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Success often depends on the ability to adapt to change. For Mississippi, a lot changed during the past year, and Mississippians are meeting the challenges posed by those changes.

Because of their strong ties to the land, Mississippians are used to adapting to meet variables in weather, threats from insects and other pests, and the market place. They also apply the same skills to adapting new technology to meet their needs in the production of food and fiber.

As a land-grant school, Mississippi State University was founded with the mission of helping the state’s citizens. That mission is carried out through teaching, research and outreach programs by the university’s faculty and support staff.

One example of how the work of these men and women has helped row-crop producers in Mississippi and around the world is the development of the parabolic subsoiler. Gordon Tupper, an agricultural engineer with the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station at MSU’s Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, designed and built the tillage instrument to reduce the horsepower requirements for plowing through compacted layers below the soil surface. He made the design so simple that, in his words, “any machinery shop could build it.”

Now retired, Tupper was recently among the inaugural list of inductees into the Farm Press Publications’ Researchers Hall of Fame. There are hundreds of other current and past MSU faculty and staff who could be listed for their contributions to Mississippi, the nation and the world.

Recovery from hurricanes Katrina and Rita is one of the challenges currently faced by many Mississippians. MSU is using its resources to help with recovery in a variety of ways. Current research in the Department of Forest Products includes work with construction techniques to make houses better suited to the Southern Climate Zone. As part of that research, scientists are looking at ways to build houses that can better withstand high winds, including those associated with hurricanes.

As the state moves into a new era, university expertise, personnel and resources will play an important role in helping Mississippians meet challenges and take advantage of opportunities.
“When I was growing up, my grandparents had a poodle with health problems related to gum disease,” Seal said. “Taking care of his teeth could have helped him live a longer, healthier life.”
Brushing their dogs’ teeth is something most people think is not necessary or even silly, but Susan Seal has good reason to be aware of her pet’s dental health.

“When I was growing up, my grandparents had a poodle with health problems related to gum disease,” Seal said. “Taking care of his teeth could have helped him live a longer, healthier life.”

Sadie, Seal’s 2-year-old Shetland sheep dog, is benefiting from those childhood memories. The Starkville resident brushes Sadie’s teeth two or three times a week.

“It only takes about 5 minutes, and Sadie kind of likes it,” she said. “Her toothpaste is made just for dogs and is poultry flavored.”

Dogs, cats and other pets can have the same dental problems as people, said Dr. Diana Eubanks at Mississippi State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

“Dogs and other animals develop plaque and film that contains bacteria,” she said. “As a result, periodontal disease is the number-one disease you see in pets. Any pet over about 3 years of age that has not had some significant routine oral health care will develop gum disease.”

Left untreated, gum disease in dogs and other pets can lead to heart disease, kidney disease and other health problems. Some routine care, Dr. Eubanks said, can save a pet owner money in the long run and their pet unnecessary pain.

“Brushing a dog’s teeth two to three times a week with a veterinary toothpaste will help promote good dental health,” she said. “Using human toothpaste can upset a dog’s stomach, and they hate the taste.”

Many people consider rawhide chews and hard dog food all the dental care their dogs need.

“Anything that removes plaque as they bite down will help,” Dr. Eubanks said. “Certainly diet and plaque-removing treats are part of a dental health program, but as pets live longer and become more bonded with their owners, professional dental care becomes more important.”

In fact, dental care is the fastest growing specialty in veterinary medicine, and MSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine is one of the few schools in the South providing significant hands-on experience in the field.

“We have a dental X-ray unit and usually do an average of three procedures a week,” Dr. Eubanks said. “We also offer continuing education classes in veterinary dentistry for our graduates because it is becoming an important part of veterinary practices.”

Dr. Bill Nalley is a graduate of MSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine practicing veterinary dentistry in Long Beach. Dogs and cats, he said, are not supposed to have bad breath, which is one of a number of signs of periodontal disease.

“My clinical experience has shown me that many dogs and cats suffering from advanced periodontal disease also will appear lethargic, not respond eagerly to play, seem depressed, not eat well and may have symptoms of heart, liver or kidney disease,” Dr. Nalley said.

Part of the treatment for gum disease is a prophylaxis, a procedure to remove plaque and clean the teeth.

“Clients often call me two weeks after a prophylaxis and are jubilant that their pet is acting like a 2 year old again,” he said.

Dr. Nalley agrees that brushing its teeth is an important part of keeping a pet in top physical shape.

“Dogs, cats and ferrets benefit greatly from daily brushing of their teeth,” he said. “There are products on the market that claim their use will reduce or eliminate the need for brushing. I agree that some of these products will aid in keeping pets teeth free of plaque, but none of them will totally replace brushing.”
It wasn’t long ago that spotting the word “soy” on a food label meant a shopper had drifted into the health food section of the grocery store, but the ingredient shows up in mainstream products throughout those same stores today.

The humble soybean is grown mostly for its protein and oil. Mississippi producers plant more than 1.5 million acres of farmland to soybeans each year, and the crop is used in everything from catfish feed to biodiesel and ham.

Several Mississippi State University departments are involved in various research projects involving soybeans. Researchers in the Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion Department are among those paving the way for the food products consumers will eat in the future.

“We are building concept foods, foods that are novel to the marketplace and which do not have a standard of identity,” said Patti Coggins, director of MSU’s Sensory Evaluation Laboratory. “We are creating brand-new food products for where we think the food industry might be in the future.”

Concept foods, like concept cars, rarely make it to the marketplace, but they are a necessary part of the development of new products.

Coggins said she and other researchers are working with beverages such as energy or weight-loss drinks, dairy foods and frozen foods. They are studying American dietary and health trends and projecting where these trends might lead 20 years from now. They develop and troubleshoot products they think will be in demand or of use in the future.

“We’re developing foods that contain soy, whether in the form of a protein concentrate or an isolate,” Coggins said. “The health food market is being merged into what we now call the market, and Americans are much more accepting of the foods that are out there.”

When soy was first used in foods, it was mostly added as an economical protein source that cost less than meat or dairy protein. Now it is used primarily for its health benefits, as research has shown it can promote health. Others like its taste or eat it in place of another item.

“Many people cannot consume dairy products, and they look to soy or other alternatives,” Coggins said. “Americans read nutrition labels on food more than ever before, and they have a growing acceptance of soy in their diets.”

Wes Schilling is another food science researcher in MSU’s Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion Department. He and others are working to produce a shelf-stable deli ham.

“We add soy protein to the formulation to help bind more water,” Schilling said. “The more water you bind, the juicier the product.”

The soy protein is added to processed ham packaged in a plastic pouch that can be kept safely on the shelf until opened. Schilling said soy protein also is being applied to other new products, enhancing their ability to bind water or fat in processed meat products such as deli hams and frankfurters.

Soybeans are widely used in a variety of common products, and MSU is involved in other areas of research looking to improve these products and develop new ones. Much of this research is supported by contributions from the Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board.

