

Spring 2008

## Foundations

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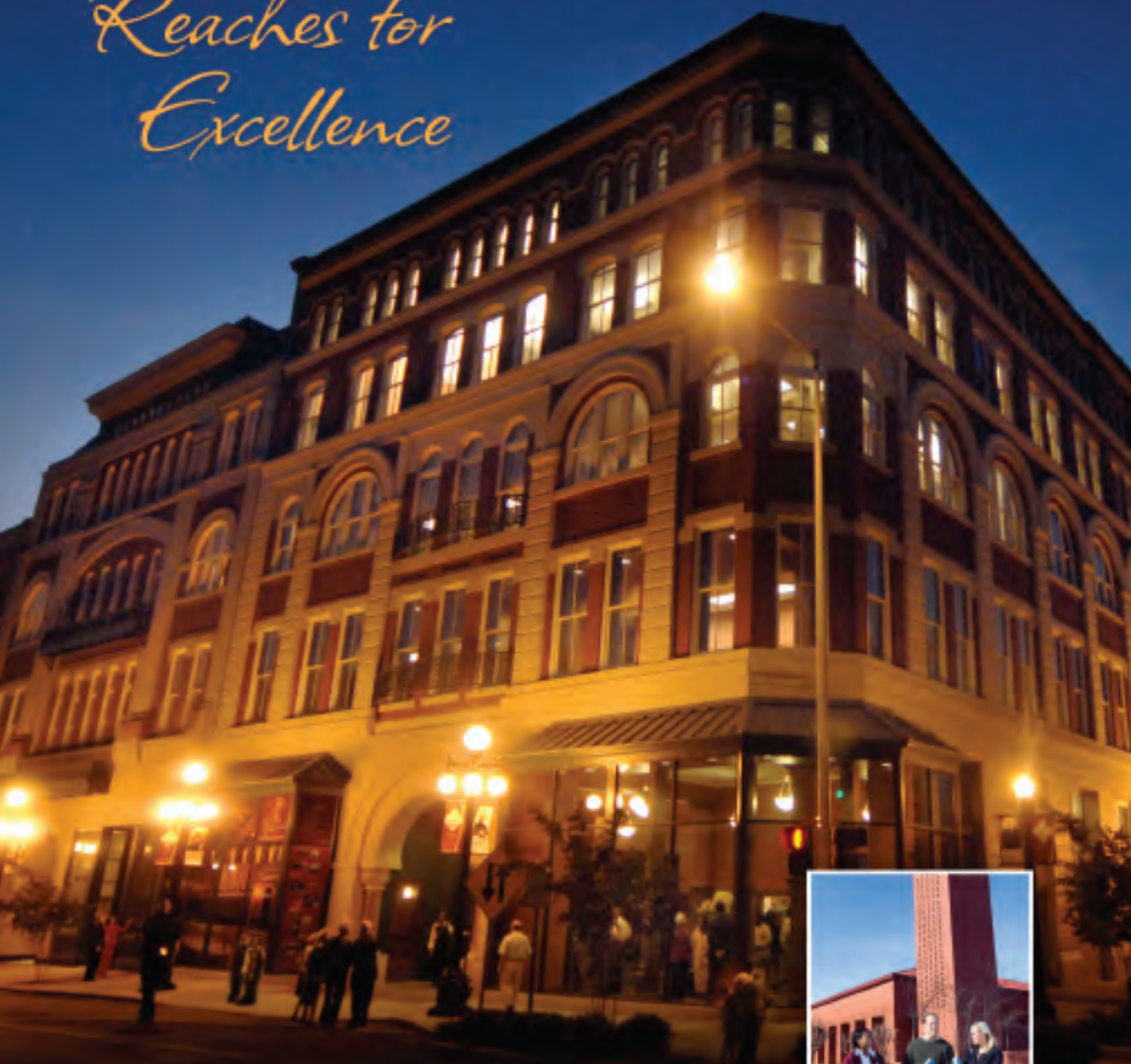
# foundations

SPRING 2008 | VOL. 8 NO. 1

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

MSU-MERIDIAN

*Reaches for  
Excellence*



*New initiative seeks gifts for Meridian  
scholarships and performing arts center.*

## ISSUES ON

## PHILANTHROPY

It's hard to believe that it has been nearly a year since I transitioned into the role of Vice President for Development and Alumni and eventually CEO of the MSU Foundation. It has been an amazing experience to serve you and my alma mater in this capacity.

During this year, there has been discussion on the state and national levels about the importance of donor records versus public records and spending policies for university-related foundations. While much of the debate has occurred outside the Magnolia State, the donor privacy issue hit close to home recently in the case of *DePree v. the University of Southern Mississippi* and the USM Foundation. In September 2007, the chancery court ruled the USM Foundation was not subject to the Mississippi Public Records Act. Indeed, this is good news.

In other news, the IRS recently revamped form 990—the first serious revision of this form since 1979. The revision expands the form from 2 pages to 11—certainly a more rigorous process for completion—and it will go into effect in 2008 for returns to be filed in the spring of 2009. While it is too early to tell, it appears that the new 990 will provide measures to ensure better management and oversight of charitable organizations while protecting the integrity of donors.

Making headlines most recently has been the news of Harvard's and Yale's spending policies for endowments. While we are a long way from an endowment of their size, we are very pleased that our endowment has grown from \$153 million at the beginning of the *State of the Future* campaign to more than \$280 million today. It is important to note that public university total endowments are made up of multiple funds. The MSU Foundation, for example, houses approximately 900 individual endowed funds, nearly all of which have unique donor-directed designations. Therefore, increasing the spending rate would not necessarily achieve the desired results. In addition, we are obligated to protect intergenerational equity—students and faculty 50 years from now should benefit at the same level as they do now from each endowed fund.

At the MSU Foundation, we remain committed to you, our loyal donors, and to the constituency we serve, the students, faculty and staff of Mississippi State University. Thank you for your support and trust.

**John Rush**

VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI

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

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

# *Giving opportunities abound*

AS MSU-MERIDIAN REACHES  
FOR EXCELLENCE



The Meridian campus of Mississippi State University plays an important role in its community and in the overall mission of the university. MSU-Meridian affords its students the ability to attain educational goals while maintaining important roles in their family, job and community.

Through a new fundraising initiative, Mississippi State seeks some \$5 million in private gifts earmarked specifically for scholarships to assist traditional and non-traditional students as they pursue and continue their education at MSU-Meridian. The initiative, known as “Reach for Excellence,” ultimately seeks more than \$100 million in private funds for Mississippi State to support four key areas: campus appearance and preservation; academic excellence; scholarships, student growth and development; and faculty development. The initiative is a component of Mississippi State’s long range strategic plan, FutureSTATE 2015.

The Meridian fundraising effort targets gifts

which may become part of the MSU Foundation’s permanent endowment. Each year the fund’s spendable income will be distributed as scholarship support for outstanding students enrolled at MSU-Meridian. The recipients will be selected by the dean and staff of MSU-Meridian.

