

Fall 2007

## Foundations

Karen Brasher

Amy Cagle

Bo Hemphill

Laura Beck Kitchens

Bob Ratliff

*See next page for additional authors*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/msuf-foundations>

---

### Recommended Citation

Brasher, Karen; Cagle, Amy; Hemphill, Bo; Kitchens, Laura Beck; Ratliff, Bob; Riley, Kristy; and Mississippi State University Foundation, "Foundations" (2007). *MSUF Foundations Newsletter*. 2.  
<https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/msuf-foundations/2>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Mississippi State University Foundation at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in MSUF Foundations Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact [scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com](mailto:scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com).

---

**Authors**

Karen Brasher, Amy Cagle, Bo Hemphill, Laura Beck Kitchens, Bob Ratliff, Kristy Riley, and Mississippi State University Foundation

# foundations

FALL 2007 | VOL. 7 NO. 2

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION



*Richard C. Adkerson*  
*creates endowment for School of Accountancy*

Spend every day  
on campus.



**With the new 2008 MSU hanging wall calendar, you'll feel like you're on the Mississippi State campus every day.**

Enjoy beautiful pictures of familiar places and campus scenes that bring back special memories of time spent at State. The official MSU calendar has become a Bulldog tradition. With pictures taken by MSU's own award-winning photographers, it's truly a one-of-a-kind treasure.

To get yours today, contact the MSU Foundation at 1-877-MSSTATE or visit [www.msufoundation.com](http://www.msufoundation.com).

**Mississippi State**  
UNIVERSITY

<b>Adkerson gift creates endowment for School of Accountancy</b>	<b>2</b>
Mississippi State names university's school of accountancy for benefactor	
<b>Nurturing a beautiful campus</b>	<b>4</b>
University seeks gifts for appearance and preservation endowment	
<b>Getting to know MSU's newest vice president</b>	<b>8</b>
An interview with John P. Rush, vice president for development and alumni	
<b>Veterinary initiatives teach compassion and volunteerism</b>	<b>10</b>
New clinic and "Homeward Bound" program provide opportunities for students and communities	
<b>Campus romance becomes part of Maroon Mile</b>	<b>14</b>
Alumni, friends and students can join the university's newest brick program	
<b>Striking a chord with new facility</b>	<b>16</b>
University band and choral groups move into new state-of-the-art building	
<b>Memorial scholarship brings MSU graduate full circle</b>	<b>18</b>
Widow keeps late spouse's memory alive through scholarship	
<b>Endowed chairs, professorships part of <i>State of the Future's</i> capital success</b>	<b>20</b>
University adds five new endowed positions in four of the university's colleges	
<b>Campaign donor roll</b>	<b>22</b>
A listing of donors with commitments of \$50,000 and up to <i>State of the Future</i> , March 1, 2007, through August 31, 2007	

## DEPARTMENTS

<b>Foundation News</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Foundation Notes</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Foundation Briefs</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Impact of Giving</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>33</b>

*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.*



# RICHARD C. ADKERSON

*Furthering a vision*



## Adkerson gift creates endowment for School of Accountancy

There's two things alumnus Richard Adkerson can always count on at Mississippi State University—its people and its potential for the future.

During his time as an accounting student in the late 1960s, Adkerson developed lifelong friendships with a group of mentors he now considers “family”—learning much more than just the fundamentals for a career in accountancy.

Motivated by the success he attributes to his accounting degree and his passion for MSU, Adkerson has chosen to establish an endowment for the university's School of Accountancy which

will create two endowed faculty positions and establish an operating fund for the school.

In recognition of his generosity, the school will now be known as the Richard C. Adkerson School of Accountancy in the College of Business and Industry. The generous endowment will enable Mississippi State to join the ranks of five other Southeastern Conference universities with named schools of accountancy.

“It is a goal of mine to help the School of Accountancy continue its long tradition of excellence in preparing students for successful careers in the accounting profession and beyond,” Adkerson said. “My vision for the school is to see it move from one with a solid academic reputation to one of the leading accountancy schools in the nation.”



**Below:** Adkerson with one of his former accounting professors, Dora Herring, and her son, Clyde.



**Top:** Hundreds of MSU faculty, staff and friends, along with the entire MSU men's basketball team, attended the announcement ceremony, which was held in the Hunter Henry Center. **Left:** MSU President Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong (left) and interim accounting school director Clyde Herring (right) announced the naming of the Richard C. Adkerson (center) School of Accountancy.



The Mississippi native earned a bachelor's degree with highest honors in accountancy from MSU in 1969, and a master's in business administration the following year. In 1970, he scored the second highest nationally on the CPA examination. He is also a graduate of the Harvard Business School's Management Program.

Adkerson has always been a Bulldog about his career, rising to every challenge placed in his path. Today, he is the president and chief executive officer of Phoenix-based Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc., the world's largest publicly traded copper producer. He also serves as co-chairman of New Orleans-based McMoRan Exploration Co., a NYSE oil and gas exploration and production company.

Adkerson certainly understands the importance of private support in moving Mississippi State forward. He serves as leader of the *State of the Future* volunteer steering committee and serves as president of the MSU Foundation Board of Directors.

Adkerson's gift is the third for a named academic unit thus far in the university's ongoing *State of the Future* capital campaign, and the fourth in university history.

"The Adkerson endowment is so important because the degree of funding needed to support a leading accounting and tax education program at Mississippi State is beyond what can be provided through the annual operating budget," explains Lynne Richardson, dean of the College of Business and Industry.

The Adkerson endowment of the School of Accountancy will enable Mississippi State to compete effectively for top students and offer undergraduate and master's degrees in accounting and taxation to a wider array of students than is currently possible. The endowment also will provide funds to enable MSU to compete internationally for excellent faculty to enhance the reputation of the program outside the southern United States.

Adkerson began his career as an accountant with Arthur Andersen & Co. in New Orleans. He joined Freeport-McMoRan, then-headquartered in New Orleans, in 1989.

"Fond memories of mentors and a belief in the future of the accountancy program led me to make this gift, and I encourage others to support Mississippi State in ways that are meaningful to them," Adkerson said.





NUTURING A *beautiful campus*

Visitors, returning alumni and friends, and even prospective students and their parents often take the allure of MSU's campus for granted. They often overlook the countless hours and financial resources needed for the university to maintain one of the most striking campuses in the Southeast.

Since proper maintenance and upkeep of the university's nearly 4,200 acres are an essential part of its environment, 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, through the "Reach for Excellence" initiative, will allow Mississippi State to maintain its aesthetically pleasing campus and lush grounds, ensuring the campus infrastructure and physical



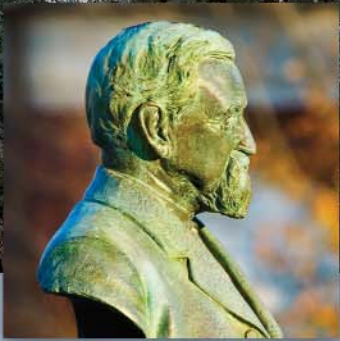


appearance are both inviting and pride-inspiring for future generations.

Private gifts for the much-needed endowment will enhance the general appearance of campus, including landscaping. Use of endowment funds will extend to the interior and exterior renovation of certain historic buildings already in existence as well.

A detailed master plan for the Mississippi State campus calls for enhancements of centrally located “green space” and pedestrian-friendly areas. In the coming years, funds will be needed for the replacement of trees on the interior of campus, particularly near the historic Drill Field. New walkways are needed and environmental safety concerns must be addressed as well. Since even routine annual maintenance of the campus grounds can prove costly, funds from an endowment can mitigate these costs.

Two special fundraising drives are part of the endowment initiative as well—Veterans Memorial Rose Garden and Old Main Plaza.



## VETERANS MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN

Delicate petals of beautiful flowers beckon visitors into an extraordinary rose garden at Mississippi State. The MSU Veterans Memorial Rose Garden is located at the Highway 182 entrance to the R. Rodney Foil Plant Science and Research Facility in the area historically known as North Farm.

MSU researchers began working with landscape roses at the university in the early 1980s and the garden has stemmed from their efforts. The garden honors those alumni and university personnel who have served valiantly in military service.

Landscape architect Daryl Ray designed the garden, which features raised brick beds encircling a central gazebo and an arched wooden bridge at the entrance.

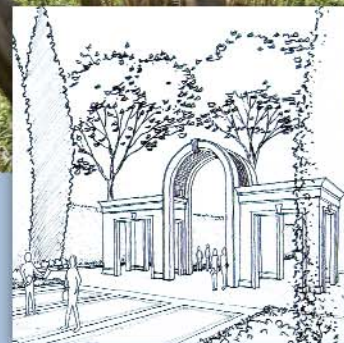
An arboretum with a variety of plants will be located adjacent to the rose garden. Like the rose garden, the arboretum will be available to the public for special events, as well as for teaching and research. Both the rose garden and arboretum offer local growers the opportunity to learn skills from some of the university's expert horticulturists by volunteering for pruning and other tasks in a beautiful learning environment.

