

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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Wicker, Lott to lead graduation

Two veteran Republican members of the Mississippi congressional delegation will address Mississippi State graduates next month during the university's spring graduations.

The May 13 commencement programs in Humphrey Coliseum will be among the first official ceremonies led by new university

President Robert H. Foglesong.

More than 2,000 students are candidates for degrees. Depending on the academic major, the students and their families will hear remarks by U.S.

Rep. Roger Wicker of Tupelo at 9:30 a.m. or Sen. Trent Lott of Pascagoula at 2:30 p.m.

The morning program includes a conferring of degrees by the colleges of Arts and Sciences; Architecture, Art and Design; and Business and Industry; as well as the School of Accountancy.

During the afternoon, diplomas will be awarded by the Bagley College of Engineering, and the colleges of Agriculture and Life

Sciences, Education, Forest Resources, and Veterinary Medicine (master's and doctoral degrees only), along with the School of Human Sciences.

Wicker, who represents the 1st District, served two terms in the Mississippi Senate prior to his election to Congress in 1995.

In the House, Wicker is a part of the

leadership team, serving as deputy majority whip and a second-term member of the Republican Policy Committee. He also is a member of the Appropriations and Budget committees, and chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority



Sen. Trent Lott



Rep. Roger Wicker

Congressional Caucus.

Lott is in his 33rd year of congressional service to the Magnolia State. He served as the Senate majority leader 1996-2002.

In the 109th Congress, Lott chairs the Senate Rules and Administration Committee and the Joint Committee on Printing.

Both Wicker and Lott hold bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Mississippi.

Foglesong named to joint commission on POW/MIAs

President George W. Bush has announced his intention to designate Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, president of Mississippi State, a member of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs.

The announcement was made April 25 by the White House.

The commission, which was formed in 1992 and meets annually, is a Defense Department effort through which both nations seek to locate missing servicemen. It is organized into four working groups related to conflicts from World War II to the Cold War.

Foglesong retired Feb. 1 as commander, United States Air Force Europe, and was named president of MSU March 28. During his 33-year military career he held positions that also included vice commander of the U.S. Air Force, and he has flown most aircraft in the U.S. inventory.

Faculty members named national teaching fellows

Three faculty members in the Biological Sciences Department are newly designated National Academies teaching fellows in recognition of innovative classroom techniques that foster effective undergraduate learning.

Associate professor Giselle Thibaudeau Munn, along with instructors Mary Celeste Reese and Emily Gay Williamson, are among only 42 educators around the country receiving the National Academies' title of 2006 Education Fellow in the Life Sciences.

"During a time when many administrators place greater merit on research output by professors over teaching accomplishments, it is good to know the National Academy of Science, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and National Science Foundation, and MSU are working to enhance the undergraduate experience, incorporate research as a pedagogical tool and revitalize academics," said Thibaudeau.

"These groups realize that our students are our future and the quality of their education must be given more significance," added the Leominster, Mass., native. A faculty member since 1994, she directs the university's Electron Microscope Center.

The fellows represent teams from 19 research-intensive colleges and universities selected for the NA's Summer Institute on Undergraduate Education in Biology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Selections were based on their ideas for enhancing undergraduate biology education and a commitment by their universities

Continued on page 2



Summer Fun memberships available at Sanderson

Join in the summer fun at the Joe Frank Sanderson Center by purchasing a special Summer Fun membership, available now for all faculty and staff members.

Summer Fun membership rates for adults are \$70 a person and \$10 for each child—for the entire summer.

Summer Fun memberships begin May 22 and are in effect through Labor Day, Sept. 4. Children must be 17 years old or younger to qualify for the Summer Fun rate; children must be in the custodial care of the sponsoring adult and accompanied by an adult at all times.

To purchase a Summer Fun membership, come by the Member Services Office in the Sanderson Center between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday-Friday. An MSU photo I.D. card must be presented at purchase.

For more information, telephone the Member Services Office at 325-7244 or visit the Web site at www.recsports.msstate.edu.

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Fellows—continued from page 1

to support teaching innovations.