MSU-Meridian was established in 1972 as a regional degree-granting campus of Mississippi State which primarily serves East Central Mississippi and West Alabama. In Fall 2007, the campus marked a record enrollment of 821 students who attend day and evening classes from a 35-county area.

“The Meridian campus continues to play an increasingly important role in the overall mission of the university and in the life of our state,” said MSU President Robert H. “Doc” Foglesong.

Another focus for MSU-Meridian is the operation of the downtown Riley Center for Education and Performing Arts. Named for the local Riley Foundation, which made the \$12.1 million anchor contribution for the downtown Meridian project, the multi-use center features a



**Above:** The design of the main building on the MSU-Meridian campus is reminiscent of that of the Chapel of Memories.

1,000-seat auditorium and a 30,000-square-foot conference center. The MSU Riley Center hosts a variety of performing arts and educational programs which appeal to people of all ages and interests from concerts and world cultural shows to workshops and seminars for students, teachers and the community at large.

As part of “Reach for Excellence,” Mississippi State is seeking \$800,000 in private funds earmarked for the MSU Riley Center. These funds are needed to bring the center’s operating endowment to its \$5 million goal. The center opened in September 2006 and continues to serve as a valuable outreach tool for Mississippi State.

Commitments for MSU-Meridian scholarships and those earmarked for the Riley Center endowment may be in the form of outright gifts or multi-year pledges.

## Fundraiser fills key position for MSU-Meridian



Josh Thompson is a familiar face around Lauderdale County. The Meridian native and Mississippi State alumnus has recently joined the MSU Foundation as a

development officer.

Thompson is responsible for seeking major gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations for general university projects. He also is coordinating advancement and development programs for the Meridian campus where he will be based.

Thompson, a 2003 insurance and risk management graduate of MSU’s College of Business and Industry, previously held positions with Meridian-based Insurance Solutions of Mississippi Inc. and Starkville’s BankFirst Insurance Services. He continues to serve as president of the Lauderdale County chapter of the MSU Alumni Association.

“In his new role, Josh will help raise funds for areas of Mississippi State that critically need financial support, and focus his efforts on the needs of the Meridian campus,” said Bo Hemphill, executive director of development for the MSU Foundation.

Persons wishing to learn more about assisting MSU-Meridian may contact Thompson at 662.325.8827 (Starkville), 601.484.0493 (Meridian) or [jthompson@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jthompson@foundation.msstate.edu).



# Son's bulldog spirit lives on

THROUGH MSU SCHOLARSHIP

Brad Moore's Mississippi State cowbell sits on the mantle of his childhood home in Brandon. It last rang in December following the Bulldogs' victory in the Liberty Bowl. As the orange glow from a spectacular sunset created a backdrop for the Memphis stadium, his father gave the cowbell one last heartfelt shake in honor of his late son—a Bulldog who made a difference wherever he went.

Brad was just 39 years old when he passed away in September 2007 due to complications from pneumonia. At the time of his death, Brad was on the faculty and a practicing gastroenterologist at the University of California San Diego Medical Center. He leaves behind his wife, Dr. Suzanne Moore, son Nicholas, age 5, and daughter Alexandra, age 2.

Following Brad's unexpected death, his parents—Rod and Jane Moore—announced their intentions to build a memorial scholarship endowment at Mississippi State. The result was an outpouring of support from family members,

friends, business associates and neighbors.

Thanks to the generosity of more than 160 individuals, organizations and businesses, the recipient of the Dr. Brad Roderick Moore Memorial Presidential Endowed Scholarship will join a select group of MSU students receiving Distinguished Scholarships—the highest scholarship awarded to an undergraduate student. Earnings from the \$200,000 endowment will fund four years of study, provided the recipient maintains certain academic benchmarks. Distinguished Scholars are also considered for other enrichment opportunities such as study abroad, internships or other qualified educational pursuits. The Moore family looks forward to “adopting” each recipient.

For Brad, obtaining an education and meeting his goals was a huge part of who he was. According to his mother, he was an avid reader who always had a book in his hand.

“Brad was such a great student when he attended high school at Jackson Prep that at one time, we actually encouraged him not to study,” Rod recalled. “We knew that he was prepared,





**Photos from left:** Three generations of Bulldogs—Brad, Nicholas and Rod Moore visiting the MSU campus. | The Moore family (l-r): Suzanne, holding daughter Alexandra, stands near her late husband Brad as son Nicholas sits; next to Brad is his mother Jane, father Rod, and their daughter Necole with her husband Josh and their children Merrill, Macy and Cole.

and we didn't want him to worry about it."

Brad was an extremely focused individual who became a very successful doctor. His family can't recall him wanting to be anything else.

"He had a plan that he would attend MSU for his pre-med studies. Even when he found out he had to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center, he wasn't thwarted; he just decided he would view his association with Ole Miss as doing "missionary work," Rod shared.

Brad graduated from MSU in 1990 with an arts and sciences degree and continued his studies at UMMC. He served his residency at Fletcher Allen Medical Center in Burlington, Vt. His specialty in gastroenterology was completed at Medical University of South Carolina, followed by five years of practice at Northeast Arkansas Medical Clinic in Jonesboro, near his wife Suzanne's hometown of Marion.

After completing his residency, just prior to his marriage, Brad worked for what Rod laughingly refers to as a "Rent A Doc" company that supplied doctors to different parts of the United States where there was a shortage.

"He absolutely loved it, and everywhere he went his patients and colleagues loved him," Rod said.

"He was a gentle, unselfish person, with a strong faith who loved helping other people, a definite treasure," Jane added.

Through the years, Brad had the opportunity

to work in Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin and even spent time on a Navaho reservation in New Mexico. He thrived on rewarding experiences like these. Jane recalls a mission trip they took to the Ukraine and says she was honored to assist Brad as his nurse.

A dedication to worthwhile causes runs in the Moore family. Rod served as president of the MSU Foundation Board of Directors from 2003-2006. By virtue of the position, he understands that private support is essential for the university's future. Through the years, he and his family have supported various areas of Mississippi State, from scholarships in education and business to facilities and athletics.

Mississippi State holds special meaning for Rod and Jane, who are both originally from Meridian. Rod attended MSU as a co-op student while Jane worked as a registered nurse. Rod, who earned his accounting degree in 1967, is executive vice president and chief executive officer of Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Co. The couple also have a daughter, Necole, an MSU elementary education graduate who resides with her family in Birmingham, Ala.

While Brad and Necole were growing up, the Moore family attended many, many events at Mississippi State. Although Brad never played sports, he was a faithful Bulldog fan. Even when he moved out of state, he continued to buy athletic tickets simply in support of all things maroon.

Brad's spirit will live on in the hearts of his family and in the MSU scholarship that now bears his name. The endowment may be increased through additional contributions to the MSU Foundation.

