

Spring 2013

## Foundations

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# foundations

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SPRING 2013

## *Spring Unfolds*

on the historic  
MSU campus





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### ON THE COVER

Mississippi State University has one of the most striking campuses in the Southeast, and photographer Megan Bean captures a unique glimpse of spring at the 135 year-old institution.

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## *Building on past success*



**JOHN P. RUSH**  
Vice President for  
Development and Alumni

Do you remember 2009? The financial markets were in turmoil, and we were in the midst of what analysts deemed as the “Great Recession.” In December 2008, the MSU Foundation completed the *State of the Future* campaign, marking the most successful fundraising effort in the university’s history. Some donors felt the effects as they continued to complete campaign pledges in 2009 and beyond. While we were celebrating our success, we realized the years ahead would be very challenging for our students and our faculty due to looming economic stress. It was clear that we needed to focus our fundraising efforts on these critical areas.

As a result, we launched *StatePride: An Initiative for Student and Faculty Support* with an ambitious goal of \$100 million over four years. To accomplish this, we realized we needed to increase annual production for scholarships and faculty support by 50 percent. Despite the economy being stacked against us, we were confident in this effort because of three key reasons. First, the investment in the lives of students and faculty is one that will pay dividends for generations into the future. Second, we had a new university president in Dr. Mark E. Keenum bringing tremendous energy to the institution. And, lastly, we had you—loyal alumni and friends of MSU. And, what an impact you had on this initiative as over \$118 million was contributed toward the effort!

Your support of faculty and students through *StatePride* may have achieved more than you realize. Over 800 faculty members received immediate salary support, and 22 new endowed positions were created, which will provide perpetual support to our best educators. Along with being known as esteemed educators, our faculty members are developing new technologies that will affect industries, paving the way for economic growth.

In recent years, MSU enrollment has surged to surpass 20,000, and 11,882 of these students received financial assistance through *StatePride*. MSU produces more college graduates than any other institution in Mississippi, and your investment in *StatePride* will ultimately affect the quality of life in our state as these young people enter the workforce.

As we look to the future of our university, we remain confident that you will enable us to impact lives for future generations. Additionally, your gifts will not only assist MSU, but reach throughout the state of Mississippi and wherever our graduates pursue their lives. Together, with loyalty, pride and passion for MSU, our impact is limitless!



# GROWING A LEGACY

*Hall Timberlands funds scholarships and research*

**T**imberland is a significant part of the Hall legacy. The family has stewarded and carefully harvested its timber for three generations, and now they are entrusting Mississippi State University with their valuable resource.

A 245-acre parcel of timberland in Noxubee County, Miss., has become part of the university's Bulldog Forest. Known as the Hall Timberlands Forest, the property will be used as a living laboratory for the students and faculty of the university and for forestry and wildlife research and training. MSU will manage the forest, and proceeds will provide scholarships for students majoring in forestry.

"We are very proud to have a portion of our family timberland become part of MSU's Bulldog Forest. After learning about the beneficial program, we wanted MSU to utilize the land to provide learning opportunities for students and further research for the forestry industry," said David Hall, COO of Hall Timberlands in Meridian.

As a third generation timberland management

professional dedicated to sustainable forestry, Hall believes an excellent education is the cornerstone of the timber industry. He earned a Bachelor of Science in forestry in 1999 and an MBA in 2002, and he puts his MSU degrees to use as he manages Hall Timberlands.

Hall Timberlands is a family owned business operating as a successor to prior corporate and partnership entities for over 70 years. The company plants and grows timber, which is sold to mills to be processed into pulp, chips and sawtimber for plywood and dimensioned construction lumber. It also contracts with other companies to harvest and deliver trees to mills. Hall Timberlands currently holds approximately 60,000 acres in Mississippi.

"At Hall Timberlands, we believe in stewardship, conservation and nurturing the forest. We plant more than we harvest and reinvest for the future," said Hall.

The company's goals for a forest complement the MSU Bulldog Forest program.





Far left: David and Isa Hall with their sons, Matthew and Christopher, and his father, Marurice H. Hall Jr.