The teams also were selected based on their willingness to collaborate on the development of “teachable units”—curriculum packages encompassing up to a week of classes and laboratory activities on a specific topic—and



Fellows (l-r) Mary Celeste Reese, Emily Gay Williamson, and Giselle Thibaudeau Munn.

their pledge to implement at least one of the units in courses they teach during the current academic year.

“I teach mainly large freshman-level biology classes, where generating student enthusiasm and involvement is a challenge,” said Reese, an instructor and Starkville native. “My goal is to create a more student-oriented teaching environment, where students take ownership of their own learning.

“In some cases, I use technology such as PowerPoint slides and video clips in the classroom as a tool to engage and assess student learning,” explained the 1991 Mississippi University for Women biology graduate.

Reese, who completed a master’s in historical ecology from MSU in 2000, said she includes group discussions of case studies in a human anatomy course she teaches. She and Williamson also are working on a plan to revamp a non-majors biology course and create an inquiry-based laboratory for students.

“Students will ask the questions and, using the scientific method, create their own experiment, as opposed to the traditional

cookbook-style laboratories,” Reese added.

A New Albany native, Williamson joined the faculty as an instructor and laboratory coordinator in 1988. She earned bachelor’s degrees in biology and psychology in 1981, and a master’s in pharmaceutical sciences in

1987, all from the University of Mississippi.

“Our future plans include implementing non-traditional teaching methods such as the use of audience response systems in the laboratories and lectures,” Williamson said.

“Audience response systems allow students to participate in activities anonymously.”

The summer institute grew out of a recommendation in a

2003 report issued by the National Academies’ National Research Council titled “Bio2010: Transforming Undergraduate Education for Future Research Biologists.”

Calling for changes in the way colleges teach biology, the report contended undergraduate biology education has failed to keep pace with revolutionary advances in biomedical research that require those in the field to have a good understanding of other scientific disciplines, such as math and computer sciences. It urged instructors to integrate other subjects into their biology classes.

“When we approach teaching similarly to the way we approach science (scientific method), we create an environment for students to adopt a lifelong learning mentality—a philosophy that is beneficial to the student no matter what path they wish to pursue,” said Thibaudeau, who holds a doctorate in developmental cell biology from the University of Kansas, Lawrence. She completed post-doctoral work at Princeton University.



Users gain online access to ACM Digital Library

MSU Libraries has joined with the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries consortium to subscribe to the ACM Digital Library, a resource for researchers in computer science and engineering disciplines.

The database provides the library's users with online access to a vast collection of citations and full text from magazines, journals, transactions, and proceedings published by the Association for Computing Machinery.

Previously, users only had access to ACM publications through the library's print subscriptions. Now, however, authorized users have unlimited online access to the full text of current and past issues of nearly all ACM publications. As a part of the NAAL's agreement with the ACM, the library will cease receiving ACM publications in print beginning in June.

The library's subscription to the ACM Digital Library was made possible through the NAAL Advisory Council's decision to include MSU in the agreement due to the university's

joint program development with the University of Alabama. Although there are several ACM publications that are not accessible through the ACM Digital Library (including Computing Reviews, Multimedia Systems, The Online Guide to Computing Literature, and the ACM SIG newsletters), one of the seven NAAL consortia partners, Auburn University, will continue to receive archival print copies of all ACM publications.

According to Frances Coleman, Dean of Libraries, "The ACM Digital Library is an outstanding addition to our collection of online resources. This resource was in high demand by our users, and we are very excited about providing them with access to it."

To explore the content accessible through the ACM Digital Library, visit MSU Library's e-journal list and select "Association for Computer Machinery" as the vendor.

MSU increases United Way contributions

Despite the challenges of major disasters that included two hurricanes, Mississippi State students, faculty, and staff reached deep in their pockets—and their hearts—to make record contributions to the 2006 United Way campaign.

More than 900 individuals across academic, research and administrative units pledged a total of \$96,443, said Dr. Melvin Ray, assistant to the president and 2005-06 campus vice chair of the United Way effort.

"Mississippi State has shown once again that it believes in helping people and in being a good friend to the community," Ray said.

