

Mississippi Talking provides a multimedia look at Mississippi

By Molly Kinnan

Casinos, ghost stories, and Delta blues are just some of the colorful feature topics in *Mississippi Talking*, the new online, multimedia magazine created by students in the college's Communication Department.

Eric Johnson, an instructor of communication at MSU, assisted students in the creation of the *Mississippi Talking* cyber-magazine through his new web site communication course.

"The course focuses on teaching students how to communicate effectively through the Internet and at the same time tries to give students an appreciation for their Mississippi surroundings," Johnson said.



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Homecoming 1999 Come home to A&S, come home to MSU

Who says you can't go home again? Sure you can. And what better time to come home to your College of Arts & Sciences and your Mississippi State University than Homecoming 1999.

Scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23, 1999, it's likely to be one of the most talked about and enjoyable Homecoming weekends in recent university history. The Bulldogs play host to Southeastern Conference rival Louisiana State University in the annual Homecoming football game at 1:30 p.m. in Scott Field in what is sure to be a classic gridiron tilt. Plus, there's much, much more.

Homecoming is a time to return to your alma mater to reminisce about your college days, get reacquainted with your classmates from days gone by, cheer on the Maroon and White, and enjoy the beautiful Mississippi State campus and that fall Saturday atmosphere with your family and friends.

So make plans now to return to your College of Arts & Sciences and your Mississippi State University for Homecoming 1999 on Saturday, Oct. 23. And when you do, please make plans to drop by your college to visit with our faculty, our staff, our administrators, and most importantly, our students. Come see what we are doing to position your college to be a leader for the 21st century, and then cheer the Bulldogs to victory on Saturday.



A note from the dean

Gazing over the top of my computer screen as I compose this message to you for the Fall 1999 issue of the College of Arts & Sciences *Renaissance*, I am privileged to look out on a beautiful campus bathed in the sunshine of a bright summer morning. The grass is green, the crepe myrtles are blooming, and students currently attending classes are strolling across the Drill Field. Also visible on the Drill Field are small groups of future students, along with their families and the student orientation leaders who are introducing them to the wonders of Mississippi State University.

Last evening I was privileged to participate in the third of several orientation sessions scheduled this summer for students who will join the MSU family this fall. You will be pleased to learn that we are attracting students from throughout the Southeast, from the Midwest, and from the Atlantic Coast, in addition to those who come to us from all sections of Mississippi. They are attracted to MSU because of our strong academic programs and our reputation for student-oriented instruction and strong research. Many students, and especially their parents and families, comment on the hospitality and friendliness that complement our traditionally excellent orientation programs. We are justly proud of our university and it shows. We look forward to these new students' arrival, to their progress through their academic curricula, and to the time when they join your ranks and become alumni and alumnae (of whom we also are extremely—and justifiably!—proud).

The spring semester of 1999 brought us some excitement and additional reasons to take pride in our university. In April, the noted historian and author Dr. Stephen Ambrose visited our campus. The primary purpose of his visit was to deliver the inaugural Tommie and Donald Zacharias Lecture, entitled "The Friendship of Lewis and Clark." Basing his remarks on his enormously popular book, *Undaunted Courage*, Dr. Ambrose (or "Steve," as he so graciously introduces himself) enthralled a packed auditorium in McComas Hall with his insights and anecdotes pertaining to these two explorers and their relationship. Much to the delight of the crowd, every one of whom seemed to be carrying one of Dr. Ambrose's works, he remained more than

an hour following his lecture to interact with his audience, answer questions, and autograph books. Prior to the lecture, he and his equally gracious wife, Moira, joined Dr. and Mrs. Zacharias, President and Mrs. Portera, Governor and Mrs. Fordice, Provost Cole, Dr. and Mrs. Lowery and others for a delightful dinner at the Caragen House on the northwest edge of Starkville. During dessert we were privileged to hear Dr. Ambrose share some of his thoughts about the new D-Day Museum in New Orleans, the special role of Mississippians in the Allies' victorious efforts during World War II, and his own participation in the making of Steven Spielberg's hit film, *Saving Private Ryan*. Finally, the morning following his lecture, Dr. and Mrs. Ambrose joined Dr. Zacharias and the faculty and staff in our Department of History for breakfast and an informative discussion session. It was an event we will long remember.

