

BREAKING NEW GROUND



Dr. Hugh G. Ward of Jackson was a visionary in life and in business. The late Jackson veterinarian was passionate about investing in ideas and people whom he believed could make a difference. He realized, long before many others, that Mississippi would benefit greatly from a college of veterinary medicine.

Due in large part to Dr. Ward's tireless efforts, the College of Veterinary Medicine is today part of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine at MSU and one of only 28 such facilities in the nation. The CVM touches the lives of countless individuals in the state and region on a regular basis.

My colleagues and I try very hard to appropriately thank the generous donors who, like Dr. Ward, see the importance of strong programs at MSU and hopefully inspire others to do the same.

As major gift fundraisers for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, Jud Skelton, Jeff Little and I are privileged to get to know some fascinating and inspiring people. Often when preparing to talk with an individual about

making a gift to the CVM, I think of a quote by author and philanthropist Kay Grace; "In good times and bad, we know that people give because you (your organization) meet needs, not because you have needs." This quote speaks directly to the reason MSU receives so many generous gifts.

Originally, Dr. Ward and his wife Joe Ann planned to make a deferred gift to the university, but after his death she decided to endow the Hugh G. Ward Chair in Small Animal Medicine and the Joe Ann Ward Critical Care Unit in the CVM's Animal Health Center.

"I wanted to reap the rewards of seeing firsthand how a gift could enhance the important mission of the CVM," she explained.

I encourage you to learn how you can make a difference in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State, The People's University.

Keith Gaskin
Director of Development
College of Veterinary Medicine

Mobile Veterinary Clinic Hits the Road in 2007

From tragedy often comes valuable lessons for the future.

When Hurricane Katrina hit, many animals were abandoned and left with no one to help. The College of Veterinary Medicine is taking steps to be better prepared to respond to the needs of animals during the next emergency.

The college, in partnership with the American Kennel Club Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR), is developing a mobile response unit for use during any disaster in which small animals are left injured or abandoned.

The AKC CAR is providing partial funding through a gift of \$100,000 to purchase and equip the mobile clinic. Additional long-term funding is needed for staffing, supplies and expenses to sustain the unit in the years ahead.

"AKC CAR is dedicated to reuniting lost pets with their owners," said Jason A. Miller, AKC CAR assistant vice president. "Mobile response units allow veterinary professionals and volunteers to provide much-needed care as quickly as possible. AKC CAR and our supporters are thrilled to provide MSU funding to accomplish this goal."

The clinic, estimated for completion in spring 2007, will be a 32-foot gooseneck trailer equipped with a full surgical suite, a treatment room and a holding ward capable of housing up to 16 animals. It will provide full digital radiographic and laboratory diagnostic capabilities, emergency triage services and even minor surgery for injured animals.

While emergency response is the primary goal of the clinic, it also can be used in rural areas underserved by private veterinary hospitals.

"We believe it will be gratifying to see the results of this clinic. Our work will not only affect the reproductive rate, but also the number of animals being euthanatized," said Dr. Philip Bushby, CVM Marcia Lane Professor of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare. "It will increase adoption rates, improve the health of shelter animals, and reduce the number of unwanted litters of puppies and kittens."

The clinic, Bushby added, also will help increase adoption rates.

"Many people go to a shelter and see an animal they like but hesitate to take it home because of the initial expense of vaccinations and sterilization," he said. "When they learn everything has been taken care of at least until the pet's next vaccinations are due, they will be more likely to adopt an animal."

The mobile clinic will also provide extensive surgical experience for CVM students while supplying communities with a needed service.

If you are interested in helping animals through this program, contact Keith Gaskin, director of development for CVM at (662) 325-3815.

Waterfowl/Wetland Conservation Scholarship Established

A Georgia-based company is doing more than building upscale residences these days.

Scenic Homes, a family-owned business, also is working to further waterfowl and wetland conservation through a \$424,000 scholarship endowment recently established at MSU.

The owner and partners of the construction firm—which also has offices in Mississippi, Louisiana, and North and South Carolina—have established the Scenic Homes “Dr. Richard M. Kaminski” Scholarship in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation.

The academic award will provide qualified students with \$8,000 annually for tuition, fees, housing, books and supplies.

“We are excited about the opportunity to provide scholarships for students interested in careers as waterfowl or wetlands ecologists, managers or conservationists,” said Scenic Homes owner Paul Meng.

A former Natchez resident now residing in Atlanta, Meng also is an outdoors enthusiast and wildlife conservationist.

Scenic Homes/Kaminski scholars must be enrolled full-time in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in wildlife and fisheries science from the College of Forest Resources. An MSU grade-point average of 3.0 or higher (based on a 4.0 scale) and involvement in professional and leadership organizations in their field of study also are required.

“The scholarship is timely, considering that many waterfowl teaching and research programs in the U.S. and Canada are disappearing,” said Kaminski, the nationally known MSU wildlife and fisheries professor the scholarship honors.

“Data from a recent survey indicate the availability of college-level training, including research opportunities, for aspiring waterfowl biologists could be halved within a decade,” he added.

Kaminski said the Scenic Homes scholarship endowment will help ensure that MSU students can pursue “their passion for waterfowl and wetlands ecology and management.”

Since 1990, Scenic Homes has constructed more than 6,000 homes throughout the Southeast and is considered one of the top 100 builders in the U.S. As a member of the National Association of Home Builders, the company has been honored with the QBW Golden Achievement and QBW Builder of Integrity Awards in 2003 and 2004, respectively.

For more information on establishing scholarships in the College of Forest Resources, contact Jeff Little, director of development, at (662) 325-8185.

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Couple’s Gift Honors “Love Affair” with MSU

One day June Pace read about the need for private funds for scholarships at MSU. She immediately sent in a gift to the State of the Future campaign in honor of her husband, John, not knowing she would eventually create a lasting legacy for the two of them.

John Pace, a 1956 agronomy graduate, enjoyed a long love affair with Mississippi State. He died in February 2006.

Now, John and June’s loyalty to Mississippi State will continue in perpetuity. A bequest of the couple’s entire estate will one day provide scholarships in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

John, a native of Lake, graduated from Hinds Community College and then attended Mississippi State with the aid of the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

“I wanted to do something that would benefit a lot of students, so I decided on scholarships in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, where John got his degree,” June said. “Although John attended Mississippi State with assistance, he realized that many students work their way through college, and I would like to help them because that is what he would have wanted.”

John was employed with Jackson’s Cyclone Fence Company, a division of U.S. Steel Corporation, for 33 years. A staunch MSU supporter throughout his life, he and June were members of the Ag 100 Club in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

“Early in our 49-year marriage, I was a little jealous of the fact that he was so wrapped up in Mississippi State, but as time went by, I too learned to really appreciate the university,” June, who resides in Jackson, said emphatically. “For us, Mississippi State has always been the only university in the state of Mississippi. In fact, John read everything he could get his hands on about what was going on at State and the tremendous progress the university was making.”

John Pace’s spirit of philanthropy and patriotism was apparent in everything he did. A member of the 1st Marine Division during the Korean War, he will forever be remembered as one of the “Chosin Few,” the survivors of a three-week battle in the snow-covered mountains around North Korea’s Chosin Reservoir. The 1950 battle earned a place in military history as one of the most savage ever fought.

For more information on giving to the college, contact Jud Skelton, director of development, at (662) 325-0643.

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