“Research and promotion is vital to the long-term success of the soybean industry,” said Morgan Beckham, chairman of the Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board. “Through research, we develop more cost-efficient production systems, higher yielding varieties, and find solutions to disease, insect, and weed problems.

“Most of this research is done with Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station personnel, as well as some U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service personnel. Through market development, we grow new markets for our products both domestically and internationally. Our overall goal is to increase farmer profitability. That is the bottom line,” he said.
Record-setting sales were posted at the 2005 Mississippi State University livestock auction.

The 23rd annual Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Production Sale was held Nov. 17 at the Mississippi Horse Park and featured 107 lots of Angus, Charolais and Hereford bulls; commercial-bred heifers; and Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds.

“The sale consisted of livestock from MAFES research stations throughout Mississippi,” said MSU animal scientist Jane Parish. “The sale brought in a record $132,000, which will go back into the livestock research programs.”

The highest price paid for an animal at the sale was $3,000 for a coming 2-year-old Angus bull from the campus research herd.

Beef cattle at the 2005 sale were equipped with radio-frequency-identification devices.

“This was our first production sale with animals equipped with the electronic animal identification technology,” Parish said. “The adoption of the technology has enhanced MAFES’ record-keeping capabilities and complemented the already extensive performance information available for the animals at the sale.”

Another new feature of the 2005 sale was interactive video bidding sites in Hattiesburg and Raymond. Buyers at the video bidding locations could view the sale in real time and place bids through MSU Extension area livestock agents Roy Higdon and Mike Keene.

Higdon was the agent in charge of the Raymond site and said 17 bidders registered at that location.

“We didn’t have a winning bid, but there was some active bidding by the participants,” Higdon said. “There was a lot of interest from our producers, and it’s definitely something we would like to do again.”

There were fewer bidders at the Hattiesburg site, but they came away with several animals.

“We had four bidders, and they bought two horses and two bulls,” Keene said. “It was a big help for our producers not to have to make the trip to campus for the sale. I think we’ll have more participation next time.”

The MAFES Production Sale is held the third Thursday in November each year and is a hands-on educational experience for students in the managing livestock sales class in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences at MSU.

“Students performed tasks ranging from livestock preparation and handling to ringman and photography,” Parish said. “They learned the ins and outs of marketing livestock through a production sale, as well as how to represent the university in a professional manner through their work with sale planning and operations.”

“JANE PARISH

Senator Pat Bryant said, “The adoption of the technology has enhanced MAFES’ record-keeping capabilities and complemented the already extensive performance information available for the animals at the sale.”
Help was on the way in 2005 to northeastern Mississippi’s child-care workers, teachers and parents, but when Hurricane Katrina hit, the effort to provide educational and resource materials expanded to include the devastated Gulf Coast counties.

Mississippi State University’s Extension Service and Early Childhood Institute are receiving funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Day Foundation that helped establish a northeastern Mississippi Childcare Resource and Referral system. Resource and Referral Centers provide training, technical assistance and resources emphasizing literacy and age-appropriate teaching strategies for the early childhood field. Teachers in child-care centers and family child-care homes as well as parents can access the educational materials.

The pilot project, which began in January 2005, has been a partnership with Northeast Mississippi Community College (NEMCC), Itawamba Community College (ICC) and East Mississippi Community College (EMCC). Before Katrina, the project served the 24 ARC counties in northeastern Mississippi.

Louise Davis, professor of child and family development for MSU’s Extension Service, said the initial project addressed the training needs of about 7,500 people employed in licensed child-care centers and family child-care homes in 24 counties in northeastern Mississippi. These programs serve more than 13,000 children from birth to 5 years of age.
Sites on ICC’s Tupelo campus, EMCC’s Mayhew campus and the NEMCC campus in Booneville will house child-care resources and offer workshops for issues related to preschool children. An additional site separate from ARC funding was added at the First Regional Library in Hernando to include Desoto, Tunica, Tate, Panola and Lafayette counties. Other partners in the Hernando site include the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi and the Day Foundation of Memphis with matching grants of $40,000.

“These sites provide educational materials and resources to families, Head Start teachers and child-care workers,” Davis said. “They offer convenient and educational opportunities for people in this area with special interests in early childhood issues.”

After Hurricane Katrina, the methods were in place to expand on the coast and provide support to the caregivers in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties. A coastal site has been established at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Jefferson Davis campus in Biloxi. More than a dozen workshops have taken place to provide materials to child-care centers damaged by Katrina. A toll-free number has been established to assist centers in finding workers and to help parents find appropriate centers for their child-care needs.

Bettye Wadsworth, Extension area child and family development agent based in Jackson County, said the help has been exactly what caregivers needed.

“Centers have been stressed. They are dealing with so many other needs, like insurance, building repair and personal home issues,” Wadsworth said. “It has been a load off their minds to have our help both in materials and in supplying training hours.”

Wadsworth said the parents also benefit from the resources. “Everyone appreciates the ability to check out materials at no cost,” she said.

Partners for the Gulf Coast Resource and Referral include the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative, the National Association on Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Embrace Mississippi’s Children, Moore Community House and United Way of South Mississippi.

Davis said this partnership between the community colleges, MSU’s Extension Service, MSU’s Early Childhood Institute and others is a significant opportunity to enhance early childhood education for the communities.

“Together, we can provide greater access to materials and information to benefit children, families and the early childhood community,” Davis said.

The Extension Service area agents, site coordinators and technicians at each site conduct workshops for parents and child-care providers. They also go to child-care centers in the area to address needs on the spot.

“The site coordinators overseeing the resource and referral sites have experience in the early childhood field and can answer questions from personal and educational experience.

Carol Bishop, child development technology instructor at ICC, described the project as a “wonderful asset” for her community college because it helps reinforce early child development programs on both the Tupelo and Fulton campuses.

“We provide more than just classroom education. Students have a place to go for new ideas and knowledge about child-care centers in the community,” Bishop said. “The sites give students the opportunity to interact with people who come in, take part in workshops and use the centers themselves for a variety of purposes.”

Sandra Ford, child development technology instructor at NMCC, said the resources benefit her students as well as providing more items for the public from educational materials developed in classes.

“This resource site helps the people in the community, not only the child-care providers, but also the parents,” Ford said. “Most places with resource materials are only open from 8 until 5, but this one is open at night and on some weekends.”

Paul Miller, vice president for the Golden Triangle campus of EMCC, also appreciates the role of the Resource and Referral Centers in supporting the training needs of existing child-care centers and parents in the area.

“I hope it will help establish a child development program at EMCC, which will complement our existing early childhood education program. Our involvement may lead to expanding our facilities as well as our programs,” Miller said.

As parents and child-care professionals come to the campus for resource materials, Miller said they should become comfortable in the educational setting and consider furthering their education.

Laurie Todd, director of state initiatives for MSU’s Early Childhood Institute, said the project helps parents by supplying valuable information on child-care choices and providing tips for selecting child care.

