

# MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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## Memo goes on vacation

This issue of Memo will be the last of the summer, as increasing costs force the publication to take a break—at least until fall.

When Memo returns it will look completely different and—we hope—will be even more user-friendly, providing more up-to-date information.

Until then, read the latest news about Mississippi State on our online news page: [www.msstate.edu/web/news/](http://www.msstate.edu/web/news/).

See you in the fall!

## MSU 69th in African-American degrees

Mississippi State ranks among the top 100 institutions across the country in the number of bachelor's degrees awarded to African-Americans.

During the 2004-05 school year, the university ranked 69th in the nation with the awarding of 405 degrees to black students. The new overall rankings from *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* magazine included the nation's historically black institutions.

Among traditionally white universities only, MSU ranked 44th in the nation.

By category among all institutions awarding bachelor's degrees to African-Americans, MSU is ranked:

- 11th in education, with 71 degrees;
- 20th in agriculture and related fields, eight degrees;
- 23rd in engineering, 32 degrees; and
- 27th in mathematics and statistics (tied with several others), five degrees.

For the complete list, visit [www.diverseeducation.com/top100undergraduate2006.asp](http://www.diverseeducation.com/top100undergraduate2006.asp).

## MSU expands 'Promise' awards beyond high school graduates

An assistance program launched last month by Mississippi State for incoming freshmen now is expanding to include community college students.

The Mississippi State Promise, initially designed for qualifying freshmen whose family incomes are \$30,000 or less, also will be available this fall to qualifying community college students from Mississippi for up to three years of study at MSU. As with the earlier awards, family incomes for the community college students must be \$30,000 or less.

"We want to ensure access for those who are squeezed by increasing costs," said President Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong. "Community colleges are important partners for Mississippi State in providing higher education to benefit the state, and we want to assist transferring students who wish to continue their education here."

To qualify for the Promise program, community college transfers must have completed 48 hours of coursework with at least a 2.5 grade point (out of 4.0). In addition, they must enroll as full-time students and maintain a 2.5 grade point while making satisfactory progress toward a degree.

For more information about the Mississippi State Promise, telephone the Department of Student Financial Aid at 325-2450. The mailing address is: MSU Promise, c/o Department of Student Financial Aid, P.O. Box 6035, Mississippi State, MS 39762.



University officials and guests broke ground recently for a new 40,000-square-foot facility to house agricultural and biological engineering. Participating in ceremonies on a site adjacent to McCarthy Gym were (l-r) Jerry Stubblefield of Jesco Inc., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Peter Rabideau, Skip Wyatt of Foil Wyatt, Vice President for Finance and Administration Ray Hayes, and Dr. Vance Watson, vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine.



New lighting installed on Mississippi State's historic Drill Field captures the old-style streetlight effect of yesteryear while improving the quality of illumination in the area near the Swalm Chemical Engineering Building. Campus Landscape plans to replace the "cobra-head" fixtures, such as the one seen in the background, with these more vintage-looking models.

## William Person named interim graduate dean

A university administrator who has spent more than a decade in graduate education leadership positions is being named interim dean of the Office of Graduate Studies.

Dr. William Person also will become interim associate vice president for academic affairs.

He most recently has served as director of graduate studies, and has held positions that include interim associate dean of the graduate school and interim director.

In the newly named position, Person will

work with deans and directors to ensure the growth of graduate programs, as well as overseeing program assessment and providing leadership for graduate studies policies.

Professor of curriculum and instruction, he has received more than \$5 million in external funding for graduate education since 1991. He has held leadership positions with the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools and the Council of Graduate Schools, including service as president of CSGS.

Person holds an undergraduate degree in French from Johnson C. Smith University and master's and doctoral degrees in educational administration from the University of Georgia.



Person

## Expert recognized for cancer prevention work

A Mississippi State expert on health risks posed by secondhand smoke is being honored by the state for outstanding work contributing to cancer prevention.