Also in April we were privileged to have Norma Holloway Johnson, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia, on campus to receive the 1999 Distinguished Jurist Award from the MSU Pre-Law Society. Advised by Professor Diane Wall in our Department of Political Science, the Pre-Law Society bestowed this honor last year on Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia. Judge Johnson, whose name you may recognize from some recent judicial proceedings in Washington that received no small amount of publicity, addressed an enthusiastic audience made up of students, faculty, staff, and other distinguished jurists from the region. She also spent some time answering questions in the Ellen Bryant Women's Resource Center. Judge Johnson's and Dr. Ambrose's visits are perfect examples of ways in which we strive to complement our students' classroom experiences with exposure to off-campus individuals who can enrich their understanding of our past, present, and future.

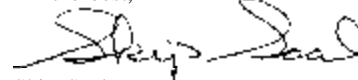
Speaking of classroom experiences, I cannot resist the urge to do a bit of boasting about some of our faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences. As they do each spring, our Alumni Association identified five members of the MSU family to receive special awards during their annual Faculty Recognition Banquet. I am extremely proud to report to you that four of those five awards went to Arts & Sciences faculty members: Dr. Michael Neumann in the Department of Mathematics

and Statistics received the Lower Level Teaching Award; Dr. Chris Duncan in the Department of Political Science received the Upper Level Teaching Award; Dr. Virginia Fee in the Department of Psychology received the Graduate Level Teaching Award; and Dr. Robert Phillips in the Department of English received the Service Award for his contributions as editor of the highly respected *Mississippi Quarterly*. Topping off an almost perfect evening for the College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. R. Shivaji was recognized as one of only two new William L. Giles Distinguished Professors named this year. These five individuals, of whom we are exceedingly proud, are appropriate representatives of the many excellent teaching and research faculty who enrich our students' lives every day. I know you join me in extending warmest congratulations to these fine members of our faculty.

This is a truly exciting time to be at Mississippi State University. Working closely with faculty, staff, and students, President Malcolm Portera has challenged us to strive for several important goals during the next five years. These include strengthening MSU's leadership role in providing first-rate undergraduate instruction; enhancing the university's national prominence in research; promoting economic development and service partnerships throughout Mississippi; expanding our human resources to ensure quality in all that we undertake; providing high-quality residential life experiences for our students; developing and maintaining effective management systems throughout the university; providing high-quality physical infrastructure to facilitate accomplishment of our teaching, research, and service missions; and promoting the success of our student-athletes in the classroom and in athletic competition. We are committed to these goals and priorities, and I invite you to help us achieve them in any way you can.

As always, you have a standing invitation to visit us in the Dean's Office whenever your schedule permits.

All the best,



Skip Saal
Dean

Distance learning and geographic alliance bringing national recognition to geosciences

By Joni French

Helping many people further their education through new methods is a main priority for the Department of Geosciences at Mississippi State University. The Mississippi Geographic Alliance (MGA) and the Distance Learning Program are just two programs helping the department make a name for itself nationwide.

Dr. Taylor Mack, an assistant professor of geosciences, oversees the MGA program that allows teachers to gain knowledge in the discipline of geography and trains them to learn to teach geography more effectively. The National Geographic Society and the Mississippi Department of Education sponsor the program.

One way the program promotes education is by hosting the MGA Summer Institute. The Summer Institute provides an opportunity for the teachers enrolled in the MGA program to stay in furnished residence halls on Mississippi State's campus and learn about teaching geography classes. This extended workshop lasts for two weeks, with participants attending class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year, *National Geographic* and the Mississippi Department of Education contributed \$165,000 toward MSU's fund for the MGA. This support provides teachers full tuition for their courses and allows them to purchase learning materials to help them better educate their own students in geography. The teachers' expenses are covered, and they are provided with information to help improve geography education in their own school districts.

Dr. Charles Wax, head of the Geosciences Department, is excited about the "multiplier effect" this program seems to have on teachers. He commented that because the instructors at MSU teach the high school teachers, those teachers who enroll in the program are able to inform their colleagues of their new knowledge in geography. "This program is helping to get more geography classes offered in the high schools in Mississippi," Wax said.

Another program offered by the department is concerned with teaching different student populations. The Distance Learning Program now has more than 500 students enrolled from almost every state in the U.S. and is helping MSU become better known in the field of geosciences. This program provides ways for students to further their education in three geoscience-related areas through means of the mass media.

Students who enter the Distance Learning Program receive tapes that contain 12 hours of lecture for each class. They take all exams over the Internet and also are required to complete exercises by way of the web. Chat rooms, phones, e-

mail, and web pages are other means by which students have contact with professors in the department.

