

Fall 2008

Foundations

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foundations

FALL 2008 | VOL. 8 | NO. 2

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Birds of a feather

MSU's waterfowl and wetlands program takes flight thanks to one conservationist's significant investment.



PLANNING

YOUR

INVESTMENT

The *State of the Future* campaign has yielded many success stories, ranging from new facilities to fantastic growth in our scholarship endowment to nearly doubling the number of endowed faculty positions. All of these gifts will forever impact our beloved MSU and the people associated with this great institution. After all, the people—faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends—are what make MSU so special.

In addition to these significant accomplishments of the campaign, your generosity and your support have had a profound impact on the operations of the MSU Foundation. Our yearly productivity has nearly doubled, and we have seen a tremendous growth in planned giving. This past fiscal year, we set a new record in planned giving activity with more than \$19 million in new commitments. This \$19 million was comprised of 47 total pledges, all of which are yielding major results.

Often, planned gifts provide a donor with a unique opportunity to make a larger gift than through conventional giving methods and a variety of planned giving options exist, including bequests, gift annuities, trusts and IRA transfers. The gift annuity option is a fantastic opportunity for a donor to make a charitable gift to MSU and also receive a fixed return. In addition, President Bush recently signed the Charitable IRA Rollover extension into law, which will be in effect for 2008 and 2009. This IRA extension enables donors who are 70 ½ or older to move \$100,000 per year from their IRA directly to a charity without having to pay income taxes on the gift amount.

As we draw closer to the end of the campaign, I hope that you will consider creating a new planned gift or documenting a current planned gift, if you have not already done so. Documenting your gift to Mississippi State University is easy to do and will allow us to count your commitment during the campaign. More importantly, documentation will help us ensure that your gift will have the impact you desire. In addition, documenting your planned gift may inspire others to make a similar commitment; however, we are happy to treat any gift as anonymous.

If you are interested in creating a planned gift for MSU, please visit our Web site for more information on giving options or contact any member of our staff.

Thank you for your continued devotion to Mississippi State.

**John Rush**

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The Mississippi State University Foundation is a nonprofit corporation organized to foster, encourage, and promote the educational purposes of the university. In providing its support and services through the pursuit of endowments and other gifts, as well as asset management, the foundation enriches and enhances the academic quality and reputation of Mississippi State University.

Discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran's status is a violation of federal and state law and MSU policy and will not be tolerated. Discrimination based upon sexual orientation or group affiliation is a violation of MSU policy and will not be tolerated.



MSU ANNOUNCES

waterfowl & wetlands

CHAIR

Waterfowl and wetlands teaching, research, and service will continue at Mississippi State indefinitely thanks to a significant gift from Cox Enterprises Inc. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer James C. Kennedy.

Kennedy, a native of Hawaii, recently established the James C. Kennedy Endowed Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation in the College of Forest Resources at Mississippi State University.

The first endowed chair in the college, the Kennedy Chair will continue leadership in the waterfowl and wetlands arena.

“This gift demonstrates Mr. Kennedy’s dedication to conservation and his support of waterfowl and wetlands resources,” said George Hopper, dean of the College of Forest Resources.

Kennedy, a long-time conservationist and philanthropist, recently launched a new initiative, Cox Conserves. The program seeks to reduce the annual carbon footprint or greenhouse gas emissions of Cox Enterprises by 20 percent in the next 10 years. Since 2000, the company has eliminated the production of 118,000 tons of greenhouse gases.

“The reason I decided that Cox should be more involved in conservation is our long history of being a great corporate citizen and the idea that if everyone does a little, we can make a dif-

ference,” Kennedy said. “Given the challenges facing future generations, I believe that man’s impact on the environment is incredibly important and we have to do something.”

Kennedy’s fondness for waterfowl is demonstrated widely but locally in Mississippi in his conservation-easement property, York Woods, near Charleston. When Kennedy is not residing in Atlanta and running Cox Enterprises—one of the nation’s leading media companies and providers of automotive services—he enjoys time at York Woods in the Mississippi Delta.

“I find great pleasure in restoring land and improving habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife,” Kennedy said. “York Woods is a retreat for me and a place that I enjoy hunting and relaxing outdoors.”

Kennedy’s passion for conservation can also be found in his consistent support for increasing waterfowl and wetlands habitat, serving on the executive board of Ducks Unlimited Inc. and as former president of Wetlands America Trust. In 2003, he and wife Sarah were recognized as the Philanthropists of the Year by the Greater Atlanta



James Kennedy

Chapter of the Association for Fundraising Professionals, in recognition of their many generous contributions to the community.

“My grandfather, James M. Cox, former Ohio governor and U.S. presidential candidate, instilled in me the need to serve your community,” Kennedy said.

“The endowed chair at MSU is one way that I can give back and ensure that future generations will have waterfowl and wetlands, and people to study and steward these valuable natural resources,” Kennedy added.

An endowed chair is a prestigious faculty position filled by an outstanding scholar and teacher, as judged by rigorous, nationally accepted standards. The minimum giving level for an endowed chair at MSU is \$1.5 million.

“To my knowledge, only one similar endowed university waterfowl program currently exists nationwide,” Hopper said. “The Kennedy Chair is the first endowed waterfowl and wetlands university chair in the 14 states of the Mississippi Flyway along the Mississippi River and its tributaries.”

Mississippi is an important state for waterfowl, and MSU has a nationally respected program in wildlife science and management; hence, it is fitting for the college to house the chair, Hopper added.

Throughout the United States and Canada, university programs focused on waterfowl and wetlands are declining in number.

“The decline in university waterfowl programs was one of Mr. Kennedy’s major reasons for establishing the chair. The chair and associated program will ensure in perpetuity that the university will continue to provide needed research to improve waterfowl habitat and populations,” Hopper said.



NEW PROGRAM
USHERS IN A

'Safe Haven'

FOR PETS

In early 1996, news headlines across the nation recounted the tale of a kitten whose male owner tortured her violently and set her ablaze. Her “crime” had simply been missing the litter box.

The kitten, later known as Cleopatra, was rescued by a neighbor and brought to the Animal Health Center in Franklin, Tenn., a suburb of Nashville. The owner of the clinic was Dr. Sharon Grace, a Mississippi State doctoral veterinary medicine graduate. Despite the loving care Dr. Grace provided, Cleopatra had to be euthanized several months later.

