

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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Six employees are 2006-07 Zacharias Distinguished Staff Award recipients. Those honored are (l-r) Vanessa Collier of support services; Elaine Reed of the College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Vance Watson, Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine; Curtis Bishop, research support; Jimmy Rice, campus landscape; and Sheila Coleman, general library.

State research universities will share grant

Mississippi State and the state's three other doctoral-granting institutions are sharing more than \$6.7 million in external funding to help make them more nationally competitive in the computational sciences.

The National Science Foundation's Office of the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research awarded MSU a grant of \$6,750,000 for a three-year period that started May 1.

The university is subcontracting more than \$4.5 million of the EPSCoR grant to its fellow members of the Mississippi Research Consortium—including more than \$1.5 million apiece to Jackson State University and the University of Southern Mississippi; a little more than \$1 million to the University of Mississippi; and nearly \$435,000 to the U.M. Medical Center.

"This funding from the NSF will make a tremendous difference in the ability of Mississippi State and the other universities to further develop excellence related to high-performance computing and the life sciences," said Dr. Colin Scanes, vice president for research and the project's principal investigator.

The MRC was founded in 1986 with a mission that includes developing a research infrastructure to support education and extend technology development in Mississippi, and to enhance economic development opportunities for the state.

"Mississippi is on the cusp of being

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President launches Web 'chats'

As a forum for discussing key initiatives and issues of interest to the university, Mississippi State University President Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong is beginning a series of periodic webcasts.

Available on the president's Web site at www.msstate.edu/president/webcasts/, the streaming video, presented in a conversational format, allows Foglesong to speak directly to those interested in the life and work of MSU.

"It's a medium that allows me to talk with constituents of our university about challenges, directions and programs," he said.

In the webcast currently online, Foglesong talks about student recruitment and retention, especially programs planned or recently implemented.

Those wishing to comment may e-mail Foglesong at president@msstate.edu.



Hodge named Fellow of engineering ed society

A longtime mechanical engineering professor is a new Fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education.

Dr. B. Keith Hodge, a Macon native and 1965 MSU graduate, is the first member of the Bagley College of Engineering faculty to hold the ASEE honor. Campuswide, the only other ASEE Fellow is Career Center director Luther Epting.

The ASEE Fellow is conferred by the organization's board of directors upon a member with outstanding qualifications and experience in engineering or engineering technology education who has made significant contributions to the society.

"The American Society for Engineering Education is the premier professional society focused on education excellence," said Dean Kirk Schulz. "The selection of Dr. Hodge as the engineering college's first ASEE Fellow is a testament to his exceptional career as an engineering educator."

A member of the MSU faculty since 1978, Hodge is a William L. Giles Distinguished Professor, Tennessee Valley Authority Professor of Energy Systems and the Environment, and a Hearin Professor of Engineering. He became one of MSU's first four John Grisham Master Teachers in 1993.

He also is an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and a member of the American

Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Association of Energy Engineers.

The well-published research professor's specialty areas include fluid mechanics, heat transfer, compressible flow, and energy systems.

"To be named a Fellow of the ASEE is an indication of a reasonable career in education," said Hodge. "I was surprised to be named because there are currently about

12,000 members, and they only name 11 Fellows per year for the organization."

Hodge earned bachelor's and master's degrees in aerospace engineering at MSU, respectively, in 1965 and 1966. He received a second master's degree in mechanical engineering in 1971 and earned a doctorate in that field in 1973, both from the University of Alabama.

Department head wins national award

A veteran Mississippi State administrator and teacher is being honored with the highest honor bestowed upon a landscape architect by the field's national professional association.

Cameron R.J. Man will receive the 2006 American Society of Landscape Architects Medal during the organization's annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minn., in October. Winners of other ASLA awards also will be recognized.

Man has served as professor and head of the Landscape Architecture Department since joining the faculty in 1989. The programs he leads in landscape architecture and landscape contracting are the only ones of their kinds offered in the state.