MSU FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES  
NEW AND RETURNING

# Board Members



BERRY



PARKER



PUCKETT



SILLS

The Mississippi State University Foundation has announced six new members and six returning members to its 45-seat board of directors who will guide the fundraising arm of the 130-year-old land-grant institution for the next three years.

New leaders whose terms began Jan. 1 include: Hollis C. Cheek of Kosciusko, Richard Puckett of Jackson, W. A. “Lex” Taylor III of Louisville, and William B. Berry, Douglas Terreson and Paul B. Murphy Jr., all of Houston, Texas.

All six new members are MSU alumni. Cheek, president of Cheek Inc., is a 1970 landscape architecture graduate; Puckett, president of Puckett Machinery Co., is a 1977 general business administration graduate; Taylor is also a 1977 general business administration graduate and is president of Taylor Machine Works Inc.; Berry, a 1974 and 1976 petroleum engineering graduate, is the retired executive vice president of

ConocoPhillips; Murphy, CEO of Amegy Bank, is a 1981 banking and finance graduate; and Terreson is a 1984 petroleum engineering graduate who is managing director of Morgan Stanley.

Returning members include: Jan Gwin of Memphis, Tenn.; Mark S. Jordan of Madison; Hal Parker Jr. of Bolton; Allen K. Sills Jr. of Collierville, Tenn.; John “Walt” Starr of Columbus; and Skip Wyatt of Jackson. Board members may be reappointed after leaving the board for one year after their three-year terms expire.

Gwin is a 1971 banking and finance graduate who is managing director of Morgan Keegan Co., while Jordan is a 1976 landscape architecture graduate and owner of Mark S. Jordan Companies. Parker is a 1969 general business administration graduate who is president of Sunbelt Wholesale Supply. Sills is a 1986 biological engineering graduate who is a neurosurgeon at Semmes-Murphy Clinic, and Starr is a 1980 general science graduate who is a periodontist of Golden Triangle Periodontal Center. A longtime friend of the university, Wyatt, a principal of



CHEEK



GWIN



JORDAN



MURPHY



STARR



TAYLOR



TERRESON



WYATT

Foil-Wyatt Architects, rounds out the returning members.



Adkerson

In addition to naming new and returning board members, the MSU Foundation elected its 2007 officers to serve another one-year term. Continuing as board president is Richard C. Adkerson of New Orleans.

Adkerson is president and CEO of Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Inc. and co-chairman of McMoRan Exploration Co., a NYSE oil and gas exploration and production company. He is a 1969 accounting graduate who completed a master's in business administration the following year.



Rouse

James J. Rouse of Houston, Texas, serves as vice president for the board. He is a retired vice president of ExxonMobil and a 1962 management graduate.



Henry

Hunter W. Henry Jr., a San Marcos, Texas, resident and the retired president of Dow Chemical USA, serves as treasurer. He is a 1950 chemical engineering graduate.

MSU Vice President for Development and Alumni John P. Rush serves as CEO of the board; David Easley, executive director of finance, serves as CFO; and Bo Hemphill, executive director of development, is board secretary. All are Mississippi State graduates.

Incorporated in 1962, the MSU Foundation works to solicit funding from private sources to supplement the university's legislative appropriations. The Foundation administers Mississippi State University's academic fundraising activities and endowment funds, which currently stand at over \$280 million.

For more information on the MSU Foundation, visit [www.msufoundation.com](http://www.msufoundation.com).



# *A picture perfect evening*

LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION 2007

Donors who have achieved membership in Mississippi State's prestigious Legacy of Leadership were honored for their cumulative lifetime gifts during October 2007 Homecoming ceremonies. The event was held in the Hunter Henry Center with more than 225 MSU alumni and friends in attendance.

Elizabeth Crowder, a cellist and senior at nearby Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, performed during the cocktail reception in the lobby. The evening's featured soloist was Linda Karen Smith, professor emeritus of music education, accompanied by Dr. Rosangela Sebba, associate professor of music education. Special remarks were made by Dr. Rayford Vaughn, who holds the Billie J. Ball Endowed Professorship in Computer Science and Engineering in the

Bagley College of Engineering, while John P. Rush, vice president for development and alumni, served as master of ceremonies. MSU President Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong and his wife Mary were also on hand for the event.

Membership in the Legacy of Leadership consists of seven levels, and donors are recognized at their highest membership level, including those in the Old Main Society who have established deferred gifts to the university. Many donors were on hand for their inaugural induction into a giving club including Dr. John Tilley, a retired MSU mathematics professor, fondly known as the first director of the honors program, and his wife Delores of Starkville. Vicksburg couple Cody McKellar III and his wife Joan were among the many who located their names on the Legacy of Leadership Wall in the upper mezzanine area of the facility.