The 2006 campaign represents a 7 percent increase over 2005 pledges and the third-highest dollar amount ever raised at the university.

Archivist named Dunbar Rowland winner

Mississippi State faculty member Michael Ballard is the winner of the 2006 Dunbar Rowland Award, presented annually by the Mississippi Historical Society.

The award recognizes major contributions to the study and interpretation of Mississippi history and memorializes Dunbar Rowland, first director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Ballard, university archivist, has published nine books, in addition to dozens of scholarly articles and book reviews. His books, *A Long Shadow: Jefferson Davis and the Final Days of the Confederacy*, *Pemberton: A Biography*, and *Vicksburg: The Campaign That Opened the Mississippi*, all were History Book Club selections. *Pemberton* was chosen by the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters as the best non-fiction book by a Mississippi author in 1991.

Ballard has been serving successively as associate

university archivist, university archivist, and university archivist and coordinator of the Congressional Collection in Mitchell Memorial Library.



Dr. Michael Ballard (r) is congratulated by awards committee chair Chester "Bo" Morgan of Delta State University.



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.

May

1

Spring Concert: Concert Choir, Chamber Singers and Men of Maroon and White, McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-7801.

2

Baseball: MSU vs. Mississippi Valley State University, Dudy Noble Field, 6:30 p.m.

ITS workshop: "AdminBanner: Navigation and Financial Query," McArthur Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops; 325-0631.

3

ITS workshop: "AdminBanner: Payroll Entry," McArthur Lab A, 10 a.m.-noon. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops; 325-0631.

Last day of class.

5

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



6

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

7

Baseball: MSU vs. Florida, Dudy Noble Field, 12:30 p.m.

College of Architecture, Art and Design's Annual Recognition Ceremony honoring the 29th graduating class, Bettersworth Auditorium of Giles Hall, 1 p.m. Alumna Janet Marie Smith ('81), vice president of planning and development for Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse Inc. of Baltimore, Md., will deliver the annual Dr. William L. and Jean Giles Memorial Lecture. A reception will follow in the gallery. 325-2202.

10

ITS workshop: "AdminBanner: Leave Entry," McArthur Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-noon. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops; 325-0631.

13

Commencement, 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Humphrey Coliseum.

16

Baseball: MSU vs. Tennessee-Martin, Dudy Noble Field, 6:30 p.m.

Employee Service Recognition Program and Reception, Humphrey Coliseum, 2-4 p.m. 325-3713.

18

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

ITS workshop: "AdminBanner: Electronic Approvals," McArthur Lab B, 10 a.m.-noon. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops; 325-0631.

19

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

Staff Appreciation Day, Drill Field.

Energy conservation yields savings; other measures sought

Adjusting thermostats and taking other utility conservation measures beginning last December has generated a savings of more than \$137,000, and the university continues to seek ways to curb spiraling energy costs.

Mississippi State's energy costs are expected to be approximately \$12 million this year, nearly double that of last year.

Some 38 buildings controlled by the campus energy management system had heating systems turned off during the Dec. 19-Jan. 2 winter break and continue to have thermostats set at 70 degrees during occupied hours. Formerly, thermostats were set at 75 degrees.

"While lower thermostats required an initial adjustment, we want folks around campus to know that they are helping make a difference," said Jim Jones, executive director of facilities.

Lower adjustments also were made for buildings during unoccupied hours, he said, with thermostats in unoccupied buildings lowered 15 degrees below their normal set point, compared to the previous 10 degrees lower.

Meanwhile, facilities management staff continue to adjust and improve mechanical systems to yield long-term savings, Jones explained.

To assist individual departments in conservation measures, he offers the following tips:

- Turn off lights when not in use. The simple measure can generate savings of 8-16 cents per 1,000 square feet of floor space each hour.
- Turn off computers when not in use. Each desktop computer left on 24 hours each day costs \$65 annually in energy and \$25 annually in air conditioning expenses.
- Assign someone in the building to check the unassigned spaces, such as restrooms, conference rooms, and classrooms to ensure unused power-generating devices are shut down.
- Report any problems with water leaks, electrical or heating/air conditioning to 325-2005; or a zone maintenance leader.