

## BREAKING NEW GROUND



At Mississippi State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, every day brings word of new successes—students who show themselves to be the best in competitions with other institutions, faculty members who achieve highest recognitions from professional organizations or garner major federal grants for

research, staff and researchers who have helped increase productivity for Mississippi farms and businesses.

Never has there been a more exciting time to take part in all that is happening here, and I invite you to do so.

The university has initiated its largest-ever fundraising effort, *State of the Future: The Mississippi State Campaign*. This extraordinary campaign not only targets current needs resulting from static state funding, but also looks forward with ambitious goals to what MSU can become in the years ahead. It seeks at least \$400 million in private gifts and commitments by December 2008.

For the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to build upon its present heights and reach to meet its ever-growing potential, we have set a campaign goal of \$23.4 million. Most of these funds will directly affect our primary mission of education through faculty and student support.

It is vital for us to maintain an exceptional faculty, so we have made endowed chairs and professorships one of our

top priorities. In today's competitive environment, endowed positions are crucial to retaining and attracting outstanding educators.

Likewise, endowed scholarships and fellowships help draw superior and deserving students, making them more likely to remain in the state after graduation. We want not only to add new endowments in this area, but also to bolster existing ones through our new Dean's Endowment Fund.

Campaign funds will go toward enhanced facilities to improve and expand the educational experience as well. Further, annual fund and other kinds of support will provide students and faculty with the types of experience and professional interaction that enrich them and elevate the national reputation of the college.

Your involvement is key to making the vision a reality. I am confident that together we can reach our goal, for the pride and loyalty of our alumni and friends are unsurpassed. We are united in our desire for a College of Agriculture and Life Sciences that is second to none.

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

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Tom Thompson

### Lulu Oncology Unit: expanding cancer treatment options for pets

Just mention "Lulu" to almost anyone on campus or to others throughout the state and most will have heard her name.

Malcolm H. Mabry, Jr., became set on establishing an oncology unit at Mississippi State's College of Veterinary Medicine when a cancerous tumor appeared on his dog, Lulu. Since Mississippi had no place to treat cancer in animals, Mabry had to take long trips back and forth to Auburn University.

After Lulu died in 2004, Mabry made a generous bequest toward the establishment of an oncology unit at MSU. He continues to give annually to the cause and devotes much of his time to encouraging others to support the project as well. Efforts to make the unit a reality are proving successful as many other individuals—including companion animal owners, pet enthusiasts,

health professionals, alumni and friends—are generously providing support in many forms.

The Tupelo Kennel Club is one group that has lent a helpful hand. The group contributed \$2,500 to the Lulu Oncology Unit Fund at the Gum Tree Classic Dog Show on May 13, 2005. The Brandon Agility Running K-9's (BARK) is coordinating an agility event in Brandon planned for Oct. 28-30, 2005. All profits from the event will be donated to Lulu's fund.

With the support of others, the proposed state-of-the-art oncology section will allow for the research and treatment of tumors and cancerous cells in animals. The facility will be the first of its kind in Mississippi and will make cancer treatment a viable option for the state's pet owners. In the past, Mississippi pet owners had to either deny their animals treatment or transport their companions to other states with oncology units. The new unit would serve not only Mississippi, but also parts of Arkansas, Tennessee and Alabama.

For more information on the oncology unit or giving to the College of Veterinary Medicine, please contact Jeff Little at 662-325-8151 or [jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu) or Melissa Montgomery at 662-325-5170 or [mmontgomery@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:mmontgomery@foundation.msstate.edu).



## Hattiesburg foresters nurture more than trees

Many fall Saturdays, in the shadow of Davis Wade Stadium and nestled among some of the tallest pine trees on the Mississippi State University campus, you are likely to find the McCollough family enjoying the fellowship of family and old friends, greeting new friends, and welcoming all. MSU, pine trees, family and friends, in fact, make more than the perfect game day for the McColloughs—they make a way of life.

Skip McCollough left Starkville as a graduate of the MSU's College of Forest Resources in 1979 with a B.S. degree in forestry and a minor in wildlife management. He and his wife Julie moved to Alabama and then back to Mississippi to eventually settle in Hattiesburg and raise a family. In 1990, the McColloughs created South Mississippi Forest Products and have enjoyed a career in the timber industry ever since.

Fortunately for MSU, Skip and Julie find time in their busy schedules to give back to the College of Forest Resources. Skip has previously served as both President and Vice-President of the College of Forest Resources Alumni Society. In 2000, Skip was honored as the CFR Alumnus of the Year. Skip has been a mentor for MSU forestry students and has had several students co-op with him. In addition to the personal time and energy Skip and Julie devote to the college, the McColloughs have done their best to make sure that others interested in forestry have a chance to pursue their dreams at MSU.

In 1998, the McColloughs established the South Mississippi Forest Products Annual Scholarship and in 2003 created the Skip and Julie McCollough Endowed Scholarship. They have also established the Skip and Julie McCollough Endowment for Excellence, which will be used to create additional scholarships.

"Skip and Julie are devoted to Mississippi State University, the students, and the future of forestry in Mississippi," said Jeff Little, assistant director of development for the college. "The College of Forest Resources is extremely proud to have friends like the McColloughs, who are dedicated to the success of the college and its students."

Skip and Julie McCollough are never more at home than when surrounded by pines, whether they be the thick longleaf pine stands of Hattiesburg or the tall loblolly scattered around the MSU campus. In either setting the McColloughs remain the most loyal of friends to MSU.

For more information about giving to the College of Forest Resources, contact Jeff Little at 662-325-8151.

## College of Forest Resources



## Former faculty member gives gift to assist future MSU students

ZonaDale Taylor attributes much of her success to a quality education. Through her deferred gift to Mississippi State University, she hopes to help students receive similar opportunities in the future. The gift, in the form of a significant bequest, will create an endowed scholarship to benefit students pursuing degrees at Mississippi State.

The ZonaDale Taylor Endowed Scholarship will be used to assist women majoring in programs within the School of Human Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"When I was in college, I benefited from the financial aid I received as a student worker. As a result, I want to provide an incentive to deserving MSU students," ZonaDale said. "I feel that a quality education is a necessary part of becoming a productive member of the workforce."

ZonaDale, a native of New Albany, began her career with Mississippi Power Co. in Meridian. She later became a member of the founding editorial staff of Southern Living magazine in Birmingham, Ala. After receiving her graduate degree, ZonaDale became an assistant professor in the Department of Home Economics at Mississippi State and later served as head of the Department of Home Economics at McNeese State University. When she and husband Charles moved to Pittsburgh, ZonaDale became manager of consumer and public affairs for Beecham Products USA.

The versatility of an education in the field of human sciences allowed ZonaDale to be qualified for a variety of job opportunities throughout her career. Through the scholarship, ZonaDale hopes to provide assistance and encouragement to women who have chosen to pursue a degree in the School of Human Sciences.

Despite living away from MSU for quite some time, ZonaDale Taylor has always had a special place in her heart for the university and has supported MSU with gifts through its foundation for many years.

To learn more about making a bequest or other deferred gift to Mississippi State, contact Jud Skelton at (662) 325-0643.

## College of Agriculture and Life Sciences