

Fall 2009

Foundations

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foundations

FALL 2009 | VOL. 9 NO. 2

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION



2009-2010
Distinguished Scholars

WITH MSU PRESIDENT MARK E. KEENUM

LOYALTY.

Loyalty. Pride. Passion. All of us who bleed maroon share a common bond and typically one or more of these valued qualities. As the MSU Foundation embarked on a new fiscal year of giving, we have chosen a banner, if you will, of loyalty, pride and passion.

PRIDE.

The slogan is appropriate, but not completely original. We “borrowed” it from W. Carroll and Georgia Ann Murphy of Starkville. For a 2008 issue of *Alumnus* magazine, they were asked why they have given to MSU for nearly 30 years. Carroll resoundingly responded it was all about loyalty, pride and passion. His simple explanation prompted us to carry his banner as we work to secure resources for a growing university.

PASSION.

Mississippi State has been a part of the Murphy family’s budget each year, Georgia explained, because they were always assured a good return on the investment. In fact, a “return on investment” is something we strive to provide each of our donors. We strongly feel that the investment in the lives of our students is vital to the future of our university, as well as to our state, region and nation.

Your gifts provide scholarships and resources that are needed now more than any other time in our history. With the looming downturn in state appropriations, we are again looking to our alumni and friends to assist in providing much needed support for students and faculty through a specialized initiative known as *StatePride*. Our faculty and staff are working diligently to not only provide a quality education, but to also instill the qualities of loyalty, pride and passion in our students. It is our desire that these characteristics will develop and become enhanced throughout their careers.

New graduates may be particularly interested in a little advice Carroll was willing to share. He said, “The quality and cost of the education you received at MSU were higher and lower respectively than they otherwise would have been because those who preceded you made contributions. Return the favor to those who follow you by giving back to MSU during your lifetime.” With *Forbes* magazine recently ranking MSU as a Top 20 Best College Buy for quality for each tuition dollar spent, I believe Carroll’s words are very compelling during these challenging times.

I hope you’ll take a moment to “meet” the Murphys on page 20 of this newsletter. They, and others like them, have always been the heart and soul of MSU, and the reason we believe a new initiative will prove successful for our university.

**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.

MSU unveils

STATE PRIDE

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Initiative for Student and Faculty Support

Mississippi State University has been the door to opportunity for thousands of young people from all walks of life for more than 130 years. The institution remains steeped in tradition with a clear vision for the future. As part of its strategic goals, a bold new initiative known as StatePride will allow Mississippi State to keep pace with the changing needs of its people.

StatePride is an endeavor to secure private funds for the people who are the core of the institution—the students and faculty of Mississippi State. The initiative was announced as part of the official investiture ceremonies in October for MSU’s 19th president, Dr. Mark E. Keenum.

Since assuming the leadership of MSU in January, Keenum, along with other university leaders, has addressed ways to grow the university over time and combat lean years of state support. A mechanism for this strategy is *StatePride*, a four-year fundraising initiative that seeks \$100 million in gifts and pledges. The initiative began in January, and has subsequently raised nearly \$20 million toward its goal.

“The *StatePride* initiative will help Mississippi State continue a pattern of growth and excellence in the areas of learning, research and service,” Keenum said. “Our hope is to provide a quality and affordable education for as many students as possible, and employ expert faculty in every academic unit.”

Mississippi State has a strategic goal to grow its current enrollment of 18,600 students to more than 22,000 by 2015. Reaching this goal will require additional private funding for student scholarships and faculty support.

“The success of this effort will depend on the continued foresight and generosity of MSU alumni and friends, and their confidence in the ability of our university to meet the needs of our state. We have no doubt that they will rise to the challenge and we will spare no effort to justify their trust,” Keenum said.

Recently, the university was named by *Forbes* magazine as a top 20 best college buy on a list of 100 best educational buys in America. In fact, MSU was Mississippi’s only public university included in that distinction and the only institution of higher learning in the state to rank in the top 20 percent.

Private funds raised by *StatePride* will provide a steady stream of annual support for Mississippi State. The initiative will allow the university to award need-based scholarships for deserving students and academic scholarships to compete for the best and brightest students. It also will include support to recruit and retain superior faculty members and increase faculty research and development opportunities in all areas of study.

WHY scholarships?

Many students have the desire, but not the means, to achieve their goals of a college degree. According to the National Center for Children in Poverty, only 19 percent of adults in Mississippi have a bachelor’s degree.



ABOVE: MSU's newest class of Distinguished Scholars share their excitement for the *StatePride* initiative which will focus on scholarships to benefit more students and funds for exceptional faculty. They flank their mentor, John F. Marszalek, and MSU President Mark E. Keenum. Scholars include (left to right, front row): Kelsey LeSaicherre, Tommy Kirkpatrick and Lindsay Linhares. Back row is Ryan Hoke, Shelby Balius and Bailey Hansen.

