

# Alumni news

Spring 2003



## A festive evening in Murray



*Fiesta Murray* was hosted by the MSU development and alumni affairs office April 12 at the Regional Special Events Center. This festive event was designed to recognize loyal friends and alumni of Murray State University who have continued their support of MSU through the gifts of their time and finances.

The evening offered authentic Mexican food in a market fiesta atmosphere. The Hispanic Dance Troupe of St. Joseph's (upper left), Mayfield, Ky., performed. Angel Padilla and Mariachi Mexico Lindo (far left) from Nashville, Tenn., played a variety of traditional and contemporary Latin tunes while strolling throughout the Mexican setting. After the recognition ceremony, entertainment for dancing was provided by The Cruisers, a six-member group from Paducah, Ky., who played a blend of blues and rock favorites from the 1970s to the present.

Jim Carter (near left), vice president for institutional advancement, addressed the crowd of over 300 people with a huge sombrero and sarapi.

Next year's themed *Murray Gras* celebration will be held Saturday, April 17 in the Regional Special Events Center.



Dr. Gary Jones, professor of math and statistics at Murray State, received the 2003 Distinguished Researcher award from the MSU Alumni Association.



In addition to recognizing loyal friends and alumni, Harold Ford, James D. Gantt, and Loretta Tucker Shearer were honored as the 2003 distinguished alumnus recipients. From left: Jim Carter, vice president for institutional advancement; Gantt; Ford; Shearer; and Dr. F. King Alexander, MSU president.



Chris McNeill, from Paducah, Ky., accepted the gavel as the incoming president of the Murray State Alumni Association.

Dr. Janice Hooks, chair of the early childhood and elementary education department at MSU, was honored during the festivities as the 2003 Distinguished Professor by the Murray State University Alumni Association. Glenda Thompson, a junior elementary education major at Murray State, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship in Hooks' honor. Pictured with Hooks and Thompson is Carter.



The Golden Anniversary Class of 1953

## Class of '53 honored at Alumni Reunion Weekend

Alumni Reunion Weekend was held May 9-10 and welcomed back to the MSU campus the Golden Anniversary Class of 1953. They participated in a number of reunion activities including a tour of campus and a reception at the Alumni Center for the Classes of 1953 and 2003. Returning alumni also attended a luncheon on Friday afternoon during which the members of the Class of 1953 were inducted into the Emeritus Club. Attendees also participated in the commencement ceremony on Saturday.



'53 grads, Barney Thweatt, Wendell Rorie and Gerald Rose, chatting at the Muffins-N-Minglin brunch at the Alumni Center Saturday morning.



Karl and Sarah Lester Hussing, Mary Martha "Me Me" Ellis Arter '53, with Dr. Alexander.



Betty Jett Gerstler '53 and Gene Murphey '53.



Dr. William Wiles '53 received the Presidential Medallion during commencement.



The Golden Anniversary class of 1953 during MSU's commencement ceremony that honored 2,015 MSU graduates, the largest graduating class in MSU's history.

## SPORTS ALERT



### MSU vs. UK

Saturday  
September 6, 2003  
at Lexington

Tickets are available through the MSU Athletics Ticket Office for \$25 each. MSU Athletics will be taking a fan bus to Lexington for the game. For more details call the ticket office at (270) 762-4895. A pre-game reception will be hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Frank Miller at their home in Lexington on Friday evening, Sept. 5. More details will be announced later.

## HOMECOMING

October 18, 2003

Murray State University:



Grand Marshal will be **Kristi Phillips-Rowan**, publisher of *MidSouth Living Magazine*



## Alumnus in L.A.

On a recent trip to Los Angeles, MSU President Dr. F. King Alexander visited with Hal Riddle '42. A 1975 MSU Distinguished Alumnus recipient and native Kentuckian, Riddle lives in the Woodland Hills area.

A retired character actor, Riddle's career spanned over five decades. A memorable part of his career was rooming with Jack Lemmon back in their early theatre days. He also found himself pals with the legendary James Dean, shared a barber with Clark Gable and made movies with Gregory Peck and Elvis Presley to name a few.

## Hot Racer Summer on the Road

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend these summer alumni events:

- ✿ June 17 Muhlenberg County (Greenville, Ky.)
- ✿ June 24 Hopkinsville, Ky. (MSU campus)
- ✿ July 11 Hickman County (Belmont State Park)
- ✿ July 29 Henderson, Ky. (Players Club)
- ✿ August 5 Owensboro, Ky.

For more information on these events, please check the website at [murraystate.edu/ialu/events.html](http://murraystate.edu/ialu/events.html) or contact Patti Jones, associate director of alumni affairs, at 270-762-3437, 800-758-8510 (toll free), or by e-mail at [patti.jones@murraystate.edu](mailto:patti.jones@murraystate.edu).

Go to ***murraystate.edu*** for



- *Racer information*
- *Alumni Class Notes*
- *MSU Calendar of Events*

or call the alumni hotline at **1-800-758-8510**