

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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NASA administrator to launch lecture series

The head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration will inaugurate a new distinguished lecture series at Mississippi State.

Dr. Michael Griffin, tapped last April by President George W. Bush as the agency's administrator, will speak March 27 in the Hunter Henry Center. "Leadership and Space

Exploration" will be his topic at the 2 p.m. public program.

Griffin's visit is sponsored by the university's W.L. Giles Distinguished Professors, a group of approximately a dozen veteran faculty members awarded their rank on the basis of outstanding research and scholastic achievements. The

lecture is made possible with support from President Charles Lee.

"This will be the first of what we hope will become an annual Giles Distinguished Lecture," said David Shaw, director of the university's GeoResources Institute and GDP chair.

"Dr. Griffin has a stellar academic background and has provided strong leadership for NASA," Shaw added. "We're honored to have an outstanding scientist inaugurate the series, and we credit Dr. Lee for his support of this public forum to share Dr. Griffin's insights."

Lee said the campus community "is fortunate to have an opportunity to hear firsthand about the challenges ahead in space exploration from a leader of this great national undertaking."

He added: "Many of our alumni have played important roles in the space program during the past 40 years, during which NASA has been on the leading edge of our country's incredible advances in science and technology."

The 11th administrator to lead the agency, Griffin earlier served as space department head at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory. He also has been president and chief operating officer of In-Q-Tel Inc., a company that provides leading-edge technologies to the CIA and other intelligence agencies.

As an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins and George Washington universities, Griffin taught courses in spacecraft design, applied mathematics, guidance and navigation, and other aerospace engineering areas.



Griffin



Helping officially open the Charles H. Templeton Sr. Business of Music Museum recently were Templeton's widow, Mary Ann, and son-in-law Charles Langston. Housed in Mitchell Memorial Library, the facility includes 200 musical instruments, sheet music, recordings related to the commercialization of popular music, and more than one figure of "Nipper," the RCA mascot featured above. The museum, located on the library's third floor, is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information and a virtual tour, access nt.library.msstate.edu/templeton/index.asp.



Award to honor longtime prof

A new student travel scholarship fund being established at Mississippi State will honor a longtime biological sciences faculty member who now is a professor emeritus.

Dr. Armando A. de la Cruz of Starkville, who taught at the university 1970-2000, is establishing a fund that will assist undergraduate and graduate students in attending national and international meetings, said Dr. Nara Gavini, biological sciences department head.

“Dr. de la Cruz’s commitment will provide resources that will help students gain valuable professional opportunities in their field,” he said.

A public reception launching the new Armando A. de la Cruz Student Travel Scholarship Endowment Fund will be held March 24 in 119 Harned Hall. The 3 p.m. event will provide a brief overview of de la Cruz’s research in estuarine ecology and recognize two former students influenced by him.

Mary Davidson of West Point, a 1988 doctoral graduate who currently is a faculty member at the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, and India native Kirit Chatpatwala, a 1978 postdoctoral student now teaching at Selma (Ala.) University, will honor their former professor in brief remarks.

The program will conclude with formal presentation of the new endowed fund established in the MSU Foundation. University officials participating will include Philip B. Oldham, Arts and Sciences dean; Colin Scanes, vice president for research and graduate studies; and John Rush, director of major gifts.

A native of the Philippines, de la Cruz during his MSU tenure taught more than 15 different undergraduate and graduate courses, as well as summer courses for high school students at the Mississippi Governor’s School residential program.

During his career, he received 12 scholarships and fellowships, including the prestigious Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships, and was a member of five honorary professional societies.

New campus group holds March meeting

A Nobel prize-nominated chemist will make a presentation at the March 31 meeting of a new campus organization.

Christian Faculty Forum, while geared toward faculty members, also is open to staff members or graduate students. CFF became a recognized MSU organization in January.

Dr. Fritz Schaefer, Graham Perdue Professor of Chemistry and director of the Center for Computational Quantum Chemistry at the University of Georgia, will speak on “In the Lion’s Den: Christian Faculty in a Secular Environment” at the Hunter Henry Brunson Seminar Room, noon-1:30 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about CFF is welcome to attend.

Associated with internationally known Christian Leadership Ministries, CFF’s mission is to “reach professors who in turn change the world... by equipping, challenging and motivating Christian professors to integrate their personal faith in Christ in the academic setting.”

For more information on the program or the organization, telephone Dr. Tim Cummings at 325-1113.



This inside view of Mississippi State’s \$3.8 million Palmeiro Center practice facility shows a complete baseball infield within the context of a full football playing field. Workers are putting the finishing touches on the 68,000-square-foot indoor practice center located just west of Dudy Noble Field.

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Editor—Kay Fike Jones
Contributors—Maridith Geuder
Phil Hearn
Sammy McDavid
Russ Houston
Megan Bean



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High-energy percussion concludes 2005-06 MSU Lyceum Series

A Canadian ensemble performing on instruments of industrial scrap is bringing its dramatic “action-percussion” show to Mississippi State.

Scrap Arts Music, a five-person group, will be featured March 29 in the Colvard Union ballroom. The 7:30 p.m. concert concludes the 2005-06 Lyceum Series.

