

# MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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Diane Daniels (second from left), a mathematics and statistics instructor on the Starkville campus, and Regena Clark (second from right), academic advising coordinator for the Meridian campus, are receiving MSU's 2006 Irvin Atly Jefcoat Excellence in Advising Award. The now-retired Jefcoat and wife Bette attended the recent honors presentation that included \$5,000 stipends made possible by alumnus Hunter Henry.

## New award to recognize student contributions

A recently created honor by the Division of Student Affairs will recognize current students who have made significant contributions that improved the quality of university life.

Called the "Spirit of State Award," it will be considered the premier student recognition each school year. Winners will be publicly recognized and receive a special customized gift designating their achievement.

"Students will earn the award based on their documented involvement in campus organizations and activities, their service to the university community and the impact they have had on student life at Mississippi State," said Dr. William Kibler, vice president for student affairs.

The first Spirit of State will be presented April 7 during Super Bulldog Weekend.

All enrolled students at the freshmen-graduate levels at any of the university's campuses are eligible. Nominations, which must be accompanied by an application and letter(s) of support, should be submitted by March 10 to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, 115 Lee Hall.

Online nomination forms are available at [www.saffairs.msstate.edu/spirit](http://www.saffairs.msstate.edu/spirit).

For more information, contact Bill Broyles, assistant vice president for student affairs, at 325-7532 or [bill.broyles@msstate.edu](mailto:bill.broyles@msstate.edu).

## Eight honored by alma mater

Recipients of the 2006 Alumni Association-sponsored Alumni of the Year Awards were honored at a recent campus ceremony.

In addition to Dr. Richard E. Holmes, the National Alumnus of the Year (see Feb. 13 issue of Memo), each award winner represented one of the university's eight colleges. They include:

- Virginia L. Carron of Atlanta, Ga., 2006 Bagley College of Engineering Alumna of the Year, is a partner in Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner LLP, one of the world's largest intellectual property law firms. She holds a 1989 bachelor's degree in biological engineering from MSU and a law degree from Emory University.

- Tyrone P. Keys of Tampa, Fla., 2006 College of Education Alumnus of the Year, is founder and executive director of All Sports Community Service Inc., an organization that helps needy youths obtain four-year scholarships to universities while promoting community involvement. He earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1981.

- Dr. Timothy G. Rials of Maryville, Tenn., 2006 College of Forest Resources Alumnus of the Year, is professor and director of the Tennessee Forest Products Center at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He holds a 1980 bachelor's degree from MSU in forestry, and master's and doctoral degrees from Virginia Tech.

- Dr. David G. Morrison of Baton Rouge, La., 2006 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumnus of the Year, is associate vice chancellor of the Louisiana State University AgCenter and associate director of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. He holds a 1973 bachelor's degree

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## Help needed to replace trees

In the wake of recent storms, the Campus Landscape Department is looking for private donors to assist with replacing trees lost from the heart of campus.

“Although it will take hundreds of years for newly planted trees to become statuesque, we are encouraging alumni and friends to donate a tree or make a contribution to begin the growing process today,” explained Tim Lacy, director of campus landscape.

“More than 100 trees were downed in 2005 during Hurricane Katrina and the tornado resulting from Hurricane Rita,” according to Lacy. “In fact, Rita actually hurt us on the main campus worse than Katrina.”

Mississippi State suffered the majority of lost trees on streets and in parking lots along Stone Boulevard, Dorman Hall, Perry Cafeteria, Bell Island, Montgomery Hall, the Chapel of Memories, Allen and Harned halls, as well as the Wise Center and the South Farm, Lacy noted.



Private donors are being sought to restore MSU’s storm-damaged landscape.

Gifts of any size are needed for the project. Individuals or groups wishing to make a gift of at least \$750 through the MSU Foundation may furnish a tree for planting. However, those desiring recognition for themselves or a loved one should consider making an additional \$5,000 gift designated to the campus beautification endowment to provide a perpetual care program.

