from the
DIRECTOR

This issue of Highlights is the 2004 annual report for MAFES. It includes a brief look at each of Mississippi's research and extension centers and the MAFES branch stations associated with each of the centers. There's also a profile of each of the Mississippi State University departments with MAFES responsibilities.

The activities reported on in this issue are not all of the work involving MAFES scientists, but they are representative of the projects where MAFES personnel provide leadership or are the major participants.

The focus of research at Mississippi State and the nation's other land-grand universities is on finding ways to improve the quality of life in both rural and urban areas. To accomplish that mission it takes cooperation with other universities and government organizations, private businesses, and individuals. While MAFES scientists are at the forefront of the projects mentioned in this report, other individuals and organizations in both the private and public sectors help make possible their success.

Cooperation across disciplines within the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State also is an important part of successful research, education and outreach programs at the university. Because of that cooperation and the need to get the message out to our alumni, partners at other schools and agencies, and the general public, we will launch a new publication early next year. It will cover all the activities of the Division, including the accomplishments of our students and alumni.

This will be the last issue of MAFES Research Highlights, a publication that began in 1973 as the successor to Mississippi Farm Research, which began publication in 1938. During the past 66 years, Farm Research and Highlights were the voice of Mississippi State's agricultural research program.

Our new publication, Mississippi Landmarks, will continue to report on MAFES activities, as well as the work of the MSU Extension Service, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Forest Resources, and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

We hope you enjoy the expanded coverage and look forward to hearing your comments.

Vance H. Watson
Director

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MAFES RESEARCH HIGHlights

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

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