Scholarship support is needed in the form of annual gifts and endowments to ensure Mississippi State has the means to assist as many students as possible. Gifts may support general university scholarships, or they may be designated for a specific college, school or department the donor chooses, with a primary focus on recruitment of new students in all areas.

StatePride will emphasize three annual scholarships to help recruit new students to the university. Legacy Scholarships will compete for the best and brightest academic students. These scholarships are meant to attract entering full-time freshmen who possess high ACT scores and meet other academic benchmarks.

Loyalty Scholarships will provide financial awards on the basis of merit. Students must have academic achievement as well as community leadership skills. These scholarships will benefit entering freshmen and community college transfer students.

A third opportunity, Promise Awards, benefit Mississippi residents who meet certain academic and other criteria, with a family income of \$30,000 and below. The program covers tuition and required fees, while providing campus work opportunities to help offset other non-tuition costs. A Promise Student Support Program through the Division of Student Affairs provides

intervention strategies to keep these students focused on their studies and enrolled in the university.

WHY *faculty support?*

Scholarships alone cannot move Mississippi State University forward. It also will take exceptional educators who want to come to Mississippi and be a vital part of the Bulldog learning experience. These world-class faculty members can create paths of learning for MSU students, helping put them ahead of the curve across the country.

Endowed chairs at Mississippi State honor high profile faculty members for their ongoing contributions in areas vital to the university's



ABOVE: *StatePride* will use private gifts as it paves the way for MSU to recruit more students and enable them to learn from exceptional faculty in all areas of study.

mission of teaching, research and service, as judged by rigorous, nationally accepted standards. Likewise, named professorships typically are held by faculty whose accomplishments indicate potential for national and international leadership and distinction in their field.

Currently, Mississippi State has fewer than 50 endowed positions, and some of the university's eight academic colleges are still awaiting their first endowed chair or professorship. Creating endowments for faculty positions allows MSU to

supplement state salaries and provide funds for research and service activities.

Opportunities exist throughout campus to establish an endowed position, and minimum amounts vary by college. An endowment for a dean's chair requires at least a \$2 million commitment, while \$1.5 million is needed for a chair. A commitment of \$500,000 will fund a professorship and \$100,000 will endow a faculty fellowship.

Since other opportunities are needed for current MSU faculty members to further their skills, *StatePride* solicits funds for much-needed annual faculty support. This continual support will extend to top faculty in all areas of study and increase research and development opportunities.



Mississippi State academics and athletics will unite in the new initiative. The MSU Bulldog Club has made a major financial commitment to assist the university with scholarships and faculty support.

SUPPORTING *StatePride*

Mississippi State University needs assistance from its alumni and friends to maintain its status as an accessible institution of higher learning and as a university willing and able to respond to the needs of its people.

“Our state economy has suffered significantly in the last several months,” said John P. Rush, vice president for development and alumni. “The Foundation is committed to offsetting the decrease in state appropriations by providing private funds for our students and faculty. This will ensure the future of Mississippi’s economy by adequately preparing our young people to enter the workforce.”

Mississippi State academics and athletics will unite in the new initiative. The MSU Bulldog Club has made a major financial commitment to assist the university with scholarships and faculty support.

Annual contributions by the Bulldog Club will be matched by other gifts through the MSU Foundation. This innovative partnership will have a far-reaching impact as it yields at least \$22 million in support of academic quality at Mississippi State over the next 15 years.

A portion of annual revenue from the Bulldog Club will match gifts for student scholarships university-wide. An additional amount is available to match gifts for endowed professorships and other faculty support.

Along with support for *StatePride*, the Bulldog Club has allotted \$50,000 in funds to match gifts for the MSU Library. The university library stands at the academic heart of Mississippi State, and improvements made in this area will allow continued progress toward Association of Research Libraries status.

“We are very pleased to lend support for academics and assist alumni and friends so they may maximize their gifts to Mississippi State. A collaborative effort between the Bulldog Club and the MSU Foundation will strengthen the impact of this initiative for the university,” said Greg Byrne, MSU athletic director.

The *StatePride* initiative will continue through December 2012. For more information on supporting Mississippi State University through *StatePride*, visit the MSU Foundation online at www.msufoundation.com, or call 662.325.7000.



MSU Landmark Gift

Riley Foundation supports MSU-Meridian two-fold

THE RILEY FOUNDATION HAS COMMITTED \$4.5 MILLION TO EXPAND THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY PRESENCE IN DOWNTOWN MERIDIAN.

THIS GIFT INCLUDES A CHALLENGE GRANT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS TO MSU-MERIDIAN, AND THE DONATION OF THE NEWBERRY BUILDING, A HISTORICAL LANDMARK ADJACENT TO THE MSU RILEY CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND PERFORMING ARTS.