Campus landscape has begun replanting some trees through previously funded projects around campus in the area extending beyond Ruby Hall to Coliseum Boulevard

and Dudy Noble Field. There currently is no provision for the replacement of trees in the areas of the Seal M-Club, Bell Island, Perry Cafeteria, or Montgomery and Allen halls.

For more information, or to provide assistance, telephone John Rush of the MSU Foundation at 325-7000.

## Book answers many questions about Mississippi stats

Mississippi State is announcing the latest edition of its comprehensive annual business reference book.

Now in its 38th year, the Mississippi Statistical Abstract is compiled by the College of Business and Industry’s Office of Business Research and Services. Divided into 18 sections for easy use, the 677-page collection of state economic, demographic and social data is available in both soft cover and compact disc versions (Acrobat and Excel formats).

Printed copies are \$40; CDs are \$50.

Chapters include tax structure; population; health and vital statistics; education; labor force; manufacturing and trade; transportation; communication; banking and finance; law enforcement and crime; forest and mineral products; public finance; social insurance and welfare; government and politics; construction, housing and utilities; agriculture; geography and climate; and recreation and gaming.

To order a copy or obtain additional information, contact Jana Spencer at 325-3817, fax 325-8686 or [jspencer@cobilan.msstate.edu](mailto:jspencer@cobilan.msstate.edu).

## Nominations for Outstanding Woman Awards open

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2006 Outstanding Woman Awards program.

Faculty, staff and students may nominate campus and community women for the awards. The annual program is sponsored by the President’s Commission on the Status of Women. Forms are available on the PCSW Web site at [www.committees.msstate.edu/pcsw/](http://www.committees.msstate.edu/pcsw/). Winners for each category will be honored at a March 30 reception.

For more information, contact Lynn Shurden, vice chair, PCSW at 325-2203 or [lshurden@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:lshurden@hrm.msstate.edu).

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## Insurance Day to focus on Katrina, related issues

Not surprisingly, Hurricane Katrina will receive a good share of attention next month when Mississippi State holds its 19th annual Insurance Day gathering.

Sponsored by the College of Business and Industry's Peter K. Lutken Chair of Insurance, the daylong March 29 program in the Bost Extension Center auditorium includes a series of assemblies and continuing education sessions. The college's risk management, insurance and financial planning academic program is co-sponsor of the event.

As is traditional, the 8 a.m. opening session features a round-table discussion with Mississippi Insurance Commissioner George Dale and two counterparts from other states. This year's guests, commissioners Eleanor Kitzman of South Carolina and Gary Smith of Idaho, represent states with their own histories of major natural disasters over the last two decades.

Among other featured speakers will be well-known Boston attorney and radio talk show host Bill Bailey. A former Hurricane Insurance Information Center co-director now heard nationwide each Sunday on "It's Your Money," Bailey will focus on post-Katrina litigation involving the state of Mississippi and several insurance companies.

Former Montana governor Marc Racicot, current president of the American Insurance Association, and Tony Pavia, president of AIG Agency Auto insurance company, will lead other sessions.

Held each spring semester, MSU Insurance Day traditionally attracts some 500 professionals. They include insurance company attorneys, claims adjusters and agents, as well as fire investigators, legislators, municipal and county managers, and law enforcement

### 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.

officials.

Edwin L. Duett Jr., a veteran College of Business and Industry faculty member,

holds the Lutken endowed professorship.

For a complete schedule and more information, contact Duett or Tammi Riddle at 325-2341.



During recent work, construction company employee Tommy Forrester of Columbus unearthed the soot-covered bricks from the footing of historic Old Main Dormitory. Destroyed by fire in 1959, the former 512-room student residence now is the site of the College of Business and Industry's McCool Hall. The 31-year-old McCool is undergoing a major expansion.

### Alumni—continued from page 1

from MSU, a master's from Kansas State University and a doctorate from LSU.