“We maximize real value by maintaining a perpetual, sustainable forest, a diverse canopy of trees, teeming with animals, birds and clear streams, yielding wood products that provide fuel, shelter and useful materials,” David said.

Hall Timberlands began when David’s grandfather, Maurice H. Hall Sr. of Bay Springs, purchased his first timberland in 1938. After working as a bookkeeper at a sawmill, he grew pine and hardwood timber in East Central Mississippi. He operated mills in the towns of Shubuta, Meridian and Gulfport from 1941 through 1965. For three decades, David’s father, Maurice H. Hall Jr., also worked with his grandfather to turn the focus of the business to acquisition, cultivation, conservation and management. Today, the company is owned by Maurice H. Hall Jr., his sister, Mary Cheek Hall Davis, and their children.

“I do believe it is my responsibility to ensure this treasured family land is preserved for Mississippi State University to use as a living laboratory for learning and research,” David said.

David and his wife, Isa, loyally support the Starkville and Meridian campuses of MSU and the Bulldog Club. Isa graduated from MSU-Meridian in 1999 with a Bachelor of Business Administration. David also gives of his time as a member of the College of Forest Resources advisory board and the MSU-Meridian dean’s advisory council.

As a proud alumnus, David promotes his university when possible.

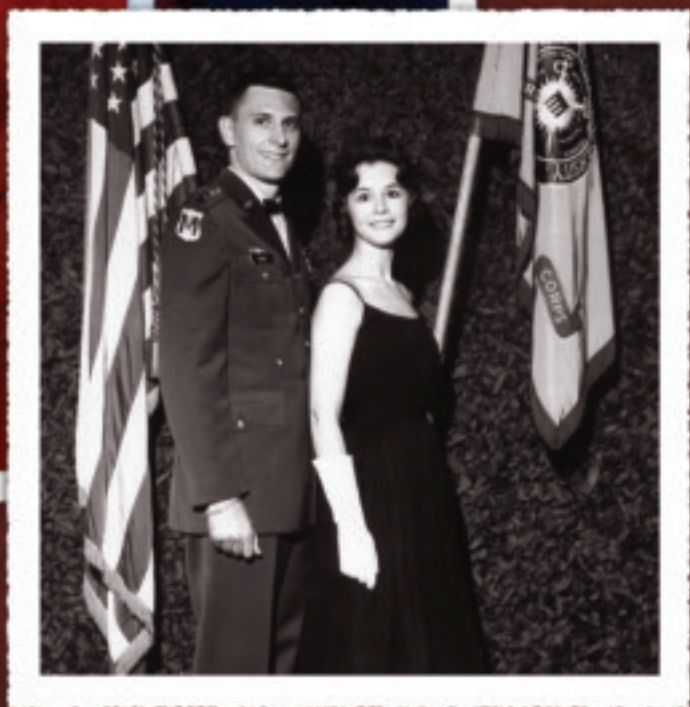
“As an employer, we do our best to encourage other businesses to hire MSU graduates because of the excellent reputation of the forestry college and its graduates,” Hall said. “The Hall Timberlands Endowed Forestry Scholarship will allow us to ensure the best students are provided with financial assistance as they pursue their forestry degrees.”

Proceeds from the loblolly pine located in the Hall Timberlands Forest will provide additional funds for scholarships previously established by the family through the Hall Foundation. The Hall Timberlands Endowed Forestry Scholarship will continue to assist sophomore, junior and senior forestry students who demonstrate promise for an outstanding career in the field.

“Because of a great education in the College of Forest Resources, recipients of this scholarship will be better prepared to become the forest management professionals of tomorrow, and our family is extremely proud to be able to further forestry education at Mississippi State University through the Hall Timberlands Bulldog Forest,” David said.

Mississippi State University currently has nearly 25,000 acres in its Bulldog Forest program in the College of Forest Resources. Proceeds generated from Bulldog Forest properties may be used to assist any college or area on campus. Many types of property can be considered for the program; however, the MSU Foundation real estate team must approve each tract.