Available at the door, general admission tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens (65 and over, by request) and \$8 for children 3-12. MSU students will be admitted free with student identification.

Titled “Phonk” and featuring equal parts theatre, humor and movement, the show is a groove-based fusion of world music traditions and 20th century sounds.

Led by composer-percussionist Gregory Kozak, Scrap Arts Music employs whimsical, futuristic instruments made from brass artillery shells, springs, aluminum pieces, and the like. The four-men, one-woman ensemble’s original scores, sculptural instruments and hyper-kinetic movements consistently have brought audiences to their feet during the programs.

Since its 2001 debut, the group has garnered acclaim throughout North



America, China, Europe, and the United Kingdom. “This is one fantastic visual and aural display of percussive precision full of energetic gymnastics and vibrant vitality,” observed a reviewer for the Belfast (Ireland) Telegraph.

For more information on the Lyceum Series program, telephone 325-4201 or visit www.msstate.edu/dept/lyceum. Artist information is available at www.scrapartsmusic.com.

Art exhibition featuring works of Rodger Roundy through March 31

Paintings by a Yale-educated artist now living in New Haven, Conn., are on exhibit through March 31.

Titled “Us and Them: Recent Paintings by Rodger Roundy,” the collection featured in the McComas Hall art gallery includes a series of sepia-toned paintings. Also, 10 large acrylics dealing with issues of race, identity, class, and culture were created especially for the university show.

Located on the ground floor of McComas Hall, the gallery is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Mondays-Fridays, and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Roundy’s paintings have been included in solo exhibitions throughout the U.S. and in Europe. He has described the acrylics as “allegorical paintings” exploring themes related to race and class.

“I chose red and white to differentiate between the two tribes who inhabit these walled environments, and deliberately removed any other cultural indicators such as costume, jewelry or hair,” he said.

“Although I was certainly thinking of specific historical instances of apartheid, of physical and metaphorical wall-building, I also wanted to use colors and situations that could stand in for the multiple ways that those in power continue to exploit perceived differences.”

Gallery director Bill Andrews said Roundy has become well-known for his extremely fine lines and areas of detail. “The content of the images is powerful, to be sure, but at the same time we can’t overlook their technical mastery,” he said.

For more information, telephone the Art Department at 325-2970 or visit www.caad.msstate.edu/art.

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.



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.

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.

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

March 28 and 29

"ServSafe Food Safety Certification Course," Oktibbeha County Extension Office, 106 Felix Long Drive, Starkville, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Exam will be given on the 29th, 2-4:30 p.m. Cost is \$130 a person (first-timers and recertifiers); \$100 for those retaking the exam. Registration deadline is March 10. Sharon Haynes, Winston County Extension Office, 662-773-3091; or Oktibbeha County Extension Office, 323-5916.

ITS workshop: "Admin Banner: Invoice Processing" (two-day class), 10 McArthur Hall, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and 8:30 a.m.-noon.



www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/.

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ITS workshop: "Adobe PhotoShop CS II," 10 McArthur Hall, 8:30 a.m.-noon. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/.

Baseball: MSU vs. Birmingham Southern, Dudy Noble Field, 6:30 p.m.

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Baseball: MSU vs. Birmingham Southern, Dudy Noble Field, 4 p.m.

50-Minute Madness Workshop, "Dreamweaver: Creating Frames," Giles Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-5 p.m. 325-7676.

30

Faculty Social and Seminar: Dr. Roger King will present "The Global Earth Observation System of Systems: What is it and why should I care?" Eastman Auditorium of Swalm Chemical Engineering Building, 5:30 p.m. Social will follow in the fourth-floor Swalm conference center around 6:15 p.m. 325-3742.

ITS workshops: "Introduction to Adobe Acrobat," McArthur Hall Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon; "Admin Banner: Electronic Approvals," McArthur Hall Lab B, 10 a.m.-noon. Register at: <https://ssl.msstate.edu/virtual/its/register/reg.php>.

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

"Heads vs. Feds: The Debate to Legalize Marijuana," an open debate about legalizing marijuana, featuring former federal narcotics agent Robert Stutman and Steve Hager, former editor of High Times magazine, Colvard Union ballroom, 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Campus Activities Board. 325-2930.

Library Instructional Services Workshop: "Cheating 101: Keeping Plagiarism Out of Your Classroom," ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2-3 p.m. 325-0810.

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Men's Tennis: MSU vs. Arkansas, Pitts Tennis Centre, 2 p.m.

April 1

World Neighbors Association International Fiesta, Drill Field, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 323-2171.

Women's Softball: MSU vs. Florida (DH), MSU Softball Field, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

2

Women's Softball: MSU vs. Florida, MSU Softball Field, 1 p.m.

Women's Tennis: MSU vs. LSU, Pitts Tennis Centre, 1 p.m.

3

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

4

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

6

ITS workshop: "AdminBanner: Navigation and Financial Query," McArthur Hall Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Register at: <https://ssl.msstate.edu/virtual/its/register/reg.php>.

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

6-8

Play: "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 for general public; \$5 for students, seniors, faculty and staff. 325-3203.

7-9

Super Bulldog Weekend. www.gameday.msstate.edu/.

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Baseball: MSU vs. Georgia, Dudy Noble Field, 6:30 p.m.