

July 2007

Dear Faculty and Staff:

I hope that you had a relaxing July 4th holiday and that you returned to work refreshed and ready to go for the second summer session.

I would like to start this month with some faculty and staff kudos. Please continue to let us know your successes and achievements:

*The Organization of American Historians, the premier professional society of American historians, recently honored Dr. Jason Phillips, Assistant Professor of History. During this last year, Dr. Phillips published an article entitled “The Grape Vine Telegraph: Rumors and Confederate Persistence,” in the Journal of Southern History. This paper was one of 10 to be included in its collection of the Best American History Essays of 2008 out of several thousand essays published.

*The Mississippi Business Journal selected Dr. Sandra Harpole, Associate Vice President for Research, as one of “Mississippi’s 50 Leading Business Women”. Dr. Harpole will be presented with her award during a gathering of all of the awardees in Jackson on August 15 and 16.

*We also have two new Fellows of their respective professional societies - Mr. Robert Green, Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs for the Bagley College of Engineering, was recently named a Fellow of the National Society of Professional Engineers. Dr. H. Michael Barnes, Professor in the FWRC – Forest Products, was recently named as a Fellow of the Society of Wood Science and Technology.

One of the important tasks for the Office of Research and Economic Development is to provide financial assistance for faculty and staff members to assist in their scholarly work. I am pleased to formally announce two programs to assist faculty members in their research work:

*The ORED Quick Grants Program is designed to provide faculty members with small grants to assist with their scholarship. These awards are for \$2000 or less and can be used for small equipment purchases, travel to meet with a program sponsor, purchase of special scholarly tools, or other needs as appropriate. These funds are not intended for normal faculty travel to conferences (these requests should be routed through the Faculty Travel Program). Faculty submitting these requests must have approval of their department head and dean and can expect an answer back within one week.

*The ORED Faculty Travel Program is designed to assist faculty members with travel to professional meetings and conferences. These awards are for a maximum of \$750 (for domestic travel) and \$1500 (for international travel). Generally, faculty members will only be eligible for a single travel grant per academic year. Some matching travel funds from an applicant’s academic department and dean are expected. Faculty submitting

these requests must have approval of their department head and dean, and can expect an answer back within one week.

Submission of requests for the Quick Grant Program and Faculty Travel Program should be done via electronic mail and sent to Ms. Sandy Williamson (sandy@research.msstate.edu). All requests must include a rationale for your request and the amount of funding requested, and must be no longer than 1 page (total length) – brevity is appreciated! Department Heads and Deans can simply forward faculty requests to the Office of Research and Economic Development along with their approval. These guidelines (and updates as we need them) will be posted under the Research Funding Tab on the Office of Research and Economic Development webpage (<http://www.research.msstate.edu/funding/>)

In addition to our activities related to research, one of our other key functions is to serve as MSU's leader in economic development. Economic development is a broad term, and encompasses attracting major companies to locate in both Mississippi and the Golden Triangle Area, managing the research park, assisting small companies with incubator space and technical assistance, and helping form spin off companies from MSU research. While all of these things are critical, it is important for Mississippi State to be working on all of these simultaneously to ensure a balanced portfolio of economic development activities.

Economic development is very much a team sport, and involves working with a variety of constituencies including town, community, county, and regional economic development groups, state and federal governments, and other educational institutions. There is a lot of competition when luring companies to an area, and as such, there is a great deal of “behind the scenes” work which goes into attracting a company to locate in Mississippi. In general, Mississippi State is involved with many of the activities promoting Mississippi as an attractive place to locate and grow a business, as a strong research university is often a draw for high technology manufacturing and businesses.

We are also heavily involved in working with a company once it starts. Our office works with the company to assist with hiring of new and experienced Mississippi State graduates, at forming connections between companies and various research centers and academic units, and in general ensuring that Mississippi State University is helping them to be successful.

So, the next time you see an announcement about a new company coming to Mississippi, there is a strong likelihood that Mississippi State University played a critical role in attracting them to move to this region.

Dr. Melvin Ray, Associate Vice President for Economic Development, is responsible for leading MSU's economic development efforts. If you would like to become more involved in assisting with economic development, or have ideas on how we can be more effective in economic development, please contact Dr. Ray directly at Melvin@research.msstate.edu.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Go Dawgs!

Kirk