## *Two of a kind*

*Rouses create second management professorship*

When Julia Ann Bennett married James J. "Jim" Rouse in 1962, they began a 50-year love affair and a rewarding association with his alma mater.



THE ROUSES, of Houston, Texas, are longtime contributors to academics and athletics at Mississippi State. Through the years, they have enjoyed a great history with the university, and have generously given of their time and financial resources.

“When I first came to Starkville for a football weekend in 1959, I fell in love with MSU, and its never lost its allure for me,” said Julia Rouse, a Laurel, Miss., native who attended the Mississippi University for Women.

Julia is looking forward to her next chapter with Mississippi State. As a former first-grade teacher, she has decided to make an additional investment of \$500,000 in academics to create an endowed professorship in the Department of Management and Information Systems in the College of Business.

“It takes special teachers to strengthen the academic experience, and I am confident the holder of this professorship will initiate new ideas and challenge students to excel,” she said.

The Julia Bennett Rouse Endowed Professorship in Management will acknowledge an exceptionally meritorious faculty member or an administrator in the College of Business. The position will enhance the reputation of the College of Business, one of the oldest business schools in the Southeast.

With this financial gift, the Rouses continue to advance the College of Business and assist students by providing excellent learning opportunities with outstanding faculty members.

In 2009, the couple established their first MSU professorship. The Jim and Julia Rouse Professorship is held by Allison Pearson, a well-known management professor. Similarly, the second professorship will be awarded to a current faculty member or an individual recruited by the College of Business.

“Initially, we wanted to create an endowed professorship specifically in the management department because that was my major, and we are proud to establish another in this area,” said Jim Rouse, a 1962 industrial management graduate and retired ExxonMobil Corp. vice president.

Rouse, who served as MSU Foundation board president from 2010 to 2012, continued, “Endowed positions give the university an extra edge in attracting and retaining outstanding faculty, which is critical to ensuring that MSU students get the best education possible.”

Professorships and chairs enhance Mississippi State’s mission of teaching, research and service.

*“It takes special teachers to strengthen the academic experience, and I am confident the holder of this professorship will initiate new ideas and challenge students to excel.”*

-JULIA ROUSE



Available earnings from endowments may be used to supplement the salaries of outstanding teachers and researchers, allowing MSU to compete nationally and internationally for the best faculty. These funds also may be used for equipment, travel or student support.

Holding an endowed position is one of the very highest honors and career achievements an MSU professor can attain, and Pearson is proud of the prestigious designation as Rouse Professor.

“To have been named the Jim and Julia Rouse Professor of Management is an incredible honor, and I use the title with pride in a way that honors the Rouses’ gifts, values and commitment to MSU,” she said. “I look forward to a colleague joining me in the management department as the Julia Bennett Rouse Professor.”

Pearson added, “MSU is a special place because of amazing alumni and friends like Jim and Julia Rouse, who engage with our university and provide funds which enable us to recruit great students, build much-needed facilities, and encourage professors to strive to be the best teachers and researchers possible.”

Besides endowed positions, the Rouses also have built a legacy as major supporters of MSU Athletics. They funded construction of a 9,000 square-foot weight room at the Holliman Athletic Center. Most recently, a gift from the couple supports a strength and conditioning center in the Leo Seal Jr. Football Complex. Additionally, they donated a 1929 Ford Model-A Roadster used by the Division of Student Affairs.

“We derive much satisfaction from our work with MSU,” said Jim Rouse, the 2012 MSU National Alumnus of the Year. “We hope to inspire others to give back in a manner that is fitting to them.”



CHILDS



DEAVENPORT



DOWDLE



FISACKERLY



FRANKLIN



HOLLIMAN



PARKER



PUCKETT



QUALLS



RULA



SEAL



SHACKOULS



SUNDBECK



WINGO

*Leading  
the way:*

Foundation announces officers  
and incoming members

As the Mississippi State University Foundation enters its 51st year of operation, a slate of loyal alumni and friends of the institution are serving as board leaders and members. The 45-member group began new terms in January.