Support for the project has flowed in from enthusiasts around the state. Most of the rose varieties in the garden were donated, as were additional plant materials and labor for the project. Specific features within the garden are available for naming with gifts of varying amounts.

## OLD MAIN PLAZA

Delving into its history as then-Mississippi A&M, a new campus area will commemorate Old Main, once known as the largest American dormitory under one roof until it was destroyed by fire in 1959.

Drawing on elements from the original facility, a new pedestrian corridor—to be called Old Main Plaza—will be developed between the newly renovated Colvard Student Union, Perry Cafeteria and McCool and Montgomery Halls. The estimated \$5 million project will be implemented in several phases. Each phase revolves around central features known as the Courtyard, the Allee and Bell Island Commons.



## SPECIAL FEATURES OF OLD MAIN PLAZA

- Replica arches that duplicate those of Old Main will be constructed at the approximate site of the originals. They will create a visual “axis” between the Drill Field bust of Stephen D. Lee and the arched entrance doors of Perry Cafeteria.
- A 30-foot pedestrian corridor will link the surrounding buildings and will encompass Old Main Plaza.
- Lee Boulevard, north of Colvard Student Union and Perry Cafeteria, will become a pedestrian walkway that creates space for outdoor gatherings.
- Tracy Drive, between Lloyd Ricks and Perry Cafeteria, as well as Walker Drive, south of Hull Hall and the Chapel of





Memories, will be improved to create a more efficient traffic flow and to complete a loop around the historic central campus.

- A new fountain will be constructed as a visual centerpiece north of Perry Cafeteria.

### **BUILDING AN ENDOWMENT**

Alumni and friends may name benches, fountains, plantings, and other outdoor structures with a minimum \$5,000 gift to the Campus Appearance and Preservation Endowment plus the cost of the project. Projects with significant

ongoing costs may require an endowment sufficient to cover these additional costs. Gifts may be made in honor or in memory of a family member, a classmate or even a mentor.

Persons wishing to invest in the beauty of MSU as well as those who are specifically interested in the Veterans Memorial Rose Garden or Old Main Plaza may contact Bo Hemphill, executive director of development, at 662.325.8852 or [bhemphill@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:bhemphill@foundation.msstate.edu).





*Getting to know  
MSU's newest  
vice president*

# JOHN Rush

John P. Rush, a native of Leakesville, was named vice president for development and alumni in June. Since that time, he has been busy closing out a third consecutive \$50 million plus giving year for Mississippi State, ushering in perhaps the home stretch of the *State of the Future* campaign. In addition, he and his wife, Jennifer, recently welcomed their first child. With a busy professional and personal life, he set a little time aside to talk about his two new roles.

**Your new role as vice president puts you at the helm of a new division—Development and Alumni. What can we expect from this newly re-organized unit?**

Our alumni and friends can expect a greater focus on the activities of our Alumni Association and Foundation and their related service back to the university. The new organization allows us to focus more precisely on connecting with those who support us so dearly.

**Let's take a closer look at each unit individually. What are your long-term goals for the MSU Foundation?**

First, we want to see a strong finish to the *State of the Future* campaign. We have an incredible opportunity to reach our goal a full year ahead of the projected pace. We'll then channel the energy generated from that success into the "Reach for Excellence" initiative, which will help us meet the remaining critical needs. We'll also focus on growing our endowment, which now stands at about \$280 million, to \$500 million with the help of our Foundation Board of Directors.

We'll continue to focus on increasing general university scholarships. While departmental scholarships are incredible, general university scholarships give the students the freedom to explore all MSU has to offer without incurring a financial penalty.

And we need to focus on increasing the number of benefactors. Thirteen percent of our alumni are giving back—which is above the national average—but we need to expand that percentage if we are going to cultivate the next generation of major donors.

**And now let's take a look at the Alumni Association. What are your long-term goals for that crucial arm of the division?**

We need to have even more of our over 100,000 alumni actively engaged with MSU, whether that means giving financially through the Annual Fund or creating awareness of the university in local communities. Bottom line—our job is to produce graduates, and we believe our alumni are the best on the market. We will strive to demonstrate that whenever and wherever we can.

Second, you'll see a greater focus on the activities of the Alumni Association and its 87 local chapters throughout the country. Local chapters allow us to connect with our fellow Bulldogs at the grassroots level, and we'll continue to use that resource to communicate with our alumni and friends.

**You joined the MSU staff in 1994 as an enrollment counselor. You've since climbed the ranks through the Foundation, serving as development officer and director of development for the Bagley College of Engineering as well as director of major gifts for the MSU Foundation before assuming your latest role. Tell us about your various university positions and what you've learned from each.**

My job as an enrollment counselor was one of the greatest jobs ever. I was able to develop relationships with future students and then see those students come to State and grow and mature—it was an amazing experience. I'm still close to many of the students I recruited.

When I had the opportunity to join the development effort in the College of Engineering, I just knew I had to take it. The mentoring I received through that position was immeasurable.

When I became the director of major gifts, I broadened my understanding of the university as a whole. I was very focused, as I am today, on how we were progressing, meeting our goals, and making MSU better.

**Earlier this year, in addition to taking on a new role as vice president, you also gained the new role of first-time father. Tell us about your family.**

My wife, Jennifer, is fantastic. I couldn't do what I do for MSU without her. She is a perfect complement to me and my personality. She is also a great asset in her role as assistant general counsel for the university.

Our daughter, Ann Garvin, is the greatest thing. She brings a whole new level of responsibility. I'm in absolute awe of her. It's amazing that someone who doesn't speak can control everything you do.

**Is she a future Bulldog?**

She's already been admitted! A few days after her birth, we received a certificate of acceptance admitting her to the class of 2025. That was the best baby gift we received.





# HUMANANE *intervention*

## *Veterinary initiatives teach compassion and volunteerism*

Traveling into communities and states where they are needed and taking their newly acquired knowledge and skills with them is a common theme these days for students at Mississippi State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. The students are gaining real-world exposure thanks to several significant initiatives the college is currently supporting—from a special program called “Homeward Bound” to a new mobile animal clinic.

### *“Homeward Bound”*

Finding loving homes for pets—it's a simple concept being put into operation by a small group of concerned MSU veterinary students as they enter their second year of study.

“Homeward Bound” is a program in which healthy adoptable pets from Mississippi shelters are transported to homes and shelters in other states for placement. The program is the brain-child of several classmates from the Northeast. Krista Gazzola from Deerfield, N.H.; SaraRose Knox of Brookfield, Mass.; Allison Bliss of Buffalo, N.Y.; and Megan Caulfield, also of New York; were busy this summer with hands-on placement of pets in their home states.



When the students learned how many dogs and cats were being euthanized in Mississippi shelters, they decided to launch their own rescue mission.

“It’s amazing how successful this project has been through just word of mouth,” explained Krista, who persuaded some local veterinarians to donate their services while she was home for the summer in New Hampshire.

Through “Homeward Bound,” dogs and cats are examined, tested for contagious diseases and behavioral problems, and transported to

other shelters where their chances



of adoption are significantly stronger. The program has placed about 120 pets since May by partnering with the Columbus-Lowndes Humane Society.

Dr. Meg Sutton, a veterinarian with the Columbus clinic and an MSU alumnus, along with her husband Justin Sutton are actively engaged in the program as well.

“It has been a great pleasure to see the painstaking preparation, thought and affection these MSU students have put into this program,” Sutton said.

With just a \$100 contribution, individuals may adopt a healthy pet through “Homeward Bound.” Half of the proceeds revert back to the Columbus-Lowndes Humane Society and the

remainder offsets transportation costs for the non-profit program. The fee covers the spay or neuter; the first set of vaccinations, including kennel cough; a Rabies vaccination (if the animal is old enough); deworming; and transport of the animal. Additional funds for the project are available through an endowment for the Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare Professorship at MSU.

“Animals, just like humans, deserve caring homes, and every pet we place is a success story that I will always remember,” states Krista, who has lovingly rescued and adopted several companion animals as she continues her studies toward becoming a veterinarian.

### *Mobile Animal Clinic*

MSU veterinary students also are gaining valuable hands-on knowledge and becoming even more aware of the role of animal shelters as volunteers with a new mobile unit.

Students in the CVM primary care rotation and those enrolled in the shelter medicine elective have the opportunity to participate in

the program. Other veterinary medicine students may also volunteer.

The mobile unit, made possible through a grant from the American Kennel Club Companion Animal Recovery, was acquired in early 2007 by CVM and is equipped as a surgical suite.

Contributions from the Humane Society of the United States, along with other private contributions, provide funding for the unit’s operation. HSUS played a major role in animal rescue efforts in south Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina. Because of that experience, the organization decided to invest significant resources to reduce the number of unwanted and homeless dogs and cats in the state.