Mr. and Mrs. Cody McKellar III



MSU President and Mrs. Robert H. Foglesong

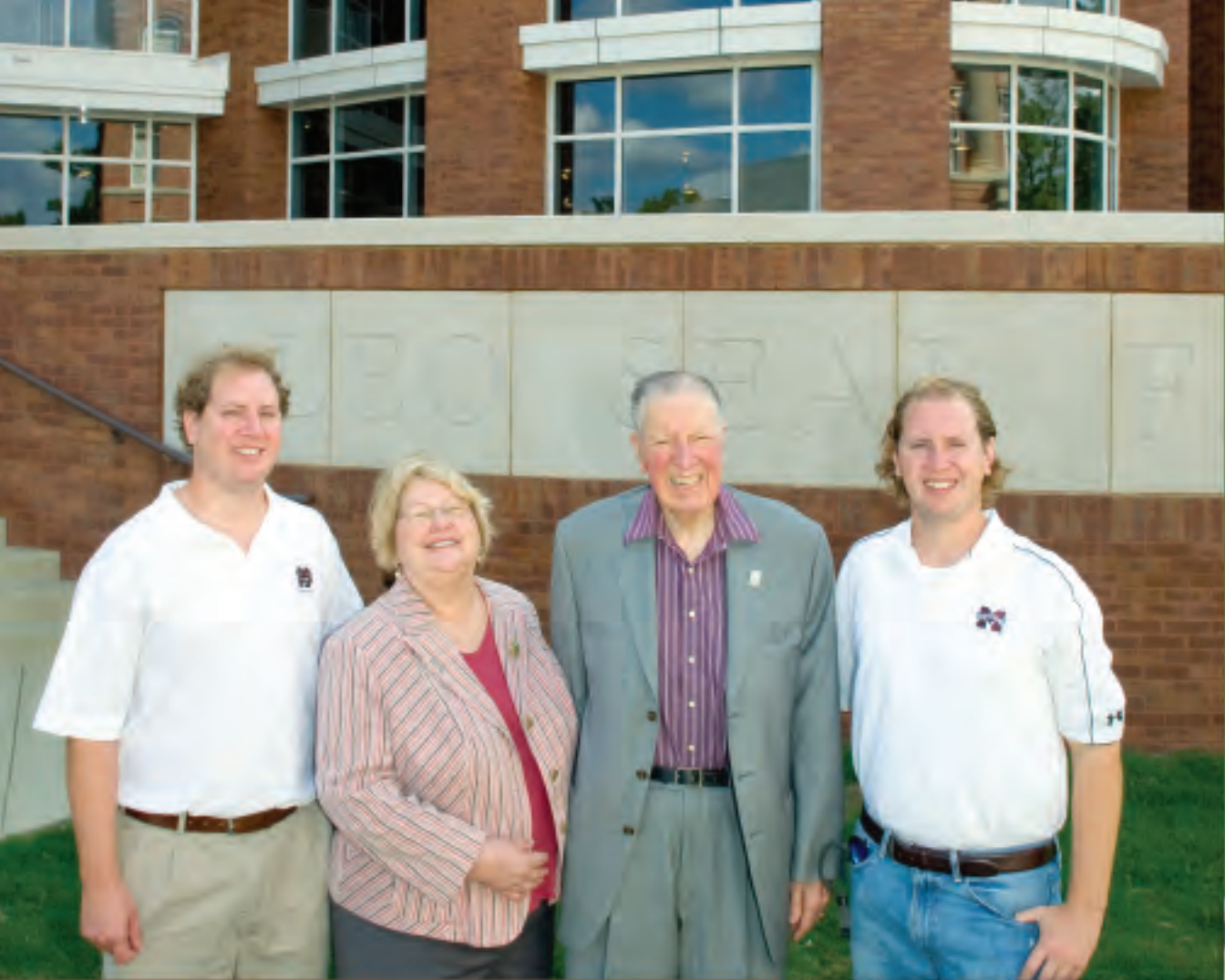


Miss Elizabeth Crowder



Dr. and Mrs. John Tilley

Mr. John P. Rush



*All in the family*  
*Business college complex*  
*named for Seals*



Leo W. Seal Jr. can talk for hours about life as a Mississippi State University student. His family's connection with the university spans three generations. His father attended here as did his twin sons. Through the years, he's maintained his ties by serving on advisory boards and attending athletic events. And, through it all, he's never forgotten what lies at the heart of the university—the MSU student.

Students enrolled in Mississippi State's College of Business and Industry began the 2007-08 academic year attending class in an expanded complex thanks to a significant gift from the Seal Family of Bay St. Louis. From studying casually in a unique atrium area to attending presentations in a new state-of-the-art auditorium, these students are taking advantage of the stimulating atmosphere of the newly named Leo W. Seal Family Business Complex.

In October 2007, university leaders and Seal family members formally dedicated the 52,000-square-foot addition to McCool Hall. A cornerstone

The Seals: Susie and Leo Jr. (center) with sons Lee (left) and Leo III.

contribution several years ago by the family, along with other private contributions, funded the project begun in early 2005. The complex makes up the new west end of the 30-year-old, three-story building that serves some 2,500 business and accounting majors each school year.

“Leo Seal and his family have their fingerprints all over this campus,” said MSU President Robert H. “Doc” Foglesong. “We will be standing on the legacy established by the Seal family not just for years, but for decades. The university certainly acknowledges the support of Leo Seal Jr., who has brought much progress to the university through his work on advisory boards and with other areas.”

In addition to Leo Seal Jr.—a 1949 banking and finance graduate and longtime Hancock Holding Co. president—other alumni in the family include: his father, the late Leo W. Seal Sr., a 1911 graduate of then-Mississippi A&M College;



and his sons, Leo W. Seal III and Lee Seal, both 2000 geosciences graduates. Also, Clay Wagner, grandson of Leo Sr., is a 1982 marketing graduate.

“It is most pleasing to our family to enhance the facilities of the College of Business and Industry and its impact on both students and faculty,” said Leo W. Seal Jr., who was honored by MSU in 1999 with an honorary doctorate in public service.

Beyond academics, the family has been a major supporter of MSU athletics through the years. Leo Jr., a former Bulldog football player, provided funding for the M-Club building named

in honor of his father, a two-year football letterman.

Other family support has been provided for the business college’s Leo Seal Jr. Distinguished Speaker Series and Seal Electronic Classroom, along with the Seal Vice President’s Suite in the Hunter Henry Center, home of the MSU Foundation and Alumni Association, and a variety of academic scholarships in business, engineering and forestry. Leo Jr. also supports the university’s Distinguished Scholars Program.

The new business complex includes additional central-campus classrooms and conference rooms as well as additional business faculty offices and student project “team rooms.” The building features a three-story atrium which serves as a public gathering and special events locale. The facility also boasts the W.A. “Bill” Taylor Jr. Auditorium, a 300-seat, high-technology teaching and general assembly facility endowed through an excellence fund gift honoring the late chairman of the Louisville-based Taylor Group of Companies.

The College of Business and Industry

Young Alumni Advisory Board has also gotten on board with the project. Proceeds from the group’s recent fundraisers have purchased flat screen televisions for the new student lounge atrium area in the business complex expansion so students can monitor world events. The group has also purchased a Beta Gamma Sigma key statue, which serves as a reminder that

COBI has earned membership in the top international business honorary.

MSU’s business college—one of the Southeast’s oldest—is accredited by AACSB International, the world’s foremost accrediting organization for business schools. Graduates may be found at the top levels of Fortune 500 businesses, as well as throughout state and regional commercial and industrial firms.

The college’s academic programs also include the recently endowed Richard C. Adkerson School of Accountancy, which honors another prominent alumnus.

# STATE OF THE FUTURE *campaign*

## Gifts from MSU faithful boost campaign past \$400 million goal

*Mississippi State's largest capital campaign is still going strong, surpassing a monumental milestone. A flurry of year-end gifts and commitments propelled State of the Future beyond its \$400 million goal a full year ahead of schedule. The campaign now stands at more than \$408 million.*

"This is an exciting time for Mississippi State as *State of the Future* reaches its goal ahead of schedule, allowing us another year to shatter an already ambitious \$400 million minimum mark," said John P. Rush, vice president for development and alumni. "The credit for our success goes to the alumni, friends, faculty, administrators and staff who have made contributions and the leadership of the members of the MSU Foundation Board of Directors.

"While our overall \$400 million goal has been met and even exceeded, our larger purpose

is to create a better, more responsive and more engaged university—and that goal is an ever-expanding one as our university strives to become the region's most respected land-grant institution," said Rush. "We will continue to seek the support of our alumni and friends in fulfilling many of the still unmet needs at our university."