Soon after, Dr. Grace began serving the Nashville suburb of Franklin by operating a Safe Haven for Pets program from her clinic—picking up the tab out of her own pocket. The need for the service, which she provided through a battered women’s shelter, grew along with her passion for its cause. Her focus is not on animal rights, but rather on the welfare and humane treatment of animals. When Dr. Grace speaks at conferences, she typically talks about animal cruelty from a veterinarian’s perspective and first-hand experience.

“I have lost three of my pets due to cruelty

and I now feel like it is my calling to educate and assist, as well as treat,” she said.

Vivid memories of the kitten continue to motivate Dr. Grace’s efforts. She returned to Mississippi State in 2000 as a clinical professor on the CVM faculty. In 2004, the university recognized Dr. Grace as its CVM Alumnae of the Year for her work in the veterinary community. She teaches one of CVM’s most popular courses—a four-week elective called “The Feline Patient”—and has written a book with the same title.

Dr. Grace’s mission continues to be educating others about the life cycle of violence and fulfilling her dream of launching a Safe Haven for Pets program on a larger scale at her alma mater. Creating awareness and understanding through training is what she hopes to offer MSU’s clinical students with exposure to the program.

The cycle of violence to which Dr. Grace refers is the link between child abuse and domestic

violence, which, in turn, is linked to animal cruelty.

“When people think about domestic or child abuse, they don’t automatically think that the abuse extends to pets,” she explained. “Usually animals are the first victims in the cycle of violence because abusers use them as leverage with humans.”

Animal victims are generally small, harmless creatures like cats, dogs, rabbits, birds, rodents and reptiles. Animal victims suffer torture, often leading to death.

The majority of domestic violence shelters across the nation do not accommodate pets. If pets must be left behind, women will often delay entry into these shelters.

“It is common for batterers to harm their

I have lost three of my pets due to cruelty and I now feel like it is my calling to educate and assist, as well as treat.

partners’ pets,” Dr. Grace said. “Statistics tell us that the majority of battered women do not enter shelters sooner for fear of what will happen to their children and their pets. Therefore, a way to get battered women in the system and prevent child abuse is to provide care for the family’s pets.”

Violence toward animals is often ignored by society and not considered a serious problem, but Dr. Grace said she believes this is an indicator of future violence against all species, including humans.

“Dr. Grace is one of the few veterinarians in the nation to have experience with this type of pet program, and Mississippi State is extremely lucky to have her paving the way in this area,” said Dr. Philip Bushby, a professor of clinical science who holds the Marcia Lane Chair in Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Safe Haven program is one of nine initiatives supported by the Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare Program at Mississippi State.

Mississippi State’s veterinary college stands to become one of a few veterinary colleges in the nation with a program of this kind.

The goal of the MSU Safe Haven for Pets program, according to Dr. Grace, will be three-fold. First, the program will provide a service for the state of Mississippi to assist often-overlooked needy women, children and pets. Second, it will provide a template for teaching CVM students the importance of community service. Third, the program ultimately could become a national model for other Safe Haven pet programs.

“I want Mississippi State to become a flagship for other universities,” Dr. Grace explained.

Nestle Purina, the Copwood Hill Foundation and Pfizer have committed start-up funds for the

Safe Haven for Pets project. The number of donors interested in the unique program is growing, but private gifts are still needed to encourage partnerships statewide.

Donors may make contributions for the Safe Haven for Pets program by contacting Keith Gaskin, senior director of development for the College of Veterinary Medicine, at 662.325.3815 or kgaskin@foundation.msstate.edu.





a Fitting Tribute

*A prestigious scholarship
is established to honor
a former MSU president.*

The Presidential Endowed Scholarship Program was established in 2001 at the urging of then-Mississippi State President Malcolm Portera with the goal of attracting the region's most academically talented students to the land-grant institution. Today, 30 of the nation's brightest students are attending MSU with the aid of this prestigious scholarship program. And, fittingly, one of the scholarships was recently endowed in Portera's honor.

Through a gift of \$500,000, Leo W. Seal Jr. of Gulfport recently established the Malcolm and Olivia Portera Presidential Endowed Scholarship to honor the couple's service and dedication as 16th president and first lady of Mississippi State.

Natives of West Point, both Dr. and Mrs. Portera earned degrees at MSU and maintain longstanding family ties with the university and the state.

"There were five boys in my family and all of us completed our undergraduate work at MSU," Portera said. Olivia's father, the late Homer Catledge, was a 70+-year member of the M-Club, having lettered in two sports, and her brother is also an MSU graduate.

Portera began his tenure as president in 1998, returning to the institution from which he earned both bachelor's and master's degrees. During his administration, he established university priorities to improve undergraduate instruction and residential life, expanded research and graduate programs and enhanced the university's economic development efforts to the state. Portera left the university in 2001 to accept the position of chancellor of the University of Alabama system, where he still serves.

Seal, who met Portera at a Mississippi State football game in the 1970s, said that he admired the way Portera aggressively pursued ways to improve the status of the university. "He was

constantly trying to set up endowments and scholarships, as he was very intent upon State attracting the brightest high school students,” Seal said. “He created the Presidential Endowed Scholarship Program with the intent of attracting high school seniors who scored a perfect 36 on their ACT exam.

“Even after he announced he was leaving his presidential post, he was still urging people to contribute to build the scholarship program. I felt I should do my part to help his plans succeed and to let him know we appreciated his efforts in a substantial way.”

During the program’s first year, five high school seniors in Mississippi earned a perfect ACT score. Two of these graduates came to MSU, while one each went to Carnegie Mellon, Georgia Tech and Harvard.

“The Presidential Endowed Scholarships made it possible for us to keep some of our best and brightest at home,” Portera said.

The Presidential Endowed Scholarships, along with the Oillie Schillig Scholarships, are the university’s most prestigious awards. Collectively, the recipients are known as Distinguished Scholars.

The scholarship awards cover tuition, fees, room and board and books for four years of undergraduate study. Each scholar may also receive assistance in finding a suitable summer research or work internship or an appropriate travel abroad experience to take place following his or her sophomore or junior year. To further enhance the students’ educational experiences, each scholarship recipient is assigned a mentor in the student’s field of study.

Aside from the obvious financial benefits, Distinguished Scholars are provided with numerous opportunities to grow as leaders on campus. Scholars have led Greek organizations, academic clubs, service organizations and even the Student Association. Many volunteer with organizations in Starkville and other nearby communities. Still

others become leading scholars in their fields, participating in research projects along with MSU faculty. The scholars’ impact is felt throughout campus.

“Both Olivia and I were overwhelmed when Leo told us that he wanted to endow a Presidential Scholarship in our names,” Portera said. “For Mr. Mississippi State, Leo Seal, to make such a gesture was very gratifying. We feel honored that he would do this, and it is especially meaningful to us as this program was initiated while we served as president at our alma mater.”