“This project should help businesses and enhance economic development by supporting high-quality child care for families in Mississippi,” Todd said.
The inscribed stone on Lena Pearl Boutwell Griffin’s table best describes her lifelong love of plants and vegetables: Gardening is a way of showing that you believe in tomorrow.

As long as she can remember, the Ripley resident has had her hands in the soil and her palate placated by delicious homegrown fruits and vegetables. Earliest memories involve 4-H projects in her native Newton County.

Meetings were held at the school and it required dedicated membership in the late 1920s. “I had to walk about four miles to get to the meetings. We carried our exhibits to the school building rain or shine,” she said.

One-room schools didn’t afford many opportunities for classes such as home economics or clothing construction. “What I learned was from my mother and my 4-H leaders,” she said. “The publications and 4-H leaders taught me how to make my seams correctly and what types of clothes to wear.”
And she won't choose a favorite among the more than 200 perennials when Mississippi temperatures are just too cold to be outside. But if pressed, she'll frown about the dead of winter and the more experienced, according to Mrs. Lena Pearl. “I've never been to any kind of meeting that I've learned a lot – I've never been to any kind of meeting that I've learned something.”

“Do it all but cut the grass,” a chore her daughter-in-law Sharon fulfills with a riding lawn mower over the centipede lawn.

Mrs. Lena Pearl encourages the use of raised beds, self-sufficiency, and avoiding additives and preservatives. “If I want to plant butterbeans in one bed, I can go in there and plant my butterbeans. I put up all my vegetables; I don’t have to buy any.” She usually doesn’t have to purchase fruit either, but last summer’s harvest failed to net any blueberries so she put up 9 gallons of the store-bought berry. “I eat a cup of blueberries every morning with my cereal,” she said.

Ripley’s favorite gardener has spent the winter thumbing through seed books and thinking about planting. “I usually try to find new varieties that have come out and may be more prolific. I’ve already ordered new seeds for squash and lettuce.”

She also enjoys other Master Gardener experiences, including a kudzu basket weaving course. “I made so many mistakes that my daughter said we would call this the ‘forgiving basket,’” she said.

When not outside gardening, Mrs. Lena Pearl enjoys her solar plant room built more than 30 years ago. Cuttings, tropical house plants and spring tomato plants are thriving in the space adjacent to the family den.

Frankly, there’s not a room in the Griffin home that doesn’t contain some end result of Mrs. Lena Pearl’s hands – plants and dried floral arrangements bedeck furniture, and her art adorns the walls. Acrylic paintings of farm scenes, floral and fowl, all by the Master Gardener, show another side of the talented woman. Among her favorites: her father with his ice wagon, and another of husband Paul with his Border Collies and sheep.

For this nonagenarian, gardening is enjoyment. She doesn’t let the labor overwhelm her. “If it does, I just don’t do it,” she said, laughing. “I’ve got enough to keep busy all the time. It’s for pleasure, but it’s good for me. Physical exercise keeps the mind sharp and something to look forward to.”

Her exhibit interests included vegetables, canned goods, clothing and leadership, the latter earning her first out-of-state trip and a train ride to the 1933 National 4-H Conference in Chicago. “It was the first time leadership was offered and I represented Mississippi,” said Mrs. Lena Pearl, who will turn 90 in October.

Pretty heady stuff for a Newton High School junior, she said, as she unfolded a 70+ year-old 4-H beanie and looked over a group photograph of the event.

Mrs. Lena Pearl continued her education at the former Mississippi State College for Women, graduating in 1938 with a degree in commercial work. She would meet her husband, Paul Griffin of Tippah County, while working in Fayette. He was selling Progressive Farmer magazine when he began courting her. “We married in 1940. They were rationing tires and gas so we moved to Tippah in 1941 and have been living here ever since.”

Choosing to remain involved in 4-H, Mrs. Lena Pearl imparted knowledge as a 4-H leader during her 11 years as a high school teacher in locations such as Palmer, Shady Grove and Jumpertown. Later, she assisted her husband with the Massey Ferguson equipment business they owned, all the while raising their four children, Peggy, Linda, James and William.

“The 4-H clubs and different people have always used Mrs. Lena Pearl as a resource because she is so knowledgeable about the plants,” said MSU Extension Service county director Tim Needham. “We started a Master Gardener Program in 2001, and Mrs. Lena Pearl was one of the first ones to call and say she wanted to be a Master Gardener.”

Mrs. Lena Pearl is quick to give credit for her gardening enthusiasm. “I love to garden. I really attribute our Extension office and their programs and leadership in my education for working with plants.”

She has repaid the community many times over, according to Needham. “I don’t know how many floral arrangements she makes and just donates but that’s her volunteer work, really, to churches, libraries, and different functions all around town.”

The Master Gardener program is ideal for both the novice and the more experienced, according to Mrs. Lena Pearl. “I’ve learned a lot – I’ve never been to any kind of meeting that I’ve not learned something.”

Perhaps her favorite part is the camaraderie among plant lovers. “The fellowship and inspiration of being with other people and then sometimes, just knowing what you’re already doing is OK is important. And then you always learn something new when you go that you didn’t already know.”

Don’t ask the nonagenarian for her favorite season. She likes it all. But if pressed, she’ll frown about the dead of winter when Mississippi temperatures are just too cold to be outside. And she won’t choose a favorite among the more than 200 perennials, annuals, fruit and nut trees, vegetables or herbs. If pressed for a favorite, she’ll reply, “The one that survives the easiest!” She eventually endorsed the rose because of its productivity during the summer months. When harvest time comes, she’ll pick from two to three varieties of corn, watermelon, lettuce and spinach, to name a few.

While her front yard is landscaped beautifully with flower beds filled with perennials, the massive side lot is filled with 24 raised beds. “My beds are 16 feet by 4 feet with 3-foot aisles. I like these because I can break them up one bed at a time,” she said.

Her arsenal: A five-prong pitchfork, a shovel and a hoe.

Needham said there’s no gardening crew. “Mrs. Lena Pearl turns all of it over herself.”

She confirms it: “I do it all but cut the grass,” a chore her daughter-in-law Sharon fulfills with a riding lawn mower over the centipede lawn.

Mrs. Lena Pearl encourages the use of raised beds, self-sufficiency, and avoiding additives and preservatives. “If I want to plant butterbeans in one bed, I can go in there and plant my butterbeans. I put up all my vegetables; I don’t have to buy any.” She usually doesn’t have to purchase fruit either, but last summer’s harvest failed to net any blueberries so she put up 9 gallons of the store-bought berry. “I eat a cup of blueberries every morning with my cereal,” she said.

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Martha Scott Poindexter:
Short Washington Stay Turns into Career for MSU Alum

By Bob Ratliff

“Martha Scott is one of the brightest, most talented people on Capitol Hill.”
SENATOR CHAMBLISS

Whether on a Delta basketball court or in the halls of the nation’s Capitol, determination to do the best possible job motivates Martha Scott Poindexter.