The mobile unit is used to conduct spay and neuter programs in economically depressed areas of the state for pet owners who otherwise could not afford the service. The vehicle also travels to humane shelters around the state for spay and neuter days.

The goal of the unit, said Philip Bushby, professor of surgery and Marcia Lane Professor of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare, is to increase the frequency of trips in support of local humane shelters and to increase awareness of veterinary services.

“The mobile clinic will help thousands of pets in the state live longer, healthier lives, while reducing the number of stray and unwanted animals,” he said. “It also will introduce a segment of the population to the services provided by their local veterinarians.”

“The mobile unit teaches us to apply our

clinical skills in a way that emphasizes efficiency and cost-effective care while maintaining a high quality of practice,” said CVM student Ashley Martindale of Pampa, Texas. “It allows us to learn while we provide a service to our communities and to the animals that are our responsibility as citizens.”

Alumni and friends of the university may assist the College of Veterinary Medicine with a number of initiatives, including the Homeward Bound program and the Mobile Animal Clinic, by contacting Keith Gaskin, senior director of development, at 662.325.3815 or [kgaskin@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:kgaskin@foundation.msstate.edu).





**Top left:** Dr. Philip Bushby advises and mentors students by way of the Mobile Animal Clinic and the "Homeward Bound" program.

## **CVM Class of 2010: Creating its legacy today**

Although students of the College of Veterinary Medicine's Class of 2010 have several more years of instruction ahead, class members already realize they can positively impact their future profession and assist their college with its goals.

The class recently pledged \$10,000 to the Pegasus Partners Fund—an endowment that will aid the veterinary college in perpetuity—making them the first CVM class to contribute to the fund.

“Our class is serious about our education and about those students who follow behind us,” said Keith Youngblood of Laurel, class president. “The contributions made by people that preceded us have made it possible for us to have a better opportunity for an education.”

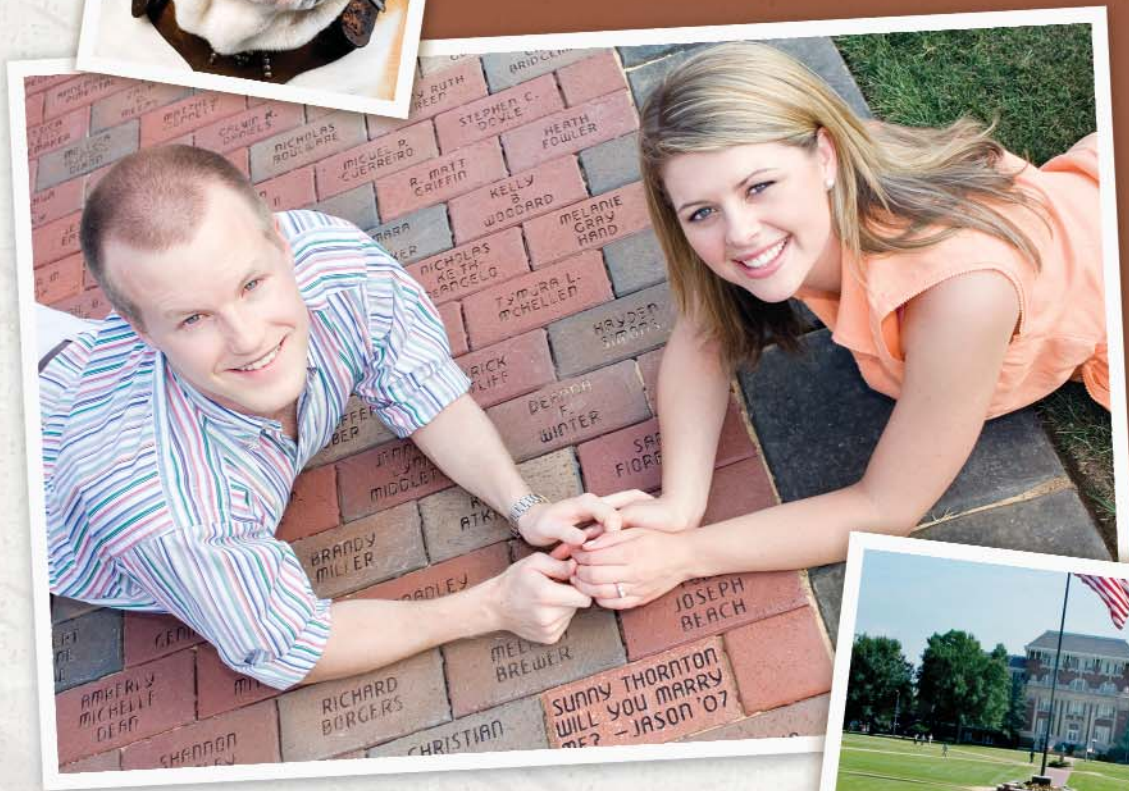
The Pegasus Partners Fund was established as a way to enrich the activities within the veterinary college. CVM is seeking additional funds to reach the \$2.5 million goal for the endowment. Individuals or groups may become Pegasus Partners by contributing \$10,000 or more over a five-year period. Each donor will receive a Pegasus Partner statue and an engraved nameplate on the college's donor recognition wall.

Youngblood and his classmates will donate \$500 of class dues annually to the fund. Additional funds to fulfill the \$2,000 per year pledge will be secured in various ways.



# campus romance

*becomes part of the Maroon Mile*



Jason Noffsinger and his fiancée, Sunny Thornton, with their Maroon Mile marker.



When MSU alumnus and Starkville native Jason Noffsinger decided to make a truly memorable proposal to his girlfriend, he wanted it to last forever.

The proposal, which reads “Sunny Thornton, Will You Marry Me?” is now set in stone on MSU’s historic drill field, making it part of the university’s newest brick project, the Maroon Mile.

Through a gift to the MSU Annual Fund, names and special messages, like Jason’s proposal, may become a part of the Maroon Mile—a campaign to pave the sidewalks and walkways of the historic Drill Field and other parade grounds with individualized brick pavers that, when laid end-to-end, would stretch one mile or more.

Jason graduated from Mississippi State in 2005 with a degree in microbiology and is currently enrolled in an accelerated nursing program, training to become a nurse anesthetist. Sunny, a Brandon native, graduated in May with a degree

## Leaving your mark on the Maroon Mile

Donors may purchase a 4" x 8" brick with a \$500 gift and engrave it with a three-line message of up to 14 characters per line. Currently enrolled students and recent graduates (within the last 12 months) may secure a brick at a reduced price of \$250. For a donation of \$1,500 or more, individuals or groups may purchase a 28" x 16" paver, which can be engraved with a four-line message of up to 16 characters per line.

The bricks will be installed during the first quarter of each calendar year in preparation for the annual Super Bulldog Weekend festivities held in late March or early April.

Alumni and friends may select from two sizes of Maroon Mile pavers.



As with gifts of any amount, the purchase of a brick will activate a donor's membership in the MSU Alumni Association and will count toward the university's ongoing *State of the Future* campaign.

Alumni, parents and friends interested in purchasing a brick may contact the MSU Annual Fund at 662.325.2466 or via email at [mmcpherson@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:mmcpherson@foundation.msstate.edu).

in elementary education. The two will wed in December.

Both Jason and Sunny are thrilled that a part of their relationship will perpetually be entwined with their alma mater. "The brick will be there forever so our grandchildren will see it one day," Sunny said.

"The Maroon Mile is a unique opportunity for alumni and friends to leave a lasting impression on their alma mater and become a part of Mississippi State history," said Mike McPherson, director of annual giving. "The project is a way for persons to memorialize a loved one or friend, recognize parents, or pay tribute to an influential

faculty member."

Gifts designated to the Maroon Mile will benefit the Division of Student Affairs, which works to enrich the total Mississippi State student experience through student services, organizations and activities.

"We want to encourage a new tradition at the university," said Brett Aldridge, development officer for the division. "Newly classified MSU seniors and their parents will be given an opportunity annually to purchase a commemorative brick for a special price. The bricks are a perfect graduation gift," he said.





# *striking a chord* WITH NEW FACILITY



The fall 2007 semester begins a new era for Mississippi State's band and choral departments. The two groups officially moved into a new state-of-the-art facility in early August, realizing a long-time dream for many alumni and students.

The new band and choral rehearsal facility provides ample space for both the Famous Maroon Band and the university's choral groups, including three rehearsal halls, two music libraries, offices, storage areas, and much more. Located on the corner of Blackjack and Hardy

Roads, the 16,000-square-foot facility is a welcomed addition to the Mississippi State campus.

