

BREAKING NEW GROUND



Figures show that when the worst occurs, Americans are at their best. The tragic events of Hurricane Katrina stirred the goodwill and charitable impulses of millions of Americans. In fact, the pace of charitable donations in the wake of Katrina has far outstripped those of both the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the Asian tsunami last December.

The Mississippi State University family is doing its part in the hurricane-affected areas by extending its outreach and service efforts. A "Bulldogs in Response" task force, chaired by MSU First Lady Pat Lee, continues to provide assistance with the clean-up and rebuilding efforts on our coast. To date, the university has disbursed more than \$340,000 of the \$560,000 collected for the Student Relief Fund. The funds have gone to approximately 700 students and will continue to assist displaced students well into the next academic semester. University units also are continuing to offer their expertise to long-term needs.

Although Mississippi is all too often recognized as one of the nation's poorest states, our state annually ranks at or near the top in charitable giving. This may be ironic, but not surprising to those of us who live here. Most Mississippians believe true commitment to our fellow human beings begins at home with our own faith, values and pocketbooks.

The generosity of our alumni and friends, many of whom are Mississippians, has also been evident in the university's ongoing State of the Future campaign. As of Oct. 1, 2005, more than \$250 million in gifts and pledges had been received to secure the educational future of our sons and daughters.

While the rebuilding process from the recent natural disasters will require considerable time, effort and resources, I am confident that the future of Mississippi has never looked brighter.

Jud H. Skelton
Director of Development
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

CVM Continues to Assist Veterinarians and Injured Animals

There are many stories of people helping people, people helping animals, and animals helping people in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. The extent to which the storm affected animals is enormous, with thousands separated from their families. Today, many of these animals have been rescued and reunited with their owners or put in foster care. The goal is to reunite as many as possible.

Since the storm, the CVM staff, students and faculty have been busy calling veterinarians to see if they have been affected, and if so, what their needs are. Gathering this information is crucial for the veterinary community, the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association and other agencies. Many faculty and staff members are also part of the state veterinarian's Animal Response Team working with the national Veterinary Medical Assistance Team to assess needs in areas hardest hit by Katrina.

An important effort initiated by the CVM has been the delivery of pharmaceuticals, supplies and food to veterinarians and veterinary hospitals in affected areas. A courier route has been established to deliver supplies and to assist veterinarians on the Coast in transporting their laboratory samples to CVM facilities in Jackson and Hattiesburg. Also, trips to coastal areas to assist veterinarians are continuing.

Immediately following the storm, the Mississippi Board of Animal Health established a hotline to handle all calls related to animal disaster relief. Students, staff and faculty of the CVM manned the number on a volunteer basis. Thousands of calls came in from across the state concerning missing animals, live-

stock concerns, equine issues, fencing needs, food and supplies, veterinary services and other needs and concerns. Individuals, corporations, foundations and educational institutions also called wishing to contribute financial donations and gifts of food and supplies. Through the hotline, volunteers were able to identify needs and match those needs with incoming support.

"Our assistance programs have also extended to our Animal Health Center, where we have accepted ill and injured animals and animals of pet owners who are without the ability to pay," said Lee Tyner, director of the Animal Health Center. "Prince is a pet treated at our intensive care unit who has received national attention."

Prince's owner, a resident of New Orleans, found herself awakened during the flooding by her dog. She evacuated and credited her loving companion with saving her life. Unfortunately, while staying at a no-pet shelter in Greenville, the dog ran away and was hit by a car.

"Prince was successfully treated and reunited with his owner," Tyner said. "Other animals from the storm-damaged areas are still receiving care."

Although recovery efforts have been under way for weeks, the job is far from over and displaced animals still need care until they are reunited with their owners. The most urgent need is financial support to help meet the rising costs of these efforts. For information on how you can help, contact Keith Gaskin, director of development for the College of Veterinary Medicine at (662) 325-3815 or (662) 325-5170.

MSU Focuses Forest Resources on Storm Recovery

While it is impossible to accurately predict the long-term effects of Katrina on Mississippi's timber industry, we do know that the damage is widespread and severe. The hurricane cut a swath of destruction through an estimated 1.3 million acres of forestland in Mississippi. It is estimated that the combined value of timber and tree damage is about \$2.4 billion. Commercial timber losses are estimated to be approximately 14.6 million cords of pulpwood and 3.2 billion board feet of saw timber. The projected value of Mississippi's damaged timber is \$1.3 billion, which is about the same as the revenue produced from one annual cut.

The College of Forest Resources is providing research and outreach assistance to forest landowners and others in the timber industry.

The college has created a Web site devoted to hurricane forestry salvage operations. The site, www.wssg.cfr.msstate.edu, enables landowners to find loggers and provides loggers the opportunity to announce their capabilities and other information. Also, forest products companies can list their needs, including the sizes and types of wood they desire.

Forestry scientists are working closely with the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory and the Mississippi

Forestry Commission to estimate the extent of timber damaged by the storm. This information is needed for salvage operations and to evaluate impact of lost timber resources on rural economies.

Forest products faculty are working with wood manufacturers in an effort to use water-stored or wet-decked logs. When logs are water-stored, their properties change and processing changes must be made to retain the value of finished products.

Wildlife and fisheries scientists are working with the Gulf Coast Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan to help restore the coastal marsh devastated by the hurricane. MSU personnel also will play important roles in restoring and protecting wildlife and fisheries habitats and populations.

All of these things, coupled with ongoing projects to assist the coastal counties, demonstrate our commitment to make Mississippi bigger and better than before. If you are interested in assisting us in our efforts, please contact Jeff Little, director of development, at (662) 325-8151.

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New Endowment Honors Agriculture Stalwarts

A new scholarship at Mississippi State University specifically benefits MSU students from two Delta counties.

Offered in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Frank T. and Virginia Brumfield and Harris S. and Margaret M. Swayze Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to qualified students from Sunflower and Yazoo counties.

The scholarship was established anonymously in June to honor the late couples for whom it is named, both of whom headed longtime farming and cattle operations in their respective counties.

"The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is pleased that the legacies of these two families, who have contributed so much to Mississippi agriculture, are being commemorated through this scholarship," said Jud Skelton, development director for the college. "Through the scholarship, students without the means to earn a college education will have help in achieving that goal."

Frank and Virginia Brumfield moved to Inverness in 1927, where Mr. Brumfield subsequently established a successful farming operation. He began his farming career after attending then-Mississippi A&M for three years. He remained active in the MSU Alumni Association throughout his life.

Committed to public service, Mr. Brumfield became a director and supporter of organizations that included the Federal Land Bank, Delta Electric Power Association, Staplcoth Cooperative and Duncan Gin. Recognizing his accomplishments, Progressive Farmer magazine named Mr. Brumfield its "Man of the Year" in Mississippi agriculture in 1976.

Married in 1938, Harris and Margaret Swayze established the Swayze Home Place on property in Yazoo County that has been in the family since 1832. In addition to his farming enterprises, Mr. Swayze was recognized throughout the South for his commercial and purebred cattle herds.

He was president and owner of Midway Gin Company, president of the Mississippi Cattleman's Association and the Delta Council, and director of the Bank of Yazoo County and Staplcoth Cooperative. Mr. Swayze was named Progressive Farmer's "Man of the Year" in 1959.

The Frank T. and Virginia Brumfield and Harris S. and Margaret M. Swayze Endowed Scholarship is an open fund in the MSU Foundation which may be increased through additional contributions.

For more information, telephone Jud Skelton at (662) 325-0643.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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