Becky Farley, executive director of the Riley Foundation, Robert B. Deen, Jr., vice president and secretary of the Riley Foundation board of directors, and MSU President Mark E. Keenum



In September, MSU President Mark E. Keenum announced the gift at the MSU Riley Center. Representatives from the Riley Foundation, as well as local, state and federal officials, were on hand for the announcement in the Center's historic theater.

"This commitment will enhance educational opportunities in Meridian, Lauderdale County and across east Mississippi," said Keenum. "Mississippi State is honored to partner with the Riley Foundation and for the expansion of this unique and beautiful performing arts and educational facility to benefit the entire region."

The renovation of the Newberry Building, which is being coordinated by the university, will cost around \$4 million. The 20,175 square-foot facility will include classroom space and offices to house the MSU-Meridian Division of Business. Additional funds will be needed to furnish and equip the Newberry Building.

"The expanded space will be a valuable asset to our campus and community," said Dr. Jack Tucci, newly appointed dean and executive director of MSU-Meridian. "The Newberry Building will serve as a catalyst for growth as we seek to increase course offerings and credentials available at MSU-Meridian."

MSU-Meridian currently enrolls non-residential students who are typically working adults or community college transfers. The additional classrooms and offices will allow room for 250 to 500 students and 15 to 20 faculty and administrators to meet the needs of those students.

"The Riley Foundation is an integral part of the growth and revitalization of downtown Meridian," said Keenum. "This gift will help open avenues for partnerships with local companies and MSU-Meridian. It will also create a research center focused on business and entrepreneurship and offer an outstanding venue

for regional conferences and meetings."

In addition to the renovation of the Newberry Building, the \$4.5 million commitment includes a challenge grant for scholarships to MSU-Meridian. The Riley Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar funds raised for scholarships, up to a total of \$300,000.

"The Riley Foundation is dedicated to providing affordable, educational opportunities for students in east Mississippi," said John Rush, vice president for development and alumni. "This grant will award tuition support for area students who will benefit from an MSU education."

Priority for these scholarships will go to students from Lauderdale County, or those transferring from Meridian Community College, East Central Community College, East Mississippi Community College and Jones County Junior College.

"By increasing the number of scholarship dollars awarded, we will be able to attract and retain top Mississippi students," said Keenum. "Our hope is for them to enter the local workforce upon graduation and thus impact the economic development of our state."

The MSU Foundation will seek private scholarship support for the Riley Foundation to match. Keenum has placed an emphasis on increasing the amount of scholarships offered by Mississippi State, and the Riley grant would make it possible for many students to receive tuition to MSU-Meridian.

The Riley Foundation was formed in 1998 with proceeds from the sale of Riley Memorial Hospital, which was founded in Meridian in 1930 by Dr. Franklin Gail Riley. Based in Meridian, the Riley Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for the people of Meridian and Lauderdale County. Dr. William G. Riley, son of the late Dr. Franklin G. Riley, currently serves as chairman for the foundation's board.

Jeremy Wigginton

A SUCCESS STORY



MSU scholarship just the prescription for an aspiring physician

SCHOLARSHIPS

Jeremy Wigginton isn't ashamed to admit that he was overcome with emotion upon learning a scholarship would make possible a college education and move him closer toward realizing his lifelong dream of becoming a doctor.

A chance meeting with an MSU scholarship coordinator may have altered Wigginton's life. In fact, he vividly recalls the day he had enough courage to simply ask for an opportunity.

In 2001, the Belmont native was desperately trying to find a way to enroll in the biological engineering program at Mississippi State as a precursor for medical school. A visit to the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering provided

the light at the end of the tunnel.

"One day, I just drove to the engineering college and happened to wander into the office of the late Jan Batchelder. I basically told her my life story and how hard I was willing to work for an education," Wigginton recounts. "A few weeks later I got a call informing me I had received a scholarship. I think I cried for about two hours just knowing that my dream of becoming a doctor was moving forward."

Wigginton was selected as a recipient of the Sydney L. Cate Scholarship, one of more than 900 endowments for scholarships awarded at Mississippi State. The scholarship was established

in memory of Cate, a 1917 Mississippi A&M alumnus, by his son Sydney L. Cate Jr. of Omaha, Neb. The award, which carries with it certain academic benchmarks, was created to ensure that promising students are afforded the opportunity to study engineering.

Although he never met Cate, Wigginton faithfully corresponded with him throughout his MSU experience. Writing on one occasion: "I do not know how I will ever thank you for your gracious and kind-hearted contribution to not only my education, but also my future. You have truly made my greatest dreams and aspirations a reality."

Wigginton came from an economically challenging situation, having lost both his parents while in his early teens. While attending MSU, he held several jobs from waiter to lab assistant to tutor. Although he received some federal assistance, the Cate Scholarship absorbed much of Wigginton's educational expenses.