- Charles C. Barlow Jr. of Jackson, 2006 College of Architecture, Art and Design Alumnus of the Year, is partner and chief executive officer of Barlow, Eddy, Jenkins architectural firm. He earned a bachelor's in architecture from MSU in 1980, and a Diploma in Architecture from England's Cambridge University.

- Dr. Susan Kay Brown-Skrobot of Jacksonville, Fla., 2006 College of Arts and Sciences Alumna of the Year, is senior project manager of Vistakon, a division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Products. She holds three degrees from MSU, all in microbiology—bachelor's in 1978, master's in 1980 and doctorate in 1983.

- John "Nutie" Dowdle of Columbus, 2006 College of Business and Industry Alumnus of the Year, recently sold Dowdle Gas Co., the country's 12th largest propane retailer, to Inergy. He holds a 1965 bachelor's degree in marketing.

- Dr. Scott L. Branton of Starkville, 2006 College of Veterinary Medicine Alumnus of the Year, is research leader/veterinary medical officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service's South Central Poultry Research Laboratory at Mississippi State, and also serves as an adjunct professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Poultry Science Department. He holds three degrees—all from MSU—a 1982 DVM, a 1986 master's and 1995 doctorate.



## 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).

Exhibition: "Us and Them: Recent Paintings by Rodger Roundy," March 6-31, Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall; opening reception March 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m. 325-2970.

### February 28

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

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.



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

Library Instructional Services Workshop: "Grant\$ for Grad\$: Dissertation and Research funding (Survival Skills for Graduate Students)," ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2-3 p.m. 325-0810.

### March

**1**  
50-Minute Madness Workshop: "Word: Table of Contents," Giles Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-1:50 p.m. 325-7676.

Library Instructional Services Workshops: "Crafting the Winning Curriculum Vita (Survival Skills for Graduate Students)," 9-10 a.m.; "Customizing MetaLib: Creating Your Own Research Portal," 2-3 p.m. ELI

Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library. 325-0810.

**2**  
Bits & Bytes Workshop: "FrontPage," Giles Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-3 p.m. 325-7676.

**3**  
MSU vs. Arkansas State, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 4 p.m.

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

**4**  
MSU vs. Arkansas State, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, noon.

**5**  
MSU vs. Arkansas State, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 1:30 p.m.

## Korea's Ahn Trio to perform for Lyceum Series

Born in Seoul, Korea, and educated at the prestigious Juilliard School in New York, the Ahn Trio—sisters Maria, Lucia and Angella—will perform Feb. 28 as part of Mississippi State's Lyceum Series.

Their 7:30 p.m. concert in McComas Hall theater will feature well known piano-trio literature, as well as works commissioned by contemporary composers.

Available at the door, tickets are \$15 for adults; \$10 for senior citizens, by request; and \$8 for children 3-12 years old. MSU students are admitted free with valid student identification.

The trio won top prizes at the 1992 Alliance Northeast Competition for Chamber Ensembles, as well as the Coleman Chamber Competition, an annual national competition for young performers. The sisters have been featured in Vogue, GQ and Town and Country magazines, as well as the New York Times.

Their first recording, of Ravel and Villa-Lobos trios, won critical acclaim, and their next, a recording of trios by Suk, Dvorak and Shostakovich, won Germany's prestigious Echo Award. A 1997 MTV appearance on Bryan Adams' "Unplugged" program led to the development of Ahn-Plugged, a compact disc recording typifying the energy of the group.

Newsday has described the Ahn Trio as "the new classical revolutionaries," and the St. Augustine Record describes their artistry as music that "tears at one's soul. . . . If this is where modern music is headed, I am all for it," the paper's music critic said.

For more information about the Lyceum Series, telephone 325-4201 or visit [www.msstate.edu/dept/lyceum](http://www.msstate.edu/dept/lyceum). For more information about the Ahn Trio, visit [www.ahntrio.com](http://www.ahntrio.com).