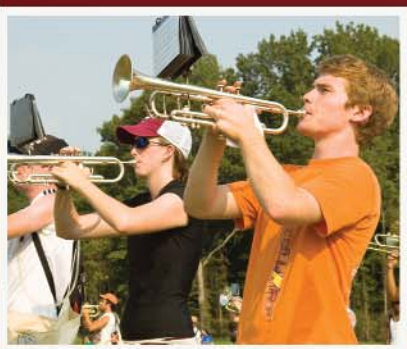
"It's been exciting to watch this building grow from the ground up," said Rob Jenkins, director of development for MSU's College of Education. "The facility has created a new energy and enthusiasm with many of our band and choral alumni, and is a source of excitement daily for our current students in the programs."

Without a doubt, the new rehearsal hall is a large step up from these programs' previous rehearsal quarters. The university's bands have been rehearsing for decades in a 4,100-square-foot renovated campus maintenance building constructed in 1939.



“Our band program outgrew the former facility decades ago,” said Elva Kay Lance, director of the Maroon Band program. Lance said the new facility affords the program room for full-band music rehearsal, which had to take place outdoors in the past due to space constraints. It also provides secure storage for instruments and auxiliary equipment and space for auditions.

“We could not be more excited about having this new facility,” Lance said. “It is so much more spacious than our previous one, and we are very pleased with the acoustics in the building. We’ve been able to have groups practicing in all three rehearsal halls simultaneously with no noise problems at all. And we now have a physical space large enough to accommodate the needs of



Band members are hitting all the right notes since moving into their new facility (far left).

a major university band program.”

For Lance, the facility is especially meaningful. “For decades now, so many people have dreamed of, and worked toward, making the new facility a reality. It is truly a long-awaited treasure. I am one of those people. Having come through the Maroon Band program as a student, I too dreamed of the day when MSU would have a facility like this. To now be an integral part of the program at this special time—to see the dream become a reality—I am truly a fortunate person.”

Bruce Lesley, director of choral activities, said the former choral rehearsal room was inadequate to accommodate the size and reflect the quality of the university’s choral programs. “Our choral programs continue to grow in both quan-

tity and quality,” Lesley said, “and our choral students are excited about the new facility’s larger and more sophisticated rehearsal area.”

The new facility will also aid both programs as they strive to recruit prospective students for years to come. “It sends a strong positive signal about the quality of our programs and the emphasis placed on the programs by the university,” Lance said. “We have more than a thousand band students from across the state and region on campus each year. The new facility is definitely an asset in our work to recruit them.”

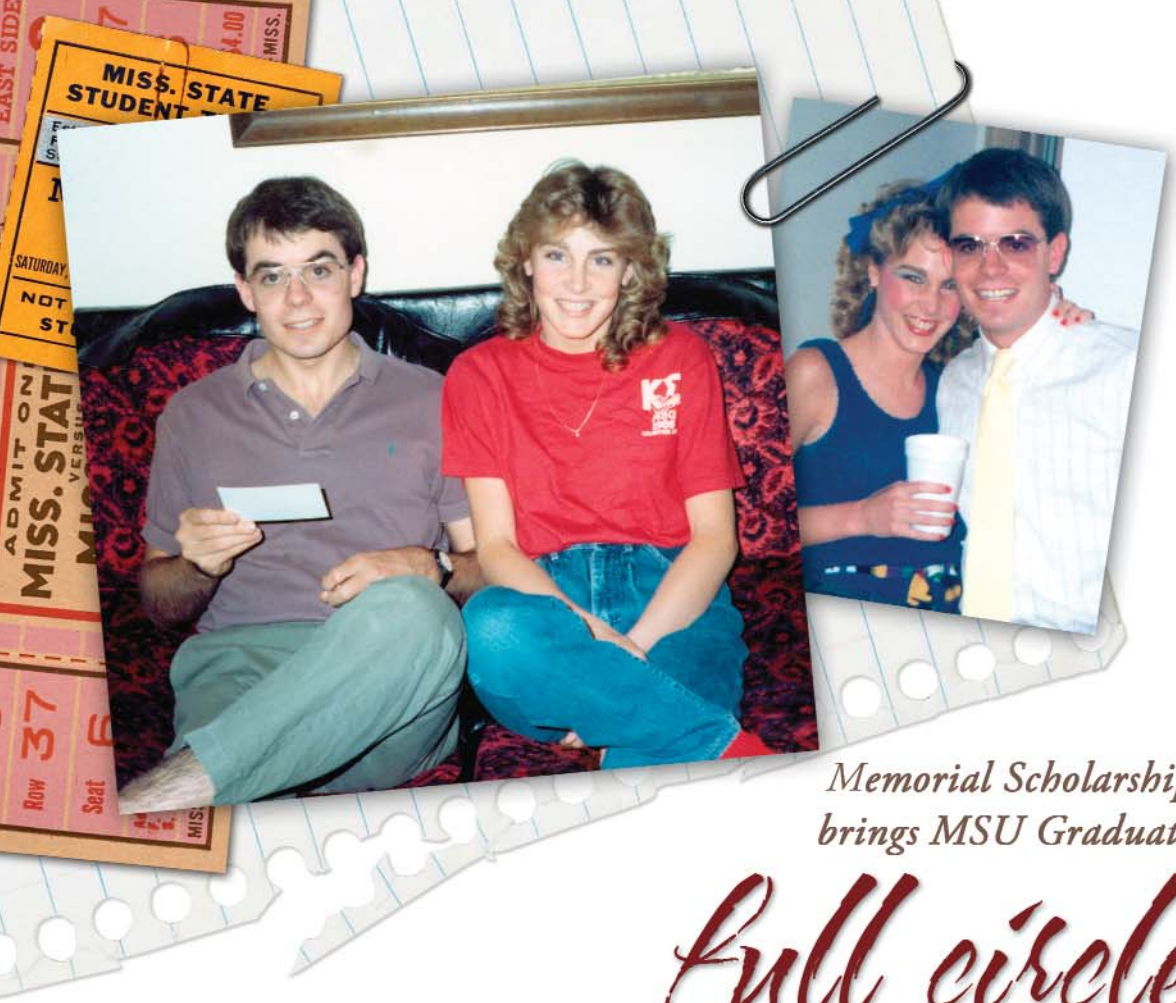
Lesley added: “This facility helps us showcase our groups and reflects the excellence that exists in all our music programs.”

“In addition to recruiting talented students, the new facility is helping us retain our current students,” Lance said. “So many students have been discouraged over the years with the rehearsal facilities. The new building is counteracting that and providing a positive force with student retention and enthusiasm.”

During the process of moving into the new facility, the Maroon Band staff discovered several items from past years, including sheet music from the 1800s, photos, uniforms of all past band directors, and more. The newly-found memorabilia is on display in the entry hall of the facility, along with plaques and bronze likenesses of all past Famous Maroon Band and choral directors who served for 30 years or more.

Construction of the facility is complete, but private gifts are still needed for both interior and exterior items, including chairs, music stands, landscaping, and other similar needs. In addition, naming opportunities still exist for the facility.

For more information about specific giving opportunities that remain, please contact Rob Jenkins at 662.325.6762 or [rjenkins@colled.msstate.edu](mailto:rjenkins@colled.msstate.edu)



*Memorial Scholarship  
brings MSU Graduate*

# *Full circle*

**When Brenda C. Strider was pushed by a fellow engineering student, Will Cooper, to interview for a position as an MSU Orientation Leader, she was unusually surprised to learn that she had been accepted.**

“I was such an intense student,” Brenda remembers. “I wasn’t in a sorority. I wasn’t involved in campus activities. I didn’t even take the time to go have my yearbook picture made. I was very focused on my academics. Then I met Will.”

An active member of the campus community, Will Cooper was a Roadrunner, Orientation Leader, Alumni Delegate and a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, serving as president his senior year. A Brandon native, he studied agricultural and forestry engineering and maintained a 3.7 GPA.

“Will just insisted that I get involved,” Brenda said.

That was 1986. The two married in the summer of 1988. But their life together was cut short when Will was involved in a fatal car accident in 1991.

“Will was an amazing guy,” she said. “He did all things, and he did all things well. Looking back, it seems that he was trying to cram a lifetime into 26 years, and he did a pretty good job of it.”

Will completed his bachelor’s degree in 1986 and received a master’s in public policy and administration in 1989. At the time of his death, he was the executive director of the Canton Redevelopment Authority, where he initiated and formulated urban renewal efforts with the city.

“The only thing sadder than losing him was the thought that he wouldn’t be remembered,” Brenda said.

To honor his memory, she established the Will R. Cooper Memorial Endowment Fund at



Mississippi State. The endowment, which also includes contributions made by Cooper's family and friends, funds two scholarships annually for juniors, seniors or graduate students demonstrating good moral character, strong leadership ability and academic achievement. Since its establishment in 1992, the endowment has provided approximately \$1,500 for two recipients each year.