In May 2005, Wigginton proudly graduated from MSU with a biological engineering degree and a 4.0 grade-point average.

Today, Wigginton is a promising resident at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. He graduated from the medical program in May and eventually plans to practice general family medicine.

"I feel that doctors in family practice have the most impact on a person's well-being. They are the coordinators of a person's health and have a strong personal connection with their patients, which is my desire," he said.

In his quest to become a physician, Wigginton has learned it takes more than a stethoscope and a lab coat to make an effective doctor. He passionately believes a physician should be a caring individual with a great sense of duty. The seeds of this revelation were sown very early for him.

Wigginton's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer when he was only 4, and succumbed to the disease on his 11th birthday. Several years later, at the age of 15, his father died from complications of alcoholism.

With each and every tragedy, Wigginton emerged from his grief stronger and more determined. From age 11, he worked odd jobs which led to

"I feel that doctors in family practice have the most impact on a person's well-being. They are the coordinators of a person's health and have a strong personal connection with their patients, which is my desire."

part-time employment with a local grocery store. He spent 20-30 hours a week earning money for clothes and school supplies until he graduated from high school.

During his senior year at Belmont High School, he attended a junior college one night a week. Luckily, he graduated valedictorian of his senior class and received a small amount of scholarship money to pay for that coursework.

Wigginton's belief in himself kept his dream alive.

"After my mother's death I knew that I was meant to become a doctor who made people better not just physically, but mentally," he recalls. "I realized that while each doctor gave her basically the same medicine, each made her feel quite differently because of how they interacted with her."

In the future, should the opportunity present itself, Wigginton would definitely consider giving back to Mississippi State University.

"I would love to set up a scholarship for premedical majors, especially in biological engineering, for those students with financial need. It is my desire to help someone else overcome a huge financial barrier and make it to medical school," Wigginton said.

Scholarships truly do change lives, and Mississippi State is working to grow endowments for scholarships to recruit more talented and hard-working students like Jeremy Wigginton.

Editor's note: A scholarship was later established in memory of Jan Batchelder for her many years of work with MSU students on behalf of the engineering college. The fund remains open for additional contributions.

BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

Improving campus facilities through private funding can enhance the quality of the overall Mississippi State University experience. Private gifts are currently needed to move several key projects forward – a new basketball practice facility for MSU athletics, a renovation of the Lloyd Ricks facility for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the construction of a new off-campus referral center for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

THE BASKETBALL PRACTICE FACILITY

A long-awaited and much-needed facility is on the horizon for Mississippi State University basketball. The men's and women's programs are getting a new \$11.2 million state-of-the-art practice facility uniquely their own.

Construction began in September on a 57,600 square-foot building directly adjacent to Humphrey Coliseum, which has been home to practices for both teams for more than 30 years. The facility, which will be attached to the south side of the coliseum, will allow the teams to maximize practice time and remain competitive in the Southeastern Conference and beyond.

"The Hump is getting a front door and I'm very excited about it," said Buzzy Mize, spokesman for the Henry Mize Foundation which made a lead gift for the facility.

On game days, fans will be able to use the building's lobby area to access the coliseum from an 84-space parking garage. The front door is courtesy of the Mize Foundation which will have the naming rights to the facility in honor of their \$4 million gift. The foundation was founded following the death of its namesake, Henry Mize,

a former Booneville resident and a 1938 MSU graduate.

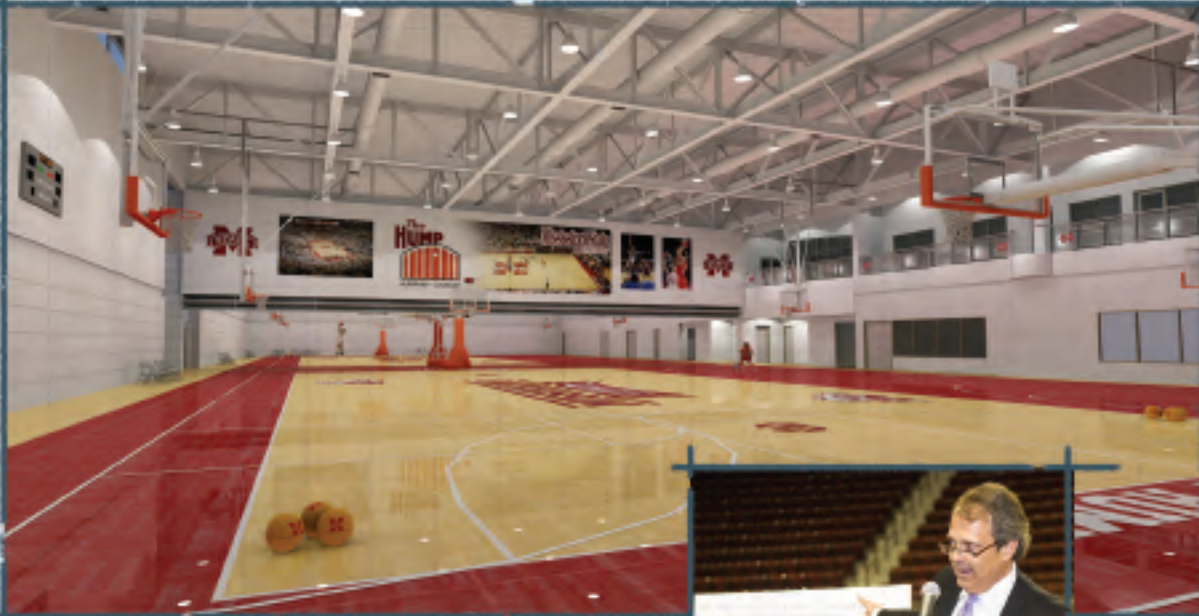
"The Mize Foundation is really showing its commitment to Mississippi State University and Mississippi State basketball by making this happen," said Greg Byrne, athletic director.