A 1949 banking and finance graduate, Seal is a significant university supporter and longtime Hancock Holding Co. president. He and his family have made important contributions to the university’s business college and also established the Seal Vice President’s Suite in the Hunter Henry Center, home of the MSU Foundation and Alumni Association. In addition, the family has created a variety of student scholarships in business, engineering and forestry. A former Bulldog football player, Seal provided funding for the M-Club building named in honor of his father, the late Leo W. Seal Sr., a two-year football letterman and 1911 graduate of then-Mississippi A&M College.

“Leo is a friend for whom I have great admiration,” Portera said, “and there are three things that I would say about Leo’s commitment to MSU that come from my personal experiences with him. First, his commitments are always significant. Second, they come with no strings attached. Third, they always come early. This man is always first in line to repay his alma mater.”

A Presidential Endowed Scholarship may be established with a minimum gift of \$250,000 that can be paid over a period of five years. For more information, contact Bo Hemphill, executive director of development, at 662.325.3686 or bhemphill@foundation.msstate.edu.

PACCAR

PARTNERS WITH MSU'S BAGLEY COLLEGE OF

ENGINEERING

Mississippi State officials announced a generous gift from PACCAR to endow the PACCAR Chair and Head of Mechanical Engineering in the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering.

“We are extremely grateful to accept this \$2 million donation from PACCAR that supports excellence in engineering at MSU and spurs economic growth in the state,” said Interim MSU President Vance Watson.

“The Bagley College is very appreciative of PACCAR’s support of the engineering faculty and students,” said Dean of Engineering Sarah Rajala. “The endowed chair will help the department retain faculty members, as well as recruit top scholars in the future and assist others already enrolled.”

Endowed positions are among the most significant awards given to tenured faculty members. The invested funds provide salary, benefits and research support, along with a long-term commitment that enables cutting-edge educational development and research projects.

PACCAR is a global leader in the design and manufacture of light-, medium- and heavy-duty trucks under the Kenworth, Peterbilt and DAF nameplates. It is building a 400,000-square-foot plant in Lowndes County that will manufacture industry leading, fuel efficient medium and heavy duty diesel engines. The \$400-million, high-technology facility is scheduled to open in late 2009.

PACCAR engine plant manager Lex Lemmers praised MSU saying: “PACCAR values the strength of Mississippi State’s engineering programs and looks forward to further partnering with the university and its engineering college. PACCAR is committed to being a community leader in supporting education.”

PACCAR’s gift endows the PACCAR Chair in Mechanical Engineering and creates the PACCAR Student Projects Endowment to provide assistance for student projects in the Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems. The Center now houses the PACCAR Boardroom, named to recognize the organization’s contributions.

The Bagley College of Engineering is among the top 15 percent in engineering research expenditures—a ranking above most Southeastern Conference universities. The mechanical engineering department focuses on energy and mechanical systems. Graduate studies are available in all the major areas of the career field.

Additional information about PACCAR is available at www.paccar.com. PACCAR’s stock is traded on the NASDAQ Stock Market under the symbol PCAR.



LEFT: Interim MSU President Vance H. Watson (left) and Bagley College Dean Sarah Rajala (right) accept a \$2 million gift from PACCAR engine plant manager Lex Lemmers.



ABOVE: Watson and Lemmers in the newly-established PACCAR Boardroom.



ABOVE: Students gain valuable hands-on experience through projects now supported by the PACCAR Student Projects Endowment.



rewarding DESIGN

architecture design studio reaches out to Mississippi residents

Quietly and with little fanfare, the staff of Mississippi State's Gulf Coast Community Design Studio is helping families renovate or rebuild more than 50 residential homes, most of whom lost everything in Hurricane Katrina and the ensuing flood. The community outreach branch of the university's School of Architecture in the College of Architecture, Art and Design has been in operation since shortly after the 2005 storm.

The studio works in cooperation with the East Biloxi Coordination, Relief and Redevelopment Agency, a community-led effort usually referred to as the Hope Coordination Center. Located on Division Street, it provides residents with a one-stop resource for recovery.

MSU studio director David Perkes was operating the School of Architecture's Jackson design center when Katrina hit. "When the hurricane came ashore, it only made sense that the community design program should relocate to the coast," the associate professor recalled. "We basically closed shop in Jackson and came down with a small staff to get things running."

Perkes said the team "hit the ground running

and hasn't looked back." Funded largely by a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant, the Harrison County studio involves a staff of 10, including students from MSU and other universities who spend a semester earning both academic credit and considerable hands-on experience in design and construction. In January 2008, a small branch studio was opened in Bay St. Louis to better serve residents on the eastern end of the Mississippi Coast.

Residents seeking to rebuild or renovate damaged homes meet with Hope Center representatives to begin the process and arrange financing. Once financial issues are settled, they shift to the design studio, which provides design plans necessary to begin the construction phase.

Perkes said close cooperation between the independent entities working toward a common goal has made a success of all their efforts. Add to this the reality that a majority of the actual construction must be completed by both short- and long-term volunteer organizations.

He also observed that the design studio's hurried location in 2005 at the Hope Center has



proven, ultimately, to be of tremendous benefit for all concerned.

“We wanted to be right in the middle of things, where the work was,” Perkes said. “Being right in the middle of things has allowed us to become a familiar part of the community, letting residents get to know us personally and not see us as outsiders.”

Participating students also agree that the setup works both ways for them. During semester-long tours of duty, they will spend nearly as much time driving nails and running saws in the neighborhoods as they do behind computer screens at the studio.

“The personal aspect of knowing homeowners by name makes our contributions here much more meaningful,” said architecture major Emily Parsons of Starkville. “When we are working, it isn’t (class) project number such-and-such. It’s Patty’s house.

“The big thing for me is to be able to do something for someone else,” she added. “This is about the people I am going to be able to help and lives I am going to be able to change. It’s very important to me to be able to give residents a home, not just a building or a roof over their heads, but a home.”

Though initial HUD funding is nearing the end, the design studio’s mission is far from over. New funding sources, particularly private support, are being explored, and must be in place to ensure its future.

For more information about the GCCDS, visit www.gccds.org.

Architecture college welcomes new fundraiser



Nathan Moore

MSU’s College of Architecture, Art and Design has welcomed a new fundraiser.

Nathan Moore began his new duties in July. He succeeds Bennett Evans, who recently

became director of development with the university’s Bagley College of Engineering.