MISSISSIPPI NATIVE Bobby S. Shackouls begins his first term as board president, following several terms as vice president. Shackouls earned a Bachelor of Science from Mississippi State in chemical engineering in 1972, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science in 2010. He resides in Houston, Texas, and is the retired chairman, president and CEO of Burlington Resources Inc.

Incoming vice president is E.W. "Earnie" Deavenport Jr. of Kiawah Island, S.C., who is a 1960 MSU chemical engineering graduate. Deavenport concluded a successful business career in 2001 when he retired as chairman and chief executive officer of Kingsport, Tenn.,-based Eastman Chemical Co. He later completed a master's degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science from MSU in 2011.

Assuming the position of treasurer is Mary M. Childs of Ripley, who is president, CEO, COO and vice chairman of The Peoples Bank. She is a 1980 banking and finance graduate, who just completed her first term on the board.



Rush

MSU staff members make up the remaining board officers. John P. Rush, vice president for development and alumni, is the Foundation board's CEO; David Easley, executive director of finance, its chief financial officer; and Jack R. McCarty, executive director of development, serves as board secretary. They, too, are MSU graduates.



Easley

Incoming board members who will serve three-year terms include Linda F. Parker of Bolton, Miss., Nancy Qualls of Little Rock, Ark., Wallace L. Seal of Bay St. Louis, Miss., and Milton Sundbeck of West Point, Miss.



McCarty

Parker is secretary of Sunbelt Wholesale and active with area organizations. She is a longtime friend of the

university. Qualls is president of Qualls and Associates. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Oklahoma City University.

Seal earned a Bachelor of Science in geoscience from MSU in 2000. He is manager of North Beach Haulers LLC. Sundbeck is president and CEO of Southern Ionics Inc. He studied chemistry at the University of Texas and accounting at West Texas A&M.

Individuals returning to the board for new three-year terms include seven MSU alumni who are Mississippi residents. They are: John N. "Nutie" Dowdle of Columbus, Hassell H. Franklin of Houston, and Wilbert G. "Mickey" Holliman Jr. of Belden, along with Jackson residents Haley R. Fisackerly, Richard H. Puckett Sr. and Richard A. Rula. Also returning is Turner A. Wingo of Collierville, Tenn.

Dowdle is chairman of the board of Dowdle Enterprises. He earned a Bachelor of Science in marketing in 1965. Fisackerly earned a BBA in management from MSU in 1987. He later earned an MPA in public policy administration from George Washington University. He is president and CEO of Entergy Mississippi.

Franklin is chairman and CEO of the Franklin Corp. He earned a Bachelor of Science in management in 1959. Fellow management graduate Holliman earned a Bachelor of Science in 1960. He is the retired chairman and CEO of Furniture Brands International.

Puckett is chairman and CEO of Puckett Machinery Co. He earned a bachelor's degree in general business administration in 1977. Rula is president of Hemphill Construction Co. He earned a degree in civil engineering in 1970. Wingo earned a general business administration degree in 1967. He is the retired owner of Sherry's Hallmark.

Chartered in 1962, the MSU Foundation has raised over \$1 billion in its history. It closed fiscal year 2012 marking the largest giving year ever recorded for Mississippi State University with over \$86 million raised. The Foundation administers most of the campus-based fundraising activities and endowment funds.



## a special bond:

*Dressel honors parents' memory with scholarship*

**A** RETIRED ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL has created a scholarship in the College of Education at Mississippi State University because she realizes firsthand the need for great teachers and the importance of assisting them with their college tuition.

Suzanne Dressel established the scholarship in memory of her parents after being contacted by Trish Cunetto, a veteran educator who serves as the college's director of development.

Dressel was already familiar with Cunetto, because her granddaughter, Kelsey Dewberry, had completed her classroom practicum at Sudduth Elementary School under Cunetto's guidance. Dewberry will graduate from MSU next year with an elementary education degree. Dressel and Cunetto have inspired her with their love of teaching and family.

It was family that drew Dressel back to Starkville after nearly two decades of teaching in Georgia. She wanted to return to the town where she had lived with her late parents, Clay and Caroline Simmons.