The practice facility, Bryne said, will utilize 23,500 square feet of court space, making it one of the largest in the SEC.

"A lot of schools want a practice facility, but we're a school that needs this in a desperate way," said head men's basketball coach Rick Stansbury in reference to the facility. "Since our season ended, our athletes have had zero opportunities to play in the coliseum."

Since the Hump is a multi-use facility, the university's basketball teams often get moved from the court due to other activities. Currently, the Sanderson Center provides the only alternative for basketball players to practice. However, the facility is used by thousands of students and court space is not always guaranteed.

A second significant commitment for the facility comes from distinguished MSU alumnus and enthusiastic longtime Bulldog supporter Richard C. Adkerson of Phoenix, Ariz. His \$2 million commitment is part of a growing legacy of support for his alma mater, which includes an



Interior of planned practice facility



Buzzy Mize of the Henry Mize Foundation announced a \$4 million lead gift toward the \$11.2 million basketball practice facility that will adjoin the coliseum.

endowment for the Richard C. Adkerson School of Accountancy.

“Mississippi State is a special place to me. Our new practice facility will contribute to our teams achieving future successes by strengthening their reputations nationally and making our programs more attractive to talented student athletes,” said Adkerson, who is chief executive officer of Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. and co-chairman of New Orleans-based McMoRan Exploration Co.

The remaining funds for the facility will come from other private sources, including \$2 million from basketball courtside seats over the next 10 years and additional private gifts, Byrne explained.

Once completed, the facility will feature two full-size college-regulation courts with four high school-regulation cross courts. A retractable wall will separate the men’s and women’s courts. It also will boast a weight room, training room and new offices for coaching staffs. An added bonus will be 5,000 square feet designated as space for pregame receptions and functions, including recruitment activities.

Designed by Jackson-based Foil Wyatt Architects and contracted by JESCO of Tupelo, the Hump’s new front door should open before the end of 2010.

THE LLOYD-RICKS RENOVATION PROJECT

Located in the heart of MSU’s campus is the Lloyd-Ricks building with its treasure of architectural features. An on-going renovation of the facility, one of the College of Agriculture and Life Science’s main buildings, will enrich the learning experience for students.

“The renovation of the Lloyd-Ricks building will afford MSU the opportunity to compete and maintain a competitive edge as it prepares students to be innovative leaders in a global society,” said Melissa Mixon, associate vice president for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. “Today competition for the best and brightest faculty and students requires state-of-the-art facilities.”



THE LLOYD-RICKS RENOVATION PROJECT

CONTINUED

The expansion will accommodate growth for the academic units currently housed in the facility—the School of Human Sciences and the Department of Agricultural Economics. The renovation also will return many of the original architectural features to the structure which was built in 1929 and expanded in 1939.

While much of the funding for the project is being supplied by the federal government and the state, a significant amount is being raised through private gifts. Renovations of Lloyd-Ricks are scheduled for completion in July 2010.

“The total project budget is \$12 million, with \$2.8 million in federal money and approximately \$9.2 million in state funds. The private funds will help us enhance specific areas of the building,” said Bob Williams, project coordinator.

Offices and conference rooms will occupy the renovated first floor. The second floor of the facility will remain home to the School of Human Sciences, which boasts the largest enrollment of the college and focuses its academics on areas



Crews focus efforts on restoration work for the Lloyd-Ricks building.

from preschool teaching to consumer economics. The Department of Agricultural Economics, housed on the third floor, is widely recognized for its analyses of complex problems facing agriculture. Many of its graduates have become leaders in developing national public policies.

The renovated basement will house four new classrooms, two of which will be equipped to provide distance learning courses to students throughout Mississippi and the nation.