The oldest area of distance learning at MSU is the Broadcast Meteorology Program (BMP), which was formed in 1987. The BMP is an undergraduate program that trains television weathercasters to forecast as well as to present the weather to the public. This program can lead to a certificate in broadcast meteorology or a second bachelor's degree from MSU.

In 1996, the Operational Meteorology Program (OMP) was created. It is strictly a meteorology program that is provided for military active duty personnel. This program teaches students to forecast the weather and can lead to a bachelor's degree from MSU.

The TIG program, Teachers in Geosciences, was developed in the fall of 1998. This graduate program is designed to help teachers gain knowledge in earth science. TIG provides 12 courses in ocean science, meteorology, geology, water resources, geography, and research.

"I am amazed at how much interest there is for these programs," Wax said. "We're teaching a lot of people in the distance learning area, and this is a plus for the department because we have become very well known."



Distance learning programs and a new statewide geographic alliance are just two of the innovations bringing national recognition to the college's Department of Geosciences. The department also is home to the country's only Broadcast Meteorology Program.

Chief Judge recognized by Pre-Law Society

By Molly Kinnan



Federal District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson (center) is welcomed to campus by Dr. Diane Wall (left), professor of political science, and senior Renae Alford, the 1998-99 president of the Pre-Law Society, which presented Johnson with its 1999 Distinguished Jurist Award.

Chief Judge Norma Holloway Johnson was presented with the Distinguished Jurist Award at a ceremony on campus in April sponsored by the MSU Pre-Law Society.

This award recognized Johnson for her outstanding leadership and contributions to the law field and was presented to her by Renae Alford, president of the Pre-Law Society.

Johnson was appointed chief judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in July 1997.

After receiving her undergraduate degree from the University of the District of Columbia, she went on to obtain her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, one of America's top law schools. She served as a trial attorney with the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice and as an assistant corporation counsel in Washington, D.C.

Prior to serving as chief judge, Johnson also served as an associate judge for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After the ceremony, students were invited to a question and answer session with Johnson.

The event produced a tremendous turnout, which included local residents and many representatives from the law community. In attendance were federal, state, and local judges, as well as deans from various law schools.

"Chief Judge Johnson was able to give the students some good insight on the operation of the U.S. District Court system. For the students, it was an exceptional opportunity which allowed them to further their credentials and gain some experience for their future careers," said Dr. Diane Wall, professor of political science and chair to the Pre-Law Advisory Committee.

History department welcomes new head

By Molly Kinnan

This spring, the History Department bid a fond farewell to one of its most cherished leaders, Dr. Charles Lowery, and welcomed new department head Dr. G. N. Uzoigwe.

Uzoigwe, a native of Nigeria, received his doctorate in history at Oxford University in 1967. Prior to coming to Mississippi State, he served at more than 10 universities in countries ranging from Ireland to the U.S. to his home country of Nigeria. He served in several capacities at these universities, including the positions of assistant professor at the University of Michigan, professor at Imo State University in Nigeria and, most recently, visiting professor of history at Tulane University in Louisiana.

Building on his extensive work in developing various courses in African history, Uzoigwe plans to incorporate his knowledge of African history into the Mississippi State curriculum by creating a new history course entitled African Civilization.

Prior to his retirement in June, Lowery devoted the past 33 years to improving the History Department. Under his supervision, the department realized significant changes. Faculty and graduate students were provided with the support needed for research projects, publishing, and presenting papers. Computers have become accessible, making research easier for the faculty members and graduate students.

Lowery's retirement plans include conducting several personal research projects, specifically a project involving the promotion of Mississippi tourism.

Although Lowery is a tough act to follow, the department is confident that Uzoigwe will be just as productive.

One thing is certain: Lowery will be missed by both his students and colleagues. "The faculty definitely respects Dr. Lowery, and there isn't a student in the History Department who doesn't like him," said graduate student Steve Belko.