In December 2007 alone, the university received more than \$13 million in gifts and commitments, bringing the campaign total to just over \$406 million with January commitments edging the campaign past \$408 million. The campaign will continue through December 2008. Among the year-end gifts were several significant outright and deferred commitments, including:

- A \$1 million gift from Mr. and Mrs. Dave Swalm of New Ulm, Texas, to supplement the Dave and Beth Swalm Chemical Engineering Scholarship;
- A \$500,000 commitment from Mr. and Mrs. John "Nutie" Dowdle of Columbus to create the John "Nutie" and Edie Dowdle Professorship in Business;
- A \$500,000 commitment from Dr. and Mrs. Niles "Ranny" Moseley of Los Altos, Calif., for campus beautification projects and the university's Medallion Scholarship Program;
- A commitment of more than \$200,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Roderick A. Moore of Brandon, along with friends and family, to establish the Dr. Brad Roderick Moore Memorial Presidential Endowed Scholarship to honor the Moore's late son; and
- A gift of commercial property from Mr.





and Mrs. Robert V. M. Harrison of Madison to benefit the university's architecture school.

*State of the Future* began its silent phase July 1, 2001, and was publicly announced in October 2004 with \$200 million in commitments already in hand.

Thus far in the campaign, several major academic units have been named through endowments—including the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering, the Judy and Bobby Shackouls Honors College, and the Richard C. Adkerson School of Accountancy in the College of Business and Industry. More than \$72 million has been raised for endowed undergraduate and graduate scholarships and fellowships and 27 new endowed faculty chairs and professorships have been created, bringing the university's total to 45.

Campaign success is also evident in the significant growth of the university's endowment, which currently stands at over \$280 million up from \$153 million at the start of the campaign.

In addition to continuing *State of the Future* campaign efforts, the MSU Foundation is also currently engaged in raising private funds for a concurrent initiative, "Reach for Excellence," which aims to help MSU meet the goals set forth in the university's long-term strategic plan, FutureSTATE 2015. The initiative seeks at least \$100 million in private support for four priority areas of the university—campus appearance and preservation; academic excellence; scholarships, student growth, and development; and faculty development.

All outright gifts, pledges or deferred gifts for Mississippi State through Dec. 31, 2008, including those to athletics, will be considered *State of the Future* contributions. Donors may earmark their gifts for a particular college, school, initiative or priority of their choosing. For more information, visit [www.msufoundation.com](http://www.msufoundation.com) or call toll-free 1.877.MSSTATE.

**The following individuals, corporations and foundations have made commitments of more than \$50,000 from September 1, 2007 through January 31, 2008, for *State of the Future: The Mississippi State Campaign*.**

Mr. Richard Adkerson  
Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Allen II  
Autodesk Inc.

Mr. A. L. Aydelott  
Mrs. Viola G. Bardsley  
The Barksdale Foundation  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of  
Mississippi Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Boykin  
Mr. Steve Brandon and  
Ms. Patsy L. Fowlkes

Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Carl Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carpenter  
J. C. Cheek Contractors Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Cherry  
ChevronTexaco Corp.  
Citicorp

Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Collum  
Mr. and Mrs. Earnest W. Deavenport  
Mr. and Mrs. John N. Dowdle  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Dunlap  
Dr. and Mrs. John S. Featherston

Mr. and Mrs. Edward G. Foresman  
The Furniture Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Hacskaylo  
Hancock Bank

Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. M. Harrison  
Robert M. Hearin Support  
Foundation  
Health Care Foundation of  
North Mississippi

Mr. and Mrs. Hunter W. Henry Jr.  
Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc.

Mr. Louis A. Hurst Jr.  
Mr. Frank T. Jackson  
Mr. and Mrs. Earle F. Jones  
W. K. Kellogg Foundation

Drs. Rande and Linda Lazar and  
Lauren Lazar

Dr. Bruce D. Leopold  
Luckyday Foundation  
Mr. John P. Mazeris and  
Mrs. Mona Williams Mazeris  
Mr. Thomas W. McCloud

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Mitchell  
Mr. and Mrs. Roderick A. Moore  
Dr. and Mrs. Niles R. Moseley  
Eloise, Enoch and Margery  
Norton Foundation

Mrs. June W. Pace  
Mr. and Mrs. Rafael Palmeiro  
Mr. John M. Pearson  
Irene W. and C. B. Pennington  
Foundation  
Pickering Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve W. Sanders  
Mr. and Mrs. Leo W. Seal Jr.  
Southern Cattle Co.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Paul Sparks Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Dave C. Swalm  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whitehead  
Ms. Rebecca Woods



## *Keeping school ties*

FORMER ARCHITECTURE FACULTY MEMBER  
CEMENTS RELATIONSHIP WITH MSU

Robert and Freda Harrison (far right) visit with his former protégée Rachel McCann, an MSU architecture professor; and fourth-year students Sully Clemmer and Alanna Gladney

Robert V. M. Harrison of Madison has enjoyed a 30-year history with Mississippi State University's architecture school. As a retired architect and a former adjunct faculty member, he wants to ensure the school is structurally sound for years to come.

Many of the milestones of Mississippi State's architecture school can be linked to Harrison. He was instrumental in the school's founding in 1973. Harrison also helped to implement the fifth-year class program in Jackson and taught there for many years.

Today, Harrison continues to offer assistance and advice to Mississippi State and its School of Architecture whenever possible. It is a rewarding relationship he plans to continue.



Harrison with Bennett Evans, College of Architecture, Art and Design development director; Caleb Crawford, architecture director; and James West, college dean.

Harrison recently pledged the proceeds from the sale of 10 acres of commercial property in Jackson to a future endowment. Mississippi State will use the gift to create the Robert V. M. Harrison and Freda Wallace Harrison Endowed Fund for Excellence in the School of Architecture within the College of Architecture, Art and Design. The earnings from the endowment will continue the couple's sponsorship of a previously established lecture series as well. Any remaining earnings from the endowment will benefit the school's advancement fund.

At the age of 13, Harrison set his sights on becoming an architect. Since there was no architecture program in the state at the time, he enrolled at the University of Mississippi where he completed his pre-architectural studies. He later earned a Bachelor of Architecture from Tulane University and a Master of Architecture from the University of Florida. His final stop was Tulane University, where he received an MBA.

Early in his career, Harrison returned to Mississippi. After being named president of the state chapter of the American Institute of Architects, he assisted Mississippi State University with its quest to become the only university in the state with an architecture school.

Harrison became the first faculty member of the School of Architecture's first fifth-year class in 1977, serving as an adjunct member through 1990. MSU's fifth-year program was the first full self-contained off campus program in the country. During much of this time, Harrison also owned his own

architectural and consulting firm.

Harrison's personal commitment to the school grew stronger. In 1983, he established the first full-tuition one year scholarship for an incoming freshman in architecture at MSU. It was the school's first scholarship from an individual rather than from a business.

By the late 1990s, Harrison was involved in the school's fundraising effort to endow a library fund in honor of architect and mentor Joseph Pursell. In the early 2000s, Harrison rejoined the school's advisory council. During this time, he and his wife Freda decided to provide much-needed funding for the school's annual lecture series. The Harrison Visiting Lecture Series includes four to six lectures each semester from a broad range of nationally recognized architects, educators and artists, and visits with featured lecturers are scheduled to allow interaction with students beyond the formal lecture.