Outright gifts and five-year pledges of future support may be designated for the project. Naming opportunities are available with commitments ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Donors may name classrooms, conference rooms, offices, lounges and laboratories in honor or in memory of family, friends or mentors.

An artist's rendering shows the CVM Referral Center during a planning session with administration and faculty.



THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE REFERRAL CENTER

The College of Veterinary Medicine is expanding its reach beyond the university's Starkville campus. Private support will pave the way for the college to become a cooperative partner in the operation of a referral specialty practice near Jackson. The venture will expand CVM's medical and surgical services to benefit clients in central and south Mississippi, while enhancing student learning opportunities.

In July, construction of a 5,200 square-foot emergency and referral clinic began in the suburb of Flowood. Once completed in early 2010, CVM will operate the referral component of the facility. A second phase of the project, which is expected to take up to 36 months, will add 8,000 square feet to the facility. The proposed addition will expand the referral center and provide a library, classrooms and living space for veterinary students rotating through the facility as part of their third and fourth year clinical experience.

"The new specialty practice will enhance teaching and clinical services currently provided on our MSU campus," said Kent Hoblet, dean of veterinary medicine. "Our very presence in this partnership should assure the public that we are committed to working with veterinarians to provide the highest level of emergency and specialty care

for companion animals. The public support in Mississippi that CVM has received is phenomenal, and we want to continue to show that we appreciate their trust."

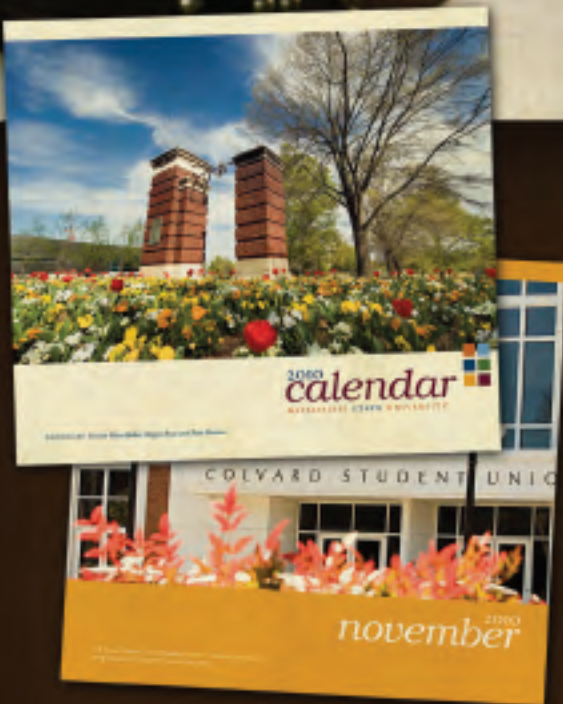
The strategic alliance will be a win-win situation for CVM and the Jackson area. Students will experience hands-on referral case management and emergency care for patients at the new complex, and interact with staff at the Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory in nearby Pearl. Additionally, over time, pet owners will have access to other board-certified specialists, including surgeons, internists, dermatologists and ophthalmologists.

"The college seeks to acquire private funds to construct an adjoining addition to the referral Center. The new facility will operate as the MSU Animal Emergency and Referral Center," said Lee Tyner, CVM special projects director.

Opportunity to name the new Referral Center requires a minimum \$3 million commitment to the university. Select features within the facility are available for varying amounts. An imaging unit may be named with a \$500,000 commitment. The facility's surgery unit, critical care unit or medical suite will require separate gifts of \$250,000. A library area or individual classrooms may be named for \$150,000 each. Dorm rooms require gifts of \$100,000. A private gift of \$6 million will create a naming opportunity for the entire complex. All commitments are payable over a five year period.



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With the new 2010 MSU hanging wall calendar, you'll feel like you're spending every day on the Mississippi State University campus.

Enjoy beautiful pictures of familiar places and campus scenes that bring back special memories of your time spent at State. The official MSU calendar has become a Bulldog tradition. With pictures taken by MSU's own award-winning photographers, it's truly a one-of-a-kind treasure. Get a paw up on your friends and neighbors and order one today. Visit the MSU Foundation Web site at www.msufoundation.com or call 662-325-7000.



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION

MSU marks third highest giving year in school history

Each July ushers in a new giving period for Mississippi State University. Fiscal year 2009 was an exceptional one for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the amount of total dollars raised despite a troubled economy.

While many U.S. universities and charities recently experienced dips in private donations, Mississippi State marked the third-highest giving year in its 131-year history at the close of fiscal year 2009. The Foundation reported in July that nearly \$61.5 million was raised. The amount represents immediate and deferred financial gifts and pledges received from thousands of individuals, corporations, foundations, trusts, and estates.

“The generosity of our alumni and friends and their confidence in the university is evident from the fact that the level of private support has increased significantly from last year, despite the troubled economic climate,” said MSU President Mark E. Keenum.

