

## University Honors MAFES Rural Sociologist with Ralph Powe Research Award

A nationally recognized authority in rural sociology is the 2004 winner of the Ralph E. Powe Research Excellence Award.

Domenico Parisi was among 24 faculty and staff members and graduate students honored May 4 during the university's annual research awards banquet. He is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work and conducts MAFES-supported research through the Social Science Research Center.

A memorial to the vice president for research who died in 1996, the Powe Award is given to a Mississippi State researcher whose investigations have made significant contributions to the economic welfare or cultural growth of the university, state and nation.

"He is an outstanding researcher who has developed an important program of research in the areas of community issues, economic development and environmental justice," President Charles Lee said of Parisi.

"He has been responsible for securing the resources to develop a research infrastructure that enables him, his colleagues and his students to carry out state-of-the-art community research," Lee added.



Russ Houston

*Duane Gill, center, accepted the 2004 Ralph E. Powe Research Excellence Award on behalf of winner Domenico Parisi, who was traveling at the time of the awards ceremony. Presenting the award were the late Ralph Powe's sons, David, left, and Ryan.*



Russ Houston

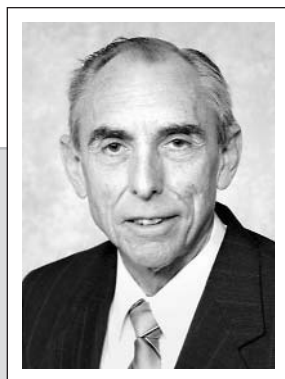
*MAFES scientists honored with 2004 research awards included, from left, research associate Wayne Philley, and animal scientist Scott Willard. Also honored with the graduate student research award for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences was Kori Brabham of McComb. MAFES associate director Clarence Watson, right, presented the awards.*

# UPDATES

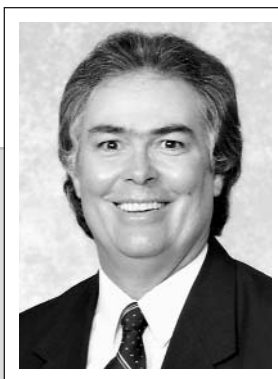


Rus Houston

*Plethora of patents—Nancy Reichert of plant and soil sciences was among MSU faculty members recognized at the 2004 Office of Intellectual Property awards luncheon. Helping hold plaques denoting her seven patents were plant and soil sciences interim department head Frank Matta, left, and Jonathan Pote, interim vice president for research.*



Gene Wills



Wayne Ebelhar



Joe E. Street

## Delta R & E Scientists Honored

One former and two current MAFES scientists at the Delta Research and Extension center recently received awards from their respective professional organizations.

Gene Wills was named Weed Scientist of the Year by the Southern Weed Science Society.

Agronomist of the Year honors were awarded to Wayne Ebelhar by the Mississippi chapter of the American Society of Agronomy.

The Rice Technical Working Group presented Joe Street with its Distinguished Service Award. Street was the Delta Research and Extension Center's leader for rice research before assuming the duties of head of the North Mississippi Research and Extension Center earlier this year.

## New Entomologist at Coastal Research and Extension Center



Entomologist David W. Held has joined the staff of the Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi. He has both MAFES and Extension responsibilities.

Held received his bachelor's in horticulture at the University of Kentucky. He also earned a master's and doctorate in entomology at UK.

His extension and research work at the Coastal R & E Center covers insects that attack turfgrass, as well as pests of nurseries, greenhouses and landscapes.

## Watson Named MAFES Agronomist



Richard H. Watson has joined the faculty of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences as an assistant professor of agronomy with MAFES and Extension responsibilities.

A native of New Zealand, Watson received his bachelor's in agricultural science, a master's in animal science and a doctorate in animal science with an emphasis on grazing systems

management, all from New Zealand's Massey University.

Prior to joining the Mississippi State faculty, he was an agronomist with Ampac Seed Company in Tangent, Ore.

## Collins Assumes Department Head Duties

A veteran crop scientist has been named head of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

Michael Collins assumed his new duties in April, following more than 25 years in research, instruction and administration at the University of Kentucky and the University of Wisconsin.



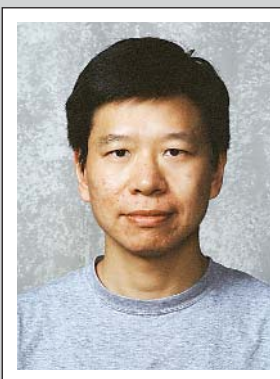
The university's strong commitment to agriculture, especially row crops, is important to the new department head.

"The thing that attracted me is the emphasis on land-grant activities," he said. "At MSU, research is tied closely to both Extension and teaching."

Collins earned his bachelor's degree in agriculture from Berea College, a master's in crop science at West Virginia University and a doctorate from the University of Kentucky. He is a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and of the Crop Science Society of America.

He has edited or co-edited four volumes on forage management and quality, including the leading U.S. textbook on the subject—*Forages: An Introduction to Grassland Agriculture*. His awards include the National Young Crop Scientist Award from the Crop Science Society of America and the Merit Award for research contributions from the American Forage and Grassland Council.

## Xia New Agricultural Economist



Expertise in agricultural marketing and international agricultural trade and policy are among the qualifications of the newest member of Mississippi State's Department of Agricultural Economics.

Tian Xia joined the MSU faculty in May, following completion of his doctorate at the University of California, Davis. His doctoral dissertation was titled "Cattle, Contracts, and Grocery Retailers: Three Essays on Industrial Organization in Agricultural Markets."

He also has a master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Delaware and a bachelor's in economics from China's Wuhan University.

Xia has both teaching and MAFES research responsibilities.