"Will and I didn't have any children, so there's no tangible mark of him in this world," she said. "But the scholarship does that. For 16 years now, I've been able to watch two kids a year benefit from his life. That's priceless. The scholarship is his opportunity to speak—to inspire."

The scholarship recipients are selected by the university's scholarship selection committee, based on their academic record and extracurricular involvement.

For Brenda, one of this year's scholarship recipients, Jase Abraham, son of Jimmy and Patti Abraham, holds special significance.

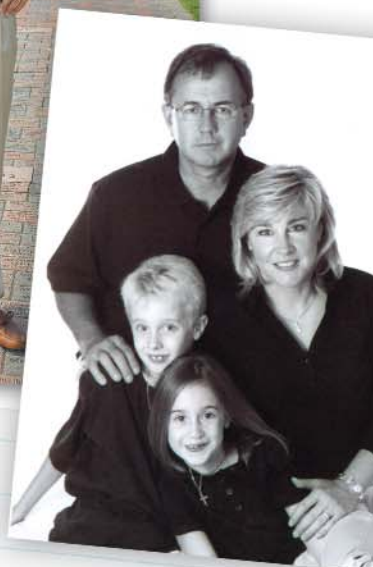
"Jimmy Abraham was such an important part of mine and Will's MSU experience, and I developed a relationship with him and his family that persists to this day," she said. "I remember that when I was an Orientation Leader in 1986, Patti was pregnant with their youngest son. I remember that we threw her a baby shower. Now—some 20 years later—that "baby" is receiving Will's scholarship.

"Jase is certainly a very deserving recipient, and it's just incredible that Will's name has come back to a family who knew him so well and cared so much for him," Brenda said. "When I found out he was a recipient, it was one of those times when I really just wanted to pick up the phone and call Will to tell him."

"Will was one of those rare individuals with the ability to succeed both in and out of the classroom," said Jimmy Abraham, who now serves as associate vice president for development and alumni and executive director of the alumni association. "Will made a significant impact on his



Above: Jase Abraham Right: Brenda with her husband, Mack, and their two children.



community and on the state and would have done much more had his life not been tragically cut short. And through the scholarship, he's still impacting those around him."

Jase, a junior clinical exercise physiology major, hopes to one day become a physical therapist. His freshman year he played baseball at Hinds Community College and is now a part of the alpha group of the Appalachian Leadership Honors Program at Mississippi State, carrying a 3.9 GPA.

Today, Brenda is remarried, and she and her husband Mack have two children, ages 9 and 11—"two of the finest future Bulldogs," she says.

"My main purpose in establishing the scholarship was to give people a glance at who Will was. Will's scholarship is proof that most anyone has the means to memorialize someone they love."

The Will R. Cooper Memorial Endowment Fund is an open fund in the MSU Foundation and may be increased through additional contributions.

# STATE OF THE FUTURE *campaign*

## Endowed chairs, professorships part of *State of the Future's* capital success

### *Campaign counting climbs above \$385 million*

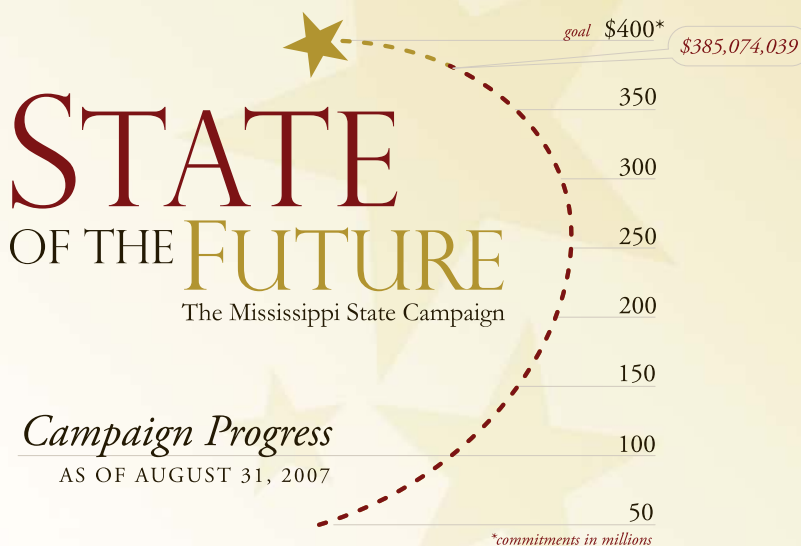
Most people will agree that great teachers lead to great students and even better graduates. The key to any successful university and to producing quality students who are prepared to enter the workforce is to have and to maintain quality professors. Thanks to private gifts through the *State of the Future* campaign, Mississippi State now has the ability to attract even more high-quality professors through the creation of several new endowed faculty positions.

During FY 2007 which ended June 30, Mississippi State added five new endowed faculty chairs or professorships in four of the university's colleges. These new positions bring the total number of endowed chairs and professorships to 42 university-wide. Twenty-four of those have been created through *State of the Future*.

"When we outlined the goals of the campaign almost seven years ago with the progress of the institution in the forefront of our minds, endowed faculty positions were a clear top priority," said John Rush, vice president for development and alumni. "Great faculty members attract outstanding students, significant external research support and other top faculty. They help us compete for the kind of faculty members that our students need and deserve."

Endowed faculty positions enhance an academic unit in multiple ways. Funds from the endowment may be used to supplement the salaries of outstanding teachers and researchers. Nationwide, salaries are very competitive, not only among universities, but between the private and public sector. Endowed positions enable the university to compete for the very best researchers and scholars.

Funds may also be used for a faculty mem-





ber's research interests. Faculty members who are engaged in cutting-edge research offer a unique academic experience for students who might not otherwise be exposed to research on such a personal level. Students gain an appreciation for research and can develop their own research interests at an early stage of their educational development, putting them ahead of the competition as they seek master- and doctoral-level graduate programs.

In addition, because endowed faculty positions recruit nationally-known scholars to the university, those scholars are frequently asked to travel around the globe to share their research findings with other academics at university and private conferences, bringing national recognition to Mississippi State in the process.

"We are so grateful for the donors who choose to invest in our students by ensuring that they are taught and mentored by the best faculty in their fields," Rush said. "Endowed faculty positions in each of the university's colleges can significantly impact the academic landscape of the university and will continue to be a top priority as we head into the final year of the *State of the Future* campaign."

The newly established endowed chairs and professorships include:

**Dr. Glover B. Triplett Endowed Chair in Agronomy within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.** An MSU faculty member, Triplett and his wife, Imogene, established this position in the department of plant and soil sciences to provide leadership in agronomy education and research, as well as outreach to industry. Earnings from the endowment will be used for salary supplements as well as to support the research interests of the chair holder. A pioneer researcher in the methods of no-till farming, Triplett joined the department of plant and soil sciences in the early 1980s after a 30-year career with the agricultural research and development center at Ohio State University.

**Richard A. Rula Construction Engineering and Management Endowed Professorship within the Bagley College of Engineering.** The Richard A. Rula Construction Engineering and Management Endowed Professorship will be a critical component of the forthcoming construction engineering and management program within the department of civil and environmental engineering. Earnings from the endowment will be used to provide a salary supplement and discretionary funds to the professorship holder within the newly-created program. Richard A. Rula is a 1970 MSU alumnus of civil and environmental engineering, formerly civil engineering. Rula currently serves as president of Hemphill Construction Company in Florence.

**Clinton E. Wallace Dean's Eminent Scholars Fund within the College of Arts and Sciences.** To attract and retain top faculty as well as to encourage scholarly research, Wallace established the Clinton E. Wallace Dean's Eminent Scholars Fund. The fund currently provides annual research support along with a cash award to the recipient. The dean of the college selects the recipient based upon the recommendation of a selection committee. Once fully endowed, earnings from the endowment will be used in perpetuity to support the academic excellence of the college. The intention of the professorship is to recognize and retain exceptional faculty who have achieved national recognition and enhanced the quality and stature of academic programs in the area of the natural sciences.

**Mississippi Power Company Endowed Professorship in Electrical and Computer Engineering within the Bagley College of Engineering.** With a gift through its nonprofit education foundation, Mississippi Power Company established this professorship to enhance the academic reputation of the department of electrical and computer engineering. The endowment will provide salary supplements and research stipends

which will position the department to compete nationally, and even internationally, for the best scholars and researchers in the field and to retain those professors within the Bagley College of Engineering.

**BancorpSouth Professorship in Financial Services within the College of Business and Industry.** Funds from the BancorpSouth endowment will be used to help attract and retain outstanding faculty members to teach and mentor students in the college. Funds may also be used to support visiting distinguished scholars, symposiums and conferences, faculty research programs and development, technology in classrooms and other activities designed to enhance the reputation and quality of the college.

**Lewis M. Havard Endowed Professorship within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.** The Lewis M. Havard Endowed Professorship was established by Michael Havard to honor his late father. Earnings from the

endowment will be used to attract top faculty candidates to the department of entomology and plant pathology or to recognize a current faculty member within the department who has achieved national acclaim. The funds may be used for salary supplements as well as stipends for research and other scholarly activities.

