

FOCUS

Teaching, Research and Outreach in
the Division of Agriculture, Forestry
and Veterinary Medicine

Partnerships Benefit Education, Research and Economy

Part-ner: one associated with another especially in an action. *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*

Education, research and outreach are the primary missions of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. Each of those missions requires professional and support staff, but partners outside the university also play important roles.

Individuals who endow scholarships and fellowships are partners in the education mission of the division. The research mission is carried out with the help of a range of funding partners, including industry, producer organizations and state and federal agencies. Partnerships with other universities and MSU

departments outside the division also benefit both the education and research missions. Volunteer groups and local organizations are important in helping deliver Extension and other outreach programs.

The following pages contain information about the types of partnerships engaged in by the individual units within the division. The examples cited are representative of many others that support activities in the classroom, research laboratories and communities throughout Mississippi.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES



Partnerships with an Emphasis on Students

With 10 departments and 16 majors, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) provides students opportunities to discover the art and science of development in plants, animals and human beings.

"Students are our top priority," said Associate Dean Lynn Reinschmiedt. "The partnerships formed by the college enhance opportunities for our students both inside and outside the classroom."

Among the most long-lasting partnerships in the college are those with individuals, families and businesses that establish endowed scholarships and fellowships.

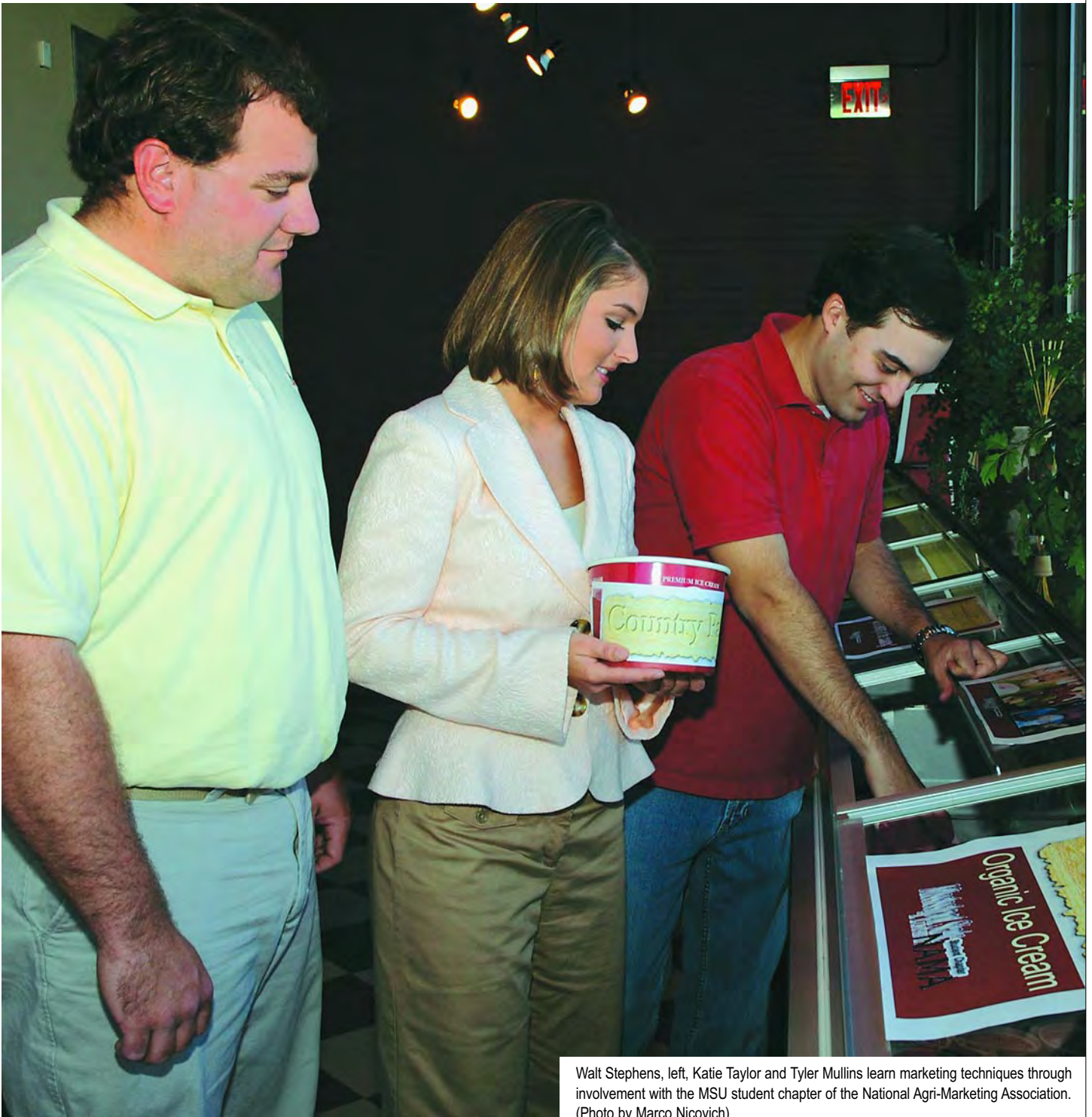
"Endowed graduate fellowships and undergraduate scholarships help attract smart, motivated students," Reinschmiedt said. "The financial support they provide makes a powerful impact on the student recipients and helps Mississippi by making it more likely the recipients will stay in the state after graduation."