“In his new role, Nathan will raise funds for the college and assist with alumni activities,” said Bo Hemphill, the MSU Foundation’s executive director of development. “His knowledge and previous experience with Mississippi State make him a great asset to our development team and the college.”

Moore moves from MSU’s Division of Student Affairs, where he has worked for the past five years. After serving as an admissions counselor, he was, most recently, assistant director of the admissions and scholarships office.

“I’m honored to have been able to help advance Mississippi State through student recruitment,” Moore said. “Now, working with the MSU Foundation will provide an exciting new experience that enables me to continue improving the institution that I love.”

A 2002 MSU political science graduate, he currently is pursuing a master’s degree in public policy and administration.

Persons wishing to learn more about assisting the College of Architecture, Art and Design may contact Moore at 662.325.2542 or nmoore@foundation.msstate.edu.

History in the Making



Martha Swain

IF ONE WERE TO CHRONICLE THE LIFE OF MARTHA HELEN SWAIN, IT WOULD REQUIRE QUITE A FEW PAGES, MANY OF WHICH WOULD PROBABLY FOCUS ON HER LONG ASSOCIATION WITH MISSISSIPPI STATE.

Swain, a Starkville resident, learned life lessons and the historian's craft from two well-known 20th century faculty members at Mississippi State. A memorial gift from the retired history professor recently established the Glover Moore-John K. Bettersworth Endowed Scholarship for undergraduate history majors in the university's College of Arts and Sciences.

"The scholarship honors two distinguished veteran professors and also recognizes one of our most accomplished alumni," said department head Alan I. Marcus. "It also demonstrates how important an undergraduate education can be as the basis for a career.

"Dr. Swain fondly remembers her experi-

ence at Mississippi State and only a truly honorable person such as she would consider supporting the university in this manner," he added.

While pursuing a bachelor's degree at MSU, Swain apprenticed in the department under Bettersworth and Moore. After graduation, she attended Vanderbilt University on a full scholarship.

Swain, who graduated from the Nashville institution in 1954, said her advanced studies would not have been possible without the recommendations of Bettersworth and Moore, the latter a Vanderbilt University doctoral graduate. Among her treasured possessions is

a letter from Vanderbilt History Department Head William C. Binkley, saying he would accept anyone with a recommendation from the two MSU colleagues.

“I learned the historian’s craft of writing, research and publishing by working in the history department at Mississippi State,” Swain explained. “I wanted to honor my major professors by giving back in a way that would allow the university’s history department to mold other students with potential.”

After Vanderbilt, Swain taught 16 years at various institutions before returning to Vanderbilt to earn her doctorate. She also was a 21-year member of the faculty at Texas Woman’s University in Denton, where she continues to hold emerita status.

In addition to teaching students, Bettersworth was MSU’s longtime vice president for academic affairs and the institution’s official historian. He completed “The People’s University: A Centennial History of Mississippi State” in 1978 to update his 1953 original version, “The People’s College.” He also authored the Mississippi history textbook used for many years in the state’s secondary schools.

Moore joined the MSU history faculty in 1936 as the first departmental member with a doctoral degree. Before retiring in 1977, he was honored with selection as a 1970 Outstanding Educator of America and election as president of the Mississippi Historical Society. His most well-known book was “The Missouri Controversy, 1819-1821.”

Swain is the author of three books on Mississippians in Washington during President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal era. She also is co-editor of two volumes of essays on Mississippi women and an associate editor of the Mississippi Encyclopedia.

After retiring in Texas, Swain served as an adjunct member of the MSU history faculty from 1995 to 2004. Over her entire professional career, she has been honored with a Texas Woman’s University distinguished senior faculty award,



Eudora Welty book prize from Mississippi University for Women and the Mississippi Historical Society’s Dunbar Rowland Award for lifetime contributions to state history, among other recognitions. She is a past president of the state historical society and Southern Association of Women Historians.

Growing up, Swain and her family lived in Amory, Tupelo, New Albany, Holly Springs, and Starkville as they moved with their father, Jim Henry Swain, who was a project engineer. Swain and her sisters, Margaret and Mary Elizabeth, earlier endowed another MSU scholarship to honor their late father, a Union County native and 1913 then-Mississippi A&M College graduate. The award supports civil engineering majors.

A love for Mississippi State and for teaching definitely runs in the Swain family. Swain’s mother taught history and English and her sisters became teachers as well.

“I knew I wanted to be a history teacher from the time I was about five years old, and Drs. Bettersworth and Moore certainly helped me fulfill that dream,” Swain says.

Margaret Swain, known to most as “Margo,” was a member of MSU’s faculty from 1969 to 1994, when she retired as director of the social work academic program. Mary Elizabeth Swain Bacon briefly taught political science at Mississippi State and was a longtime faculty member at Kent State University.

STATE OF THE FUTURE *campaign*

State of the Future nears finish, looks to fulfill other goals

The State of the Future capital campaign will draw to a close at the end of December, but much is left to be done at Mississippi State as the university's fundraising staff works to fulfill unrealized goals.

"We continue to seek the support of our alumni and friends in fulfilling many of the still unmet needs at our university," said John Rush, vice president for development and alumni. "With campaign counting nearing the \$450 million mark, the MSU development team has the opportunity to zero in on specific goals for academic units and the university in general."

With many of *State of the Future's* unit goals within reach, fundraising staff are now focusing their efforts on private gifts for specific scholarships, endowed positions in crucial areas, necessary facilities and upgrades as well as campus enhancements.

Gifts for Scholarships

One of the key goals of the *State of the Future* campaign remains scholarships. While many areas have received generous support for annual and endowed scholarships, gifts for scholarships are still needed for all areas, especially those designated for general university.

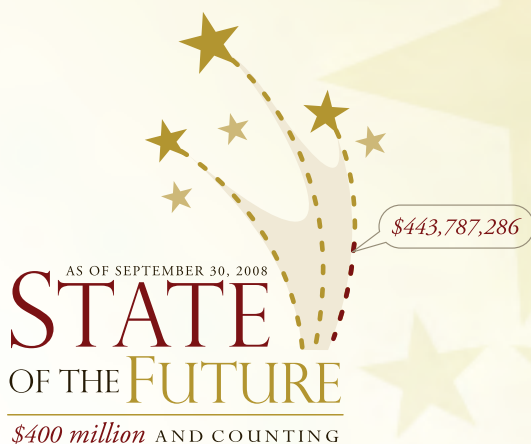
Because of the rising costs of college tuition, many students cannot afford higher education without financial assistance. The Medallion Scholarship Program, launched in the 2008-09 academic year, helps combat this growing problem. The need-based financial awards are helping qualified Mississippi students attend MSU and pursue their dreams of higher education.