Uzoigwe

Best-selling author helps inaugurate Zacharias Lecture Series

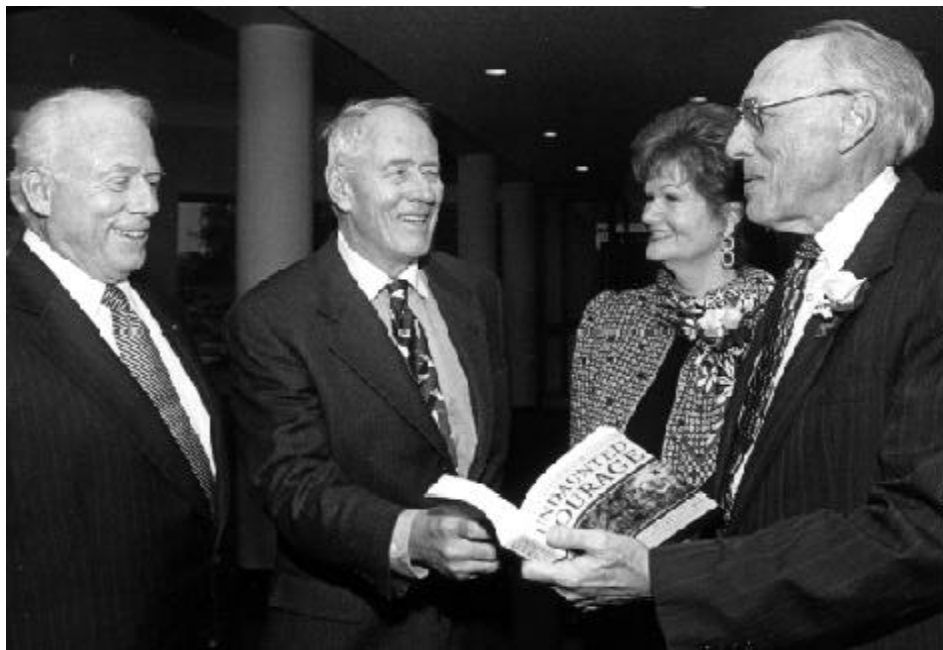
By Allyson Lloyd

Noted American author Stephen Ambrose made a visit to Starkville in April inaugurating the first lecture in the Tommie and Donald Zacharias Lecture Series.

Ambrose's lecture was based on his *New York Times* best-seller, *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West*. *Undaunted Courage* discusses Lewis and Clark's friendship and famous explorations, but also delves into the less explored, but quite influential friendship of Lewis and Jefferson.

Among other accomplishments, Ambrose has served as a historical consultant for Golden Globe Award winner Steven Spielberg's World War II movie, *Saving Private Ryan*.

Ambrose is a personal friend of Zacharias, MSU's president emeritus, in keeping with the lecture theme of noteworthy friendships. Zacharias deemed Ambrose's lecture very successful based on feedback from the many attending and from recent conversations with Ambrose.



Best-selling author and historian Dr. Stephen E. Ambrose (second from left) meets with Gov. Kirk Fordice (left), and former MSU First Lady and President Tommie and Donald Zacharias prior to delivering the inaugural Tommie and Donald Zacharias Lecture.

In addition to his current research on World War II, Ambrose has been interviewed and scheduled to appear on the popular prime-time news program

20/20. He also presented commencement addresses at several colleges and universities last spring.

Mississippi Talking, continued from page 1

Students spend the first class meetings studying the technical side of the course by learning how to design and construct a web page. The remainder of the course focuses on brainstorming story ideas about interesting aspects of Mississippi.

Beginning this past spring semester, 18 students in Johnson's class traveled around the state to fulfill their goal of identifying places, people, and images that capture the essence of Mississippi, which resulted in the creation of the premier issue of *Mississippi Talking*. The summer semester class continued the project, creating the second issue.

The unique hands-on combination of dusty backroads and modern cyber-technology resulted in *Mississippi Talking*, an innovative, multimedia cyber-magazine that introduces readers to the "four corners of Mississippi" and a taste of everything in between.

"Mississippi is rich with great story opportunities. I chose Mississippi as a topic because I wanted to focus on the many positive aspects of the state since in the past it has received so much criticism," explained Johnson. "I also wanted the students to expand their knowledge about Mississippi and express it creatively through their writing."

After browsing through the magazine, most would agree that Johnson and his students have been enchantingly successful. The result is the impressive and flavorful *Mississippi Talking*.

To browse through *Mississippi Talking*, visit www.mississippitalking.msstate.edu, sit back, and enjoy a trip down the dusty roads of the state where people still stop their cars in the middle of the road to greet each other, neighbors wave lazily from porches, and time seems to stand still.

Communication students putting lessons to use in development of 2000 census plan

By Allyson Lloyd

Students in the Communication Department will make their classwork count this summer and fall as they develop a state media plan for Census 2000.

