

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

April 10, 2006

Volume 30

Issue 29

MSU to help develop research database for NASA

Mississippi State will use a \$9.6 million federal grant to help NASA develop a stronger and more accessible Earth science research database for use by a wide variety of U.S. governmental agencies.

Armed with the funding from NASA's Applied Sciences Directorate, the university's GeoResources Institute is marshaling its geospatial technology expertise to help build a computerized, one-stop data resource. It could have global research impacts on such diverse issues as climate change, bioterrorism, transportation, and population trends.

"We are using high-performance computing, remote sensing, rapid prototyping, geographic information systems, global positioning systems and 3-D landscaping visualization capabilities that will come together in a very complementary way," said

GRI director David Shaw, co-principal investigator for the grant.

"They are looking for a data system that will be globally accessible, globally searchable—sort of a 'Google' for NASA research," he added. "At the end of the two-year grant period, we expect to have this system fully stood up and operational."

Also providing support for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration project are the University of Mississippi's Geoinformatics Center, and a team from the Stennis Space Center comprised of the Institute for Technology Development and Science Systems and Applications Inc.

"I think this positions not only Mississippi State, but the state of Mississippi to be more competitive," said Shaw. "We're going to provide a significant contribution to the base system from which the next generation of research will be determined."

Co-principal investigator for MSU's lead role in the project is Robert J. Moorhead, a professor of electrical and computer engineering and GRI associate director for research. He also is an expert in rapid prototyping technology, which produces working models from computer-aided designs or animation modeling software.

The goal of the rapid prototyping capability is to speed the evaluation of potential uses of NASA research products and technologies, and improve future operational systems by reducing the time to access, configure and assess their effectiveness.

Earth system science is the study of how the Earth works as a system of continents, oceans, atmosphere, ice, and life. It is based on the ability to measure key parameters and integrate that knowledge into Earth system models.



Removed to accommodate a new direct connector road linking Stone Boulevard and President's Circle (lower right), the two-story wooden structure that housed the Department of Philosophy and Religion now is, well, just so many splinters. Until a permanent location is determined, department offices have moved nearby to the Callejas House at the intersection of Magruder Street and Morgan Avenue. The department number is 325-2382.



Speakers, art highlight exhibit

A series of lectures about cultural history and fences, as well as a collection by state artists, will be featured as part of a national exhibit at Mississippi State through April 25.

The MSU Libraries is sponsoring "Between Fences," a traveling display coordinated by the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street and focusing on every region of the United States.

Showcased on the Mitchell Memorial Library's third floor, "Between Fences" tells the story of the country's settling: the establishment of communities and building of borders. "Fences" include tools, photographs and a range of publications from product literature to journals to postcards and other materials.

The exhibit is co-sponsored by MSU's Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; colleges of Arts and Sciences and Agriculture and Life Sciences; Center for Historical Studies; and departments of history; sociology and anthropology and social work; and political science.

Titled "Shared Spaces," original art being featured in Special Collections on the third floor includes works of Kathryn Brown, Linda Cambre, Betty Jane Chatham, Fay Fisher, Sarah Hubbard, Briar Jones, Dylan Karges, Arch Pitts, Francis Thompson, Barbara Walker, and Kathy Westbrook. The Starkville Area Arts Council's Art in Public Places co-sponsors this section.

In addition, the library is organizing two related public presentations featuring university and visiting scholars. All beginning at 3 p.m. in the Grisham Room, the topics and speakers include:

- April 11, Gerald Emison, MSU associate professor of political science and public administration, "Environmental Pollution and the Erasure of Manmade Boundaries." He is a former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency senior adviser.

- April 18, William Cronon, Frederick Jackson Turner Professor of History, Geography and Environmental Studies and Vilas Research Professor at the University of Wisconsin, "Discovered Land, Invented Past." A Rhodes Scholar, he is past president of the American Society for Environmental History.

"Between Fences" will be on display during normal library operating hours. The exhibit is a collaboration of the Smithsonian and Mississippi Humanities Council.

For more information, visit library.msstate.edu/betweenfences/.

I.E. name change reflects modern trends

The Industrial Engineering Department is being renamed the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering to better reflect modern program trends within the profession.

Department head Royce Bowden said industrial engineers design, improve and install systems of people, materials, information, equipment, and energy. He said the name change reflects an expanded focus on systems engineering that already is a part of the MSU program's modern curriculum.

"The industrial engineering profession has evolved to include systems science and engineering methodologies," the professor added.

While the state College Board approved the change earlier this year, Bowden emphasized the department's curriculum will not be altered and majors will not have to worry about rescheduling courses.

Foglesong to assume MSU presidency April 16

The next president of Mississippi State will begin his new job less than a month after being named to succeed Dr. Charles Lee.

Dr. Robert H. Foglesong will assume his duties Sunday, April 16, according to the state College Board.

"The Board of Trustees and I are extremely pleased that Dr. Foglesong can assume his presidential responsibilities so quickly," said Commissioner of Higher Education Thomas C. Meredith.

Accounting grads lead state in CPA exam results

Based on the latest published results, Mississippi State accounting graduates lead the state in pass rates for the certified public accounting examination.