The businesses and organizations that support student activities also play an important role in preparing CALs students for careers by providing a link between the university and the private sector. One of those links is the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA).

The NAMA is comprised of marketing professionals in the food and fiber industry. There are also 37 student NAMA chapters, including the MSU chapter based in the Department of Agricultural Economics. The organization provides

Departments and Schools in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

- Agricultural and Biological Engineering
- Agricultural Economics
- Animal and Dairy Sciences
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Entomology and Plant Pathology
- Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion
- School of Human Sciences
- Landscape Architecture
- Plant and Soil Sciences
- Poultry Science



Walt Stephens, left, Katie Taylor and Tyler Mullins learn marketing techniques through involvement with the MSU student chapter of the National Agri-Marketing Association. (Photo by Marco Nicovich)

student members with opportunities to explore agri-marketing careers through the national organization’s mentor program and student career fair. Student members also develop communication, marketing and organizational skills by serving in leadership positions and through NAMA’s annual marketing competition. The MSU student chapter is sponsored by the Memphis, Tenn., NAMA chapter, which provides mentoring and other support. The national organiza-

tion also provides travel funds and other support for the student chapter.

“Similar organizations in the floral, food and other industries also work closely with CALS departments to provide internships and other support for students,” Reinschmiedt said. “These and other partnerships enhance the college experience for our students and help ensure their success in their chosen professions.”

COLLEGE OF FOREST RESOURCES



Forestry Partnerships Sustain Environment, Boost Economy

Mississippi has been blessed with more than 18.6 million acres of forestland, 14,000 miles of streams, rivers and creeks, and abundant wildlife and fish populations. These natural resources provide many opportunities for our citizens in recreation and jobs, creating \$15 billion in economic impact to the state each year.

Our mission is to foster sustainability, conservation and utilization of natural resources for improved quality of life for the people of Mississippi, the region and beyond.

The College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center work with more than 100 cooperators each year on projects that sustain our natural environment and add value to the state. These cooperators include government agencies, universities, private industry and non-profit foundations.

The center includes the departments of Forestry, Forest Products, and Wildlife and Fisheries, as well as numerous research institutes, including the Institute for Furniture Manufacturing and Management, the Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute, the Berryman Institute and the Wood Utilization Research Center.

“Our faculty are working hard to sustain the natural environment,” said George Hopper, dean of the College of Forest Resources and director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. “The spectrum of research in the center includes clean water, wildlife habitat, trees in our cities and towns, furniture, forest resources, stronger lumber, durable housing and sustainable fisheries—just to name a few.”

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is the research arm for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. In this capacity, scientists in the department conduct research on both game and nongame species to improve wildlife and fisheries management in the state and region, and maintain a strong applied and habitat-based program on diverse subject areas.

Faculty in the Department of Forest Products work with manufacturers across the state and region to convert forest resources into value-added products. One partnership between private industry, a government agency and the university has resulted in a newly formed company, creating 140 jobs.

“The objective of our work with TimTek was to demonstrate that technology that was invented in Australia could be

used to make a product from Mississippi-sourced wood,” said Liam Leightley, head of the Forest Products Department. “This wood was small-diameter material that didn’t have a market, and we are converting it to a value-added product.”

Scientists in the Department of Forestry are working with the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory, a state agency, to develop a complete inventory of forest resources in the state. This project is another example of adding value to the state. Once completed, the inventory will attract new wood-using facilities and help existing facilities with wood supply planning.

Adding value while fostering sustainability, conservation and utilization of our natural resources is what faculty in the College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center are striving to accomplish, Hopper added.

“We work closely with all of our partners to achieve this goal,” he said.



The TimTek process uses small-diameter trees to create beams and other building materials. (Photo by Karen Brasher)