Through his commitment to the field of architecture, Harrison has amassed a long line of affiliations and accolades. But among his proudest moments, he says, is the realization that many of the students with whom he shared a commitment to leadership and professionalism are now owners and leaders in many professional firms throughout the South, including holding office with the Mississippi Chapter of the American Institute of Architects as well as some national organizations.

After participating in 12 accreditation site visits to schools of architecture representing all areas of the country, Harrison believes MSU's School of Architecture "is equal to the best, because of its outstanding university leaders, faculty, students and graduates."

Thanks to his investment in architecture education, he is helping to ensure the success of quality architects for generations to come.

# Growing a legacy

PRIVATE GIFTS AID  
AGRICULTURE COLLEGE



*Thus far* in the university's *State of the Future* campaign, alumni and friends of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences have been particularly generous, committing more than \$30 million in private gifts and pledges earmarked for advancement.

The agriculture college, one of Mississippi State's oldest academic units, is already benefiting from additional scholarships, research and teaching endowments and even facility enhancements through campaign gifts. However, more commitments are still needed for areas crucial to the academic unit's mission.

### *Cultivating knowledge with great teachers*

In today's competitive environment, endowed positions are crucial to attract and retain outstanding educators-teachers who can help university students succeed in their chosen fields and inspire them to engage in innovative pursuits.

Endowments for several new positions in the college have been created by individuals. MSU professor Glover Triplett and his wife Imogene of Starkville endowed the Triplett Chair in Agronomy last year. Also, Michael Havard of Scottsdale, Ariz., created the Lewis M. Havard Endowed Professorship in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology to honor his late father. Earnings from the endowment will be used to attract top faculty candidates to the department or to recognize a current faculty member within the department who has achieved national acclaim.

These endowed positions will recruit top scholars to Mississippi State and will benefit students for generations. Endowed chairs may be created with a minimum gift of \$1.5 million, while professorships require a \$500,000 minimum contribution. Earnings from the endowment may be used for salary supplements as well as stipends for research and other scholarly activities.

### *Enriching the learning experience with scholarships*

Through the *State of the Future* campaign, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has been able to add new scholarships, both annual and endowed.

The growing list of more than 200 scholarships through the campaign includes those



established by the Enoch, Eloise and Margery Norton Family Foundation in memory of Enoch R. Norton. A 1934 then-Mississippi A&M graduate in dairy sciences, Norton worked in a grocery and ice cream business until his death in 1999 at the age of 96. Future recipients of the Enoch Norton Scholarship must be full-time undergraduate students enrolled in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences.

Another new scholarship holds special meaning for a Starkville couple.

Bill and Cleo Baker have shared many things during their 50 plus years of marriage, including a great respect for Mississippi State University. With proceeds from a gift annuity, the couple has established the William D. and Cleo W. Baker Endowed Scholarship in Mississippi State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Bill is a 1950 MSU agriculture graduate who spent 48 years with Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States following a stint as an extension agent. Cleo holds degrees in home economics from Iowa State and Kansas State University. She worked for Duluth College for several years and later for Louisiana State University as an instructor in home economics.



The Baker Scholarship will be for full-time undergraduate students enrolled in the college with preference given to applicants within the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences or the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion and majoring in nutrition.

All scholarship funds in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, like the Baker and Norton funds, may be increased through additional contributions. An endowment for scholarships requires a minimum \$25,000 contribution, payable over a five-year period. Earnings from the endowment will be awarded in perpetuity.

### *Building much-needed facilities*

One of the main buildings in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine will undergo a major renovation beginning this July. The Lloyd Ricks building houses the agricultural economics department and the School of Human Sciences.

“This will be the most significant renovation of the building since its construction,” said Melissa Mixon, associate vice president for the division.

Plans call for a complete interior overhaul with some exterior work being done as well, such as the replacement of windows. The west side of the building was originally constructed in 1929, with an east side addition completed in 1939.

The project will be funded through approximately \$10.45 million in state “bond” money and \$2.85 million in federal money through a Housing and Urban Development grant, according to Mixon. The anticipated completion date is December 2009.

Across the way, students, faculty and staff members in Mississippi State’s agricultural and biological engineering department have settled into their new campus home. The \$11-million, 40,000-square-foot building located between Dorman Hall and McCarthy Gymnasium was funded through both state appropriations and private contributions.

“Mississippi State has the oldest agricultural engineering program in the region and one of the first biological engineering programs in the nation, so it is fitting that this new facility will help us continue to set benchmarks,” said Vance Watson, vice president for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine who also serves as dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. “The state-of-the-art capabilities of this building will advance learning opportunities for our students long into the future.”

The department offers teaching programs in the university’s two oldest major academic units, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering.

“Our department is unique in its partnership between two university colleges,” said department head Bill Batchelor. “The new facility provides not only the needed teaching and research space our students and faculty deserve, but also places us in closer proximity to both of our college partners.”

Students within the department are preparing to enter medical school, work in biomedical engineering companies, research and develop new renewable energy sources, manage agricultural enterprises, and pursue a variety of careers dealing with natural resources and ecosystems. The department also offers the state’s only graduate program in biomedical engineering.

Naming opportunities for private donors remain for classrooms, laboratories and offices.

For more information about supporting the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, contact Jud Skelton, development director, at 662.325.0643 or [jskelton@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jskelton@foundation.msstate.edu).

# the Maroon Mile

LEAVE YOUR MARK AT MISSISSIPPI STATE!



*Students, alumni and friends now have the opportunity to leave behind a permanent mark on the university's campus.*

Through a gift to the MSU Annual Fund, your name or message of your choosing can 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. Maroon Mile bricks are available in two sizes: 8" x 4" bricks are available for a donation of \$500 and may be engraved with three lines of up to 14 characters per line. Larger red granite pavers (24" x 8") are available for donations of \$1,500 or more and may be engraved with up to four lines of 16 characters per line. For more details, contact the MSU Annual Fund at (662) 325-2466 or print an order form online at [www.msufoundation.com](http://www.msufoundation.com).

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MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## A WISE

## INVESTMENT

Recently we experienced a glimpse of a beautiful spring day, so I decided to walk to a meeting on campus so that I could enjoy the sunshine. As I walked, I noticed that numerous students were outdoors enjoying the day as well—reading, studying, talking in small groups, even surfing the Internet.

I believe parents of college students want their children to experience all that the college life can offer and are pleased—and even relieved—when they get the indication that their students are happy while away obtaining their education. My husband and I have two students who attend Mississippi State, and we really enjoy hearing them talk about their experiences. They frequently share stories about their campus activities and how much they enjoy the time they spend in class and in their extracurricular pursuits.

