



Nationally recognized motivational speaker Pegine Echevarria gave a recent MSU presentation emphasizing leadership and team building, what she calls the "Team Pegine" training approach. The animated Echevarria was sponsored by the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center and the Division of Student Affairs to commemorate National Hispanic Awareness Month.

Deavenports' \$2 million gift establishes MSU endowment

A \$2 million gift to Mississippi State from two longtime supporters is aimed at helping attract an outstanding leader as the next dean of the university's Bagley College of Engineering.

The recent donation by Earnest W. Deavenport Jr. and his wife Mary Ann establishes the Earnest W. and Mary Ann Deavenport Jr. Chair within the college. Earnings from the endowment will provide a salary supplement and additional financial support for all future engineering deans.

"The Deavenports realize the impact endowed positions have on attracting quality leadership to key roles within the college," said John Rush, the college's development director.

The university currently is seeking to fill the engineering deanship that became vacant in June with the retirement of A. Wayne Bennett, who had held the position for the past eight years.

Announcement of the \$2 million gift comes just prior to initiation of the university's new State of the Future capital campaign. The major gifts effort will be launched publicly during Oct. 9 Homecoming activities. The final fund-raising target also will be revealed at that time.

Earnest Deavenport, a Macon native and 1960 MSU chemical engineering graduate, concluded a successful business career in 2001 when he retired as chairman and chief executive officer of Kingsport, Tenn.-based Eastman Chemical Co. Mary Ann Deavenport is a Bay Springs native and University of Southern Mississippi graduate.

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Veteran prof Steele to serve as interim dean

A veteran Mississippi State professor and administrator will head the Bagley College of Engineering on an interim basis pending a national search for a new dean.

Dr. W. Glenn Steele, a William L. Giles Distinguished Professor and head of the Mechanical Engineering Department, assumed his new duties Oct. 1. He replaces current interim dean Bob Taylor, who plans to retire at the end of October.

"I am pleased to be able to serve the Bagley College of Engineering in this transition period," said Steele. "I look forward to working with my faculty colleagues, and the alumni and friends of the college."

Taylor was named interim engineering dean June 30 upon the retirement of Dr. A. Wayne Bennett, who had held the position for eight years. Steele served as interim dean of the college during an earlier transition period.

"Dr. Taylor graciously recommended that a new interim dean be appointed effective Oct. 1 to allow a month's transition period," Provost Peter Rabideau said in announcing Steele's latest appointment. "Dr. Steele was the obvious choice since he served previously in that capacity and did a fine job."



Steele