Dressel also wanted to be closer to her children and grandchildren.

In the 1950s, the Simmons family called MSU faculty housing their home. Their three children, David, Roger and Suzanne, rode their bikes on the sidewalks of historic Old Main Dormitory and learned to fish in Eckie's Pond.

"MSU provided our family many opportunities, and I'll always be connected with this place," Dressel said. "My parents were humble people, and it would please them to know that I am continuing to give back to the university they both loved and associated with their success."

The R. Clay and Caroline Moore Simmons Endowed Memorial Scholarship in Education cements the Simmons family legacy at the university. They were natives of Mississippi; he from Scott County and she from Neshoba County.

The couple met at East Central Junior College. They came to Mississippi State shortly after they



Clay and Caroline Simmons

married and worked for the campus cafeteria, while Clay completed his undergraduate degree. He earned a general business administration degree in 1946 and a Master of Professional Accountancy in 1957, both from MSU.

For 30 years, Clay Simmons put his education to use with the MSU Extension Service, retiring as its associate director. Next, he became a vice president for Security State Bank and maintained that role as it transitioned into Deposit Guaranty National Bank. He was executive director of the Starkville Area Chamber of Commerce, and guided its merger with the Economic Development Foundation to become the Oktibbeha Development Council. He died in 1992.

Caroline Simmons served in several campus secretarial roles, and she was an administrative assistant for former MSU Vice President Dr. Rodney Foil at the time of her retirement. She died in 2004.

“Mom and Dad were great examples of being true to your principles and extending a hand to others in fellowship,” Dressel said.

Dressel has tried to instill these values in her own family. She has four sons and a stepdaughter, and providing for her family motivated her to pursue a graduate education.

She recalled, “As a young teacher, it was hard for me to pay for graduate school. I enrolled in one class each semester while working full time, and this is still the case for many teachers in parts of our nation.”

The R. Clay and Caroline Moore Simmons Endowed Memorial Scholarship will be awarded in 2014 to a graduate student pursuing a degree in educational leadership or an undergraduate student

pursuing a teaching degree.

“A scholarship can be a manageable gift over time, and the benefits can be tremendous for recipients since financial assistance is often the only way they can continue their graduate education,” she said.

Dressel earned a Bachelor of Science in elementary education in 1968 and a masters in education from MSU in 1976. She later earned an education specialist in administration from the University of Georgia in 1993.

In 1968, Dressel began her teaching career at Chalk Elementary School in Meridian, Miss. She left teaching for several years to care for her young children, before joining Ward Elementary School in Starkville as a fourth-grade teacher.

Dressel then moved to Georgia and taught fifth grade at Hopkins Elementary in Gwinnett County. Next, she was assistant principal in the Gwinnett County School System, and remained with that system until her retirement in 2003 as principal of Kanoheda Elementary School.

Just as her late parents, Dressel believes in civic service. She is membership chair for the Oktibbeha County Hospital Auxiliary and serves on the boards for Starkville Habitat for Humanity and the Friends of the Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum. She is also a member of First United Methodist Church.

“Starkville and Mississippi State share a great sense of community, and I look forward to doing my part in ensuring the spirit of giving and volunteerism continues between the two areas,” she said.

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## *Opening beneficial lines of communication*



**CATHY LAMMONS**

Executive Director of  
Communication and  
Donor Relations

In the Division of Development and Alumni, we always strive to keep up with communication trends and find ways to better serve and engage the over 125,000 alumni of Mississippi State University.

In recent months, the communication team for the Division of Development and Alumni has diligently worked to enhance this publication. We premiered our newsletter in 2000, and since then have showcased many inspiring stories of donors and the recipients positively impacted by their gifts. We hope you enjoy the creative, fresh new look of our publication.

In keeping with the times, we have also strived to engage alumni and friends with social media. We hope to increase our followers @MSU\_Foundation on Twitter and communicate with more Bulldogs via Facebook.