Of course, as a parent who values her children's education, the stories I love to hear most are regarding their classroom and educational experiences. Our oldest daughter is a senior, and every semester she seems to find one or two professors who impact her in some way. One of her professors this semester is well past retirement age but still teaches simply because he loves the students. The stories she tells and the words she chooses to describe him clearly indicate that she thinks he is the most intelligent person she has ever met.

Our youngest daughter, who is a sophomore, is equally enjoying her classes and professors. One in particular is quickly becoming a mentor to her—an asset that we all know will carry her well beyond her semester's coursework.

Why am I sharing these stories with you? If you are a parent, it is nice to know that your decision to send your child to Mississippi State will pay off—our faculty members truly have the interest and long-term well-being of our students at heart. If you are a faculty member, thank you for your commitment to shaping these young minds in preparation for their place in society. If you are a contributor to Mississippi State, thank you for your investment in the quality of education enjoyed by thousands of students each semester. You truly do make a difference in their lives even if you cannot see this for yourself—trust me.



## Cathy Lammons

DIRECTOR OF DONOR RELATIONS



## MSU department head invests personal resources in education

Bruce Leopold, head of the university's wildlife and fisheries department in the College of Forest Resources, is one Mississippi State faculty member who believes in giving back to the institution.



Bruce Leopold

For a number of years, Leopold has consistently supported the university through financial commitments. The reason he gives is quite simple—the 20-year faculty veteran says he's reciprocating the

commitment Mississippi State has made in him.

"MSU and its administration welcomed me into its fold from the first day I walked into my office and has continued with that level of support. My professional development as a research scientist, then as department head since 2000, is because of the tremendous support I received from MSU," Leopold said.

A recent gift of property from Leopold—approximately 140 acres in Noxubee County—will become part of Mississippi State's Bulldog Forest program, which allows landowners to create a lasting heritage by giving land to the College of Forest Resources. The Bulldog Forest properties are used as living laboratories in which forest management practices provide teaching, research and demonstration opportunities for students of all ages.

The land holds special meaning for Leopold. "There is something magical each time I walk on it, and I realize that it belongs to me. Also, land is one commodity that is limited on this planet, but it continually produces products such as wildlife and timber," he explained.

"I know the College of Forest Resources will take good care of the land and will enjoy the income it will generate through its natural resources many, many years after I pass on," Leopold said. "It's a way of ensuring that groups of young professionals will benefit from my good fortune and success as a wildlife biologist, and it is the one way I can return something to an institution that I love deeply."

Future earnings from the property will support an endowed scholarship for wildlife and fisheries majors. Additional proceeds will endow the Leopold Fund for Excellence which may support endowed positions, scholarships and fellowships, faculty development, equipment and other enhancements within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Leopold, a predator ecology specialist, was honored with the outstanding alumnus award of the University of Arizona's School of Renewable Resources, where he completed his doctorate. He holds a bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University and a master's from MSU. A longtime Wildlife Society member, he will serve as the 2009 president for the international organization.

For more information on supporting the college, contact Jeff Little at 662.325.8151 or [jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu).



**Coach Ron Polk  
is leaving a  
lasting legacy  
at MSU both on  
and off the field.**

Through a generous bequest to the MSU Foundation, Coach Polk has ensured that his beloved baseball program will continue to thrive long after he is gone.

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## University's special children's center receives more than a helping hand

Thanks to the financial support of a state-wide philanthropy group and several friends of the T.K. Martin Center for Technology and Disability at MSU, teachers and therapists will soon have another tool at their disposal to help children with developmental delays.

The center, which provides state-of-the-art clinical, research and training programs focused on modern technologies, broke ground on a new therapeutic motor lab in December 2007. The new outdoor laboratory will enhance the center's ongoing efforts through Project IMPACT (Insuring Mississippi Parents' and Children's Tomorrows), which provides evaluation and intervention services for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

The motor lab will include a rubber play surface, as well as a wheelchair-accessible main playground structure. Construction is expected to be complete by summer 2008.

Primary funding for the project was provided

by a grant from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation of Mississippi and individual fundraising efforts spearheaded by Jim Wilson of Columbus.

Project IMPACT offers a family-centered approach to early evaluation and intervention for those with cognitive, language, social skills, motor development and self-help needs. Services are provided at the center on the MSU campus, in the home or in a day-care setting.

Janie Cirlot-New, director of the center, said having the new motor lab, essentially a highly specialized playground, will provide an outside environment for children enrolled in the program to work on motor therapy goals such as running, climbing and walking in a low-stress atmosphere.

"Most of the children in our program have developmental disabilities and many have delayed gross motor skill development," she said. "This will allow them to work on their motor skills and balance in a play environment by giving them a safe place to do many of their normal play activities."

For more information about contributing to

Project IMPACT, the new Motor Lab, or any area of the T.K. Martin Center, contact Rob Jenkins, director of development for MSU's College of Education, at 662.325.6762 or [rjenkins@colled.msstate.edu](mailto:rjenkins@colled.msstate.edu).



On hand for the recent groundbreaking were (l-r) former student Corey Moore who raised more than \$200 for the project, Jim Wilson and son Phillip, College of Education Dean Richard Blackburn, and Maggie Wilson.

**MEETING**

**THE**

**CHALLENGE**

In 2001, Mississippi State University embarked on the largest fundraising event in our 130-year history. Having completed only one capital campaign to date—one that successfully raised \$143 million—we challenged our loyal alumni and supporters to help us raise an unprecedented \$400 million over a seven-year period. From this, the *State of the Future* campaign was born.

We had several reasons not to embark on this campaign...uncertain economic times, terrorist attacks on American soil, a small foundation staff—just to name a few! The one thing we did have, and always will, was a dedicated, supportive, philanthropic group of alumni and friends that were willing to meet the challenge. I'm proud to tell you, through years of hard work by you and our staff, your support has paid huge dividends for the future of Mississippi State University. In December 2007, the *State of the Future* campaign exceeded its goal—a full year ahead of schedule—and currently stands at over \$408 million. This translates into new scholarship money for our students, new faculty endowments to attract and retain quality faculty, and new buildings and campus beautification projects to improve one of the most beautiful institutions of higher learning in the country.

Does this mean we will stop? Absolutely not! As our university grows, so do its needs. Despite our incredible successes, there are still many areas of need that are as yet unmet and we will turn our attention to meeting these needs. To do this, we will expand our efforts through the new “Reach for Excellence” initiative, which seeks at least \$100 million in priority areas to achieve the goals set forth in the university’s long-term strategic plan, FutureSTATE 2015. Ultimately, we will continue to focus on the same goal we’ve held each and every year—to help our university become a better, more responsive and more engaged university for our current students and those generations to come.

We appreciate your help as we continue to strengthen the future of our university with your support. Thank you for helping us meet the challenge.