Four paid summer interns, Allison Carter, Allyson Lloyd, Laurie Powell, and Jason Smith, already have begun the research and development phase of a multi-media campaign to encourage census response. A class of about 15 communication students began implementing the plan this fall, said Karyn Brown, communication instructor.

“This fits in with the (Mississippi State’s) mission of giving students tangible experience they wouldn’t get in the classrooms,” Brown said.

Materials will be developed for a general audience as well as targeted groups who registered low response rates in the 1990 census, she said. Students also will develop fact kits and brochures to inform citizens about Census 2000.

New television equipment provides better educational experiences for broadcast students

By Molly Kinnan

The Mississippi State University Television Center recently has upgraded its teaching facilities to include new video equipment worth more than \$100,000.

David Hutto, director of the MSU Television Center, said the equipment will enhance the learning experiences of those students aspiring to careers in broadcasting.

“The new equipment consists of four video cameras and tripods, which are much like the cameras used for an actual television production,” said Hutto.

“We are really pleased about the new equipment because it will offer an innovative learning experience for the students. It also will enable the students to excel in their broadcasting curriculum, which we are excited about.”

The new cameras will provide a sharper image than the current equipment, allowing a greater capability to produce in a variety of settings and light intensities. They also will allow students to produce cable programs on MSTV-30 and local TV channels.

Currently, the MSU Television Center is working on additional funding for improvements to tape equipment and field gear.

Professional staff of the MSU Television Center work through the College of Arts & Sciences’ Department of Communication to teach television production, broadcast writing, radio production, and digital video production courses, as well as serve on



Lea Mohammadi, a sophomore broadcast communication major from Starkville, takes aim on a television production set using some of the more than \$100,000 worth of new video equipment for the teaching facilities of the university’s Television Center. The equipment, which includes video cameras and tripods, will enhance the learning experiences of those College of Arts & Sciences students aspiring to broadcast careers.

thesis committees, supervise special problems courses, deliver guest lectures, and advise on courses and academic projects.

Broadcast communication students use the studios of the Television Center each semester to produce several shows, which are shown on the center’s local cable channel, MSTV-30. The students deliver professional weathercasts and news and feature programming which air on the station throughout the year.

Faculty Kudos

By Joni French

Piercey brings universe to schoolchildren



Rodney Piercey

Dr. Rodney Piercey, head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, recently visited a second-grade class at Sudduth Elementary School in Starkville. Nanette N. Gholston, the second-grade teacher, had taught her students about the solar system and upon completion of the subject asked Piercey to visit her classroom.

“His unique way of presenting the information and of involving each child were so beneficial,” Gholston said. She also discussed Piercey’s construction of a giant planetarium which “created a learning environment that long will be remembered” by her students.

Dr. Frank E. Saal, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, commented, “Dr. Piercey’s enthusiasm for his academic discipline and his concern and respect for students of all ages render him an ideal person to represent our university in classrooms.” Saal also said that the College of Arts & Sciences at Mississippi State is committed to doing everything possible to assist teachers as they go about the “very challenging and extremely important task of providing enriching educational experiences to K-12 children throughout Mississippi.”

Alumni Association award winners named

Faculty members from the College of Arts & Sciences received four out of the five 1999 MSU Alumni Association Faculty Awards. Three faculty members received Faculty Achievement Awards, while another received the Service Award.

These recognitions are among the highest presented to any faculty member at the university. The presentation took place May 6, and among those honored were Dr. Christopher M. Duncan, Dr. Virginia Fee, Dr. Michael M. Neumann, and Dr. Robert L. Phillips.

Duncan received the Upper Level (junior and senior) Teaching Award. He is an associate professor of political science and earned degrees from the University of Michigan and Wayne State University.

Fee, an associate professor of psychology, was awarded the Graduate Level Teaching Award. She received degrees from Hamline and Louisiana State universities.

Neumann, a mathematics professor, received the Lower Level (freshman and sophomore) Teaching Award. He holds degrees from the



College of Arts & Sciences faculty members receiving MSU Alumni Association Faculty Achievement Awards for 1999 (from left) were: Dr. Michael Neumann, Mathematics and Statistics; Dr. Christopher M. Duncan, Political Science; Dr. Virginia Fee, Psychology; and Dr. Robert L. Phillips Jr., English.

University of Saarbrucken in Germany.

Additionally, Phillips, a professor of English, received the Service Award for his invaluable contributions as editor of

the esteemed *Mississippi Quarterly*. He received degrees from Davidson College and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Professor’s project named tops

Dr. Lewis R. Brown’s Department of Energy (DOE) project won the award from *Oil and Gas World* as the best advanced oil recovery project in the South.

