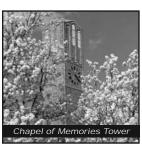
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY













Mississippi State is a comprehensive land-grant institution and the largest university in Mississippi, with a statewide enrollment of more than 17,000 students.

Established in 1878 as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Mississippi, the university has traditional strengths in engineering and scientific agriculture but has evolved into a comprehensive institution with a diverse array of programs in teaching, research, and service.

Growth and success

For the first time in its 130-year history, Mississippi State in 2007 surpassed the 17,000 mark in enrollment and is on track to post enrollment gains again in 2008. Enrollment includes a record number of African-Americans, as well as record enrollment for the Meridian campus, graduate and distance learning students.

Through an innovative Pathfinders program—a mentoring and intervention effort—the freshman-to-sophomore retention rate is 83.4 percent. In 2008, Pathfinders celebrates its 10th anniversary and has generated significant research about student retention. Other institutions now are adopting the model.

Mississippi State has one of the largest cooperative education programs in the Southeast, with more than 750 students enrolled. More than 10,000 students have participated since the program's inception in 1955.

In 2008, Mississippi State students for the second consecutive year won the top prize in the Challenge X competition to redesign a fuel efficient and environmentally friendly SUV. Another 17-member student team brought home the 2008 Best Flight Award of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International. A recent MSU graduate also won \$100,000 and the top prize in the nationally televised game show, Jeopardy.

Research gains

Research at Mississippi State has a direct impact on the state's economy and competitiveness in a global market, as well as providing tangible benefits for students. Fiscal year 2007 marked a record year for total amount of research awards for the university, \$187 million compared the \$154 million in fiscal year 2006.

Centers of excellence identified in the university's strategic plan are agriculture and natural resource systems; computational science and engineering; applied social sciences; transportation systems; and materials and devices.

The impact of research programs at Mississippi State is recognized nationally and internationally. The university is placing increased emphasis on taking research results to market

and providing industry-specific research needed by the state.

MSU is partnering with a Starkville high-tech business to develop small, low-cost satellites for the United States market. The university is working with InfiniSat, a company spun off from MSU research, to develop less expensive technologies that can be deployed quickly.

The university is one of about two dozen National Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research. The designation, made by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security, enables research institutions to seek ways to secure the worldwide information grid.

A first-ever MSU conference on avian genomics and gene ontology drew scientists from around the world. Sponsored by the Institute for Digital Biology, the conference focused on ways to use genomics to develop new medical procedures and understand diseases such as the bird flu, as well as improving poultry and egg production, among other areas.

The Sustainable Energy Research Center at MSU coordinates university research efforts in alternative energy, especially related to resources available in Mississippi and the Southeast. Currently, a center team is creating fuel from crops, waste water and other sources.

Outreach and service

When it comes to providing educational opportunities to the people of Mississippi, there are not many paths Mississippi State University has overlooked. That is especially true in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine.

Each year, thousands of Mississippians turn to the MSU Extension Service, the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment station or other units in the division for continuing education opportunities, information related to their farm or other business, management of their personal resources or for self improvement. Sometimes all that is involved is a visit to an MSU Web site or a call or visit to one of Mississippi's 82 county Extension offices. Several thousand people also take advantage of the chance to participate in activities on the Starkville campus, an MSU experiment station or other facilities.

The Mississippi State University Extension Service is a primary source of leadership development programs designed to improve overall community engagement as well as to provide community leaders with the tools necessary to address specific community issues. Available to both rural and urban locales, these programs have proven effective in advancing community initiatives and providing a basis for local residents to take a more active role in their community.



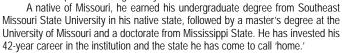
MSU President/Athletics Director

Dr. Vance Watson

Interim President

Named Interim President of Mississippi State in April 2008, **Vance Watson** assumed the top leadership role after a career of progressively responsible positions at the land-grant university.

Most recently, he served as vice president of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine; dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station; executive director of Extension and Outreach; and professor of agronomy.