The oldest of Fred and Dotty Poindexter’s four daughters, Martha Scott grew up on the family’s cotton, rice and soybean farm near Morgan City. She approached schoolwork and sports with the same enthusiasm and determination.

“Once she makes up her mind she can do anything she wants,” said her mother.

After earning a degree in home economics with an emphasis in food and nutrition at Mississippi State University, Martha Scott wanted to go to Washington, D.C., “for a little while.” That was 16 years ago.

“I graduated in December of 1989 and came straight to D.C. to work for Sen. Thad Cochran,” she said. “I was an aide to Mark Keenum, who was Sen. Cochran’s legislative assistant for agriculture.”

Today, Martha Scott is majority staff director for the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture. It’s a job she trained for from the time of her arrival at the Capitol.

“We were working on the 1990 Farm Bill, which was a full year of wheeling and dealing and all-night meetings,” she said. “It was a really busy time, and I thought it was that way all the time.”

Coming from rural Mississippi into that type of atmosphere would have been daunting for some, but Martha Scott found she had a natural love for the political process.

“I was like a kid in a candy shop. We were always meeting with someone about agriculture and all the different interests that were fighting for money for their programs,” she said. “Some small programs, like honey bees and sheep, were being phased out at that time, but it was not an overhaul of all the farm programs. It was intense, but it wasn’t like it was in ’96, when the different commodities were fighting each other. It was intense, but interesting, and a good time for agriculture.”

It also was an opportunity to learn how legislation is crafted.

“There was a team of five of us led by Mark Keenum,” she said. “I had not been involved in politics at all and learned a lot from Mark, including how to network.”

Once she got to know the people involved, she found that working on Capitol Hill has similarities to working in a small town.

“I would compare it to anywhere else; you get to know people who you can pick up the phone and call and learn from,” she said. “If you have an understanding and
knowledge of the basics, then you throw in politics, and that’s what you have to work with.”

Her work on the 1990 Farm Bill led to a promotion to legislative assistant for interior, environment and interior appropriations with Sen. Cochran.

“Working on appropriations allowed me to look at programs from a fiduciary side as well as learning how the programs work, which deals with authorizing language, so you learn all sides of legislation,” she said. “That’s especially true for agriculture.”

After 3 years in Sen. Cochran’s office, Martha Scott returned to school, this time to the University of Maryland, where she did an internship in nutrition. Following the internship, she was a registered dietitian, but the determination to serve agriculture led to work with a lobbyist for Louisiana sugar cane farmers and then to the office of the junior Republican congressman from Georgia, Saxby Chambliss.

From 1995 to 1997, she was a senior legislative assistant for agriculture and natural resources for Congressman Chambliss.

“I was working for Congressman Chambliss during the 1996 Farm Bill debate. Georgia’s main interest at the time was the peanut program,” she said. “The Republicans were trying to cut back costs in farm programs and everywhere else to control the deficit. The peanut program was completely overhauled, and some of the changes were hard for farmers to accept.”

She did, however, help negotiate a Peanut Title of the 1996 Farm Bill that was accepted by farmers, industry and the public.

After 2 years in the congressman’s office, Martha Scott returned to work for Sen. Cochran, spending 5 years working with agricultural appropriations. She then gained additional experience as director of government affairs for Monsanto Corp., working on a variety of biotechnology issues, including conservation, soybeans, sugar beets, wheat and cotton before returning to Capitol Hill as legislative director for then Sen. Chambliss in 2002.

She assumed her current duties as majority staff director of the Senate Committee on Agriculture in 2005, following Sen. Chambliss’ appointment as chairman of the committee.

It’s a job that is both difficult and rewarding.

“I feel like the conductor of a train,” she said. “I have to keep everything moving on time and look into the future and plan how to get there. It’s one of the hardest jobs I’ve had, but also the best.”

The 2006 Farm Bill is the next big piece of legislation the committee will deal with.

“The 2006 Farm Bill is on everyone’s mind, and it will be driven by two things—budget and trade,” she said. “Past farm bills have been driven by budget but never so much by trade issues as this one will be.”

Food issues, including its availability, are things most Americans take for granted, but keeping the nation’s food supply plentiful and affordable are concerns when dealing with farm legislation.

“As with energy, people have gotten used to cheap food,” Martha Scott said. “If what has happened with energy prices should happen with food, it will cause the same type of reaction but probably even stronger.”

Just like past farm bills, the 2006 legislation will require long hours, political expertise and an understanding of agriculture, but Sen. Chambliss said the committee’s staff director is ready for the challenge.

“Martha Scott is one of the brightest, most talented people on Capitol Hill,” he said. “She is extremely well respected by senators and staffers alike for her expertise and her ability to get things done. She does a great job of leading the Ag Committee staff, and it also pleases me that she is from the SEC!”

She has a similar opinion of the two senators she has worked for.

“Sen. Cochran is one of the most respected members of Congress. That’s important because compromise is what makes Washington work, and Thad Cochran is one of the best at making it work,” she said. “Sen. Chambliss has the same qualities.”

The opportunity to work with individuals of that caliber and for agriculture is what keeps her from returning to Mississippi for more than short visits with family in the Delta.

“I only came up here with plans to stay for 6 months, and it has been 16 years,” she said. “I don’t think I’ll move out of town anytime soon.”
The Mississippi National Guard has enlisted the help of MSU in a partnership with a South American ally.

Bolivia, a landlocked South American country, participates in the National Guard State Partnership Program, which matches U.S. states with countries in Eastern Europe, Asia, Central America and South America to pursue activities of mutual benefit.

Bolivia is Mississippi’s partner country, and the partnership includes cooperation between the Mississippi National Guard and the Bolivian military. It was that partnership that brought a group of Mississippi State University scientists to the mountainous region of South America in 2005.

“We became aware of the program through the Mississippi Air National Guard unit in Jackson,” said Mike Collins, head of the MSU Plant and Soil Sciences Department. “Our goal was to assemble a team to provide assistance with horticultural crop production, cheese production and to improve livestock feed.”

Collins was a member of an MSU team that also included horticulturists Christine Coker and Bill Evans and food scientist Julie Wilson. Texas A&M animal scientist Ronald Richter also accompanied the group on the six-day visit funded through the Mississippi National Guard.

The group flew to the Bolivian capitol of La Paz, where they spent a day getting acclimated to the 12,000-foot elevation before head-
ing to the “Alto Plano” area near Lake Titicaca. Their initial work was with Bolivian marines at a base in the area. The Bolivian military is made up primarily of conscripts, some as young as 14.

“One of the primary objectives of the Bolivian military is vocational training that the young soldiers can take back to their villages,” Coker said. “Teaching these young men to efficiently grow food not only helps feed a military base, it also teaches them how to feed villages throughout the country.”

The group’s object on the trip was to listen and learn as much as possible about the area’s food-production situation, both on the local military base and in surrounding villages. Although resources are limited, Coker noted that the Bolivians do a good job of producing a small number of greenhouse crops.