## Bo Hemphill

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

## New scholarship program assists deserving students

MSU will help more students than ever before receive the benefits of a college education through a new scholarship program, scheduled to launch for the 2008-09 academic year. Known as the Medallion Scholarships, the need-based financial awards will help qualified Mississippi students attend MSU and pursue their dreams of higher education.

In order to qualify for a Medallion Scholarship, a student must be a Mississippi resident with a total family income between \$30,001 and \$45,000. Eligible students must be enrolled full-time. Entering freshmen must have a 3.0 high school grade-point average and a minimum 18 ACT score. Transfer students must have a 2.5 transfer GPA after completing 48 eligible transfer hours.

Medallion scholarships, inspired by the success of the MSU Promise Program, are intended to bridge the gap between the cost of tuition and a student's federal aid and other scholarships. The MSU Promise Program, launched in 2006, offers similar aid to students with an annual income of \$30,000 or less. To date, more than 270 students have received assistance through the Promise Program.

Development officer for student affairs Brett Aldridge says that donating to the Medallion Scholarship Program is a way for donors to share what Mississippi State is all about.

"Medallion scholarships embody the heart of MSU. They are important because they bene-

fit a critical segment of the state's population," Aldridge said. "We've created excellent scholarship opportunities for students with exceptional academic records and for those with severely limited financial resources, but the Medallion Program is geared specifically for those students who may not fall within those two categories, but who still can benefit from a Mississippi State education."

Because of the rising costs of college tuition, many students cannot afford higher education without financial assistance. The Medallion Scholarship Program helps combat this growing problem.

"By contributing to the Medallion Scholarship Program, donors affect students' lives by providing them with higher education," he said. "In turn, the students positively impact the future of the state of Mississippi."

The Medallion Scholarship Program is a component of "Reach for Excellence," a fundraising initiative that seeks at least \$100 million to help MSU achieve the goals set forth in FutureSTATE 2015, the university's long-term strategic plan.

For more information about the Medallion Scholarship Program, contact Aldridge at [baldrige@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:baldrige@foundation.msstate.edu) or 662.325.9129.

## Lazar family says “thank you” through support for CVM

Two native New York physicians have become members of the College of Veterinary Medicine family because of their appreciation for the animal hospital staff, veterinarians, and the students who train there.

Dr. Rande Lazar is an otolaryngologist and his wife, Dr. Linda Lazar, is a pediatric gastroenterologist. They practice and make their home in Memphis. Their daughter Lauren is a college student at Wake Forest.

Initially referred to CVM by their local veterinarian, the Lazars brought their dog Dempsey to campus for treatments for a pancreatic disorder. Later, another Lazar family member, a mixed lab named Ruby, was also treated at CVM. Very impressed by the facility, the doctors and the loving care they repeatedly received, the Lazars committed themselves to the college’s success.

In 2001, when Dempsey lost his battle with poor health, the Lazars chose to memorialize him and to honor Ruby by establishing the Dempsey and Ruby Lazar Endowed Scholarship. The Lazars felt endowing a scholarship was a fitting way to thank CVM for the quality care provided to their loving companions, while also recognizing the abiding love they have for their pets as loyal companions and family members.

The scholarship is awarded to full-time CVM students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement and show promise for an



outstanding future as veterinarians.

“It is our desire to support the education of future veterinarians who are committed to demonstrating a compassion and

love for animals and professionalism toward their patients,” said Dr. Rande Lazar. “We know our scholarship will help ensure that other families with companion animals receive the same quality care that we receive when we visit our local veterinarian and CVM.”

The Lazars have also contributed significant quantities of medical supplies, equipment, and anesthesia machines used in the Animal Health Center. Most recently, the couple committed to another generous gift in support of the college. Their support provides students with educational opportunities needed for future success.

“Having donors like the Lazar family, who support the college through endowment level gifts, gifts in kind, as well as planned gifts, is why we continue to exceed expectations in research, teaching and service,” said Keith Gaskin, senior director of development for CVM.

If you are interested in discovering how you can contribute to the College of Veterinary Medicine, contact Gaskin at 662.325.3815 or email [kgaskin@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:kgaskin@foundation.msstate.edu).

## President's Cabinet provides unique venue to support university

Several alumni and friends are now members of the elite President's Cabinet for 2008. The members of the group, which aid the university in achieving priority initiatives through funding and guidance, will meet with university leadership later this year for an executive briefing on the status of the university and will be asked for their advice on the institution's goals and plans for the future.

Alumni, friends and parents of the university may join the President's Cabinet with an annual gift of \$10,000 or more to the MSU Foundation, designated for the President's Cabinet Fund. The fund is used to help Mississippi State pursue goals that will ensure its place as one of the preeminent institutions of higher learning in the Southeast. Membership is valid for one year and may be renewed annually with additional contributions of \$10,000 or more. Collectively, the 2008 members have contributed more than \$285,000 to the fund.

"We are grateful to the members of this group who are willing to invest both their time and financial resources to help our university succeed," said John P. Rush, vice president for development and alumni. "As always, we appreciate and value the voices and opinions of those who care about Mississippi State. The investment that these individuals have made is indicative of their belief and support of our vision of becoming the region's most respected land-grant institution."

The members of the 2008 President's Cabinet are: Mr. Richard C. Adkerson of New Orleans; Mr. and Mrs. David W. Evers Jr. of Starkville; Mr. and Mrs. Hunter W. Henry Jr. of San Marcos, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Luke and Mr. and Mrs. James L. McRae, both of Meridian; Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Puckett of Jackson; Mr. and Mrs. James J. "Jim" Rouse, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby S. Shackouls, and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Terreson, all of Houston, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Michael W. "Mike" Sanders of Cleveland; and Mrs. and Mrs. Gerald W. Thames of Duluth, Ga.



### Spice up your kitchen—Bulldog style!

Bring Southern Bulldog flavor into your kitchen with the special Mississippi State limited edition of *Southern Seasons*—the coffee-table cookbook with 140 new recipes by acclaimed chef Robert St. John and 59 beautiful watercolors by Wyatt Waters. This special edition features an exclusive Waters painting of historic Lee Hall on the back cover and each book comes with a signed print of this special work of art. Order yours today at [www.msufoundation.com](http://www.msufoundation.com) or call 1-877-MSSTATE for details.

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## Rupert H. Beatty Family: Impact of Giving



### A TOWERING MEMORY

The new director's tower at Mississippi State's much-anticipated band and choral rehearsal facility has been named for the late Rupert H. Beatty. Beatty's widow, Mary Reynolds Beatty (center), marked the special occasion along with her nephew, Hamp Beatty (right), and his daughter Lauren (left) a currently-enrolled MSU student and cheerleader.

The Rupert H. Beatty Director's Observation Tower is located on the marching band practice

field adjacent to the new facility on the southeast side of campus. Beatty was a student at then-Mississippi A&M from 1935 through 1937 and played trombone in the A&M Marching Band. A native of Newton, he retired as a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force and was a veteran of World War II.



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ROSA  
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