The ASLA Medal recognizes lifetime achievements and contributions to the profession, the welfare of the public and the environment. It is the organization's highest honor bestowed upon a landscape architect.

"I am both amazed and humbled by receiving this honor," said Man. "To be honored by one's own profession has to be the high point of any professional career."

Man is being cited for his achievements in private practice, academic administration and instruction, and leadership in the profession. He also is recognized for the "remarkably high number of people within the profession that he has helped to educate."

Earlier this year, he also was honored as a member of the inaugural class of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture Academy of Fellows during that group's annual conference in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Man holds a bachelor of architecture degree from the University of Manitoba, Canada,

and a master's in landscape architecture from the University of California at Berkeley. His academic specialty areas are professional practice and housing.

Earlier in his career, he served as chair of the landscape architecture department at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and director of the School of Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph in Canada. His professional practice includes principal interest in three firms.

Founded in 1899, the ASLA represents more than 16,500 members. It promotes the landscape architecture profession and advances the practice through advocacy, education, communication and fellowship.

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.

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nationally competitive in the computational sciences related to life sciences and chemistry, due in part to the success of the existing computational chemistry cluster supported by EPSCoR," said Scanes. "A series of integrated and focused steps can help achieve national competitiveness."

To enhance collaboration and interaction among the four MRC members, a Mississippi Computational Sciences Network will be established to disseminate information among the research thrust areas.

A Mississippi Computational Biology Consortium also will be established to facilitate collaborations among life scientists and computer scientists within and across institutions, and to apply lessons learned to other disciplines at the research schools.



Ray assuming economic development leadership role

A 19-year administrator at Mississippi State is assuming a leadership role in the university's efforts to support local and state economic development.

Dr. Melvin C. Ray will become associate vice president for economic development in the Office of Research and Economic Development. He has served most recently as special assistant to the president.

"This new role recognizes Dr. Ray's successes in economic development and his contributions to helping move our community and state ahead," said President Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong. "He will be instrumental in

helping us focus university capabilities in ways that most benefit Mississippi."

A sociologist who founded MSU's Crime and Justice Research Unit, Ray has held a variety of administrative posts that give him a breadth of knowledge about the land-grant institution and its historical role in the state, said Dr. Colin Scanes, vice president for research and economic development.

Ray also has served as associate and interim vice presidents for research, as well as a member of numerous state and regional boards.

"At the local level, Dr. Ray helped plan and secure funding for two technology-based incubators in the Thad Cochran Research, Technology and Economic Development Park," Scanes said.

Primary funding for the efforts came from the U.S. Economic Development Authority and Tennessee Valley Authority.

In his new role, Ray will serve as a liaison with local, state and regional agencies, including the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, Mississippi Development Authority and Appalachian Regional Commission. He also will work to develop new cooperative initiatives, including a potential conference center to serve the

university, city and Oktibbeha County.

Ray has served as the chair of the Mississippi-National Science Foundation's multimillion-dollar Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. As a faculty member, he has received more than \$1 million in grants and contracts.

Active in the community, he is president of the Starkville Boys and Girls Club, as well

as a board member of the Starkville Chamber of Commerce, United Way of North Mississippi and Golden Triangle Enterprise Center, among others.

Ray holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and master's and doctoral degrees from Iowa State University.



Ray



Among nearly 600 faculty and staff members recognized for years of service to MSU were several celebrating 35 and 40 years. Honored during the annual ceremony were (l-r) Patricia Howell, Dan Brook, Vance Watson, Linda Grosinske, and Joe Ray Underwood. Watson has 40 years of service; the others, 35.

Book Notes

The collaborative effort among a Mississippi State education professor, Columbus librarian and two alumni of the university is a new addition to the world of children's literature.