“Their greenhouses appear primitive, with mud walls and thick plastic roofs supported by rebar. However, they use compost and manure to do a very good job of producing several crops, including lettuce, radishes and herbs,” she said. “What they lack is knowledge of other crops they could grow very well and that would greatly improve their diet.”

A second trip to Bolivia is planned for 2006, and the group has set some goals that could have long-lasting impacts, including possible student exchanges.

“We see a real opportunity for agricultural student exchanges with Bolivia,” Collins said. “Our graduate students would benefit from learning about production under the conditions that exist in the mountainous areas of the country and training Bolivian students here in horticulture, livestock production and other areas could have real long-term value for their country.”
Images of children, horses, butterflies, wolves and flowers grace the walls outside the state 4-H office at Mississippi State University. These pictures, taken by youth age 8-18 enrolled in the 4-H Photography Project, demonstrate the creativity of young Mississippian.

An annual contest gives 4-H members the chance to creatively express themselves through photography.

“I love seeing the potential of youth who have not been told what they can or cannot do creatively,” said Jim Lytle, MSU Office of Agricultural Communications photographer and director of the contest.

Each year, students from across the state enter their best photographic work to be judged. Ten pictures are selected for exhibition at the Mississippi State Fair in Jackson and then for one year outside the state 4-H office on the MSU campus.

Students grow in their photographic capabilities through independent trial and error and through instruction from adult 4-H leaders and others.

“The contest has become a family affair with siblings competing against one another and consistently winning awards each year,” Lytle said. “These 4-H’ers learn from each other and grow together, along with others from across the state.”

One volunteer leader in particular, professional photographer Wayne Rawson, provides his time and studio space to mentor the 4-H Photography Club in Lauderdale County. This club of 27 youth consistently enters many of the top-10 photographs.

Rawson’s guidance gives the youth skills and confidence.

“Seeing the kids look at nature in a new light and with new perspective makes it all worthwhile,” he said.

The following are the 10 winning photographs from the 2005 4-H photography competition and winners from photography contests held as part of the 4-H entomology, horticulture and horse projects.

Tori McCulloch  Age 13, Choctaw County, Ackerman High School, Lucky 13 4-H Club

Photography is interesting to me because I get to capture an object that is beautiful and preserve it forever.

“Play Time”
It’s like one of my carpenter bee pictures I took that had some sticks as a frame; this lady said “wow” about it.

The thought that you can capture a moment and freeze time . . . is my highest interest in photography.
Daniel Burns
Age 13,
Lauderdale County,
Meridian Christian Home Educators,
Personal Development Club for 4-H

I love being able to capture a moment in time. Photography helps me to remember events and things that happen.

Lydia Burns
Age 14
Lauderdale County, Meridian Christian Home Educators, Personal Development Club, Photography, and 4-H Council

I enjoy photography because it captures a moment and a memory.

Summer Lucky
Age 16,
Lauderdale County, home schooled,
Photography Club

By taking photographs, you are able to have memories of what you have done, and every time you look at the pictures you can relive the experience.
I like coming up with the idea of what kind of pictures I’m going to take before I take them.

Meghan Sellers Age 14, Perry County, Richton School

Meghan Sellers Age 14, Perry County, Richton School
I enjoy capturing small details in still life photography, doing portraits of people and photographing scenic landscapes the most.

I enjoy capturing time, memories, and learning patience when photographing wildlife.

“Window of the World”

“In a Land Far Away”

Laurie Gross
Age 14,
Lauderdale County, home schooled, Photography club, interior design club, sewing club, 4-H Junior Council

Micah Schneider
Age 13,
Pearl River County, Lamar Christian School, Pearl River Livestock Club

“A Pretty Frillary”

Senior Photography Winner

Junior Photography Winner
I especially enjoy taking pictures of horses because of my many years showing horses.

Courtney Dossett
Age 18
Covington County, Collins High School,
Covington County Boots and Saddles Club

Sam Miller
Age 10, Oktibbeha County, home schooled, Boardtown Explorers
(4-H club)

I just like cameras and looking for cool pictures to take.

“Lazy Days”

“Sportsman's Delight”
MSU
Helps Balance Mother Nature, Military Readiness
By Karen Brasher
When the petite blonde from Mississippi State University speaks, even tank commanders listen.

Jeanne Jones, an associate professor of wildlife and fisheries, has been helping the military with techniques that create harmony between military training and natural resources since 1987.

Erosion control was the initial focus of the Mississippi State effort on more than 280,000 acres of Department of Defense lands, but enhancing wildlife habitat and diversity is Jones’ primary mission.

The Vicksburg native and graduate students under her direction have developed Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans for the Department of the Army, Mississippi Army National Guard, Department of the Navy, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

“Our research on restoration ecology and conservation of native biological diversity has been used extensively by the Defense Department to meet the natural resource and conservation demands of a diverse public while maintaining lands which accomplish the military training mission,” Jones said.

The plans provide land and water management as well as species conservation guidelines for military training areas that host more than 130,000 military personnel each year.

In addition to training military personnel, these lands support more than 80 state and federally listed endangered plants and animals and at least eight unique and rare ecosystems.

“Our main objective is to train troops, but we also have to manage natural resources and be good stewards of the land,” said Lt. Col. Robert Piazza of Mississippi National Guard headquarters in Jackson. “That’s what we’re trying to do through the work with MSU.”

The Forest and Wildlife Research Center team has been successful in the effort, receiving a national award for the plan developed for the Mississippi Army National Guard. They also received a Group Achievement Award from NASA for their work at the Stennis Space Center in Hancock County.

Each military base has different ecosystems and needs. The military is concerned with a multitude of natural resource issues, including sustainable forestry management and use, wetland conservation and restoration, outdoor recreation, protection of rare and endangered species, control of noise pollution and ecosystem health.

“The military lands are unique in that they have not been disturbed by development,” said Jarrod Fogarty, former student and current postdoctoral associate working with Jones. “Because of this distinctiveness, many species of plants and animals inhabit military reservations, and Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg supports many species that are rare in other parts of the state.”

In addition to benefiting the military, the land research has served to introduce MSU graduate students to an array of innovative concepts that will be applied in their future careers.

As an example, Jones said the MSU student team joined with the Nature Conservancy, University of Southern Mississippi, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Natural Resource Conservation Service to develop an ecosystem management plan for the Mississippi Army National Guard’s Camp Shelby reservation. The goal of the plan is to restore and protect pitcher-plant wetlands, longleaf pine forests and gopher tortoises.

“Researchers have found that the frequent fires associated with Camp Shelby’s artillery firing improve the habitat for many species of the piney woods region, including gopher tortoises, bobwhite quail and pitcher plants,” Fogarty said. “Regular fires in longleaf pine forests also present a great opportunity for the restoration of this rare forest type in south Mississippi.”

