

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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'Generous' donation funds honors college

A \$10 million gift by a 1972 Mississippi State graduate and his wife will endow an honors college.

The endowment by Bobby and Judy Shackouls of Houston, Texas, was announced last week by President Charles Lee during a campus ceremony commemorating his April 15 retirement as MSU's 17th chief executive.

Lee said the Judy and Bobby Shackouls Honors College will allow the 128-year-old university to expand its undergraduate honors programs—the state's oldest and largest. He called the gift "an extraordinary act of vision and generosity."

Lee said the couple's support also will allow the land-grant institution to add new undergraduate research fellowships, study abroad scholarships and funding for research-related travel, as well as expanding visiting scholars and guest speakers programs.

The donation brings to more than \$300 million in the total amount of funds raised in MSU's current capital campaign known as "State of the Future."

Bobby Shackouls, a Greenville native and an MSU chemical engineering graduate, recently retired as chairman, president and



Judy and Bobby Shackouls visit with President Charles Lee (right).

chief executive officer of Burlington Resources Inc.

Shackouls' retirement followed the company's acquisition by Conoco-Phillips

Inc., an integrated international energy company. He joined Burlington in 1993 after

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Two National Academies members joining faculty

Two widely recognized scholars and members of the prestigious National Academies are joining the faculty ranks at Mississippi State.

Reproductive biologist Neal First soon will begin an appointment with the Biological Sciences Department, while electrical engineer James Flanagan—a 1948 MSU graduate—will be affiliated with the Bagley College of Engineering. Both will hold the rank of distinguished research professor.

"This is a major accomplishment for Mississippi and for our university," said

President Charles Lee.

Based in Washington, D.C., the National Academies is the umbrella organization for the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council. Authorized by the federal government, the member agencies serve as the highest level of advisers on matters of science, engineering and medicine.

Considered one of the highest honors a scientist or engineer can receive, membership in the academies is based on distinguished

and continuing achievements in original research.

"The affiliation of these two National Academies members with Mississippi State reflects the caliber of research already under way at our institution by an outstanding research faculty," Lee said. "It also reaffirms the university's commitment to expanding the scope and significance of its research contributions."

Among only 2,000 National Academies

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During Mississippi State's 2006 Faculty Awards and Recognition Program recently, three faculty members received university-wide honors. Dr. Arthur G. Cosby (l) was named a William L. Giles Distinguished Professor, while Dr. Keith Koenig (c) received the John Grisham Master Teacher Award and Dr. Robert B. Reese, the MSU Alumni Association Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award. Cosby is director of the Social Science Research Center; Koenig, an aerospace engineering professor; and Reese, an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering. The recognition program is organized by the alumni association and Office of Academic Affairs.

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members worldwide, First and Flanagan will be collaborating on faculty research projects. According to the organization's Web site (www.nasonline.org), they become Mississippi's only members of the National Academy of Sciences, which was established in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln. Flanagan also is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

First recently retired as L.E. Casida Professor of Reproductive Biology and Animal Biotechnology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Known for his pioneering work in animal biotechnology, he was the first to prove that cattle could be cloned. Techniques he developed now are commercially available for both human and animal applications.

Over his career, First was honored with the Animal Science Morrison, Upjohn Research and Society for the Study of Reproduction Research awards, along with the Wolf Prize in Agriculture. He serves on the National Research Council Commission on Life Sciences, and committees of the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research Board and Agriculture and the Institute of Medicine.

Flanagan is recognized worldwide for his scientific contributions in speech technology. His ideas have contributed to the development of modern automatic speech recognition systems, audio codes such as MP3s and modern voice-over-Internet protocol technology.

Flanagan, who received advanced degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spent more than 30 years at AT&T Bell Laboratories, where he became the director of information principles research. He joined Rutgers University in 1990, retiring in 2005 as Board of Governors Professor Emeritus.

He received the National Medal of Science in 1996 from President Bill Clinton for work in merging engineering techniques with speech science to solve basic problems in speech communication.

Griffin to headline April 20 concert

Singer/songwriter Patty Griffin headlines an April 20 concert at Rick's Café Americain.

The popular acoustic performer's appearance is co-sponsored by MSU radio station WMSV. While reserved seat tickets are sold out, an abundant number of \$10 general admission tickets remain. In addition, the performance will be smoke-free.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and folk singer Michael Fracasso gets things rolling at 8 p.m., followed by Griffin at 9

p.m. Following her one-and-a-half hour set, local band Mississippi Bluebloods will close out the evening.

For more information, telephone WMSV at 325-8034.



Griffin

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Super Bulldog Weekend highlights



A football scrimmage was only one athletic event going on during Super Bulldog Weekend.



The Mississippi Bluebloods performed at the Super Tailgate Party.



Staffers Allen Snow and Cathy Oswalt enjoy the Super Tailgate Party.



Student Jeff Ellis speaks at The Junction groundbreaking.



Because of a rain threat, groundbreaking for the band/choral hall was moved inside.



The Lees enjoy a retirement gala.



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

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, through 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 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.

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holding executive positions with Exxon, Houston Oil and Minerals, Houston Oil Fields Co., Plains Resources, and Torch Energy Advisers.

In addition to serving as a board member of the MSU Foundation, Shackouls is an Alumni Fellow of the Bagley College of Engineering and serves on the dean's development council in the college.

In anticipation of the honors college designation, the university earlier this year reserved classroom, office and living space for its 38-year-old honors program in S. Bryce Griffis Residence Hall, which now is under construction in the new Northeast Village complex. Named for a longtime MSU benefactor and former state College Board member from Starkville, the campus facility opens this fall.

Lee said, "This gift from Judy and Bobby Shackouls will create a living-learning honors community that will help keep many of the state's best and brightest students in Mississippi, rather than being lured away to prestigious out-of-state institutions.

"It also will afford them a college experience that is second to none," he added.

Shackouls said the gift is an investment in one of Mississippi's most important resources—the young men and women who are its future.

"It is indeed an honor and a privilege to give back just a little bit of what this great institution has meant to my life and career," he noted. "Judy and I always enjoy our trips back to campus because of the enthusiastic students, the dedicated staff and talented

faculty of Mississippi State."

Commenting specifically on the Shackouls Honors College, he said that the gift "is just another small step in providing the resources to let the rest of the nation know what MSU alumni already know, and that is that Mississippi State University is among the finest institutions in America and a great place to get a college education."

Enrolling more than 1,000 academically talented students in small classes, MSU's honors program—and, now, Shackouls Honors College—is led by veteran psychology professor Nancy McCarley. Designed specifically to foster inquiry and in-depth learning, the program is a charter member of the Southern Regional Honors Council.

"An expansion of this magnitude ensures an enriched and supportive environment for our most exceptionally qualified students," said McCarley.

"It also serves to affirm our commitment to providing students with the intimacy of a small college and the breadth of a large research institution."

The Judy and Bobby Shackouls Honors College is an open fund in the MSU Foundation that may be increased through additional contributions. For more information, telephone John Rush, director of major gifts, at 325-1108.

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