#### **Creating an endowed faculty position.**

Endowed chairs may be created with a minimum gift of \$1.5 million, while professorships require a \$500,000 minimum contribution. Some colleges, schools or departments may require higher amounts.

For more information about creating an endowment for a faculty position, contact Bo Hemphill, executive director of development, at 662.325.8852 or [bhemphill@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:bhemphill@foundation.msstate.edu).

### **The following individuals, corporations and foundations have made commitments of more than \$50,000 from March 1, 2007, through August 31, 2007, for State of the Future: The Mississippi State Campaign.**

ADTRAN Inc.  
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Bagley  
J.W. Bagley Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Bryan Sr.  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Dr. and Mrs. William M. Cobb  
Rachel Jean Coleman Estate  
The Community Foundation of Louisville  
Kelly G. Cook Sr. Foundation Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Crook  
Mr. Steve Davenport  
Michael P. Dean and Wanda Luther Dean  
Design Integrations Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Elliott Dubuisson  
Mr. James C. Forbes  
Mr. W. Bruce Franklin and Mrs. Donna B. Franklin  
E.M. "Hoot" and Doris Gipson  
Guild Hardy Associates Architects PA  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Haley  
Harrell Contracting Group LLC  
Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation  
Howard Industries Inc.  
Mr. Louis A. Hurst Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Johnson  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Johnson  
W. K. Kellogg Foundation  
Ms. Marcia P. Lane

Mr. Malcolm H. Mabry Jr.  
Mississippi Power Company  
The New York Community Trust  
Renasant Bank  
Mr. and Mrs. Goerge T. Rosenbury  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Rotchild Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Rouse  
Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Schaff  
Mr. and Mrs. Bobby S. Shackouls  
The Shackouls Family Foundation  
Rufus W. Shivers Estate  
Dr. and Mrs. Glover B. Triplett Jr.  
Trowbridge Farms  
Tuplagram Farms LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Walker  
Paul L. Wells Estate  
Mr. and Mrs. Turner A. Wingo



## Daughter honors late father with special departmental fund

Remembering loved ones through unique gifts can forever cement a family's ties with MSU.



Henry F. Meyer

Marjorie Meyer Goldner of Huntington, N.Y., has endowed a special fund in memory of her father, Henry F. Meyer, a former university instructor and a fixture in the journalism business.

Proceeds from the Meyer Fund for Excellence will be used to fund activities that encourage educational and professional development within MSU's Department of Communication.

In addition to teaching journalism on campus for a decade, Meyer spent nearly three decades as adviser for *The Reflector*. For his dedi-

cation, Mississippi State officially renamed its student media center, which houses offices for *The Reflector* newspaper and *The Reveille* yearbook, in his honor. Meyer died in 2000 at age 87, nine years after being inducted into the Mississippi Press Association Hall of Fame.

Before coming to campus, Meyer co-owned the Starkville Publishing Co., which printed the then-weekly *Starkville Daily News* and, for many years, *The Reflector*.

"We appreciate the support of alumni and friends like Marjorie Goldner," said John Forde, communication department head. "This fund will help us enhance the professionalism of journalism students and faculty for many years to come."

The Meyer Fund may cover travel expenses for students and faculty to attend conferences and seminars. It also provides assistance for students who are conducting research for news stories and academic papers, monetary awards that recognize unusually meritorious achievements of

students, and similar activities and expenses that directly benefit individual students' professional and educational growth. Proceeds may also fund tuition assistance for the staff of *The Reflector*.



Marjorie Goldner pictured with MSU alumni, Sid Salter, Jimmy Abraham and Charlie Mitchell, during the dedication ceremony to name MSU's Student Media Center in memory of her father.

## Couple's gift demonstrates a passion for two university units

Take just one look at the life of Allan Tucker and you will quickly discover a love for the land and an enthusiasm for MSU athletics.

Through a gift of agricultural property in northeast Arkansas, Allan and his wife, Barbara, are supporting two areas of the university that match their passions—the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Bulldog Club.

Proceeds from the sale of this property will be split between these two entities. The college's portion will be used to establish a significant endowed fund for student scholarships within the Department of Agricultural Economics. Gifts to the Bulldog Club are used to support scholarships for student-athletes and athletic facilities.

Allan became involved in agriculture at a young age, growing up on a Sharkey County row-crop farm in the Mississippi Delta. He followed his passion to Mississippi State, earning a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the university in 1959.

Following three years with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, Allan embarked on a career with the Prudential Insurance Co. of America and its subsidiaries. For the next 30 years, he specialized with Prudential's farm mortgage and farm acquisition offices. For an additional 12 years, he worked in farm management and real estate sales with Prudential's Capital Agricultural Property Services.

Allan and Barbara have always enjoyed Mississippi State athletic events but are now truly able to soak up the Bulldog atmosphere. The couple retired to Starkville in 2005 to enjoy the closeness of the university.

"The 'Ag School,' as it was called when I was attending Mississippi State, provided me with a great education," Allan said. "And the university provided one for two of our children as well."

While benefiting the university in several ways, the Tuckers' gift will also assist them through a significant tax savings.

"By deeding their Arkansas property outright to the MSU Foundation, the couple was able to avoid a capital gains tax," said Jud Skelton, director of development for the agriculture college.

"We all want to see Mississippi State prosper and I would encourage others to help the university and take advantage of the most beneficial tax situation offered to them," Allan said.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences works with donors to arrange the terms of gifts to suit individual needs. Contact Jud Skelton at 662.325.0643 or [jskelton@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jskelton@foundation.msstate.edu).



## Veteran fundraisers fill key positions

An alumnus and fundraising veteran is Mississippi State's new executive director of development.



Hemphill

James V. "Bo" Hemphill IV now leads the efforts to obtain non-public funds, including constituency-based major fundraising, annual giving, planned giving, and corporate and foundation support. Hemphill succeeds John Rush, who was named MSU's vice president for development and alumni.

A Starkville native, Hemphill has been serving as development director for the College of Business and Industry. A 1994 business administration graduate, Hemphill joined the MSU Foundation staff in 2000. He becomes the second member of his family to serve as

foundation director. His father, James V. Hemphill III, held the position in the 1980s.



McCarty

Jack R. McCarty will succeed Hemphill as the development director for the College of Business and Industry. In this role, he will be responsible for all fundraising and alumni relations activities for the business college which

includes the newly-endowed Adkerson School of Accountancy.

McCarty earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural science from MSU in 1991. He served as director of development for various units within the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine from 1994-2001. Most recently, he served as director of development for Ducks Unlimited, Inc. in Memphis.

Mississippi State UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

email home Search

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Barbie Hempel directs the efforts of the Bulldog Callers as they connect with MSU faithful.

WAYS TO GIVE: IMPACT ON GIVING: DONOR RECOGNITION: NEWS & PUBLICATIONS: ABOUT US

**Welcome**

Philanthropic support is allowing Mississippi State University to meet the needs of today while preparing for the demands of tomorrow. In the spirit of Mississippi State's "One State - One Team" philosophy, the MSU Foundation is continually partnering with alumni and friends who share a belief in the 129-year-old institution and its future. The Foundation exists solely for the benefit of Mississippi State - its people and its programs.

Statistics cannot fully reveal the scope of the Foundation's impact on Mississippi State, nor do they reveal the satisfaction that has come to those who have had a part in its growth. Giving opportunities exist university-wide for donors who desire to make a difference. Invest some time with us, courtesy of this site, to learn more.

**Opportunities**

- [Search for Excellence](#)
- [Endowed Scholarships](#)
- [Old West Plaza](#)
- [Brand B. Orphan Facility](#)
- [Suburban Student Union](#)
- [College of Business Learning](#)
- [MSU Annual Fund](#)

**Contact Us!**

Call us toll-free at 877-677-8283 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. CST or email us now.

## The MSU Foundation is just a click away.

The newly revamped MSU Foundation Web site makes it easier than ever for us to share the stories of our generous alumni and friends and to highlight ways that you can make a difference at Mississippi State. Visit us now at [www.msufoundation.com](http://www.msufoundation.com).

## Scholars program still going strong

**Mississippi State University proudly awards scholarships to its top incoming scholars each academic year.**

For the 2007-08 school year, nine new scholars join 25 others selected in previous years for the Distinguished Scholars Program, which includes students selected as Presidential Endowed Scholars and as Otilie Schillig Leadership Scholars.

MSU's latest Distinguished Scholar class includes Matilda I. Asuzu of Baton Rouge, La., Caleb Y. Brasher of West Monroe, La., John R. Carroll of Meridian, Halston R. Hales of Clinton, and Brooke N. Harris of Florence.