An associate research professor at the Social Science Research Center, Dr. Robert C. McMillen recently received the Prevention of Cancer in Mississippi Award during the first Empowering Communities for a Healthy Mississippi Summit.

Gov. Haley Barbour and State Health Officer Brian W. Amy were among featured speakers for the Jackson program co-sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Health's Office of Preventive Health and the Mississippi Chronic Illness Coalition.

McMillen was among a group honored for cancer-prevention work in their respective fields during a MCIC-hosted awards dinner on the opening day of the three-day event.

"This honor is in recognition of his leadership in getting Starkville to pass a

comprehensive smoke-free ordinance," said SSRC director Arthur Cosby, who also is William L. Giles Distinguished Professor at MSU.

"Dr. McMillen, with other scientists in the SSRC, also has developed a social climate approach to the study of tobacco control in America," he added.

McMillen has developed a national reputation as one of the leading authorities on the social and cultural aspects of secondhand smoke. Recently, he was appointed to a prestigious committee of the Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence for Children, a Chicago-based research arm of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

A graduate of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., McMillen received a master's degree in experimental psychology from MSU. He also holds a doctorate in social psychology from the University of Georgia.

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/](http://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](mailto:jonesk@ur.msstate.edu).

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recycled paper

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## Connection may spur new U.S. 'Seoul' food

Mississippi State researchers and officials of a South Korean food products company are taking a can-do approach—actually a “mandu” approach, to be precise—in devising ways to spice up American menus.

The Food Science Institute and International Business Strategy Program are teaming up with the 58-year-old firm, Chew Young Roo, to develop and introduce a variety of “Seoul food” products to Western diets.

Mandu, or Korean dumplings, is one of the Seoul-based company’s specialties.

“Korean dumplings are unlike what we think of as dumplings, since they are stuffed products that include meat and vegetables in steamed dough,” explained Benjy Mikel, FSI director for MSU’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

“The dough pastries typically are filled with a mixture of ground meat, scallions and garlic,” added Korean native J.P. Shim, an award-winning veteran professor who is IBSP leader in the College of Business and Industry. “They can be steamed, deep-fried or served in soup.”

Mikel and Shim recently visited the South

Korean capital to seal the deal with Chew Young Roo’s chief executive officer, Sung-Soo Park. The agreement later was signed by MSU President Robert H. “Doc” Foglesong and vice presidents Colin Scanes of research and Vance Watson of agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine.

The Korean company has pledged to make a significant contribution to the university—contingent upon successful completion of the project, expected to start this summer.

“Chew Young Roo will supply food products and the FSI will use those as a baseline to develop ‘Americanized’ versions,” said Mikel, who also heads his college’s food science, nutrition and health promotion department.

“We’ll start this summer evaluating the acceptance of the traditional (Korean) products and determine how to modify those to meet U.S. tastes,” he added, noting that various faculty and students within his department will be involved in the project.

Shim’s international business program will assist from an economic feasibility stand-

point—providing a business model, marketing strategy, distribution channels, communication technology, cultural perspectives, and other information.

“Chew Young Roo currently exports its products for the Korean grocery or restaurant markets in Los Angeles, but has plans for further expansion,” said Shim, who has known Park for many years.

“If consumer demand for the dumplings is high enough to generate profits, CYR plans to build a factory in the Golden Triangle Area,” he said.



### Kudos

Staff members at MSU-Meridian and the Agricultural Communications Office collected senior division awards during the recent College Public Relations of Mississippi’s annual meeting.

In addition, Linda Butler, public relations specialist for MSU-Meridian, was elected CPRAM president for 2006-07, succeeding outgoing president Steve Diffey of Holmes Community College. Bonnie Coblentz of agricultural communications was re-elected to the CPRAM board of directors.

Individual MSU award winners include (by category):

News Story: first place, Coblentz of agricultural communications, for “Storm-surviving Animals Need Help from Humans.”