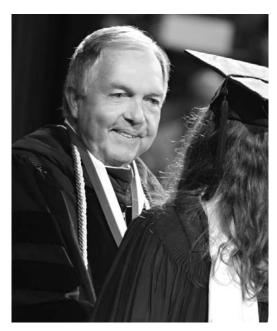
Under his leadership, the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine gained an eighth-place ranking for total research and development expenditures, and a third-place ranking for federal expenditures, as calculated by the National Science Foundation. Units making up the division include the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Forest and Wildlife Research Center, College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Forest Resources, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Watson was instrumental in the establishment of a number of interdisciplinary research efforts, including one that led to a sustainable energy research partnership between the Bagley College of Engineering and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He played a key role in securing a commitment for a collaborative poultry research facility that will house research scientists from MSU, USDA, and the Agricultural Research Service— USDA's research arm. The latter will provide more opportunities to assist an important segment of Mississippi's economy.

Within the division, he advocated a faculty mentoring program to help enhance the success and contributions of junior faculty members, and as Interim President, seeks to expand the concept university-wide.

An Eagle Scout, he also is a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and a Fellow of the Crop Science Society of America. He has received the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Distinguished Service Award, the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors' 2007 Excellence in Leadership Award, and numerous other awards and honors.

He and his wife, Jo Ann, have three children and seven grandchildren.





Greg Byrne Director of Athletics

When Greg Byrne was named Mississippi State University's 15th Director of Athletics on February 21, 2008, he became the youngest top current athletic administrator in the Southeastern Conference. At 36 years of age, he became the youngest to lead an athletic program at the NCAA Division I-A level.

Despite his age, Byrne is anything but inexperienced. He has been around successful athletic programs, and the director's chair at those institutions, literally all his life. He is the son of long-time athletic administrator Bill Byrne,

currently the Director of Athletics at Texas A&M University.

Byrne, however, has made a name for himself in intercollegiate athletics. He has 15 years of professional experience, a resume' that shows progressive growth in both responsibility and achievement. He has been directly involved in raising over \$120 million in gifts during his career in athletics. He has finalized and implemented an annual giving renovation for athletics at three different institutions. Byrne has also helped in the reorganization of the athletic program at one school while renovating the department's budgeting systems, development, marketing, and compliance programs. Byrne was on the ground floor of resurrecting a football program and athletic department at another institution, one that achieved success for the first time in three decades.

Prior to being named to head State's athletic program, Byrne came to MSU in June 2006 as Associate Athletic Director for External Affairs. In just his first year on the job, Byrne initiated a first-ever volunteer fund-drive that resulted in 969 new Bulldog Club members for Mississippi State. He implemented a priority seating program for football and men's basketball that led to a \$1 million increase in annual giving. He also led the effort to package State's donor and ticketing software, in connection with the department's athletic web site, for fan convenience. In so doing, MSU became the first Bowl Championship Series school to enlist XOS Technologies for total donor support in those areas.

Byrne held a similar position at the University of Kentucky prior to coming to Starkville. As Associate Athletic Director for Development and Fund-Raising at UK from 2002-05, he managed the development staff and operated a multi-million dollar budget. He oversaw development efforts that raised annual gifts from \$4 million to \$9 million annually. While in Lexington, Byrne led a \$35 million athletic facility campaign, and participated in the design, funding and marketing for Kentucky's \$30 million basketball practice facility. He worked with a corporate sponsorship team to manage UK marketing and development efforts, including signing one of the nation's top multi-media rights packages. Byrne was one of four members on the UK search committees that brought new head football and baseball coaches to the Wildcat athletic program.

Byrne possibly made his greatest athletic program impact as Associate Athletic Director for Development at Oregon State University from 1998-2002. Managing an eight-person staff, he replaced an antiquated 60-year old fund-raising organization and increased annual giving from \$1 million to over \$5 million in cash during his tenure there. He assisted the Director of Major Gifts in raising more than \$30 million in capital gifts for facilities and budget enhancement while in Corvallis. He participated in securing a \$12.5 million gift to rename the Beavers' football stadium. Byrne was involved in the department's transition of corporate sponsorships for radio, television, stadium and arena signage and game program sales to increase revenue.

Byrne began his athletic fund-raising career as Regional Director of Development at the University of Oregon from 1995 through '98, overseeing development efforts for Portland, Southern and Central Oregon, Northern California and the Oregon coast. He secured the largest donation totals ever for each region during his career at Oregon. While overseeing the Duck's lettermen's organization, he participated in raising \$14 million for an indoor football facility and soccer complex.