My Little Story Book II, which chronicles the adventures of Kathleen Cat and her animal friends, recently was completed by Nancy Verhoek-Miller of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and Edwina Williams of Columbus.

Williams is a children's librarian at the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library.

The 22-page edition is published by the MSU-based Early Childhood Institute and printed by The Learning Center.

Artwork was provided by Verhoek-Miller and MSU alumna Rosann Daniels of Tupelo. MSU alumnus Stephen Westerfield of Brandon designed the publication with assistance from the Learning Center staff.





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.

June 13

Video workshop: "National Security Issues," CAVS Building, Thad Cochran Research, Technology and Economic Development Park, 10:30 a.m. 325-7402.

15 and 16

Orientation for freshmen, 8 a.m. 325-2224.

17 and 18

United States Team Penning Association, Mississippi Horse Park, 8 a.m. 325-9350.

19

Orientation for transfer students, 8 a.m. 325-2224.

23 and 24

Orientation for freshmen, 8 a.m. 325-2224.

Professional Bull Riders Enterprise Tour, Mississippi Horse Park, 8 p.m. 325-9350.

Workshop: MSU Genealogy Fair, Mitchell Memorial Library, 9:30 a.m. Beth Jackson, 325-0813.

26 and 27

Orientation for freshmen, 8 a.m. 325-2224.

28

First summer term classes end.

29 and 30

Final exams for first summer term classes.



29-July 5

Break for 10-week classes.

July 4

University holiday.

5

Orientation and registration for second summer term.

6

Classes begin for second summer term.



Kudos

Mississippi State communication staffs have had a banner year. University Relations and the public relations office at MSU-Meridian recently took home a number of professional awards. The honors include:

2006 College Public Relations Association of Mississippi Awards

News Stories

Second place: Phil Hearn, "MSU Researchers Hone U.S. War-Fighting Capabilities."

Institutional Magazine

First place: Rebecca Smith, Erin Norwood, Allen Snow, Kay Jones, Maridith Geuder, Phil Hearn, Sammy McDavid, Russ Houston, and Megan Bean for "Alumnus."

Viewbook

First place and Grand Award: Erin Norwood, Rebecca Smith, Kay Jones, Russ Houston, and Megan Bean, "State Your Choice."

Second place: Jennifer Beaugez, project manager; other contributors, Linda D. Butler, Becky Smith and Joanna Baker, "Meridian Campus Viewbook."

Recruitment Piece

First place: Rebecca Smith, Kay Jones, Russ Houston, and Megan Bean, "State Your Choice Recruiting Series."

Brochure

First place: Erin Norwood, Amy Cagle, Russ Houston, and Megan Bean, "State of the Future: The Mississippi State Campaign."

Special Publications

First place: Rebecca Smith, Joanna Baker, Russ Houston, and Megan Bean, "2006 Calendar."

Advertisements

Second place: Linda D. Butler, project manager; other contributor, Becky Smith,

Meridian Campus, "Project A Great Image." **Single Piece of Artwork**

First place: Linda D. Butler, project manager; other contributor, Joanna Baker, Meridian Campus, "Make a Great STATEment Tab Cover."

2005-06 Council for the Advancement and Support of Education Awards

Grand Award: Phil Hearn, for "MSU's Richard Holmes: being poor and black no reason for failure."

Award of Excellence: Phil Hearn, "MSU Wood Preservation Expert Focuses on Civil War Gunboat."

Award of Excellence: Phil Hearn, "MSU Scientists Invent Breathalyzer to Detect Diabetes."

Special Merit Award for the MSU Student Recruitment Series.

2005-06 American Advertising Federation Awards (Tuscaloosa, Ala., chapter)

Best of Show Award: MSU Foundation Campaign Case Statement brochure.

Gold Addy: MSU Recruitment Series.

Gold Addy: MSU Foundation Campaign Case Statement brochure.

Silver Addy: MSU Calendar.

Silver Addy: MSU Lyceum Series.

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.