A professor of biological sciences, Brown received a letter and citation from the Secretary of Energy for this work.

He also received a \$13,500 contract from Sharp Engineering for a study of hazardous waste dumps and a three-year \$935,000 contract as a co-principal investigator from DOE.

Faculty Kudos

Professor recognized by alma mater

Paul Grootkerk, a veteran Mississippi State art professor, received the 1999 Grazella Shephard Memorial Award from his

alma mater, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. The Grazella Shephard Memorial

Award is one of the top alumni awards at CWR, and is given to those who have “made significant contribution to excellence in education.”

Grootkerk adds this award to his list of honors, including designation as a John Grisham Master Teacher and the Carnegie Foundation’s 1998 Mississippi Professor of the Year, as well as awards within the university, such as the College of Arts & Sciences’ Paideia Award for Teaching Excellence.

Competition honors White

The student-governed Honors Council has established the Jack H. White Literary Competition, a program that invites submissions in poetry and fiction from state high school students.

The competition was created as a tribute to White, director of the university’s Honors Program and a

long-standing member of the English Department faculty.

Eight high school students were recognized in this year’s competition, with the first place winners receiving a cash prize and a plaque, second place winners receiving a plaque, and honorable mentions receiving certificates.

Student Kudos to . . .

The pre-medical and pre-dental programs housed in the Department of Biological Sciences had 25 students accepted in medical school and nine students accepted in dental school for the class of fall 1999.

Students in the Department of Art received several awards in the *USA Today* Collegiate Challenge, a national advertising design contest.

Mississippi State graphic design student Timothy Morton won the third place award in the challenge. Wade Acuff, Nikki Bane, Melissa Buford, Melinda Hearn, Jenny Rutledge-McMillan, and Dana Sollie, also art students at MSU, won honorable mention awards.

One hundred and fifty students participated from more than 50 colleges and universities nationwide.

Morton also applied for and won a summer graphic design internship with *Rolling Stone Magazine*. He is one of three summer interns with the international magazine. His time at Mississippi State includes the position of president and co-founder of the Department of Art’s Visual Arts League in 1997, and the honor of a Top Merit Award in this year’s student competition show.

Students from the Department of Art also captured more than 50 awards, including four of the top five, in the 1999 Annual 7th District American Advertising Federation STAR Competition.

STAR is an annual competition recognizing the top design students in a five-state region, this year involving 350 entries from six universities.

The top honors went to four students. Andy Beachum won Best Concept Award, two Gold Awards, and a Citation of Excellence. Rodney Finley won Best Design Award and a Gold Award. Michael McDaniel won Best of Show Award, a Gold Award, and a Citation of Excellence. Ricky Turner won Best Copywriting Award and two Gold Awards.

Additionally, MSU art students received 51 other awards in the Gold, Silver, and Citation of Excellence categories.

Society of Scholars spring inductees

By Allyson Lloyd



The Society of Scholars in the College of Arts & Sciences is a prestigious society which highlights excellent undergraduate students at Mississippi State University.

Membership in the society is not limited to the College of Arts & Sciences, but is extended to students throughout the entire university. The criteria for the society include the following guidelines: the number of honorees in a given year must not exceed 8 percent of the graduating senior class of the College of Arts & Sciences; students must complete at least 12 hours in a single foreign language, 12 hours in mathematics and sciences, nine hours in oral and written communication, six hours in social sciences, and six hours in humanities; and, in addition, Honors Program hours are considered in the overall evaluation of a candidate.

After the intense screening process, the most important criterion is the grade-point average of the courses taken at MSU.

The Society of Scholars inducted 17 members during the induction ceremony at MSU on April 13. The new inductees are:

Matthew Wade Allen, *Political Science*
Jennifer Lyrah Bercaw, *Mathematics*
Brad Brashier, *Mathematics*
Carey Pettit Davis, *Special Education*
Jill Ferguson, *Communications*
Hillary Lynn Haynes, *Art*
Amy Jones, *English*
Meredith Amanda Kirby, *History*
Kaci Kline, *Communications*

Matthew Bradley Massey, *Microbiology*
Hollie Mathis, *English*
Alison Elizabeth O'Neal, *Political Science*
Michelle E. Sanders, *General Business Administration/Spanish*
Ashley Marie Seefeld, *Psychology*
Jason Alan Strain, *Political Science/History*
Amy Colleen Trisler, *History*
Holley Elizabeth Weeks, *International Business/French*

Dr. David Monts served as faculty president and coordinator of the event. Mississippi State President Malcolm Portera was the guest speaker.