The energetic Byrne launched his professional career as Special Projects Coordinator for the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., from 1993-95. During that time, he managed a 1,000-person volunteer base for 63 Fiesta Bowl annual events. Byrne was promoted to a full-time position following an initial internship period.

A native of Pocatello, Idaho, Byrne earned his bachelor's degree from Arizona State University in 1994. He anticipates receiving his master's degree from Mississippi State this summer.

Byrne is married to the former Regina Misa of Junction City, Ore., and the couple has two sons: Nick (12) and Davis (10).

MSU has the largest enrollment in the

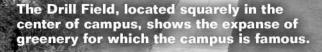
MSU has the largest enrollment in the state of Mississippi. Founded as a landgrant institution, its grass, flowers and trees are as prevalent as buildings, sidewalks and parking lots. Large enough to sport diversity in all areas, the university still maintains a warm, friendly atmosphere.

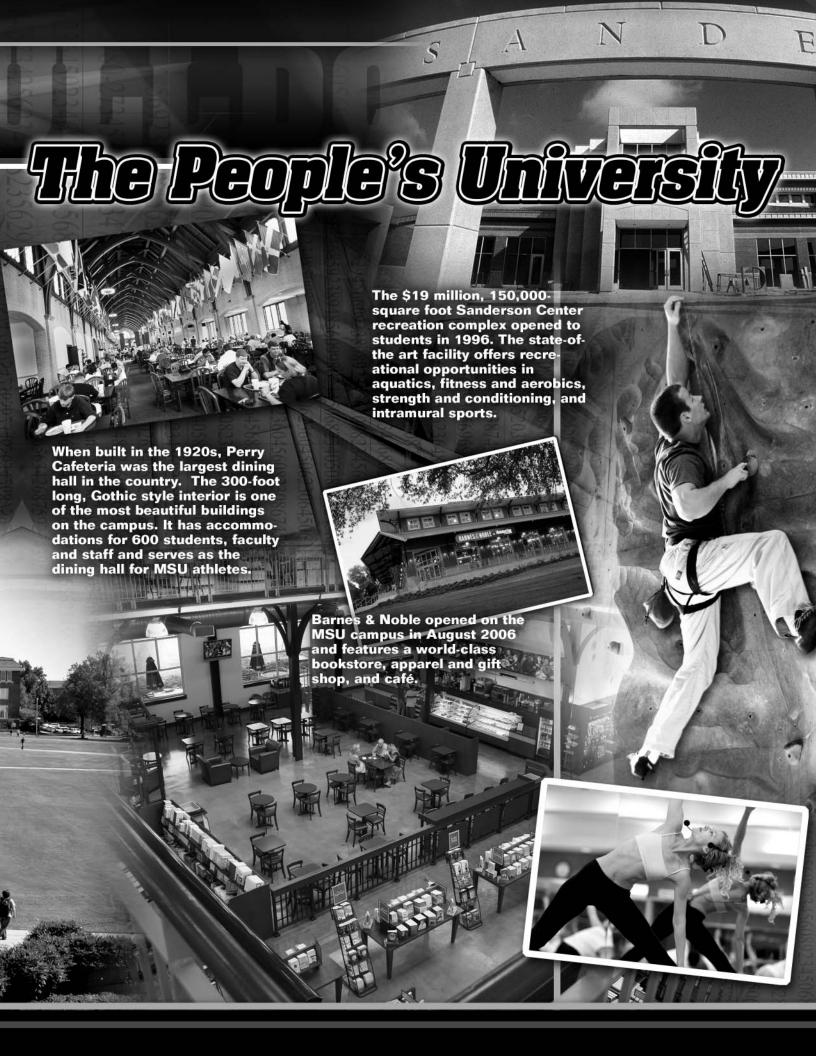
Ruby Hall, a residence hall with the largest single room size in university history, opened opened in August 2006. A co-residential, 160,000-square foot, three-story freshman hall, Ruby is located at the north end of campus, in convenient proximity to the Colvard Union, the Perry Cafeteria, Mitchell Memorial Library, the Sanderson Center and all athletic facilities. Ruby Hall offers students the latest in technology, including Ethernet access, full wireless internet coverage, a refrigerator and microwave, and free cable with HBO in each room.



The Colvard Union is a popular meeting place for MSU students. Whether working on a group project, enjoying the food court, or simply relaxing, the student union is one of the campus' main meeting places.