"Donors who support the Medallion Scholarship Program give students an opportunity to obtain their degrees without bearing a burden of debt," said Bo Hemphill, executive director of the MSU Foundation. "In turn, the students will go out into the workforce and make a positive difference in the economy of their state."

Scholarships for students attending the MSU-Meridian campus are also a priority for the campaign. Mississippi State continues to seek \$5 million earmarked for scholarships to assist traditional and non-traditional students as they pursue and continue their education at MSU-Meridian. The campus serves primarily East Central Mississippi and West Alabama.

Gifts for endowed positions

During the *State of the Future* campaign, the university has been able to secure commitments



to establish endowed positions in six of its eight colleges. These endowed chairs and professorships will provide outstanding students with the opportunity to learn and research with high-caliber teachers and mentors.

Additional endowed positions will allow MSU to lure top educators to the academic community, who in turn attract significant research support, outstanding graduate students and other distinguished faculty. It takes high-caliber faculty in every area of the university to challenge the best and brightest students to excel in all learning environments.

“Gifts for endowed positions provide our colleges with a competitive edge when compared with peer academic programs throughout the Southeast,” Rush said. “Endowed faculty positions are an incredible asset to our university because they enable our academic units to attract and retain the very best faculty to teach and mentor our students.”

Professorships may be established at Mississippi State with a minimum gift of \$500,000. Over time and with additional contributions, professorships may become endowed chairs. A commitment of \$1.5 million is needed to endow a chair. Amounts required in some colleges may vary.

Gifts for facilities

Long after the campaign closes, its impact will continue as private gifts are used for the renovation and expansion of several campus academic and administrative facilities. To accommodate growth, several units are looking toward expanding their facilities.

A planned major renovation of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences’ Lloyd-Ricks building will return many of the original architectural features to the structure. While much of the funding for the Lloyd-Ricks renovation and expansion project is being supplied by the federal government and the state of Mississippi, a significant amount must be

raised through private gifts. The renovation will provide growth areas for the two academic units housed in the facility, the School of Human Sciences and the Department of Agricultural Economics.

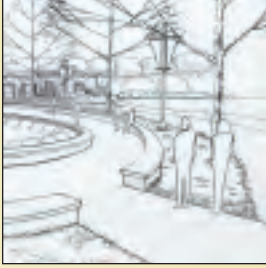
The *State of the Future* campaign ushered in many changes for MSU’s architecture school—not the least of which was its reorganization into a college to include the academic areas of art and design. As the college plans for its future growth, it seeks funds for an addition to Giles Hall which will allow for expansion. In addition, the Bagley College of Engineering seeks private gifts for the planned construction of a building for its Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Alumni and friends may leave a lasting mark on Mississippi State by supporting these facilities. Fundraisers are currently working to pair interested donors with specific opportunities to name classrooms, conference rooms, offices, lounges and laboratories.

Gifts for campus enhancements

Mississippi State is seeking private gifts totaling at least \$25 million for a perpetual fund for the appearance, maintenance and preservation of its campus and grounds. Such an endowment will allow the university to ensure the campus’s infrastructure and physical appearance are both inviting and pride-inspiring for future generations.

To enhance the central part of campus, a new pedestrian corridor will be developed between the recently renovated Colvard Student Union, Perry Cafeteria and McCool and Montgomery Halls. The area, which will be known as Old Main Plaza, will commemorate Old Main, once known as the largest American dormitory under one roof until it was destroyed by fire in 1959. The estimated \$5 million project will be implemented in several phases, each revolving around key areas of the plaza including the Courtyard, the Allee and Bell Island Commons.



Some of the select naming features include:

- Replica arches that duplicate those of Old Main on the approximate site of the originals.
- A 30-foot pedestrian corridor that will link the surrounding buildings and will encompass Old Main Plaza.
- A pedestrian walkway that creates space for outdoor gatherings.

Gifts for *State of the Future* may be made in honor or in memory of a family member, a classmate or even a mentor. All outright gifts, pledges or deferred gifts for Mississippi State through December 31, including those to athletics, will be considered *State of the Future* contributions. Donor may earmark their gifts for the college, school, initiative or priority of their choosing.

The Mississippi State of the future is within reach. Now is the time to consider making a gift or adding to an existing campaign commitment. For more information on *State of the Future*, contact Hemphill at 662.325.8852 or bhemphill@foundation.msstate.edu.

The following individuals, corporations and foundations have made commitments of more than \$50,000 from February 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008, for *State of the Future: The Mississippi State Campaign*.

Mr. Richard C. Adkerson
Dr. Lester Andrews
Asbury Foundation
Mrs. Viola G. Bardsley
Tom Bradshaw
Hines and Linda Brannan
Brasfield and Gorrie Contractors Inc.
Burns Cooley Dennis Inc.
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Mrs. Gail Harpole Cheek
Citicorp
The Citizens Bank of Philadelphia
Mr. and Mrs. Larry A. Cooley
Mr. Steve Davenport
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Driskill
Mr. Ray B. English
Entergy Services Inc.
Mr. John H. Everett
Federal Express
Mr. Harry M. Freeman Jr.
Graphisoft US Inc.
The Griffith Foundation for
Insurance Education

The Hall Foundation Inc.
Hancock County Community
Development Foundation
Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc.
Howard Industries Inc.
Mr. Louis A. Hurst Jr.
Mr. Frank T. Jackson
Mr. Herbert V. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth D. Johnson
Mr. James C. Kennedy
Mr. Ben H. Kennett
Mr. and Mrs. B. Danny Lott Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. John F. Marszalek
Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Martin
Dr. Eugene F. Martin and
Mrs. Pandra Kay Evans
Dr. J. Chester McKee Jr. and
Rev. Barbara McKee
Merial Limited
Henry Mize Charitable Foundation
The G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery
Foundation
PACCAR Foundation

Mr. David C. Puckett III
Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Puckett
Rice Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Rouse
Mr. and Mrs. James T. Rowell
Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Saino Jr.
Mr. Bobby Dale Sanford and
Dr. Regina L. Sanford
Mr. and Mrs. Leo W. Seal Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Mark M. Seymour Sr.
Structural Steel Services Inc.
William L. Thomas
Mr. Charles Cullis Wade
Dr. Clinton E. Wallace
Walton Family Foundation Inc.
Betsy Barrell Weems Estate
Paul L. Wells Estate
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Williamson
Ms. Rebecca Woods

Real

WANT TO CREATE A LEGACY AT MISSISSIPPI STATE?