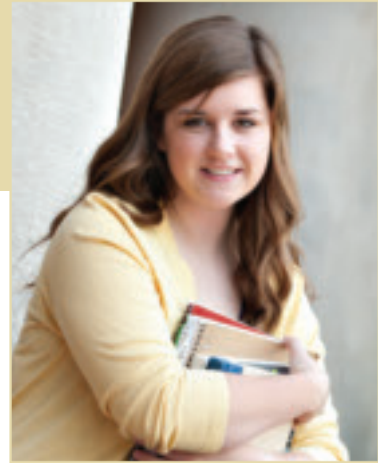
One of our best endeavors yet involves the Foundation website. We have debuted an enhanced website at [msufoundation.com](http://msufoundation.com) that offers donors accessibility to the Division of Development and Alumni online community known as The Bull Ring. The Bull Ring was a place where students gathered on a D-shaped concrete seating area beneath a shade tree to meet friends and catch up on news. It was erected on the north side of Old Main Dormitory with the Class of 1933's gift, and relocated in the 1950s near where the Colvard Student Union now stands. Through The Bull Ring, you can also update your records and connect with friends and classmates.

A main feature of the enhanced MSU Foundation website is the online giving form designed exclusively for our contributors. You can give to MSU with ease as many times as you would like each year. You can utilize the site for making an outright gift, or a payment on a previously established pledge. When contributing through our new giving form, your information will automatically populate if you are logged in to The Bull Ring community. However, should you choose not to utilize the community, you can still proceed with making a gift in our secure environment and even set up a payment schedule that fits your needs.

Your support matters, whether it is financially or as a valuable member of the maroon and white team. We look forward to your repeat visits with us online, and remember to check out the Division of Development and Alumni and the Hunter Henry Center websites to learn more about what our units have to offer.

## StatePride finishes run with over \$118 million

*Mississippi State University has concluded StatePride: An Initiative for Student and Faculty Support with over \$118.3 million in gifts. StatePride's success has been evident university-wide in scholarships, faculty development opportunities and endowed positions.*



StatePride scholar Ellen Davis

"Mississippi State is tremendously thankful for the great outpouring of support from alumni and friends over the past few years that made *StatePride* such a resounding success," said MSU President Mark E. Keenum. "The investments in scholarships and faculty positions are making this a stronger university, and enabling us to keep pace with enrollment growth."

*StatePride* was launched with the investiture of Dr. Keenum as MSU's 19th president in 2009, and over its course became a unified fundraising effort between the MSU Foundation and Athletics. A portion of the annual revenue from MSU Athletics matched certain gifts through the initiative.

The initiative surged past its \$100 million goal well ahead of schedule and closed out its run on Dec. 31, 2012. Final totals for *StatePride* translated into over \$83 million raised in student scholarships, shattering the \$70 million originally sought. Also, faculty support eclipsed the \$30 million expected, reaching over \$35 million.

Because of *StatePride*, more students are receiving scholarships to attend Mississippi State than ever before. The total number of students receiving scholarship funding over the course of *StatePride* reached 11,882, which is over half of the university's enrollment. In all, 338 annual scholarships were established, and 241 endowed scholarships were created.

Gifts for endowed positions in the form

of chairs and professorships through *StatePride* are allowing MSU to better serve its students. Six endowed chairs and 16 professorships were established with *StatePride* gifts, bringing MSU's total number to 69 endowed positions, which includes 12 planned gifts not yet realized. Through the initiative, many faculty members were also awarded financial stipends in recognition of their accomplishments in teaching, research and service.

In all, 7,781 MSU alumni and friends gave toward the effort. Of that number, 1,779 were first-time contributors.

"Although *StatePride* has drawn to a close, specialized fundraising efforts at Mississippi State University will continue as we cultivate additional support for the university's priorities," said John P. Rush, MSU vice president for development and alumni, who serves as Foundation CEO.

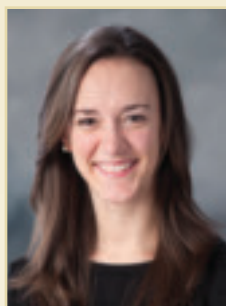
Rush continued, "In keeping with MSU's strategic goals, fundraising for scholarships remains a priority and, in particular, for general university scholarships through MSU's new Compass Scholarship program. Also, endowments to create distinguished faculty positions are needed for crucial areas."