“Investments in scholarships and endowed faculty positions, in particular, are helping to keep our university accessible to qualified and deserving students while ensuring the quality of the education they receive,” he added.

Noting that the fiscal year 2009 amount represents a 19 percent increase over last year’s \$51.6 million total, Keenum expressed a “deep gratitude to the thousands of individuals and organizations who continue to recognize and value the contributions MSU makes to Mississippi and the nation.”

Echoing Keenum’s remarks, MSU’s vice president for development and alumni, John P. Rush, observed that recent statistics highlighted in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* “indicate a decline of nearly 6 percent in giving to U.S. colleges and other charities.”

Rush said “another record year in private gifts is a testament to the loyalty of alumni and friends who believe in the institution and understand that fulfilling its mission means even more success for our state.”

Fiscal year statistics included:

- New outright gifts accounted for \$25.48 million;
- New pledges totaled \$21.13 million; and
- Deferred gifts made up the remaining \$14.89 million.

Rush gave credit for the record year, in part, to funds raised through the recently completed and highly successful “*State of the Future: The Mississippi State Campaign*.”

“The momentum of the ‘*State of the Future*’ campaign, coupled with the enthusiasm of new university leadership, was evident in our fundraising this entire fiscal year,” he observed.

The seven-year drive concluded in December 2008 with more than \$462 million in private gifts and pledges from nearly 60,000 MSU alumni and friends. Of that latter number, nearly half were first-time contributors.

Previously, MSU’s highest giving periods were during the 2002 and 2006 fiscal years.

MSU students selected first Tillman Military Scholars

Nine Mississippi State students are among the inaugural group receiving national university scholarships awarded in memory of NFL player and late Army Ranger Pat Tillman.

Pat Tillman was a starting safety with the Arizona Cardinals from 1998-2001. In mid-2002, he placed his professional football career on hold to become a U.S. Army Ranger. Two years later, the San Jose, Calif. native was killed in active duty in eastern Afghanistan. The Arizona-based Pat Tillman Foundation was created by family and friends following his death.

“The goal of the Tillman Military Scholars program is to assist servicemembers and their families in pursuing their educational goals, and to help them continue their service to this nation while honoring the legacy of Pat Tillman,” said his widow, Marie Tillman, who is chair of the foundation’s board of directors.

She said the awards are meant to be “a ready

source of assistance for those schools like Mississippi State who have strong veterans programs for our returning service men and women and their dependents who wish to start, finish or further their education.”

The scholarships support the educations of both veterans and their families. Amounts for the MSU group vary between \$3,500 and \$12,000. Recipients may be affiliated with any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. They also must be enrolled full time, maintain a 3.0 grade-point average, and demonstrate financial need, among other criteria. Scholars must complete at least 10 hours of community service each semester.

Mississippi State University currently enrolls more than 1,200 student veterans, servicemembers, dependents and survivors through the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Center for America’s Veterans which will administer the campus scholarship program.

More information on the Pat Tillman Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization, may be found on the Web at www.pattillmanfoundation.org.



Inaugural MSU Tillman Scholars include (l-r) Jordan Lohman, SaraRose Knox, Samantha Hill, Melody Corbitt, Markus Edwards, Frank Wills, Keeley Tatum, Amy McNish and Catherine Turner.

Generous gift grows Radványi Chair, paves way for additional contributions

The challenging work of the Center for International Security and Strategic Studies at Mississippi State University is getting a boost, specifically for the operating endowment of its faculty chair.



Janos Radványi

A previously established endowment for the Janos Radványi Chair will get assistance from Earle and Irene Jones. The Jackson couple recently contributed \$200,000 and made a \$200,000 matching

challenge toward the chair's endowment. The challenge will match dollar-for-dollar up to \$200,000 funds raised in support of the chair.

For a number of years, the couple has supported the Radványi Chair and its companion lecture series. Earle is founder and co-chairman of MMI Hotel Group and a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles and the Harvard Business School. Irene is a graduate of the College of Notre Dame at Belmont, Calif.

Radványi, a longtime MSU professor and the chair's inaugural holder and namesake, continues to bring much prestige to the university. He was honored earlier this year by the Mississippi Senate for his pioneering work in international security studies.

The Radványi Chair in International Security Strategies is a university-wide institute



Irene and Earle Jones with MSU President Mark E. Keenum (center).

that reports directly to the vice president for research as a senior advisor. The center provides both MSU students and faculty a wide-range of opportunities to gain awareness of political, economic and security issues on an international level.

Radványi has served as the principal investigator for numerous international conferences and has presented testimony to the United States Congress. Presently, his scholarly work focuses on research, writing and teaching special seminars with regard to complex global security problems.

Radványi, who holds a doctorate in history from Stanford University, joined the MSU history department faculty in 1972. Earlier in his career, he served as the Hungarian Ambassador to the United States before becoming a U.S. citizen.