TRANSFORM YOUR REAL ESTATE ASSETS INTO A MEANINGFUL GIFT FOR MSU

Experts suggest that up to 50 percent of the assets of an individual's wealth are commonly held in real estate. This often overlooked method of giving is a great way to provide Mississippi State University with support for scholarships, endowed faculty positions, new facilities, and program enhancements that might not otherwise be possible. Gifts of real estate to the Bulldog Properties program may be utilized in a variety of ways to benefit both the donor and the university. Donors may also leave a lasting legacy in their family's name by donating timberland to the Bulldog Forest program. In addition to enjoying the fulfillment that comes with supporting MSU through a gift of real estate, you may also receive lifetime income, eliminate the burden of ownership, and gain tax advantages. Are you ready to make a *Real* difference?



Types of real estate gifts which may offer the perfect solution for facilitating a charitable gift include:

- Residential home
- Vacation home or condominium
- Timberland or recreational property
- Agricultural property
- Commercial property
- Investment property
- Undeveloped property

For more information, personalized illustrations based on your individual circumstances, or technical assistance associated with the real estate giving process, please contact a member of our MSU Foundation real estate team today or visit www.msufoundation.com.

Jud Skelton
Director of Development for Real Estate
(662) 325-0643 | jskelton@foundation.msstate.edu

Jeff Little
Director of Development for Bulldog Forest
(662) 325-8151 | jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu

Mississippi State
UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION

MSU is an AA/EEO university.

New professorship, faculty awards assist business college

Mississippi State's College of Business is stepping up its efforts to retain high-caliber faculty. Paving the way is a new professorship made possible through an endowment established by a Columbus couple, along with a series of generous faculty awards created by separate individual gifts.

A \$500,000 gift from John "Nutie" Dowdle and his wife Edie has established a professorship bearing their names. Nutie Dowdle is a 1965 marketing and finance graduate of the business college and the CEO of Dowdle Enterprises.

The professorship will be funded from the income earned by the endowment. The intent of the John Nutie and Edie Dowdle Professorship is to acknowledge exceptionally meritorious faculty or administrators. All professorial faculty members in the college and its Adkerson School of Accountancy of any rank are eligible for consideration.

Professorships may be established in the business college with a minimum gift of \$500,000. Over time and with continued support, professorships may become endowed chairs. A commitment of \$1.5 million is needed to endow a chair in the college.

Additional efforts to maintain outstanding faculty for the business college revolve around much-needed private support for faculty awards. Proceeds from a Notable Scholars Faculty Fund will be used by the college annually for this purpose.

"The Notable Scholars Faculty Fund

addresses the most immediate need of MSU's business college," said Dean Lynne Richardson. "The college will use earnings from the endowment to recruit, reward, and retain our faculty leaders."

The COB Executive Advisory Board recently identified the retention of faculty as a major initiative. In response, board member and college alumnus Richard C. Adkerson made a \$300,000 challenge over the next five years. In year one, Adkerson will match gifts to the Notable Scholars Faculty Fund dollar-for-dollar, up to \$100,000. In years two through five, he will match dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000.

Donors who make an outright gift of at least \$5,000 a year over a five-year period (a \$25,000 pledge) for faculty awards will be known collectively as the Notable Scholars Society, and each gift will help secure a portion of the Adkerson match.

Each year, the Notable Scholars Faculty Fund will support awards for an outstanding faculty member within the College of Business. Selection of the recipient will be made by the college dean and department heads and each award will bear the name of the benefactor.

For more information on assisting the college with its efforts, contact Jack McCarty, the college's development director, at 662.325.9580 or jmccarty@foundaiton.msstate.edu.

Couple's support of university extends to education scholarship

A Texas couple is maintaining even closer ties with Mississippi State by establishing an endowed scholarship in the university's education college.

The scholarship will bear the names of its beneficiaries, Dr. Max E. Jobe and his wife Patricia. The Lindale residents are 1954 education graduates and long-time supporters of the academic unit.

"The College of Education is extremely grateful for alumni like the Jobes who, even though they now reside out of state, realize the importance of giving back in support of scholarships at Mississippi State," said Richard Blackburn, education dean.

The Jobes married in April 1951 prior to entering Mississippi State as juniors. Max is a Corinth native who would go on to earn a doctorate at the University of Georgia. Patricia is originally from Brunswick, Ga.

"I had been an MSU fan since childhood and idolized State," Max Jobe said recently. "There was no other consideration for me than to attend MSU.

"Pat, having attended The University of Georgia, already was a 'bulldog' who transplanted herself as an 'MSU bulldog,'" he shared.

The Jobes worked their way through college. "There were few scholarships and no student loans during our time at State," he recalled. "I had been in service and received money under the GI Bill. Pat worked part-time on campus for a professor."

Following graduation from MSU, the Jobes taught for a couple of years in the Natchez School



Max and Patricia Jobe

System. Max Jobe went on to become a 26-year member of the education faculty at Texas A&M University - Commerce, where he continues to hold emeritus status.

The now-retired Patricia Jobe spent a decade as an accountant with the Exxon Mobil Corp., and was able to maximize the couple's gifts to MSU over the years through her company's well-known matching gifts program.

"We've been able to take advantage of matching gifts from Exxon Mobil through the years which have strengthened the power of our contributions to Mississippi State, making it a manageable way to now support an MSU scholar," said Patricia Jobe.

Jobe Scholars must be full-time MSU students who have completed at least 30 semester hours toward a degree in any education major.

UPDATE ON

RECOGNITION

CLUBS

The MSU Foundation is always looking for ways to better recognize and reward the loyalty and support of our donors. For this reason, we recently re-organized our giving clubs to help us better emphasize donors' cumulative support of our university, and I want to take this opportunity to share these changes with you.

As most of you know, the Legacy of Leadership recognizes cumulative lifetime giving beginning at \$50,000. We have recently added the J. Charles Lee Associates to this distinguished group. The J. Charles Lee Associates was established in honor of Mississippi State University's 17th president, J. Charles Lee, who served from 2002 to 2006. This club level now recognizes those whose cumulative lifetime contributions are from \$250,000 to \$499,999.

We have also restructured the way President's Club donors are recognized. Instead of recognizing annual contributions, President's Club recognition now will be based on a donor's cumulative lifetime giving. This change from annual to lifetime recognition, we feel, is a more accurate acknowledgement of a donor's support of Mississippi State University.