Arts & Sciences Developments

The following alumni and friends of the College of Arts & Sciences made gifts of \$10,000 or more to the college between January 1, 1999, and May 31, 1999.

- **President's Club**
\$10,000 to \$49,999

Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Jennifer Kemper of Columbia, Mo.

- **Corporations and Foundations**
\$10,000 to \$49,999

Southern Sociological Society of Mississippi State.

Making a Difference

The Patrons of Excellence recognizes alumni and friends who contribute or pledge to contribute \$1,000 a year to Mississippi State. The College of Arts & Sciences appreciates its alumni and friends who have joined the Patrons of Excellence between Jan. 1, 1999, and May 31, 1999. Those joining or renewing memberships include:

Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Austin Sr. of Forest; Dr. and Mrs. John Clay of Meridian; Drs. Linda and William Cornell of Milan, Ohio; Dr. Samuel Gillis of Birmingham, Ala.; Mr. Fred Guyton of St. Louis, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jones of Baytown, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Julius McIlwain of New Orleans, La.; Mr. and Mrs. Alan W. Meierhoefer of West Hartford, Conn.; David and Jan (Neaves) Peacock of Mathiston; Mr. and Mrs. Curtis L. Sessions of Kingwood, Texas; and Dr. Stephen Schaffer of Starkville.

• AlumNEWS •

George W. Allen ('61) of Magnolia, Texas, recently retired after 37 years in oil and gas exploration.

Randy W. Turner ('61) of Washington, D.C., has taken a new position as the National Park Service Bevinetto Congressional Fellow in the U.S. Senate. He also is on the Natural Resources Committee and working on National Park Service legislative issues.

Terry Weber Jones ('76) and her husband, Edward, reside in Pelahatchie. She is a self-employed wildlife care consultant and previously worked 10 years at the Jackson Zoo as a zookeeper.

Michael H. Green ('77) of Lafayette, La., owns a company that is involved in ground water, oil and gas, and environmental affairs. He and his wife, Eileen, are the proud parents of three children: Katelyn Jane, Connor Michael, and Halie Catherine.

Edwin J. Cox III ('78) of Metairie, La., has been promoted to regional vice president for Fresenius Medical Care in New Orleans. He will oversee 100 dialysis clinics in the south-central region. His wife, **Joyce M.** ('79, '81), recently passed the CPA exam in Louisiana.

Michael T. (Mike) Bass ('79) is the director of pharmacy at Columbia East Houston Medical Center. He and his wife, **Mary Derivaux** ('78, '79), reside in Houston, Texas.

Janice M. Evans ('79) of Florissant, Mo., received her master's degree in human resource management in December 1998 at Lindenwood University. She is the coordinator of enrollment management at St. Louis Community College.

Ruth Broome-Hackman ('83) of Madison has earned her Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant designations and is employed as an internal auditor at Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company in Jackson. She and her husband, **Ken Hackman** ('83), have two daughters: Amanda Broome and Allyn McMullan.

Teretha G. Houston ('86, '88) of Stone Mountain, Ga., has written her first novel, *Armageddon at Defcon 1*, which is already in bookstores. She presently is working on her second novel.

Tara Long Hunter ('86) is the director of human resources and personnel at Mark Escude Automotive Group in Jackson. She and her husband, Tommy, have three children: Trey, Molly, and Micah.

Laura Roberts Burris ('87) of Minden, La., is the mother of a son, Matthew David, born Feb. 2.

Jim Cowan ('87) of Chicago, Ill., has accepted a new position with Treacy Marketing Group as the director of creative services.

John D. Davis ('88) and his wife, **Lesley Andress** ('89), are the new parents of a baby boy, John Daniel V (Jack), born March 7. Lesley has become a partner in the law firm of Mason, Ketterman & Morgan, and John completed his neurosurgery residency at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md., in June. John joined the practice of Drs. Glen Warren and Lynn Stringer of Jackson in July.

Jane Brasfield Tinkham ('89) of Greenville, Ala., and her husband, **Douglas**, ('90), are the proud parents of a daughter, Corinne Marie, born Oct. 5, 1998.

Anthony J. Vega ('90) of Clarion, Pa., and his wife, Juanice, are the proud parents of a daughter, Alexandria Nicole, born Nov. 18, 1998.