The Chapel of Memories and Carillon Tower were built with bricks from Old Main Dormitory, the largest residence hall in the country when constructed, later destroyed by fire in 1959. The Chapel of Memories, which hosts numerous weddings each year, is one of the most-recognized landmarks on campus.





State's coaches State's coaches State's coaches

care for their student-athletes and the school's sports programs. Each has a passion for their specialty, experience as a player and coach, and expertise to instruct at the highest levels. Their goal is to coach champions on the field and mold productive college graduates from the university's classroom.

CHRISTI SANDERS (back left) has the longest, consecutive coaching reign of any head coach at State, with 21 seasons at the helm of the women's golf program. She has twice been named SEC Coach of the Year (1990, 2000).

Former MSU baseball standout JOHN COHEN was introduced as Mississippi State's new baseball skipper in June 2008.

SYLVESTER CROOM was named the consensus SEC Coach of the Year after leading the MSU football team to an 8-5 record in 2007, a season that concluded with a win over Central Florida in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tenn.



RICK STANSBURY, the winningest coach in MSU basketball history, has guided the Bulldogs to 208 wins and eight postseason appearances in his 10 seasons at State.

NEIL MACDONALD is the only head coach to guide the MState soccer program to an SEC Tournament appearance in his first season (2004).



Mississippi State athletes play in some

Mississippi State athletes play in some of the nation's finest facilities. Almost ever Bulldog competition site has either been constructed or renovated in the last 15 years. During that time along, more than \$60 million in facility enhancements have been made.

DAVIS WADE STADIUM AT SCOTT FIELD: Near-sellout crowds have become the norm at Davis Wade Stadium at Scott Field, where the Bulldogs have played before masses reaching 85 percent of stadium capacity. Since the 2000 season when expansion and renovation projects gave the nation's second-oldest stadium a gleaming new look, crowds have grown by nearly 30 percent.



PITTS TENNIS CENTRE: Considered among the finest tennis facilities in the collegiate ranks, the modern, six-court, 1,000-seat A.J. Pitts Tennis Centre recently completed its 25th year serving the men's and women's programs. Recent enhancements at the facility include new locker areas and concession stands (1998) and a permanent press box (2004).

W.O. SPENCER STADIUM/ CARL MADDOX TRACK:

Co-named in honor of a two-time Mississippi State Olympian and a former MSU athletic director, the W.O. Spencer Stadium/Carl Maddox Track has served as host to the Southeastern Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships three times since 1985, joining Tennessee as the most frequent host for that event during that time.



DUDY NOBLE FIELD, POLK-DEMENT STADIUM: One of the nation's leaders in baseball season ticket sales and attendance, Dudy Noble Field, Polk-Dement Stadium still holds the nation's on-campus single-game attendance mark — 14,991. With a seating capacity of more than 7,000 and more space in the world-famous outfield, Sports Illustrated magazine named the park, the "Best Place To Watch College Baseball" in a 1997 issue.



The 12,000-square foot, hardwood-floored Newell-Grissom Building serves as the home for Mississippi State's volleyball program and serves as a practice facility for both of the school's baskethall programs. A state-of-the-art heating and air conditioning system was installed in 2004.

Great-Places

HUMPHREY COLISEUM: Season ticket sales records and all-time attendance marks have also been set over the past decade by Bulldog and Lady Bulldog basketball teams in the Humphrey Coliseum, the state's largest oncampus basketball arena. The latest addition to the facility was a \$1.8 million, center-hung, foursided video scoreboard and jumbotron screen installed in 2004.

MSU GOLF COURSE:

Nominated by Golfweek and Golf Digest magazines as one of the premier public golf courses in the United States, Mississippi State's championship University Golf Course is the home to the men's and women's programs. The 18-hole course was recently furnished with a 5,000-square-foot clubhouse, complete with locker areas, snack bar, golf shop and classroom.

MSU SOCCER FIELD: Built in 1995, the lighted Mississippi State Soccer Field gives the Bulldog women one of the finest playing surfaces in the Southeast, a 114-yard long, 72-yard wide regulation NCAA Championship field. The lush turf is Mississippi Pride grass, developed by researchers on the MSU campus.

MSU SOFTBALL FIELD: Constructed in 1997, the Mississippi State Softball Field has undergone almost constant improvement at the northern-most point of campus. Lights were added to the facility in 1998, brick work was added to the dugouts two years later and, in 2001, additional batting cages were built. In 2005, softball moved into a new locker, training and meeting facility adjacent to the park.