An additional goal is to control the spread of invasive species, such as cogon grass. Lisa Yager, director of the Nature Conservancy program at Camp Shelby and a doctoral student, is studying this invasive grass that can degrade wildlife habitat, forest health and the military training theater, Jones added. Other findings at the bases include:

• The Army’s Redstone Arsenal reservation in north Alabama is home to diverse waterfowl, mammals and nongame birds in bottomland hardwood forests and forested wetlands. Like the Stennis Space Center, Redstone supports large deer populations. Since high security levels limit hunter access, hunting is not generally an appropriate population management approach in restricted areas. Monitoring of deer herds and deer use of roadsides is necessary to reduce deer-vehicle collisions. The Redstone military reservation and the Stennis Space Center have an overabundance of deer, which can be detrimental to the health of the herd.

• Meridian Naval Air Station supports high-bird diversity in bottomland hardwoods and upland pine habitats. Abundance of wildlife, including wild turkey, near station runways must be considered and managed to reduce potential bird/plane collisions.

• At the Tombigbee National Forests in central Mississippi, accumulated information has been adopted for use in forest management planning, federal Streamside Management Zone policy developments and rare-species conservation efforts. A database of rare amphibians and reptiles and stream fish distribution related to habitat conditions on forest service lands has been produced.

“We have found several rare species on public forest-lands and have found that they depend on the same habitat types that support gray squirrels, wild turkey and wood ducks. So, habitats for game species can be essential to survival of some of Mississippi’s rarest species,” Jones said. “It is this concept that we are applying to manage and conserve groups of wildlife species for Mississippians to enjoy today and in the future. We know we can integrate this conservation mission with forest management and military preparedness—it just takes communication, cooperation and teamwork.”
LANDMARKS

There are so many things you can learn from looking at the quilting in any culture.

CAROL VICKERS

QUILTS SHOW LIFE AS IT ONCE WAS
Quilts and costumes may seem unrelated, but to apparel students at Mississippi State University, a historic quilt can be an eye-opening artifact.

At a 2005 symposium on Southern quilts, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences associate professor Wanda Cheek gave her historic costume students a chance to get their hands on some important and valuable pieces of Mississippi’s history.

“I involved the students so they could look at historical artifacts in another light,” said Cheek, a faculty member in MSU’s School of Human Sciences. “Working with these quilts gave them an opportunity to familiarize themselves with something that existed in an earlier time in rural and agricultural Mississippi.”

Students helped quilt owners document everything known about the quilt. Measurements were taken, stitches per inch counted, the pattern identified, and any known history of the quilt written down. They also helped mount a special quilt exhibit, “Family Quilts Passed from One Generation to the Next,” for all participants to see.

Carol Vickers has been chairman of the Mississippi Heritage Quilt Search Project, an arm of the Mississippi Quilt Association, since 1993. She has helped document 1,760 Mississippi quilts made before 1945. This information was donated to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and many of the findings made their way into the book Mississippi Quilts, by Mary Elizabeth Johnson.

“There are so many things you can learn from looking at the quilting in any culture,” Vickers said. “There has never been a society that has weaving that didn’t have quilted pieces. A quilt is defined as any three layers that are stitched together, and even the Egyptian museum in Cairo has quilted pieces from the time of Moses.”

Vickers said quilting has always flourished during difficult times, and while it typically is more common in rural areas, quilts are made at all levels of society. Currently, Japan is one of the world’s hotbeds of quilting activity.

“Historically, women in rural areas did not have many social outlets beyond church and maybe school activities,” Vickers said. “When they got together to quilt, they shared recipes, gossip, quilt patterns, how to get along with your husband. It was a very important part of their lives emotionally.”

Quilts also can serve as economic barometers. If all the colors match in an antique quilt, Vickers said, it was made by an affluent family who had the money to buy fabric specifically for the quilt. Poor families made quilts from what they had, using feed and fertilizer sacks or other scraps of material on hand. At least one quilt that includes material from a horse feed sack features an illustrated horse on the quilt backing.

In east Mississippi, many historical quilts have wool batting rather than cotton.

“Cypress weed invaded that part of the state and sheep would eat it, so sheep were brought in,” Vickers said. “The women weren’t going to let the wool go to waste, so they used it in their quilts.”

MSU’s apparel, textiles and merchandising degree is broad-based, and students are immersed in all areas of apparel. Students studying historic clothing and costume design can learn a lot from the quilts. They can learn the patterns that were popular at different times in history, can admire the handiwork done with and without machines, and can see how changing economic times affected quilts. They also can practice conservation and preservation methods with these historical artifacts.

Cheek said the department is working with the Consortium for the History of Agricultural and Rural Mississippi, or CHARM, and others to bring more educational opportunities such as this to the students and the community.

“Quilts reflect the life and what is going on with the people,” Cheek said. “They are an important sociocultural artifact.”
According to the National Association of Home Builders, Hurricane Katrina destroyed some 275,000 homes in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

High-wind events, including hurricanes, are just one of the items being addressed by Mississippi State University’s Southern Climatic Housing Research Team—a unique collaboration of personnel in forest products, architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering, along with the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wis.

“All of these disciplines contribute some aspect to the building process, yet never have they worked together to address housing problems unique to the Southeastern region,” said Terry Amburgey, professor in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

The team is in the planning stages of constructing a research/demonstration house on the MSU campus. Architectural models have been developed, and the blueprints are being drawn.

“We are convinced that housing research must be regionalized rather than trying to develop a ‘one size fits all’ structure,” Amburgey added.

With approximately 70,000 new homes being built each year in the Southeast, there is a need to study housing problems unique to the region.

“Our approach couples designs for energy efficiency with biological and structural durability issues, while improving indoor air quality for houses built in the region,” Amburgey said. “Each discipline contributes a distinctive component to the research effort.”

The warm and humid environment in the Southeast results in high potential for wood deterioration. Decay fungi and termites are the most destructive wood pests of homes in this region. Research in forest products is addressing durability issues, including moisture control for foundations, walls and windows, as well as construction and chemical strategies for termite infestation.

Scientists in civil engineering are researching structural responses to high force wind loads, including tie-down systems for foundations, walls, and roofs.

“Mississippi has tremendous exposure to hurricane and tornadic winds that cause significant property damage and loss of life each year,” said Thomas White, a professor in civil engineering and team member. “Civil engineering has developed important testing and analysis capabilities for wind loading on structures.”

Researchers in mechanical engineering are studying incorporation of hygroscopic materials and low-velocity ventilation for maintaining air quality. According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, more than 50 million people in the United States suffer from asthma and allergies. The goal of the MSU research is to find ways to prevent dust mites, pollen and other allergens. They also are researching ways to limit relative humidity in homes to 45 percent and to limit volatile organic chemicals, which are emitted as gases from certain solids and liquids.

Architecture and landscape architecture personnel are developing low-energy and power-producing systems for residences, as well as regenerative processing characteristics of a surrounding ecological system. Concurrently, electrical engineers at MSU are studying advanced wiring and utility systems for single-family homes.

