

Vice President's Letter



The seal of Mississippi State University lists the school's three missions: learning, service and research. All three are important, but it's not by chance that service is in the center. Without dedication to serving our citizens' needs, the education and research roles would have less impact.

The Focus section beginning on page 16 of this issue of Landmarks looks at how outreach programs of the Mississippi State University Extension Service serve the needs of Mississippians in all walks of life. Extension has programs designed to help small businesses get off the ground and to assist farmers in managing their enterprises. Individuals also benefit from Extension nutrition education and the 4-H youth activities through outreach.

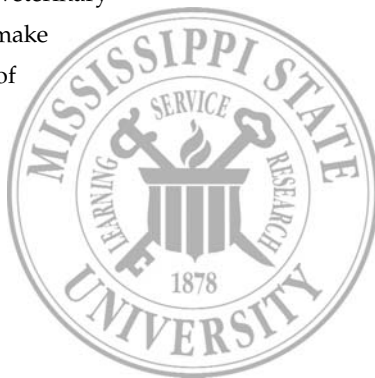
Service also is the driving force behind the research conducted by scientists in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. Several of those scientists are receiving 2005 Research Initiation Program Awards from MSU's Office of Research. While the awards total \$10,000 or less, they allow researchers to start projects that can have long-term benefits for the state.

The university's spirit of service also extends to its alumni. The development report beginning on page 31 details how some of those individuals are helping students and programs at MSU. This issue of Landmarks also contains an article on a Mississippi State graduate who is leading one of the world's major commodity exchanges.

Mississippi State University was founded on principles of service to agriculture, and today that role has been expanded to include all aspects of society. The men and women in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine are doing their part to make effective and efficient use of resources to meet the needs of all Mississippians.

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