Feature Story: second place, Bob Ratliff of agricultural communications, for “Freshwater Prawns Have Consumer Appeal.”

Sports Story: second place, Ratliff, for “CSI: MSU.”

Annual Report: first place, “2005: A Look Back,” Keryn Page, Beth Dishongh and Tom Thompson. All work in agricultural communications.

Special Publications: Judges’ Choice Merit Award, “Take Note-Accountability Testimonials,” Ned Browning, Phil Smith, Debbie Montgomery, Linda Breazeale, Coblentz, Page

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Faculty and staff, as well as alumni, pose for a group photo during the 27th annual “Mississippi in the Park” in New York’s Central Park. Campus radio station WMSV provided live coverage of the daylong gathering.



## 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](http://www.msstate.edu) and click on "Calendar of Events."

To list calendar events online, access [www.ur.msstate.edu/news/today.asp](http://www.ur.msstate.edu/news/today.asp) and follow the instructions.

### June 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 3 and 4

University holidays.

### 5

Orientation and registration for second summer term.

### 6

Classes begin for second summer term.

### 7-9

Team Josey Barrel Racing Clinic, Mississippi Horse Park, 325-9350.

### August 2

Second summer term and 10-week term classes end.

### 3 and 4

Final exams.



### 5

Graduation (no ceremony).

### 15 and 16

Final registration for fall semester.

### 16

New student orientation.

### 17

Fall semester classes begin.

### September 4

University closed for Labor Day holiday.

## Stipends to increase for graduate assistants

Effective with the 2006 fall semester, Mississippi State will increase the amount of financial support provided to university graduate students holding teaching, research and service assistantships.

Students earning master's and doctoral degrees may qualify for stipends for their roles in classrooms, laboratories and administrative offices. Individual departments determine duties and work schedules for the students.

"We want to communicate that we value the graduate student experience and that Mississippi State is committed to offering a

competitive environment for those seeking advanced degrees," said President Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong.

The stipend increases grew out of faculty recommendations at a recent roundtable discussion between administrators, including Foglesong, and faculty members.

Graduate students also will be allocated a portion of the university's state funding designated for faculty and staff raises. Anticipated increases should accommodate an additional \$1,000 annually for those with nine-month assistantships, said Ray Hayes, vice president for finance and administration.

### Kudos—continued from page 3

and Ratliff, all in agricultural communications.

Advertisements: first place, "Mississippi Medallion-Point-of-Purchase Ad Series," Phil Smith and Norman Winter. Winter is an MSU extension horticulturist.

Color Photography: first place, "Capital in Bloom," Jim Lytle, Winter, Page and Breazeale. Lytle also works in agricultural communications.

Digital Art: Judges' Choice Merit Award and first place, "Total Makeover," Butler and Paige Brooks, also of MSU-Meridian.

TV News Story: first place, "Christmas Tree Farmers Straighten Trees for the Holidays," Brian Utley and David Lack; and second place, "Hurricane Damages Mississippi Rice," Leighton Spann. Utley, Lack and Spann work in agricultural communications.

TV Spots: first place, "ATV Safety," Lack, Maci Flautt, Melanie Pollan and Laura Giaccaglia. Flautt, Pollan and Giaccaglia also work in agricultural communications.

Radio Commercial: second place, "Meridian Online," Butler.

TV Program: Judge's Choice Merit Award and first place, "Farmweek, October 7, 2005," Spann, Utley and Lack; and second place, "Financial Fitness: Shape Up Your Spending," Lack, Utley and Frida Bonaparte, also of agricultural communications.

Exhibit: first place, "Main Event Booth," Butler.

Public Relations Innovation: first place, "Dawg Chow Program," Butler.

## 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](http://www.jobs.msstate.edu). For more information, telephone HRM at 325-3713, e-mail [employment@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:employment@hrm.msstate.edu) or visit 150 McArthur Hall.