The new President's Club has two giving levels: The President's Partner level recognizes cumulative lifetime gifts from \$25,000 to \$49,999. The President's Associates level recognizes cumulative gifts from \$10,000 to \$24,999.

As always, our goal is to recognize the overwhelming generosity of the men and women—like you—who assist Mississippi State in fulfilling its mission of providing the highest level of excellence in academic, research, and service programs.

We thank you for your loyal support!



Cathy Lammons

DIRECTOR OF DONOR RELATIONS

Gift establishes endowment for agricultural research center

Although Lester Andrews now resides in Charlottesville, Va., he maintains strong ties to Mississippi and the state's largest university. A unique gift from Andrews will honor his late father, a former MSU professor of agronomy.



Lester Andrews

Andrews has made a significant gift of 690 acres of land located in Oktibbeha County. The gift will establish the W. B. Andrews Agricultural Systems Research Center in the Mississippi

Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. MAFES is the principal research arm of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine.

"I thought that our family farm would be an excellent site for Mississippi State to continue pioneering agricultural research. It is my hope that new discoveries will be made from experiments done on this farm that will benefit the farmers of Mississippi and people everywhere," Andrews said.

The late William Baker Andrews graduated from then-Mississippi A&M in 1929 and also earned a master's degree in 1931. After receiving a doctorate from Michigan State in 1936, he joined the Mississippi State College faculty. During his time as an agronomy professor, he was a pioneer in research to use anhydrous ammonia

as a fertilizer, performing experiments on local small farms in the 1940s. The application of anhydrous ammonia as a fertilizer was later recognized as one of the top 10 agricultural developments of the 20th century.

The Andrews Center will be designed to meet the growing demands of agriculture and will provide an environment for MSU scientists and students to pursue state-of-the-art research with geographic information systems, new plant varieties, crop management systems and numerous other projects.

"The Andrews Center will be the site of research with cotton, soybeans, corn and other traditional Mississippi crops, as well as crops that are taking on new economic importance in the state," said Melissa Mixon, interim vice president for the division and interim dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Through his gift, Andrews wishes to further the groundbreaking agriculture research being done at Mississippi State just as his father did until he left the university in 1957 for a career with Mississippi Chemical Corp.

Lester Andrews grew up in Starkville while his father was teaching at the university. He graduated from Mississippi State in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and earned a doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley in 1966. Andrews currently serves as a professor of chemistry at the University of Virginia, where his areas of expertise include spectroscopy and photochemistry.

Enjoy twelve months of
MSU's beauty and spirit.



Enjoy the beauty and spirit of the
MSU campus each month with the
2009 hanging wall calendar.

The beautiful pictures of familiar places and campus scenes will bring back memories of times shared with MSU colleagues, friends and family. The official MSU calendar has become a Bulldog tradition. With pictures taken by MSU's very own award-winning photographers, it's truly a special piece. To get your calendar today or to order one as a gift for an MSU friend or family member, contact the MSU Foundation at 1-877-MSSTATE or order online at www.msufoundation.com.

Mississippi State
UNIVERSITY

Foundation offers two unique avenues for giving real estate

The MSU Foundation now has two methods, both dealing with real estate and timberland, through which donors may support the institution.

The Bulldog Properties and Bulldog Forest programs enable donors to support MSU through gifts of real property. Donors may designate their real estate or timberland gifts to benefit any academic college or area on campus.

“The new focus on real estate assets is a natural progression in the Foundation’s growth,” said John Rush, vice president for development and alumni. “We can now be more proactive in assisting alumni and friends who are interested in making a significant charitable gift through methods other than outright gifts.”

Rush said the types of real estate gifts can include: residential homes; vacation homes and condominiums; timberland and recreational property; agricultural, commercial, investment, and undeveloped property; and mineral interests.

“As much as 50 percent of an individual’s assets commonly are held in real estate,” said Bo Hemphill, executive director of development. “It is our hope that this often overlooked method of giving will allow donors to transform their real assets into meaningful gifts for MSU.”

As part of the organization’s expanded mission, veteran fundraisers Jud Skelton and Jeff Little are assuming additional administrative roles. Skelton will direct the Bulldog Properties program, while Little will coordinate the Bulldog Forest program. Both fundraisers will continue



Jud Skelton



Jeff Little

their respective roles as development directors for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Forest Resources.

Donors who choose to support Mississippi State through gifts of real estate may benefit in a variety of ways including: receiving a lifetime income, eliminating the burden of ownership and gaining certain tax advantages.

Donating timberland to MSU’s Bulldog Forest program also allows donors to leave a lasting legacy in their family’s name. Properties may be held by the university for an extended period of time with funds generated from timber sales, hunting leases, oil and gas leases, conservation programs and other means being used by the university for a donor specified purpose.

For details about the new programs, contact Skelton at 662.325.0643 or Little at 662.325.8151, or visit www.msufoundation.com.

BUILDING

OUR

FUTURE

For seven years, we have pursued a dream of raising at least \$400 million to enhance a wide variety of campus programs at MSU. The *State of the Future* campaign has been a way of life for our staff at the MSU Foundation as well as for our generous supporters. It's almost impossible to find an area on our great campus that hasn't been positively touched by this campaign. As we approach the \$450 million milestone, let's reflect on what your gifts really mean to our university.

- **Scholarship Support**—Over \$80 million has been contributed to support endowed scholarships and fellowships. These funds enable MSU to recruit quality students, some of whom would be unable to pursue higher education without financial support, and prepare them for their future.
- **Faculty Support**—Over \$42 million has been contributed to support endowed faculty funds that can recruit and retain nationally recognized faculty members to teach our students and produce quality research that can change our lives.
- **Facility Support**—Over \$43 million has been contributed to build or renovate our facilities and improve the overall beauty of our campus.
- **Program Support**—Over \$52 million has been contributed to transform programs into nationally recognized centers of excellence, such as the Bagley College of Engineering, the Shackouls Honors College, and the Adkerson School of Accountancy.

What does this mean to Mississippi State? It means that more students than ever before are able to pursue their education here. It means that our faculty are more numerous and more qualified than ever before. And it means that our facilities and programs are growing and improving to meet the challenges of today's world. Most importantly, it means that thousands of alumni and friends believe in our mission and, for this reason, have chosen to support our endeavors.

The *State of the Future* campaign will officially end this December. If you haven't supported this tremendously successful effort, I challenge you to do so today as we build our university into the Mississippi State of the future.



Bo Hemphill

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Corporate support will provide scholarships for MSU-Meridian

A gift from a Lauderdale County manufacturing company is creating a scholarship endowment at Mississippi State's Meridian campus.