Elizabeth T. Haskins of Madison, Tyler R. Raborn of Brandon, Joshua M. "Josh" Stroud of Thibodaux, La., and Brenda R. Willemson of Streamwood, Ill., round out this year's group.

Each is receiving nearly \$50,000 for the freshman-senior years of study, provided they

maintain certain academic benchmarks.

Specifically, the scholarships provide \$34,000 over four years, or \$8,500 per year; complimentary double-occupancy campus residence hall accommodations, currently valued at up to \$17,000 over four years; a one-time, \$1,500 educational enrichment scholarship for study abroad, internships or other qualified educational pursuits during a semester of choice after the freshman year; and an undergraduate research fellowship award, valued at \$4,000 over two summers or \$2,000 per summer.

Since 2001, Presidential Scholars have been supported by separate endowments from several private donors. Schillig Scholarships were established in 1986 through a donation from the private Otilie Schillig Trust of Port Gibson.

For more information on scholarships at Mississippi State, contact Cathy Lammons, director of donor relations, at 662.325.7843 or [clammons@advservices.msstate.edu](mailto:clammons@advservices.msstate.edu).



MSU's Distinguished Scholars for 2007-08 include (front row, left to right): Elizabeth Haskins, Matilda Asuzu and John Carroll. Second row: Brooke Harris, Tyler Raborn and Halston Hales. Joshua Stroud and Caleb Brasher occupy the back row. Not pictured is Brenda Willemson.



## New MSU scholarship recruits students to needed discipline

Urban forestry is becoming increasingly important throughout the nation as cities and towns consider the numerous benefits of trees. In Mississippi alone, 29 communities have been designated as Tree City, USA, by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

In fact, a recent survey conducted by scientists in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center found that Mississippi civic leaders support establishment of urban and community forestry projects to enhance their communities.

Urban forestry focuses on the management of trees and forests in urban settings to foster social, environmental and economic benefits.

“Trees provide benefits that include air quality improvement, annual carbon dioxide reduction, increased annual net energy savings, storm water runoff reduction, floodwater storage, erosion prevention, increased property values, noise reduction, aesthetics, and wildlife benefits, among others,” said Steve Grado, professor in the department of forestry.

As civic leaders understand the need for trees in towns, demand for trained urban foresters continues to rise.

“Currently, there are not enough urban foresters to fill the numerous positions available in cities and towns across the nation,” Grado said. “A scholarship to encourage students to pursue urban forestry is both timely and relevant.”

In 2006, the Professional Arborist

Association of Mississippi and the Mississippi Urban Forest Council established the Arboriculture/Urban Forestry Memorial Scholarship at MSU to address the need for trained professionals in urban forestry.

“The scholarship is for a student in the urban forestry option of the forestry major with an interest in arboriculture and a grade point average of 3.0 to 3.5,” said Sue Buckalew, secretary/treasurer of the arborist association.

The scholarship honors deceased members of the association, Buckalew added.

The recipient should be a junior or senior, and preference will be given to junior college transfer students and students whose interests lie in tree care and urban forestry.

The professional Arborist Association of Mississippi is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the future health and vitality of urban forests by promoting public awareness, good stewardship, continuing education, professional training and adherence to best practices in the field of arboriculture.

Mississippi Urban Forest Council is a nonprofit organization aimed at fostering and promoting proper management of urban forests for social, economic and environmental benefits to people through innovation, leadership, communication and educational services.

If you are interested in contributing to the Arboriculture/Urban Forestry Memorial Scholarship, please contact Jeff Little, director of development for the College of Forest Resources, at 662.325.8151 or [jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu).

## Alumni chapters play vital role with scholarships

Mississippi State University's alumni chapters are making a difference across the university through annual and endowed scholarships. They continue to play a significant role in enabling deserving students to attend MSU.

Currently, 39 chapters across the country sponsor MSU scholarships, typically awarded to students in the chapter's local area.

Most recently, the Central Mississippi Alumni Chapter established an endowed scholarship with a \$25,000 gift. Earnings from the endowment will be used to fund the annual scholarship payouts. The chapter is also continuing its fundraising efforts to add to the amount of scholarship money available annually.

Several alumni chapters have established multiple scholarships to provide tuition funding for local students. The George-Greene County Chapter has a total of three separate scholarships available to incoming students, two of which are

endowed. Other alumni chapters with multiple scholarships include the chapters in Lee County, Oktibbeha County and Warren County.

"We are so pleased with the efforts of all alumni chapters who have set up scholarships," said Jimmy Abraham, associate vice president for development and alumni and executive director of the MSU Alumni Association. "They mean so much to so many, as they provide deserving students with the funds they need to attend MSU, as well as give our alumni chapters a way to give back in a tangible, meaningful way."

The MSU Alumni Association has 87 chartered alumni chapters throughout the United States. These chapters keep alumni and friends informed about the programs, happenings, and needs of Mississippi State. The association has chapters in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, New York, Tennessee, Texas and Washington, D.C.

Local chapter members serve as MSU representatives in local communities by hosting events ranging from socials to student recruitment

parties to community service projects.

Gifts of any amount from individual donors may be designated to a specific chapter's endowed or annual scholarship fund.



Central Mississippi Chapter leadership presented a \$25,000 gift to the university at its annual Summer Extravaganza in July.



## Ridgeland company assists with new MSU degree program

**A new interdisciplinary degree program at Mississippi State is receiving support from a Ridgeland-based contracting firm and its founder.**

Mike Harrell and Harrell Contracting Group LLC recently made a \$50,000 commitment to the university's College of Architecture, Art and Design to provide funds for the new academic program in building construction science.

The Bachelor of Science curriculum is designed to prepare graduates for careers in construction or construction-related fields by drawing upon academic expertise within the colleges of Architecture, Art and Design and of Business and Industry, as well as the Bagley College of Engineering. The program was approved by the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning earlier this year.

Harrell's gift to the program's advancement fund is in response to growing needs of the existing construction industry, as well as new enterprise developments throughout the Southeast.

"Ours is a very mature industry and efforts like those of Mississippi State to attract and educate new talent are appreciated by the entire construction community," said Harrell, company president since its inception in 1995.

College Dean Jim West said the collaborative effort by three major MSU academic units is an innovative approach to educating the next generation of construction managers.

"The process of design and construction is evolving at an unprecedented rate," he added.

"It is becoming increasingly apparent that effectively managing the construction process requires a broad understanding of the architectural and engineering aspects of construction science, as well as leadership and management skills," West explained.

The veteran administrator said recent surveys indicate the demand for new construction management personnel "is increasing by almost 10 percent a year and the new degree program will allow the university to be responsive to the needs of industry in our state and region."

In addition to helping recruit prospective students and meet the annual needs of affected student organizations, the Harrell gift will support faculty projects, special alumni events and annual publications. The new resource will also help cover the costs of required technology systems, hardware and equipment.

"We are very pleased to have the opportunity to offer our support for this program," Harrell said. "I'm encouraging other corporations and individuals to do so as well, because I anticipate this program will produce well-rounded graduates who are ready for the many challenges of construction and contracting."

Companies or individuals desiring to join Harrell in supporting the new program may contact Bennett Evans, development director for the College of Architecture, Art and Design, at 662.325.2542 or bevans@foundation.msstate.edu.

## KEEPING

## OUR EYE

## ON THE

## BALL

As I drive around campus, I can't believe how much our university has changed since my time here as a student. Just in the last few years, we've added an exciting gathering area in The Junction, an incredible Barnes and Noble Campus Bookstore, and the most impressive student living facilities I've ever seen with the Northeast Village. The addition of our recently constructed entrance signs provides new and prospective students, faculty, staff and visitors a gateway to one of the most beautiful university campuses in the country. We all get a special, unique feeling as we come back to our beloved university.

As the years go by, buildings are built, students graduate, and loyal faculty and staff retire. Lots of changes occur as we take what we learned at MSU and build our careers, start our families, and live our lives. There is one thing, however, that will never change at MSU: our mission of teaching, research and service. For well over 100 years, Mississippi State University has contributed to our state, region and nation by helping produce an educated, qualified workforce, by developing practical research to enhance the quality of life for thousands and by reaching out to communities when they need us most.

As we start new traditions and pass along the old, we must all remember to keep our eye on the ball—to keep our focus on the goals and needs of our university and its students. Now, more than ever, as we begin the home stretch of the *State of the Future* campaign and focus even more aggressively on the goals of the new “Reach for Excellence” fundraising initiative, it's important for us to not lose sight of the reason we do what we do.

By supporting Mississippi State University through a gift to the MSU Foundation, you enable us to continue our tradition of excellence and improve the overall experience for our students. Your gifts help us change lives everyday. Thank you so much for your continued support of our university. I look forward to seeing you on campus soon.



## Bo Hemphill

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



The Hunter W. Henry Jr. family of San Marcos, Texas, has a long history of supporting Mississippi State University. Their latest gift is paving the way for still more MSU students to receive an education by way of scholarship.