**STATEPRIDE**  
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

*Initiative for Student and Faculty Support*



## *Grateful for the experience*



**KATE BERRYMAN**  
Foundation Ambassador  
President

I never understood the importance of giving back to Mississippi State University until I became a Foundation Ambassador last year. Being part of the organization was originally a way for me to get more involved on campus during my sophomore year. I quickly realized that it would mean much more to me than I ever thought.

After meeting countless alumni with the most generous hearts for this school, I began to understand the impact the MSU Foundation was having not only on everyone else, but also on me. At first, I was surprised that people would be willing to give so much to a university, but then I started thinking about the changes happening in my life because of this school. How could I not give back? I've been given the chance of a lifetime to study something I've been dreaming of since I was a little girl growing up in Cordova, Tenn. One day I will be able to hopefully become a successful interior designer because of my studies at Mississippi State.

I am incredibly honored to serve as the 2013 president of the Foundation Ambassadors. This year's 29-member group has shown so much enthusiasm already, and I am excited to be able to share my love for philanthropy with them. We are looking forward to communicating with our fellow students the importance of giving back to MSU while they are still in school.

This spring, we are hosting numerous awareness events on campus. We've already held a successful hot chocolate giveaway in January, and our spring Donor Appreciation Day in February. These are small ways we are able to spread the word about the Foundation Ambassadors and our purpose to our peers. And, we have many more activities in the works for the remainder of the year.

On behalf of the student body and the Foundation Ambassadors, I want to say thank you for your support to MSU. Because of you, we are able to benefit from a university experience like none other. The memories we make at Mississippi State will stay in our hearts forever. I also want to thank Jim and Julia Rouse for their generous financial support of our organization and their belief that we can make a positive impact on campus.

We are truly grateful for all of your support as alumni, friends and parents, and we look forward to meeting you soon!

## Andrews land gift benefits multiple university areas

*Although Lester Andrews resides in Charlottesville, Va., he maintains strong ties to Mississippi and the state's leading university. A gift from Andrews will benefit several areas of Mississippi State University already impacted by his generosity.*



Lester Andrews

Andrews donated 550 acres of timberland in Longview, Miss., and designated it as the Andrews Forestry and Wildlife Laboratory. The property will be used for faculty and student research in these two important areas. Proceeds from the property will be used to supplement previously established funds in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station [MAFES]. The property will become part of the Bulldog Forest at Mississippi State, along with family farmland given earlier by Andrews.

After establishing the W.B. Andrews Agricultural Systems Research Center in MAFES as a tribute to his late father, Andrews wanted to furnish additional income for its operation. The W.B. Andrews Endowment for Soil Sciences will provide for graduate assistants in the soil sciences area and necessary equipment, as well as fund other soil science projects. The Andrews Forestry and Wildlife Laboratory Excellence Fund will maintain the property.

Lester Andrews grew up in Starkville while his father, a Mississippi A&M graduate, was an agronomy professor. The elder Andrews taught soil and fertilizer courses, and spearheaded developing the apparatus for applying anhydrous ammonia directly into the soil as a nitrogenous fertilizer. Lester graduated from MSU in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and earned

a doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley in physical chemistry. Andrews currently is completing his academic research in the infrared spectroscopy of metal bearing molecules as professor emeritus of chemistry at the University of Virginia.

To further his life's work in chemistry, the Andrews Endowed Fellowship in Chemistry at MSU will assist in attracting and retaining outstanding research faculty to the College of Arts and Sciences. The fellowship will acknowledge meritorious research faculty, and endowment earnings will provide a salary supplement and support for the holder.

Outside of academics, Andrews also has a lifelong love of music. He fondly recalls his time as a Famous Maroon Band member from 1959 through 1963. An earlier gift from him helped build the campus band and choral rehearsal facility. Additional proceeds from the recent land gift will benefit the Maroon Band Endowed Fund for Excellence, which provides instruments, equipment and scholarships for band members.