For more information on the Jones challenge grant, contact Bo Hemphill, executive director of the MSU Foundation, at 662.325.7000 or email bhemphill@foundation.msstate.edu.

Foundation welcomes fundraiser, selects another for extensive role

As a new fundraising year gains momentum, two key positions are being filled in the MSU Foundation.



Sandra Harpole

MSU veteran Dr. Sandra H. Harpole is joining the fundraising team in a new part-time role. The West Point native will direct efforts for corporate and foundation giving, with a major

focus on soliciting funds for the Thad Cochran Center for Entrepreneurship. The Cochran endowment promotes entrepreneurship among MSU faculty, students and Mississippi businesses.

“Sandra is a perfect fit for this much-needed position. She brings a wealth of experience with the university and with external sources, having worked in roles where she has directed multi-million dollar grants,” said Bo Hemphill, executive director of development for the MSU Foundation.

As a faculty member and administrator, Harpole has long been recognized as one of Mississippi’s most highly funded researchers. She currently directs grants valued at more than \$29 million.

Harpole holds bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from MSU. She joined the faculty in 1987 as an assistant professor of physics and retired as associate vice president for

research in June. She also will continue as director of the Center for Science, Mathematics and Technology, which she began in 1996.



Rob Jenkins

In August, Rob Jenkins assumed a dual role with development. He became director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences, MSU’s largest academic unit, which enrolls

about a quarter of the university’s more than 18,600 students.

Jenkins has solely directed fundraising efforts for the College of Education since joining the Foundation in 2006. He will continue working with the education college, which is a member of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

“We are confident that Rob will do an outstanding job for arts and sciences, just as he has done for education,” said Hemphill. “In the more than four years he has been with the Foundation, Rob has established core relationships with alumni and friends and will perform admirably and effectively in both positions.”

Jenkins is a 1992 business administration graduate from Starkville. Before joining his alma mater, he was a manager with AmSouth Bank.

CONTINUE

TO MAKE

MSU A

PRIORITY

As I reflect back on our completed fiscal year, I am amazed by the generosity of our alumni and friends. Contributions of more than \$61.5 million flowed in during the fiscal year 2009 — making it our third highest giving year in Mississippi State University history. Despite uncertain economic times, you made MSU a priority and we thank you for your unwavering support. The leadership of the university’s newly inaugurated 19th president, Dr. Mark E. Keenum, brings with it a record enrollment which makes the mission of the MSU Foundation even more important. With over 18,600 students currently enrolled, our university faces new challenges and must create even more opportunities for the future.

The Foundation has responded to Mississippi State’s strategic needs with the launch of a new fundraising initiative. *StatePride* will focus on the university’s greatest resource . . . its people. With our country facing further uncertain financial conditions, scholarship dollars are increasingly important to many students and their families. As MSU’s enrollment grows, so does the challenge to recruit and retain quality faculty. Promising students deserve the opportunity to learn and research with top faculty in their fields of expertise. In turn, these faculty members can make a difference in the lives of the students they teach by expanding their knowledge through professional development opportunities.

The goal of *StatePride* is to raise a minimum of \$100 million to support the needs of our students and faculty. Annual gifts and contributions for endowments will help recruit students and reward faculty achievements. Support through the *StatePride* initiative will impact the core of our institution by placing even more value on our people.

As we move forward with this bold new initiative, I have no doubt that our alumni and friends will continue to make MSU a priority when making charitable decisions.

I’d like to express my appreciation to all of you who have invested in the future of our university. I hope each of you has an opportunity to visit the MSU campus soon. I know you’ll be impressed with the way our university continues to evolve over time. Private support from you, and countless other alumni and friends, is shaping the future of Mississippi State University.



Bo Hemphill

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

W. Carroll and Georgia Ann Murphy



The connection W. Carroll and Georgia Ann Murphy of Starkville share with each other and with Mississippi State University grows stronger each year. They are among a group of supporters who continue to strengthen their ties with Mississippi State through their involvement and financial support. With loyalty to MSU and pride in the university's accomplishments, they spark a passion to give within others.

HISTORY: Carroll earned degrees in civil engineering from MSU in 1966 and 1968, respectively. He is the retired director of the office of engineering for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in Philadelphia. Georgia received a master's degree in education from Mississippi State in 1984, and is retired from the Jackson Public School System. They have two children, Bill and Jay, who are both MSU graduates.

GIVING TO MSU: As faithful members of the MSU Alumni Association, the Murphys have made annual gifts for almost 30 years. Over their lifetime, they have contributed nearly \$70,000. For their financial support of MSU, their names are permanently displayed, along with hundreds of others, in Legacy Hall of the Hunter Henry Center.

Loyalty. Pride. Passion.

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Please send them to the above address or telephone 662.325.7000. The MSU

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