“The MSU house will have an immediate reduction in energy requirements by 75 percent compared to homes typically built in this region,” Amburgey said. “This will be accomplished through the use of long overhangs, trellises, outdoor living, tall ceilings and cross ventilation in every room.”

The goal is to illustrate to the public that durability, energy efficiency and air quality do not have to be compromised by lifestyle, spatial needs or the looks of a house.

“The house will be dynamic, rather than static, and will be altered as new data are generated and additional research is initiated,” Amburgey said. “It will serve as a teaching facility for MSU students, as well as faculty and students from other universities and nonacademic visitors.”
A Mississippi State University Extension agent with more than 20 years of experience working with Mississippi row-crop producers is the 2006 Agronomist of the Year.

Dennis Reginelli, MSU Extension Service county coordinator in Noxubee County and area Extension agent for agronomic crops, received the award during the annual MSU Crop College in February. It is the highest honor bestowed on its members by the Mississippi Chapter of the American Society of Agronomy.

Reginelli began his career at MSU as a research associate at the Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station in Pontotoc County. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees and a doctorate in agronomy at MSU. He also completed an associate’s degree in farm management technology at Mississippi Delta Community College.

During his career, Reginelli has worked with producers of almost every row crop grown commercially in Mississippi. In his current position, he works primarily with producers in the eastern area of the state.

“Dennis has made significant contributions to improving agronomic row-crop production and efficiency in east Mississippi,” said Normie Buehring, superintendent and agronomist at the North Mississippi Branch Experiment Station in Verona. “His contributions have improved the quality of life for row-crop producers in the area.”

Scott T. Willard has received the 2006 Outstanding Young Animal Scientist Award—Research from the Southern Section of the American Society of Animal Science.

Willard is a member of the MSU Department of Animal and Dairy Science. In addition to teaching and Extension duties, he serves as codirector of the Facility for Organisinal and Cellular Imaging, an MSU facility for scientific discovery and biophotonics research. His current area of research involves technologies to enable cellular and molecular processes of sheep, swine and cattle to be visualized in real time.

In addition, Willard is an adjunct associate professor with the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and a research associate with the Memphis Zoological Gardens in Memphis, Tenn.

Established in 1908, the American Society of Animal Science is a professional organization for animal scientists designed to help members provide effective leadership through research, extension, teaching and service for the dynamic and rapidly changing livestock and meat industries.

MSU associate professor of agricultural economics Keith Coble received the Outstanding Teacher of a Course Award at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting in February.

The award was given for his course “Public Problems in Agriculture.”

Coble joined the Department of Agricultural Economics in 1997 after serving as leader of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service’s Crop Risk Management Team.

He teaches classes on agricultural policy, agribusiness risk management and production economics.

In addition to his teaching duties and research covering risk and policy issues, he serves on the editorial council of the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics. The MSU associate professor also regularly advises the USDA Risk Management Agency and the board of directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

A Missouri native, Coble earned his doctorate at Texas A&M University.
A research scientist dubbed the “father of catfish nutrition and feed formulations” by his colleagues received the 2005 Outstanding Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Worker award at the MAFES/Extension annual conference.

Research Professor Ed Robinson began his MSU career with the aquaculture program at the Delta Research and Extension Center in 1987. Since then, he has developed a research program at the Thad Cochran National Warmwater Aquaculture Center in Stoneville that has resulted in direct annual savings of millions of dollars for one of Mississippi’s major agricultural industries.

“He has developed, from scratch, one of the most competitive and comprehensive aquaculture nutrition programs in the world,” said fellow research scientist David Wise. “Most importantly, his research has led to the development of least-cost feed formulations, effectively reducing feed cost.”

A native of Florence, Ala., Robinson earned his bachelor’s degree in pharmacy at Samford University and a master’s in pharmacology and doctorate in nutrition, both at Auburn University.

Assistant Extension professor Larry Alexander has been named the 2005 Outstanding Extension Worker.

Alexander’s Extension career began 24 years ago as a 4-H youth agent in Marshall County. He moved to a state-level position in 1993. His current duties include coordinating 4-H events at the Mississippi State Fair and the Mid-South Fair, managing the 4-H scholarship program, working with the 4-H Priority Program Group and coordinating State 4-H Congress contests and workshops.

A vital part of 4-H is the member’s record book, and his coworkers describe Alexander as the “go to guy” for training adult leaders and youth in goal setting and good recording of project activities.

Alexander earned his bachelor’s degree in agricultural education at Alcorn State University and a master’s in agricultural and extension education at MSU.
What could be more natural than a forest with birds, wind, trees and rain? As the river runs from the forest, the water is fresh with a filtered drink of clean air; the aquatic life is habituated with coolness of leaf shade from the streamside; and the sound of ripples soothes all animals nearby.

Mississippi is blessed with forests where fish, birds and wild animals can spend their lives. It is these places of wood and river that provide our special memories of time spent in the natural world. Our society places great value on the quality of life received from the natural Mississippi surrounding us and of the time we spend, or dream of spending, in those places.

But what happens to the natural when a catastrophe occurs?

The loss of such places to fire, storm or other causes leads us to find ways to replenish landscapes with an eye toward a natural world.

Following Katrina, MSU and others around the state sprang into action planning ways to rebuild the forest and rivers of the area. Federal and state leaders provided funds and opportunities to replant the forest, to restore wildlife habitats and to recover rivers to pre-storm conditions. The Katrina Recovery Act provided $950 million in funds for farmers, forest owners and cities to establish new areas.

The Forest and Wildlife Research Center at MSU crafted a research initiative with six major goals:

- Assist the recovery and restoration of Mississippi’s forest, wildlife, fisheries, water and aquatic resources
- Assist in the rebuilding and expansion of Mississippi’s forest products and outdoor-based recreation and tourism industries
- Evaluate and assist in recovery of the economic and rural social infrastructure
- Develop rapid damage detection protocols for natural disasters
- Develop decision support systems for industrial and community juxtaposition for efficient and economically viable use of our restored resources
- Evaluate and assist in developing policies regarding recovery of the natural resources and the resiliency for future natural disasters.

Research and education will be vital to rebuild the economic infrastructure in the areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina. A research and education program should be a fundamental component to any rebuilding effort and will provide the guidance for effective recovery.

Programs developed through research and education will demonstrate to local communities their options for building a new Mississippi forest—one designed to accomplish specific objectives for economic development and restoring the environment.

Meanwhile, cities across the state have observed that natural settings, such as treescapes and greenways inside towns along city streets, increase merchants’ profits while enhancing appeal to new residents. In the January 2006 issue of the *Journal of Forestry*, Kathleen Wolf reported that people agree trees and natural settings within and near living spaces make cities better places. A landscape with trees is preferred by most people—perhaps as a way to help remember how they found great joy in times spent in the natural world.