**Lila and Hunter W. Henry Jr.** have established 12 annual scholarships in engineering in memory of their son, Jim.

The first three James Edward Henry Scholarships were awarded this fall to students in the Bagley College of Engineering who are majoring in mechanical engineering. The recipients are Taylor Drake of Petal, Ryan Evans of Gulfport, and Joshua Fletcher of Yazoo City. Recipients will receive \$2,500 per academic year. Henry scholars are eligible to receive the scholarships for up to eight semesters if certain criteria are maintained.

Jim Henry was a 1977 mechanical engineering graduate of MSU who was a site maintenance leader for Dow Chemical Co. He died in 2006.

For **Ann Janette Moore**, a plot of timberland in Lauderdale County is more than just land and trees. It is where the Houston, Texas, resident lived on a farm with her grandparents following the death of her parents when she was in her early teens.

To honor her grandparents, Moore is using the land to make a unique gift. Funds from the sale of the timberland will be used to fund the Jennie McInnis and Joseph Voluntine Carlisle Endowed Scholarship in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Strong proponents of education, the Carlises encouraged their six children and later their grandchildren to attend college.

“Neither completed a degree at the university, but both were richer for the experience,” Moore said. “That is why I have chosen to establish a gift in this manner.”

The Carlisle scholarship will benefit students in the college who have demonstrated academic achievement. The scholarship is one of only a few providing tuition and other costs associated with attending the university, including housing, books and supplies, meals and transportation costs.

“The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is extremely grateful to Ann Janette Moore for allowing us to transform her treasured possession into a valuable resource for our students,” said Jud Skelton, director of development for the college.



**Lewis F. Mallory, Jr.**, (right) a 1965 MSU alumnus and past president of the MSU Foundation Board of Directors, conducted the opening of the NASDAQ Market on July 31. Mallory serves as chairman/CEO of Cadence Financial Corp., the financial holding company for Cadence Bank, headquartered in Starkville. Pictured with him is Richard Haston, EVP/CFO.

## Cellular South: Impact of Giving



**WHO:** Cellular South, the nation's largest privately held wireless company, headquartered in Jackson

**WHAT:** Each year, Cellular South awards five MSU students a \$3,000 scholarship. In addition, the organization has two fully-endowed scholarships which are awarded to one accounting major and one computer science major each year.

**WHY:** Cellular South is committed to improving the quality of life in the communities it serves. Thus, the organization invests financially and otherwise in the students at Mississippi's public universities. In addition to providing scholarships to help mitigate the financial burden of a

college education, Cellular South also offers its scholarship recipients the opportunity to participate in summer internships with the organization to expose students to the wireless industry, the Cellular South business model and the business world as a whole.

**PICTURED:** Jim Richmond (second from left), director of corporate communications for Cellular South, presents a \$15,000 gift to Bo Hemphill (far left), executive director of development for the MSU Foundation, to fund the 2007-08 Cellular South annual scholarships. Also representing Cellular South are Bryan Templeton, market manager for the Starkville area, and Amy Nash, public relations specialist.



## 2007 Board of Directors

### OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT *Richard C. Adkerson* | *President/CEO of Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.*, New Orleans, La.  
 VICE PRESIDENT *James J. “Jim” Rouse* | *Vice President of ExxonMobil (retired)*, Houston, Texas  
 TREASURER *Hunter W. Henry Jr.* | *President of Dow Chemical USA (retired)*, San Marcos, Texas  
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER *John Rush* | *Vice President for Development and Alumni*, Mississippi State University  
 CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER *David D. Easley* | *Executive Director of Finance*, Mississippi State University  
 SECRETARY *Bo Hemphill* | *Executive Director of Development*, Mississippi State University

### MEMBERS:

Gary A. Blair | *Senior Vice President of Land Bank of South Mississippi*, Brookhaven  
 D. Hines Brannan Jr. | *Partner with Accenture (retired)*, Atlanta, Ga.  
 Fred E. Carl Jr. | *President and CEO of Viking Range Corp.*, Greenwood  
 Albert C. Clark | *President of C. C. Clark Inc.*, Starkville  
 Joel C. Clements | *President and CEO of First State Bank and First State Corp.*, Waynesboro  
 Lamar A. Conerly Jr. | *Attorney and President/Owner of The Law Office of Lamar A. Conerly P.A.*, Destin, Fla.  
 Johnny Crane | *CEO of F.L. Crane & Sons Inc.*, Fulton  
 Earnest W. Deavenport Jr. | *Chairman and CEO of Eastman Chemical (retired)*, Banner Elk, N.C.  
 John N. “Nutie” Dowdle | *CEO of Dowdle Enterprises*, Columbus  
 Hassell H. Franklin | *President and CEO of Franklin Corp.*, Houston  
 Linda M. Garrett | *Principal of Garrett Associates Inc.*, Atlanta, Ga.  
 E. M. “Hoot” Gipson | *CEO of Gipson Steel Inc.*, Meridian  
 S. Bryce Griffis | *President of Sturgis Timber Co.*, Sturgis  
 A. P. “Jack” Hatcher Jr. | *Chairman and CEO of Robertson-Ceco Corp. (retired)*, Pinehurst, N.C.  
 W. G. “Mickey” Holliman | *Chairman and CEO of Furniture Brands International*, Tupelo  
 Karen D. Hulett | *Medical Consultant, Mississippi Department of Rehab Services*, Jackson  
 Alvis T. Hunt | *Vice Chairman and President of Trustmark National Bank (retired)*, Jackson  
 Louis A. Hurst Jr. | *Senior Administrator of FDIC (retired)*, Houston, Texas  
 Rusty C. Linton | *Orthopedic Surgeon with Columbus Orthopedic Clinic P.A.*, Columbus  
 Lewis F. Mallory Jr. | *Chairman and CEO of Cadence Bank*, Starkville  
 Bobby P. Martin | *President and Chairman of The Peoples Bank*, Ripley  
 C. R. “Bob” Montgomery | *Partner with Montgomery McGraw Collins and Rand PLLC*, Canton  
 Roderick A. Moore | *Executive Vice President and CEO, Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance*, Brandon  
 Rafael Palmeiro | *Professional Baseball Player (retired)*, Colleyville, Texas  
 Charles W. Ritter Jr. | *President and CEO of The Attala Co.*, Kosciusko  
 M. Diane Roberts | *Professor of Business at Indiana University East (retired)*, Louisville, Ky.  
 Mike Sanders | *President and CEO of Jimmy Sanders Inc.*, Cleveland  
 William R. Sanderson | *Sanderson Farms (retired)*, Laurel  
 Leo W. Seal Jr. | *President of Hancock Holding Co.*, Gulfport  
 Bobby S. Shackouls | *President and CEO of Burlington Resources Inc. (retired)*, Houston, Texas  
 Carolyn R. Shanks | *President and CEO of Entergy Mississippi*, Jackson  
 Kay R. Shirley | *President of Financial Development Corp.*, Atlanta, Ga.  
 Dave C. Swalm | *Chairman of the Board and CEO of Texas Olefins (retired)*, New Ulm, Texas  
 ZonaDale Taylor | *Independent management/business consultant*, Collierville, Tenn.  
 J. F. “Bud” Thompson Jr. | *Partner, Thompson Limited Partnership of Meridian*, Meridian  
 Floyd D. Wade Jr. | *Owner of Wade Properties*, Newton  
 James T. White | *President of H.C. Price Co.*, Dallas, Texas

David Jones | *Alumni Association President (07/07-06/08)*, Jackson

R. Hal Parker Jr. | *Bulldog Club President*, Bolton

James K. Dossett | *Legal Counsel*, Jackson

AUBREY CLAIRE  
METEOROLOGY  
2025



## MSU **foundations**

Volume 7 | Number 2

**foundations** is published two times per year by the Mississippi State University Foundation, P.O. Box 6149, Mississippi State, MS 39762-6149. We invite your comments and questions. Please send them to the above address or telephone toll-free 877-677-8283. The MSU Foundation also can be found on the Internet at [www.msufoundation.com](http://www.msufoundation.com).

**Editors:** Amy Cagle and Kristy Riley

**Contributing writers:** Karen Brasher, Amy Cagle, Bo Hemphill, Laura Beck Kitchens, Bob Ratliff, and Kristy Riley

**Designer:** Erin Norwood

**Photographers:** Megan Bean, Kenneth Billings, Russ Houston, and Tom Thompson

## STATE OF THE FUTURE

*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](http://www.msufoundation.com).

**Mississippi State**  
UNIVERSITY  
**FOUNDATION**

MSU Foundation  
Post Office Box 6149  
One Hunter Henry Blvd.  
Mississippi State, MS 39762-6149  
[www.msufoundation.com](http://www.msufoundation.com)

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Jackson, MS  
Permit No. 134