



Mareo Nicovich

MSU employees honored

Employees of Mississippi State University's Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine were recently honored with Rosalind and Rodney Foil Teamwork and Louis and Doris Wise Support Staff awards for outstanding service. The awards are presented each year in honor of the former DAFVM vice presidents and their wives. Recipients of the 2003 awards are, from left, Foil Award, Charles Hill, associate director, Remote Sensing Technology Center; Wise Technical Award, Cynthia Hemphill, financial/budget manager, Forest and Wildlife Research Center; Wise Research Award, Russell Coleman, agricultural technician, Delta Research and Extension Center; and Wise Support Staff Award, Donna Schmitz, assistant information processor, Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Madsen assumes research and extension duties



John Madsen

John D. Madsen has been named an assistant research/extension professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences and the GeoResources Institute.

Before coming to Mississippi State, he was an assistant professor of biology at the Minnesota State University, Mankato from 2000 to 2003, and a research biologist in the Environmental Laboratory, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Waterways Experiment Station (WES) in Vicksburg from 1991 to 2000. At

WES, he conducted research on the ecology and management of invasive aquatic plants across the United States.

Madsen holds a bachelor's degree from Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill., and a master's and doctorate in botany from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a past editor of the *Journal of Aquatic Plant Management*, past associate editor of *Wetlands*, and a former member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Freshwater Ecology*.

Walker new rice agronomist



Timothy Walker

Timothy W. Walker assumed duties as an assistant research professor/rice agronomist at the Delta Research and Extension Center.

He earned his bachelor's in chemistry and a doctorate in agronomy at Mississippi State.

His duties include verification and validation of current soil test recommendations for high-yield rice production. He also evaluates the use of precision agriculture technologies in rice production and works to determine Best Management Practices for water and nutrient management in rice production systems.

Turner new agricultural economics head



Steven Turner

Steven Turner has been named head of the Department of Agricultural Economics. He assumed his new duties on August 1.

Turner came to Mississippi State from the University of Georgia, where he was a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. He joined the faculty at UGA in

1986 after receiving a doctorate from Virginia Tech and taught courses on futures and options markets, agricultural prices, agricultural marketing, and food and fiber marketing.

The new department head's primary research areas are in landscape plant and livestock marketing, with an emphasis on the pricing and trading of these products. He also served as president of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association in 2002.

Parish joins animal and dairy science



Jane Parish

Jane A. Parish has joined the Department of Animal and Dairy Science as an assistant extension/research professor.

She came to MSU from the University of Arkansas, where her duties included implementation of statewide beef cattle extension programs.

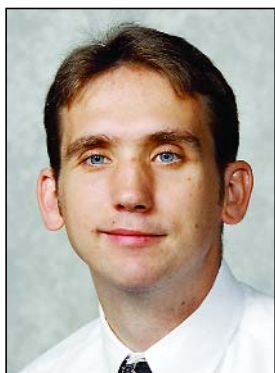
Parish earned her bachelor's in animal science and agricultural economics from Texas A&M University and a master's in agricultural and applied eco-



Jiaxu Li



Yean-Sung Jung



Wes Schilling



Sandun Fernando

nomics from Texas Tech University. Her doctorate is in animal science from the University of Georgia.

New biochemists join staff

Two new biochemists, Jiaxu Li and Yean-Sung Jung, have assumed research and teaching duties in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Li earned his doctorate in plant physiology at Pennsylvania State University, a master's in biochemistry at China's Hebei Normal University and a bachelor's in biology at Shenyang Normal University, also in China.

Prior to coming to Mississippi State, Li was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School and a postdoctoral scholar at Penn State.

His research at MSU includes the use of proteomics and genomics approaches to determine how plant cells sense and respond to stimuli, with a goal of improving stress tolerance of crop plants.

Jung earned his doctorate in biochemistry at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a master's in biological science and engineering at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in Seoul, Korea, and a bachelor's in agricultural chemistry at Seoul National University.

He was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California-Irvine before coming to Mississippi.

At MSU, his research includes work with regulations of genes and bacteria, which has applications to plant production and to plant and animal diseases.

Schilling new food scientist

Wes Schilling has joined the Department of Food Science and Technology as an assistant professor.

Schilling earned his doctorate in food science at Virginia Tech. He also holds master's degrees in statistics and in food science and a bachelor's in food science, all from Virginia Tech.

His research interests include the use of soy protein, modified food starch and milk proteins in the formulation of high-quality deli meats.

Fernando assumes ag engineering duties

Sandun Fernando has joined the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering faculty as an assistant professor.

He is teaching and conducting research in the areas of biofuels, biomass gasification, renewable energy, and feedstock handling and conditioning.

Fernando earned his doctorate and master's, both in biological systems engineering, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He also holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Peradeniya in Sri-Lanka.