I know we will restore our lost forests. We will grow new special places, and we will determine the best practices to keep Mississippi natural, both inside our cities and nearby—which in Mississippi is never far away.
The College of Veterinary Medicine takes pride and care in identifying and educating the committed individuals who dedicate their lives to caring for animals. As a state-assisted institution, rather than a state-supported one, our CVM relies on state appropriations for basic operating costs. It is private support, however, that provides the vital resources necessary to attract top students and faculty, support new research and enrich the colleges’ innovative programs.

A college of veterinary medicine requires qualified and dedicated personnel, modern equipment, adequate facilities and strong support from constituents who recognize veterinary medicine’s value to society. We are teaching a new generation of veterinarians to become problem solvers and lifelong learners, ready to protect the health of animals and people and to meet challenges in animal health, biosecurity, biomedical advances and global environmental issues.

MSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine has touched the lives of millions of pet owners, farmers, equestrians, veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators, agricultural scientists, educators and students. The Animal Health Center is a valued resource for regional veterinarians and animal owners. The hospital examines, diagnoses and treats more than 6,000 individually owned pets each year. CVM diagnostics and research has prevented tens of millions of dollars in losses to aquaculture, poultry, beef, dairy and swine producers.

We are able to have this type of impact because of individuals with the vision to invest in the future of animal care, but we still have a long way to go in addressing the changing needs of animal health care, the environment and public health.

Financial contributions from friends, alumni, practitioners, industry, foundations, clubs and others make a difference in animal health care and research in Mississippi, the region and the nation by ensuring that the CVM reaches its full potential.

A very generous donor to the CVM once told me that there are many great causes to support, but he focuses his philanthropy primarily on higher education because that is where we find solutions to problems facing the world and a strong educational system is crucial for the success of future generations.

We consider your gift an investment in excellence and are committed to being good stewards of your contributions. We appreciate your consideration, and we hope that you become a member of the CVM family and join our mission of service.

Keith Gaskin, CFRE
Director of Development
College of Veterinary Medicine

CVM’s First Endowed Graduate Fellowship Honors Bentinck-Smiths

A generous pledge from the family and friends of the late Dr. John Bentinck-Smith and his wife Marjory will endow the College of Veterinary Medicine’s first graduate fellowship.

“It has been a goal of the college to offer postdoctoral training programs in a number of specialty areas, and thanks to this generous gift from friends and family of Dr. John and Marjory Bentinck-Smith, a residency training program in clinical pathology will become a reality,” said David Hardin, department head of Pathobiology and Population Medicine.

Both dedicated educators, the Bentinck-Smiths were committed to helping students further their education. He graduated from Harvard and received his degree in veterinary medicine from Cornell University. A graduate of Buffalo State, she was a teacher and later worked with the 4-H program in Tompkins County, New York.

During his career, Dr. Bentinck-Smith made significant contributions to research and to improvements in clinical medicine, but his primary interest and devotion was teaching. His family quotes him as saying “I never object to teaching people if they are anxious to learn.”

Following his 1981 retirement from Cornell, Dr. Bentinck-Smith brought his love of teaching to MSU, where he served as the College of Veterinary Medicine’s first professor of clinical pathology.

“It is only fitting that our first endowed graduate fellowship in clinical pathology is named for our first professor of clinical pathology,” said Interim Dean Gregg Boring.

Dr. Bentinck-Smith was “a true scholar and a gentleman,” according to those who worked with him during his 9 years at MSU.

“Endowing graduate fellowships is one of the top priorities of MSU’s State of the Future Campaign, and these gifts move us closer to our goals,” said Keith Gaskin, CVM director of development.

An endowed graduate fellowship in the College of Veterinary Medicine will ensure your legacy or honor the memory of friends or family, while fostering motivated graduate students. To find out how you can help prepare the way for future veterinarians, contact Keith Gaskin at 662-325-3815.
Wade Scholarship Established in College of Forest Resources

Clyde Patrick “Pat” Wade was no ordinary businessman. His interests extended far beyond his business into the world of fields, streams, woods and wildlife. His family said that even as a child he loved and respected God’s creation.

A 1982 MSU graduate, Wade earned a degree in business administration. Following graduation, he joined his father’s business, Starkville Fence Company. Two years later he bought the business from his father, a business that still allowed him the freedom of being outdoors.

The Starkville native began a tree farm, planting pine trees for harvest and fruit bearing trees for wildlife, as well as ornamental trees. In 1999, he sold his business and focused on developing a good ecological plan for his land.

After Wade’s death last year, his sisters, Mary Martha Morgan, Betty Hilton and Carol Lynn Crouse, established an endowed scholarship in his memory to benefit students majoring in forestry or wildlife and fisheries.

Wade also is survived by his parents, Clyde F. and Martha Wade. Though he had no children of his own, he taught his nieces and nephews how to conserve, enjoy and use the land and its resources, valuable lessons that they, in turn, can pass on to future generations.

“Many good students do not have the financial resources to enable them to complete a university education. This generous gift in memory of Mr. Wade will help a deserving student learn the knowledge and skills for a rewarding professional career in forestry,” said Jim Shepard, head of the Department of Forestry.

Pat would be pleased to know that he was lending a hand to a young person to study the subject he loved so dearly, his family added.

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

Donor Support Nurtures Horticulture Program

Those who know him best describe Robert H. Dunlap with just three words: “down-to-earth.” That part of his nature shows in his love of the land and his sharing with others.

Dunlap is president and chief operating officer of Dunlap and Kyle, the parent company of Gateway Tire and Service Centers, one of the nation’s largest independent tire dealers.

He also plants and manages numerous species of trees on acreage around his Lafayette County home. His plantings include more than 100 acres of pecans that have grown along with his relationship with MSU.

His love of nature—especially trees—is shared through a scholarship established in 1996 to benefit students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and a recent gift to fund the Robert H. Dunlap Endowed Scholarship for undergraduate students enrolled in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

“When I first went out and visited with Bob Dunlap, he had a few pecan trees. As our relationship grew, he planted more and I got him on a management program,” said Richard Mullenax, former head of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

That first contact with MSU’s horticulture program prompted Dunlap’s initial gift to the university, made in the late 1980s, to create the Dunlap Horticulture Fund in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. The fund is used to purchase equipment for horticultural research and to provide faculty enhancements not otherwise available.

“Bob Dunlap is a true philanthropist and a strong advocate for higher education in Mississippi,” said Jud Skelton, director of development for the college. “Our faculty and students are fortunate to be the beneficiaries of his generosity as a friend of this institution.”

As the information provided by MSU researchers helped him nurture his trees, his support has helped nurture programs benefiting MSU horticulture students and pecan growers across the state.

Mullenax summed up his impact: “Robert is one of the reasons that we were able to significantly advance our knowledge of pecan varieties, and he has been a great asset to the Plant and Soil Sciences Department over the years.”

For more information about giving to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, contact Jud Skelton at 662-325-0643.