Ana Maria Mosquera Leis ('91) of Baton Rouge, La., and her husband, **Lawrence Joseph** ('92), are the proud parents of a son, Nicolas, born Oct. 15, 1997. Ana Maria was the business manager for an orthopedic practice, but now plans to return to school to work on her master's degree. Joseph is a consultant with Arthur Andersen LLP.

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• AlumNEWS •

Scott Huffman ('92) has accepted the position of associate vice president for development and alumni services at the State University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Ga. He and his wife, **Susan Scales** ('89), have two children: Ashley and Alex.

Kendall W. McCarter ('92) of Jackson, Tenn., is the director of development for Lifeline Blood Services. He and his wife, Sherri, are the proud parents of their first child, Julia Rose, born March 3.

Cathy L McElveen ('92) of Slidell, La., currently is attending medical school at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, Calif., and will graduate in June 2000. Her education is being funded through an Air Force Health Professions Scholarship. She will be a captain in the Air Force upon graduation.

Michael L. McSwiney ('92) of Hillsboro, Ore., has received his Ph.D. in chemistry from Ohio State University. He married Laura McCoy in 1994.

Glen Vinet ('92) of New Orleans, La., recently was promoted to senior claims administrator and now manages loss prevention services in the Southeast and Midwest for Hilton Hotels Corporation.

Karen Alisa Graves ('93) of Marietta, Ga., is the customer service representative for Suntrust Bank.

Jay E. Murphy ('93) of Starkville is working as a realtor with Coldwell Banker S.R.E. Realtors. Previously, he resided in Savannah, Ga., and Jackson.

Clayton Pinnix Williams ('93, '95) of Brandon accepted the position of director of exhibits for Old Capitol Road Museum on March 1.

Madrina Stroup Bokenkamp ('94, '97) of Houston, Texas, married Dane Bokenkamp on April 3, 1999, in Destin, Fla. She plans to attend the Conrad N. Hilton School, which is part of the University of Houston, in the fall to begin work on her master's degree in hotel and restaurant management.

Tamara S. Markham Finney ('94) of Amory and her husband, Frank, are the proud parents of a daughter, Megan Elizabeth, born Feb. 8.

David Pate ('94) of Birmingham, Ala., is the president of DP Consulting, a computer software firm. His wife, **Vallie Penn** ('95), is a ceramic artist and owns "Bea" Hive Earthenware pottery company.

Rachelle Graves Schroeder ('94) of Virginia Beach, Va., married William Joseph Schroeder Jr. on Jan. 30. She recently completed the fundamentals of parallelism course at Old Dominion University. She is the executive assistant to the president of Old Kemper Consulting Inc., a consulting firm that lobbies the Virginia State Legislature on state and local issues.

Kym Williams ('95) of Brandon became the marketing manager for Cypress Pharmaceuticals on Nov. 1, 1998.

Thomas Duane Gordon ('96) of Canton, news editor for the *Madison County Journal* in Ridgeland, received three awards at the Mississippi Press Association convention in Biloxi—first and third places for Best Investigative News and honorable mention for Best General News Photograph.

Jennifer Sinclair Pinkard ('96) of Ethel works for the Kosciusko/Attala Chamber of Commerce. She recently won several prizes on the "Price is Right" while wearing her MSU T-shirt.

Harold Ray Atkins ('97) of Columbia, Mo., is a budget analyst for the Social Security Administration.

Mitzi Lynn Chicorelli ('98) of Cleveland is now a dental hygienist.

Theresa M. Hueley ('98) of Pittsburgh, Pa., married Marc Wright and is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Ortho-McNeil.

We want your news!

In each issue of the College of Arts & Sciences *Renaissance*, we include information on the accomplishments of our alumni and friends. We would like to include you in the next issue. Please use the form below to send us information about career changes, recognitions received, and other news you would like to share with your former classmates, friends, and professors. Just complete this form and return it to the address provided and we will include it in a future issue of *Renaissance*.

Clip and mail to: **Dr. Frank E. "Skip" Saal, P.O. Box AS, Mississippi State, MS 39762-5543, or e-mail information to: skipsaal@deanas.msstate.edu**

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Renaissance is published twice a year for the alumni and friends of the College of Arts & Sciences at Mississippi State University. If you would like more information about the programs in the College of Arts & Sciences, have any questions or suggestions, or if you have a submission for the newsletter, please contact:

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