and more information, access [www.msstate.edu/dept/physplant/cp2006/stone.htm](http://www.msstate.edu/dept/physplant/cp2006/stone.htm).

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).

Editor—Kay Fike Jones

Contributors—Maridith Geuder

Phil Hearn

Sammy McDavid

Russ Houston

Megan Bean



The estate of late Tupelo residents J.C. and Mary Yates Whitehead is creating a memorial to the couple at Mississippi State. Family members recently gave \$175,000 to the College of Business and Industry to create the Whitehead Endowed Room in McCool Hall and the Whitehead Endowed Scholarship Program. Dean Sara Freedman (second from right) received the check from (left to right) Susan Whitehead Boston of Birmingham, Ala., J.C. “Don” Whitehead III of Lawrenceville, Ga., and Dr. Peter Y. Whitehead of Germantown, Tenn. J.C. Whitehead, a 1942 MSU agricultural economics graduate, was Bank of Mississippi chairman emeritus.



## Geuder named director of university relations

West Point native Maridith W. Geuder is being named officially as director of the campus department responsible for the land-grant institutions' public relations and marketing missions.

Named associate director of university relations in 1990, she has served as interim director during 2005. She succeeds Joe Farris, who continues as a full-time assistant to MSU President Charles Lee.

"We believe that Maridith has the skill set, the knowledge of the university and the energy to provide leadership that will help create additional awareness of Mississippi State University's role and contributions," said Dennis A. Prescott in making the announcement.

Prescott is vice president for the Division of External Affairs, of which university relations is a part. The division also includes the MSU Foundation and Alumni Association, among other units.

Located in historic George Hall, the office oversees news, publications, photography, and electronic communications.

During her time at MSU, Geuder has been honored with a distinguished staff award. Since 2000, she has served as chair of the university-wide Performing Arts Committee that plans the annual Lyceum Series.

Last year, she was editor of the university's National Collegiate Athletic Association self-study. A year earlier, she was an editorial committee member for another self-study required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Geuder is active in the national Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, serving in 2005 as communication track co-chair for the organization's

regional conference. She is the volunteer publicity chair for the 2006 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur, to be hosted in October at West Point's Old Waverly Golf Club.

Geuder is a 1972 English graduate of Millsaps College who went on to earn a master's at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. She also has completed doctoral work in the field at the Tuscaloosa institution.

Before coming to MSU, she held positions at Southern Living and Texas Monthly magazines, as well as the University of Alabama.

## DataBasics

By Deborah Lee  
MSU Libraries

### Keeping fit and healthy @ your library

It's that time of year—when new resolutions concerning diet and exercise abound. You could spend hundreds of dollars, subscribing to a variety of health and nutrition magazines and newsletters.

Or, you could check out the MSU Libraries' full-text databases. Simply look for the "indexes/databases" option on the MSU Libraries' Web page: [library.msstate.edu](http://library.msstate.edu).

Academic Search Premier (ASP), the libraries' most popular database, contains a number of full-text journals dedicated to health and fitness. ASP indexes more than 8,200 publications, with almost 4,650 available with full-text articles covering virtually every subject area. For the health conscious reader, this includes titles such as American Fitness, Better Nutrition, the Harvard Women's Health Watch, and the Harvard Men's Health Watch, among others.

Other databases focus more specifically on health-related information. Two health-related databases, Health Source: Consumer Health Edition and Health Source: Academic/Nursing Edition, both provide access to a number of full-text health and nutrition magazines and newsletters. These sources include the prestigious Tufts University Diet and Nutrition Letter and the Tufts University Health and Nutrition Letter. Other useful titles include Prevention Magazine and Vegetarian Times.

Not sure which database has your favorite health or nutrition journal online? The "E-Journals" listing, found on the libraries' Web site allows you to search across most of our full-text databases for your favorite journal title. Each of the databases above allows users to browse through the most recent issue of a journal and to set up a profile, notifying you when your favorite journals add issues to the database.

To find out more about searching the Libraries' indexes and databases, call the Reference Department at 325-7667.

---

### Fellows—continued from page 1

German, who came to Starkville last June from Pennsylvania State University, holds one of three CAVS endowed chairs (professorships) within the engineering college. He received a doctorate in materials science from the University of California at Davis.

Martin, a faculty member since 2001, holds the university's Kelly Gene Cook Sr. Chair in Civil Engineering. He earned a doctorate in civil/environmental engineering from Texas A&M University.

---

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.



## 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](mailto:jonesk@ur.msstate.edu) at least **TWO WEEKS** in advance. For updates, check [www.msstate.edu](http://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.

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](http://www.msstate.edu/org/pcc).

### February 20

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

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. 325-1466; [msuws@hotmail.com](mailto:msuws@hotmail.com).

Lecture: John A. "Drew" Hamilton, Auburn University, will discuss potential computer security vulnerabilities the U.S. and other countries may face by sharing



military simulation software, 100 Butler Hall, 1 p.m. 325-2756; 325-7450.

### 21

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

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

### 23 and 24

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

### 23

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

Free, public lecture: "The Disengagement of Hurricane Katrina," Dr. John H. McClendon, associate professor, African-American and American Cultural Studies, Bates College, Lewiston, Maine, Colvard Union ballroom, 7 p.m., sponsored by the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center. 325-2033.

Lecture: "The Next Christendom: Globalization and the Transformation of Christianity," Philip Jenkins, distinguished professor of religious studies and history, Penn State University, fourth-floor suite, Swalm Chemical Engineering Building, 4 p.m. 325-2646.

### 24

MSU vs. Marist, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 4 p.m.

### 25

MSU vs. Marist, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, noon.

### 26

MSU vs. Marist, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 1:30 p.m.

### 28

Lyceum Series: "Ahn Trio," chamber ensemble, McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15, \$10 and \$8. 325-4201.

## Holland Senate still unhappy over search

During its February meeting, the Robert Holland Faculty Senate continued to express its displeasure with the state College Board's process for selecting a new Mississippi State president.

As part of the senate's January meeting, 13 members of a specially elected committee monitoring the search process sent a letter (see Jan. 23 Memo) to MSU alumnus and College Board member Ed Blakeslee of Gulfport expressing disagreement with the board's announced search process (see Jan. 17 Memo). Blakeslee chairs the official College Board presidential search committee.

This month, a near-majority of the entire senate body approved a resolution that had been submitted by its special monitoring committee. The brief document reads:

**Be it resolved that, we, the elected members of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate, representative body of the faculty of Mississippi State University, deplore the secrecy that underlies the selection and final review of the finalist candidates for the position of president of Mississippi State University.**

The absence of open dialogue between faculty and the finalists undermines the best interests of the faculty who are the foundation and leaders of Mississippi State University. In addition, it is an extreme disservice to those finalist candidates, one of whom will likely be selected as the next president of Mississippi State University.

It is a critical time in the history of the university and the foundation of strong presidential leadership resides in immediately developing strong ties with faculty and gaining their trust. This relationship has its roots in faculty meeting with the finalist candidates and endorsement of the selection.

A complete summary of this and other matters at the February senate meeting is available at the senate home page, which is reached via the MSU homepage. Also, in time, a University Television Center-developed video replay of the entire meeting will be available for viewing on this site.