BRYAN BUILDING: The state-ofthe-art John H. Bryan Athletic Administration Building is the crown jewel of MSU's expansion projects of the last decade. Opened in 1996, this showcase facility is named for longtime Bulldog friend and supporter John H. Bryan Sr., and houses athletic administration, football, ticket, athletic development and media relations offices.

MSU student-athletes are prepared for life

MSU student-athletes are prepared for life after their collegiate careers come to an end. Former State athletes succeed professionally in both sports and business.

ERICK DAMPIER led the Bulldog basketball program to back-to-back NCAA Tournament bids in 1995 and '96. Now a 12-year NBA veteran, he helped lead the Dallas Mavericks to an NBA Finals appearance in 2006. TYRONE KEYS (center) starred for the MSU football team from 1977-80, won Super Bowl XX with the Chicago Bears, and is founder and president of All Sports Community Service, a Tampa-based firm that assists high-risk youth.

SAM NICHOLS lettered four years for the MState football team (1973-76) and is currently a Colonel in the United States Army.



The BULLION

Academics

While the MSU athletic program has experienced success both on the field and court, Bulldog and Lady Bulldog athletes are excelling where it counts the most — in the classroom. During the 2006-07 school year, 153 MState athletes earned SEC Academic Honor Roll honors.

Featuring 2005 graduates (L-R) Shane Power, Ontario Harper, Wesley Morgan and Branden Vincent, coach Rick Stansbury's Bulldogs lead all SEC schools with a total of 20 SEC Academic Honor Roll recipients in men's basketball over the past five seasons.

Burke Masters was a two-time First Team GTE-CoSIDA Academic All-American (1989 and 1990), four-time SEC Academic Honor Roll selection and the 1990 Boyd McWhorter SEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

A two-time Academic all-SEC selection, Kate Jaspers racked up numerous academic awards while at MSU. She was twice named ESPN the Magazine Academic All-American, and a three-time NFCA Scholar Athlete All-America. In 2004, Jaspers was named the SEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year, as well as the CoSIDA Academic Player of the Year.

Annemarie Pimentel was a four-year soccer letterwinner. While at State, she was a three-time Academic all-SEC selection, while being named to the GTE and Verizon Academic All-District teams. Her career culminated in being selected the 2000 SEC **Boyd McWhorter Post-**Graduate Scholarship winner, awarded to the student-athlete who best demonstrates excellence in athletics, academics and community service.



Fadillons

The most unique and certainly the most resounding symbol of MSU tradition is the cowbell. Cowbells decorate homes and offices of MSU alumni, and are passed down through generations of Bulldog fans. Although banned from SEC games since 1974, the ruling has not damaged the cowbell's historical importance.

HAIL STATE (FIGHT SONG)

Hail dear 'ole State,
Fight for that victory today;
Hit that line and 'tote that ball;
Cross the goal before you fall,
And then we'll yell, yell, yell, yell!
For dear 'ole State we'll yell like hell!
Fight for Mis-sis-sip-pi State,
Win that game today.

MAROON AND WHITE (ALMA MATER)

In the heart of Mississippi,
Made by none but God's own hands,
Stately in her nat'ral splendor
Our Alma Mater proudly stands;
State College of Mississippi,
Fondest mem'ries cling to thee,
Life shall hoard thy spirit ever,
Loyal sons we'll always be.

Chorus:

Maroon and White! Maroon and White!
Of thee with joy we sing;
Thy colors bright our souls delight,
With praise our voices ring.

Tho' our life some pow'r may vanquish, Loyalty can't be o'er run; Honors true on thee we lavish Until the setting of the sun; Live Maroon and White for ever, Ne'er can evil mar thy fame, Nothing us from thee can sever, Alma Mater we acclaim. Mississippi State is deep with tradition. From Bully to cowbells and the maroon and white, evidence of *The Bulldog Way* are found deep in the heart of every State graduate.

MSU's athletic teams are called the Bulldogs, a named earned and maintained over the decades by the tough, tenacious play of student-athletes wearing the maroon and white. The official school mascot is an American Kennel Club registered English Bulldog, given the inherited title of "Bully." A costumed Bully often makes his presence known at various athletic events.