Dr. Danny P. Hollingsworth, School of Accountancy director, said the recently published National State Boards of Public Accountancy report for 2004 also shows MSU graduates exceeding the national average passing percentage.

Hollingsworth, who additionally holds the school's H. Devon Graham Endowed Professorship, said 8.2 percent of MSU graduates with either bachelor's or master's degrees passed all parts of the uniform CPA exam.

"The national average for all students was 6.1 percent, while the average for all students from Mississippi universities was 4 percent," Hollingsworth said.

He said among states ranked in the top 10 according to the 2004 pass-rate figures, Iowa was first with 18.3 percent, while Kansas was 10th with 10 percent.

"In 2004, the CPA exam format and reporting of results changed considerably, which makes the percentages non-comparable to prior years," Hollingsworth explained. "However, our records verify that MSU students consistently have had a high pass rate."

Hollingsworth said he attributed the continuing history of high scores to "the hard work and dedication of both our students and faculty to meet the demands of the curriculum."

He added: "We also are proud of the fact that Mississippi State accounting graduates continue to hold executive positions in major national and international corporations, accounting and consulting firms."

The School of Accountancy is a unit of the College of Business and Industry, one of the South's oldest collegiate business programs.



5 graduating artists featured in exhibition

Five Mississippi State seniors scheduled to graduate next month in fine arts will exhibit their best works at the university's McComas Hall Gallery.

This year titled "Euphoria" and taking place April 10-May 3, the student thesis show is among requirements for a bachelor's degree from the Department of Art.

The gallery is located on the ground floor of McComas. Operating hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Mondays-Fridays, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sundays.

Artists for the 2006 spring exhibition include Dixie L. Boswell of Vicksburg, Andrew M. Chapman of Brandon, Erin Keating of Gulfport, Glenn Payne of Blue Springs, and Michael W. Stuckey of Magee. Their diverse presentations include non-representational imagery, abstraction, figurative painting, and mixed-media printmaking.

For more information on the student exhibition, telephone 325-2970.



Roman Herrington (left), executive director of the Community Foundation of East Mississippi, and Lee Meyer (right), foundation board member, present the MSU Riley Center with a check for \$1,000 to support educational programs the Meridian-based center is offering this spring. Accepting the gift is Dennis Sankovich, Riley Center executive director. The grant will cover admission costs for students who otherwise would not be able to participate in the programs.

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/. 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



Award-winning poet, author to read

Chicago native Edward Hirsch, author of six books of poetry, will present selections from his work during an April 11 public program.

The 4 p.m. reading in the fourth-floor suite of Swalm Chemical Engineering Building is sponsored by the university's Institute for the Humanities. Additional support is provided by the offices of the Provost and Vice President for Research, along with the College of Arts and Sciences.

Hirsch, president of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, is the author of "Lay Back the Darkness" (2003), "On Love" (1998), "Earthly Measures" (1994), "The Night Parade" (1989), "Wild Gratitude" (1986), and "For the Sleepwalkers" (1981).

His work has been recognized with a National Book Critics Circle Award, Lavan Younger Poets Award from the Academy of American Poets and New York University's Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award.

Educated at Grinnell College and the University of Pennsylvania, Hirsch earlier taught at Wayne State University and the University of Houston.



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.

BFA Thesis Exhibition, April 10-May 3, Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall basement. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4 p.m. 325-2970.

April 10

2006 Easter Egg Hunt for children of faculty and staff, President's Home lawn, 5:30 p.m. Rain cancels. 325-3322.

11 and 12

ITS workshop: "AdminBanner: Requisitions," McArthur Hall Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Register at: <https://ssl.msstate.edu/virtual/its/register/reg.php>.

11

ITS workshop: "Introduction to PowerPoint," McArthur Hall Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Register at: <https://ssl.msstate.edu/virtual/its/register/reg.php>.



ssl.msstate.edu/virtual/its/register/reg.php.

Library Instructional Services Workshop: "Customizing MetaLib: Creating Your Own Research Portal," ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2-3 p.m. 325-0810.

Public retirement reception for President and Mrs. Charles Lee, Griffis Room, Palmeiro Center, 2-4 p.m. 325-3221.

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

12

Library Instructional Services Workshop: "EndNote 101: Managing Your Citations and More!" ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2-3 p.m. 325-0810.

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

13

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

14

University closed for holiday.

15

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

18

ITS workshop: "Introduction to InDesign," McArthur Hall Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Register at: <https://ssl.msstate.edu/virtual/its/register/reg.php>.

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

19 and 20

ITS workshop: "AdminBanner: Invoices," McArthur Hall Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and 8:30 a.m.-noon. Register at: <https://ssl.msstate.edu/virtual/its/register/reg.php>.

19

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

20

ITS workshop: "Introduction to Access," McArthur Hall Lab A, 1:30-5 p.m. Register at: <https://ssl.msstate.edu/virtual/its/register/reg.php>.

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

21

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

22

Baseball: MSU vs. Arkansas, Dudy Noble Field, 2 p.m.

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

23

Baseball: MSU vs. Arkansas, Dudy Noble Field, 1:30 p.m.

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

24

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

26

Women's softball: MSU vs. Mississippi, MSU Softball Field, 6 p.m.

29

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

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.