Structural Steel Services Inc. recently committed \$200,000 for academic awards, with first preference being given to the company's employees and their children. The gift is another in the university's continuing effort to increase the number of scholarship funds earmarked specifically for the Meridian campus.

"As a lifelong Meridian resident, I am extremely happy to reward Structural Steel employees and dependents who wish to continue their education at MSU-Meridian," said Tommy Dulaney, company president and chief executive officer. "We believe this endowment will also impact the community by providing scholarships for other worthy recipients."

Founded in 1975, Structural Steel Services Inc. employs about 350 individuals in the fabrication of structural steel products for use in the construction industry.

Fundraising efforts for MSU-Meridian primarily involve scholarship gifts that may become part of the MSU Foundation's permanent endowment to support academically achieving students.

"Support from local corporations and industries such as Structural Steel Services enhances what the Meridian campus does for the area," said MSU-Meridian Dean Donna L. Clevinger.



"Our campus is thriving as we work to expand our course offerings for area residents and local employees who wish to pursue their educational goals while maintaining important roles in their family, job and community," she added.

MSU-Meridian was established in 1972 as a regional degree-granting campus of the state's largest land-grant institution. Primarily serving a 35-county area in East Central Mississippi and West Alabama, Mississippi State's Meridian branch enrolls more than 750 students in day, evening and weekend classes, as well as online and distance-learning courses. Degrees are offered through three academic divisions: Arts and Sciences, Business and Education.

Commitments for MSU-Meridian scholarships may be made in the form of outright gifts or multi-year pledges. For more information on MSU-Meridian fundraising efforts, contact Josh Thompson, development officer for MSU-Meridian, at 662.325.8227, 601.484.0493 or jthompson@foundation.msstate.edu.

Three fundraisers assume new positions

Two Mississippi State fundraising veterans are now filling key roles with the Bagley College of Engineering, and an MSU alumnus has assumed fundraising leadership in student affairs.



Bennett Evans

Bennett Evans is the new director of development for the Bagley College, while Brett Aldridge has assumed the duties of assistant director.

"Bennett and Brett have performed superbly in their

respective university roles and are the caliber of fundraisers now needed for the engineering college," said Bo Hemphill, executive director of development.

Since 2002, Evans has led development efforts for the College of Architecture, Art and Design. A third generation alumnus of the university, the Columbus native holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's in public policy and administration. Prior to returning to campus, Evans worked for eight years with Boy Scouts of America.

Aldridge comes to the engineering college from the university's Division of Student Affairs, where he has served in a similar position since 2006. A 2005 MSU communication/public relations graduate from Pensacola, Fla., Aldridge was an account executive with BellSouth in



Brett Aldridge

Birmingham, Ala., before joining the MSU Foundation.

Aldridge is succeeded by Richard Daniel, who is the new director of development for the Division of Student Affairs. Daniel, a

1990 business administration graduate, comes to the MSU fundraising team from a successful sales career. Most recently, he was the Memphis-area sales manager for the Gleason Technical Division of Baton Rouge, La.-based AWC Inc.



Richard Daniel

In his role, Daniel works with the major university unit responsible for enrollment services, housing, financial aid, health services, student organizations, counseling, police, recreational

sports, and other student service functions.

"We have great confidence in Richard to lead our fundraising efforts for student affairs," Hemphill said. "His previous experience, coupled with a deep appreciation of MSU, will assist him immensely."

Excellence fund enhances landscape architecture area

One of Mississippi State's oldest academic units, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is now benefiting from an excellence fund created by one of its graduates.



Hollis Cheek

Hollis Cheek established the J. C. Cheek Contractors Inc. Excellence Fund at Mississippi State in the Department of Landscape Architecture. He is a 1970 landscape archi-

tecture graduate who is president of the Kosciusko-based company.

The excellence fund will serve a three-fold mission for the department. It will establish a lecture series that will enable students to interact with nationally-recognized professionals in the field of landscape architecture and landscape contracting. Secondly, the excellence fund will provide enhancement and development opportunities for students and faculty to attend scholarly, leadership, research related and professional meetings. Thirdly, it will provide funds for undergraduate and graduate level scholarships as needed.

Cheek currently serves as president of J.C. Cheek Contractors Inc., which has offices in Mississippi and Alabama and performs contracts for state and federal agencies and general contractors throughout the South. In addition to his

work with his firm, he also directs the operations of Techno-Catch LLC and Old Trace Coffee Co.

Cheek says he supports the university because "my years at State influenced me to realize we are our successes, failures, hopes and visions."

The Marshall, Texas, native not only supports his alma mater through his resources, but also with his time. He serves on the MSU Foundation Board of Directors. He was also selected by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as its 2007 Alumni Fellow, taking part in the program which brings graduates of distinction back to campus each fall to share with students specific competencies, attitudes and efforts required for success. Fellows carry the title for life.

Mississippi State's landscape architecture program is among the top 15 in the nation as ranked by a national publication in its annual survey of architecture and design schools.

For more information on supporting the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, contact Jud Skelton, director of development, at 662.325.0643 or jskelton@foundation.msstate.edu.

John and Dee Hyland



NAME: John and Dee Hyland

HOMETOWN: Vicksburg, Miss.

HISTORY: John married Dee Trammell nearly 48 years ago, and the couple raised three daughters—each of whom attended Mississippi State. His 43-year Farm Bureau career earned him the distinction of longest continuing service by a Mississippi agent. These days, John entertains himself on a 2,000-acre farm that originated with a Spanish land grant and has belonged to his family since at least 1792.

GIVING TO MSU: John established his first planned gift with MSU in 1981. Later, in 2003, he transferred stock to fund a \$116,000 gift annuity—the John and Dee Hyland Memorial Endowed Fund.

John says the gift annuity provided unexpected tax benefits, and the monthly annuity payments will supplement Dee's income for the rest of her life.

The couple's support of MSU has included various scholarships and advancement programs. One such gift came in the form of a 1938 John Deere Model 38B pull-type combine to the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station. Well maintained and in excellent condition, the combine can be viewed at the antique equipment display located at the MAFES Conference Center.

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J. F. “Bud” Thompson Jr. | *Bulldog Club President*, Meridian

James K. Dossett | *Legal Counsel*, Jackson



MSU **foundations**

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The Mississippi State Campaign

Her future is the *State of the Future*. Make sure she has the facilities, professors and programs to make it a bright one. Make a gift today. Call 877-677-8283 or visit www.msufoundation.com.

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