THE NEWELL-GRISSOM BUILDING



Mississippi State is in its second decade of competition in its on-campus home, the Newell-Grissom Building. The spacious facility features 12,000 square feet of hardwood flooring and arena seating for more than 2,000. MSU's volleyball home has seen two major improvements in the facility over the past three years. An air conditioning system was added following the 2004 season and 489 maroon chair back seats were installed in the east stands prior to the start of the 2006 campaign.

The facility has served as the home court for Mississippi State volleyball since Oct. 3, 1997 when State met Georgia in the first match at the Newell-Grissom Building. Another first for the facility unfolded a year later when the 1998 season-ending MSU-Mississippi volleyball match was televised regionally by SEC-TV on FOX Sports Net South.

Located approximately two blocks southwest of Scott Field, the Newell-Grissom Building served as an auxiliary practice site for volleyball and both the men's and women's basketball teams at Mississippi State in 1996 while Humphrey Coliseum served as those teams' primary on-campus competition site.

Newell-Grissom is MSU's third on-campus volleyball home in 34 seasons. MSU's first volleyball teams competed in McCarthy Gymnasium prior to moving to Humphrey Coliseum.

The Newell-Grissom Building has a varied and colorful history that spans five decades and covers a broad spectrum of campus events.

Construction of the building began in January, 1951. The \$500,000 Animal Husbandry Service Building was completed in the spring of 1953, with dedicatory ceremonies held on April 28, 1953. The original structure included two classrooms, two offices, an area to house two graduate students, two exhibit areas, a multi-bunk dormitory area for visiting teams, and a dirt floor to accommodate its primary mission as host for livestock-related events.

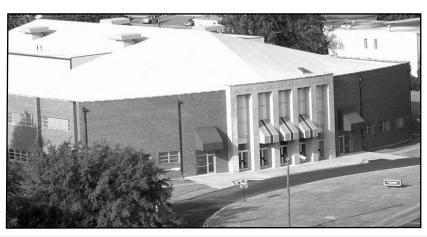
But the "cow barn", as it became affectionately known on campus, was used for much more than livestock shows, rodeos and equestrian competition. It developed into the campus and regional center for concerts and other entertainment events. The building's size and central location on campus also made it a natural for graduation ceremonies and class registration operations.

In 1978, the arena was formally named in honor of two long-time leaders in Mississippi State University's animal science department, Paul F. Newell (1910) and E.E. Grissom (1932). The structure went largely unused in the 1980s and early 1990s and gradually fell into disrepair. But in early 1995, the university, faced with an expensive "tear it down or fix it up" proposition, partnered with the MSU Athletic Department to share the costs of a million dollar renovation project.

In addition to the installation of a hardwood floor, the initial project included reroofing, the installation of a new lighting system, the construction and refurbishing of locker rooms and team meeting areas, and the addition of public rest room facilities.

NEWELL-GRISSOM YEAR-BY-YEAR

ILAN-DI-ILAN				
Year	W-L	Pct.		
1997	5-4	.555		
1998	5-5	.500		
1999	3-6	.333		
2000	5-5	.500		
2001	4-7	.364		
2002	1-7	.125		
2003	2-9	.182		
2004	4-6	.400		
2005	7-5	.583		
2006	10-4	.714		
2007	7-6	.538		
11 yrs.	53-64	.453		



MISSISSIPPI STATE VS. ALL OPPONENTS AT NEWFI I -GRISSOM

AT INLANCED ORIGINATION
Alabama 3-8
Arkansas 2-9
JA-Pine Bluff 0-0
JA-Little Rock 1-1
Auburn 7-4
Austin Peay 0-1
Belmont 1-0
Chattanooga 1-0
Clemson 0-1
Colorado 0-0
Florida 0-8
Georgia 5-4
Grambling State 1-0
lackson State 2-0
lacksonville State 2-0
Kentucky 0-5
JL-Lafayette 1-0
JL-Monroe 2-0
ouisiana State 2-8
ouisiana Tech 1-0
Middle Tennessee . 1-0
Mississippi 8-3
Murray State 1-0
Samford2-0
South Carolina 1-4
Southern Miss 3-1
Tennessee 1-6
Tennessee-Martin . 2-0
Troy University 2-0
<i>JAB</i> 1-1
Total 53-64

2008 home opponents shown in bold italics