

## BREAKING NEW GROUND



If you haven't visited the MSU campus in a couple of years, you might be surprised at some of the changes.

One of the most noticeable is the elimination of the intersection by the football stadium known to generations of MSU students as "Five Points" or "Malfunction Junction." It has been replaced with a well-landscaped area dubbed "The Junction" that has become a favorite gathering point during home football games and other campus events. A single roadway now takes traffic around the area.

The Cullis Wade Depot on the west side of the stadium opened in 2006 and contains a Barnes and Noble bookstore, a visitor's center and clock museum. The bookstore coffee shop has become a favorite gathering spot for students and visitors.

The student union is undergoing a complete renovation, and a new home for the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering is rising from the site of the old "Tin Gym" and campus pool. The department will move into its new home this fall, and the facility will provide state-of-the-

art laboratories and classrooms. Students in agricultural and biological engineering at MSU train for careers in fields ranging from management of agricultural enterprises to medicine.

All of these improvements and others are providing better service to students and make campus visits more memorable for alumni and first-time visitors.

Donors to the university's State of the Future capital campaign are helping make many of the new facilities possible.

Not as visible but equally important are the endowed scholarships, fellowships, chairs and professorships made possible by the support of individual and corporate donors.

A lot may have changed on campus, but the commitment to programs that serve the needs of Mississippi just gets stronger.

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

### Class of 2010: Creating Its Legacy Today

Students of the MSU-CVM Class of 2010 can breathe a slight sigh of relief now that they have completed their first year of veterinary school. Even though they have three more years of classes ahead of them, these students already realize they, as future veterinarians, can positively impact their profession while at the same time helping the CVM accomplish its goals. The class has proudly pledged \$10,000 to the Pegasus Partners Endowment Fund. The class is the first to make such a pledge.

The Pegasus Partners Endowment Fund was established in 2002 as a way to enrich activities at CVM. The goal for the endowment is \$2.5 million.

"Our class is serious about our education and about those students who follow behind us," said Keith Youngblood of Laurel, president of the Class of 2010. "The contributions made by people that preceded us have made it possible for us to have a better opportunity for an education."

The students will donate \$500 of class dues each year to the fund and will raise the rest of the pledge in various ways.

"We are pleased to have students who truly understand the importance of philanthropy and the impact it can have on their college," said Keith Gaskin. "These students have proven that it is never too early to invest in your college. Many people think if they aren't able to contribute a very large gift, they should not donate at all, but all gifts are important to our success. The class of 2010 has set an example for many, and we hope others will choose to support the CVM as they have done."

For more information on how you can join the Class of 2010 and become a Pegasus Partner, contact Keith Gaskin, director of development for CVM at (662) 325-3815.

## Urban Forestry Scholarship Established

Urban forestry is becoming increasingly important throughout the nation as cities and towns consider the numerous benefits of trees. In Mississippi alone, 29 communities have been designated as Tree City, USA, by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

As the need for trees in towns becomes more apparent, demand for trained urban foresters continues to rise.

“Currently, there are not enough urban foresters to fill the numerous positions available in cities and towns across the nation,” said Steve Grado, professor in the department of forestry. “A scholarship to encourage students to pursue urban forestry is both timely and relevant.”

In August 2006, the Professional Arborist Association of Mississippi and the Mississippi Urban Forest Council established the Arboriculture/Urban Forestry Memorial Scholarship at MSU to address the need for trained professionals in urban forestry.

“The scholarship is for a junior or senior student in the urban forestry option of the forestry major with an interest in arboriculture and a grade point average of 3.0 to 3.5,” said Sue Buckalew, secretary/treasurer of the arborist association.

The scholarship honors deceased members of the association, Buckalew added.

The recipient should be a junior or senior, and preference will be given to junior college transfer students and students whose interests lie in tree care and urban forestry.

The Professional Arborist Association of Mississippi is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the future health and vitality of urban forests by promoting public awareness, good stewardship, continuing education, professional training and adherence to best practices in the field of arboriculture.

Mississippi Urban Forest Council is a nonprofit organization aimed at fostering and promoting proper management of urban forests for social, economic and environmental benefits to people through innovation, leadership, communication and educational services.

If you are interested in contributing to the Arboriculture/Urban Forestry Memorial Scholarship, please contact Jeff Little at 662-325-8151 or by e-mail [atjlittle@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:atjlittle@foundation.msstate.edu).

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## Couple's Gift Demonstrates a Passion for Two University Units

Take just one look at the life of Allan Tucker and you will quickly discover a love for the land and an enthusiasm for Mississippi State athletics.

Through a gift of agricultural property in northeast Arkansas, Allan and his wife, Barbara, are supporting two areas of the university that match their passions—the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Bulldog Club. Proceeds from the sale of this property will be split between these two entities. The college's portion will be used to establish a significant endowed fund for student scholarships within the Department of Agricultural Economics.

Allan became involved in agriculture at a young age, growing up on a Sharkey County row-crop farm in the Mississippi Delta. He followed his passion to Mississippi State, earning a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the university in 1959.

Following three years with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, Allan embarked on a career with the Prudential Insurance Company of America and its subsidiaries. For the next 30 years, he specialized with Prudential's farm mortgage and farm acquisition offices. He served an additional 12 years with Prudential's Capital Agricultural Property Services in farm management and real estate sales.

Allan and Barbara have always enjoyed Mississippi State athletic events but are now truly able to soak up the Bulldog atmosphere. The couple retired to Starkville in 2005 to enjoy the closeness of the university.

“The ‘Ag School,’ as it was called when I was attending Mississippi State, provided me with a great education,” Allan said. “And the university provided one for two of our children as well.”

While benefiting the university in several ways, the Tuckers' gift will also benefit them through a significant tax savings. By deeding their Arkansas property outright to the MSU Foundation, the couple was able to avoid a capital gains tax.

“We all want to see Mississippi State prosper, and I would encourage others to help the university and take advantage of the most beneficial tax situation offered to them,” Allan said.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences works with donors to arrange the terms of gifts to suit individual needs. Contact Jud Skelton, director of development, at 662-325-0643 for more information.

**College of Agriculture and Life Sciences**

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