Lastly, proceeds from the land gift will increase the Clara Adele Self Andrews Music Scholarship for talented undergraduate students who are music education majors or members of the Maroon Band. The scholarship memorializes Andrews' late mother and her interest in music, which inspired a kindred appreciation in him.

## *Gifts that pay you back*



**JACK MCCARTY**

Executive Director  
of Development

Most of us grew up hearing the expression that it is by giving that we receive the most. The concept is expanded in a noteworthy publication, "Give To Live: How Giving Can Change Your Life" by Douglas M. Lawson, Ph.D. I put this concept into practice in my current position as executive director of development, and I have witnessed firsthand the positive effects that giving has made in the lives of our donors and our university.

If you are assessing your personal goals, keep in mind that a certain amount of planning can help you maximize the impact of your gifts. There are numerous strategies available, and a charitable gift annuity is a popular way in which a growing number of our alumni and friends are accomplishing their philanthropic and financial goals. For someone who wants to make a major gift to Mississippi State and enjoy income for life, and/or who needs an immediate charitable deduction, a gift annuity could be the perfect choice.

The procedure for establishing a gift annuity with MSU is simple. It involves the transfer of an asset from the donor to the MSU Foundation, and the signing of a contract in which the Foundation agrees to make payments to the donor(s) for life. Current payout rates are set by the American Council on Gift Annuities. The rates of gift annuities are often initially attractive to donors, particularly compared to other lower risk investment options.

In addition to perhaps providing an attractive rate of return, a gift annuity produces a number of tax benefits, including an immediate charitable income tax deduction. And, when the annuity matures, the remaining funds go to an area at Mississippi State of the donor's choice. The gift may be used to endow a scholarship or professorship, or support critical areas of the university. In fact, many of our supporters choose to contribute more than one gift annuity.

Any of our development professionals can assist you with looking at rates or scenarios. Customized samples of gift annuities can be accessed through the MSU Foundation at your leisure by visiting [msufoundation.com](http://msufoundation.com).

By establishing a charitable gift annuity, donors not only enjoy the rewards that are inherent in the spirit of giving, but also some tangible rewards that underscore the reality that in giving we receive. Gift annuities can benefit MSU and you. Now, that's a win, win!



**DONORS:** *Erin & Scott Parsons*

**HOMETOWN:** *Arlington, Va.*

Erin and Scott Parsons met as students at Mississippi State, and they loyally remain connected to their university.

Scott, a Vance, Miss., native, utilizes his MSU education in Washington, D.C., as the managing partner with Delta Strategy Group. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in agribusiness in 1995, and earned a master's in agribusiness management the following year. Erin grew up in Clewiston, Fla., and earned an architecture degree from MSU in 1997.

The Parsons support MSU academics and athletics with their generous contributions. Their most recent gift established the Erin Remerow Parsons Loyalty Scholarship. The annual scholarship assists entering freshmen or entering community college transfer students who meet certain academic and leadership criteria as students enrolled in the College of Architecture, Art and Design. Recipients may retain the award for up to four years of study.

The Parsons are among the growing number of alumni and friends who are making a positive difference in the lives of MSU students. They have grown acquainted with their recipients who enroll at MSU from cities and states across the country. To date, more than 29 students have received the scholarship, and the coming years will bring more recipients.

The Parsons look forward to sharing an appreciation of their MSU education with future scholarship recipients. They also hope to involve their three children, 12 year-old Rae Elizabeth, 8 year-old Sykes (center), and 1 year-old Carlisle, in the beloved Bulldog traditions at their university.

*Loyalty. Pride. Passion.*

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## A Dawg's life just got better!

The MSU Foundation website offers some great new advantages for Bulldog visitors to [msufoundation.com](http://msufoundation.com).

Our enhancements include:

- An improved form for outright gifts
- A way to tailor your payments
- An easy way to pay toward a pledge

The site also features the Division of Development and Alumni online community known as The Bull Ring. As a community member, your information will populate each time you make a gift.

Drop by [msufoundation.com](http://msufoundation.com) soon and explore giving opportunities with us.

