

Vice President's Letter



During the summer, anyone who works at a university is often asked, "Is campus really quiet with all the students gone?"

At Mississippi State, we never have much of a summer slowdown. Summer school brings thousands of students to campus, and athletic, cheerleader and other camps add hundreds more to the mix almost every week.

Summertime activities in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicines have included 4-H events that brought hundreds of young people and their adult leaders to campus and the Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show, which was attended by more than 6,000 people from throughout the nation. A group of Farm Bureau young farmers also visited the Starkville campus during July for updates on research, facilities and programs at MSU.

The summer months are also busy at MSU facilities throughout the state. Farmers and homeowners seeking information about crops, ornamental plants and other topics make MSU Extension Service specialists and agents in high demand throughout the growing season. Scientists with the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station work with row crops, horticultural crops and livestock, all of which require constant attention.

Field days and other events also increase the number of visitors to MSU branch experiment stations during the growing season. These and other events are the topic of the Focus section of *Landmarks*. Focus begins on page 16.

Of course, the return of shorter days and cooler temperatures does not mean things slow down at MSU. With football in the air, thousands of MSU fans are planning trips to campus, and for many, any visit means a chance to stop at the MAFES Sales Store to stock up on cheese, muscadine juice, ice cream and other MSU products. I hope to see some of you there.

Melissa J. Mixon

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