

## Campus Administration

# Hall appoints Denley to take provost seat

By **TINEÁ PAYNE**  
News Editor

APSU President Timothy Hall announced Tristian Denley from the University of Mississippi would serve as the new provost and vice president of Student Affairs in a campus-wide e-mail sent out Monday, Nov. 17.

Denley was second of four provost candidates to be presented before a student forum.

He was selected out of a total of 82 applicants, according to Michelle Butts, who headed the provost search committee.

Butts said applicants were narrowed down to nine candidates. Four candidates remained after telephone interviews and reference checks. She said the committee,

consisting of 12 members, then recommended two candidates to Hall for the final decision.

Butts said Hall was very interested in what students and faculty had to say about candidates. She said the committee worked hard to get the word out about the student and faculty forums.

"About 40 to 50 faculty [members] came to every forum. That's a pretty good turnout."

She said the committee compiled a summary for Hall, including all student and faculty comments from the forums.

Butts said the committee tried to expose the candidates to much of the APSU community. She said exposure to students and faculty was an important factor. "Each

[candidate] met with a group of faculty. It gave [the committee] a feel for how well [the candidate] would fit in with the faculty," Butts said. "It's a two-way street."

Butts said the committee was originally scheduled to meet during the summer, but she said she didn't feel good about the idea.

"I told President Hall that a summer committee wouldn't be a great idea." Butts said most students and faculty are gone during the summer, and suggested more student and faculty input could be gathered during the fall semester.

SGA President Chris Drew, who also participated in the committee, said Hall did a great job listening to every campus constituency in

making the final decision. He said the search process has taken over a year to finish.

Drew said Hall needed someone with high energy and innovation. Drew described the candidate as, "a person that would not only be student-focused, but interactive with students as well."

Drew said Denley epitomized a candidate who would meet student and faculty needs. "[Denley] has the students first and the current staff first on his mind."

At the forum, Denley said his idea is, "to get students engaged

in student life." He said freshmen students want to leave and keeping them can be difficult. Denley said other universities face this problem as well. Drew said Denley has the energy to listen and address student and faculty concerns.

He also said Denley understands the "high-touch" environment that Hall finds very important in bringing students and administration closer.

At the student forum, Denley said he saw the idea of a residential college at Ole Miss, in which Drew said is an example of Denley's experience in creating a bond between students and the campus. "He saw that idea all the way to its'



Chris Drew

See *Provost*, Page 2

## Department of Music



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

VocalEase, an eight-voice choral ensemble, presented "Music a la Mode," a jazz and Broadway music performance Sunday, Nov. 16 in the Music/Mass Communications Concert Hall.

## Academics

# Students, professors start preparing for advising

By **JENELLE GREWELL**  
Staff Writer

The first sentence on the academic advising page of the APSU Web site is, "Critical to your success at APSU is academic advising."

Academic advising and pre-registration for Spring 2009 started Monday, Nov. 10 and ends Friday, Nov. 21.

According to the APSU Web site, when a student declares a major they are given a faculty member from the department to be their adviser, and prior to registration, students meet with their adviser to discuss classes. If the student is undeclared, he or she can meet with a professional adviser in the Career and Advisement Center to help prepare for the upcoming semester and assist in declaring a major.

Linda Barnes, professor and academic adviser for the English program, said all full-time professors after their first year of teaching become academic advisers. "It is part of the academic assignment," Barnes said.

APSU President Timothy Hall said one of the most positive things he has heard about APSU

is the close relationships students have with the faculty. "Generally, the perception is that the close relationships [between students and faculty] are very common here," Hall said.

Erica Smith, a junior education major, said the set-up of academic advising works well for her. "My experiences have always been great," Smith said.

Margaret Deitrich, professor of education and department adviser, said academic advising is positive because it helps to establish a relationship between advisers and students. "The career [students] want, [students] have to prepare for," Deitrich said. "[Students] have to set relationships."

Nanci Woods, professor of psychology and department adviser, said APSU is very good about making sure students see advisers in the department they are majoring in. "We are all trained [to be academic advisors]," Woods said.

Barnes said she thinks the university does a lot to make sure academic advising is taken seriously, but the hardest thing about being an academic adviser is that advising happens all at one

time.

"There is a time constraint on making sure you give each student what he or she needs," Barnes said. Similarly, Woods expressed that the allotted time period is not enough to give students the attention they need.

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Margaret Deitrich, professor of education

Luigi VanVeen, freshman English major, said he had his adviser changed. VanVeen said it was easier to have his adviser changed when he had face to face contact, rather than contact over the phone or e-mail. "When trying to get something done fast," he said, "it is easier [to have face to face contact] in college departments, especially in acquiring an academic adviser for freshman."

There are sometimes problems for students who switch majors, Deitrich said. For example, some courses the student have taken before may not count for their new major. "[Like] the beginning psychology course," she said. "In education we have a different psychology course. Things like that happen."

Smith said she took one year as a music major then in her sophomore year switched to education with a minor in music. "There were things I should have taken," she said "but if you major in something specialized like music, you have to take a lot of music courses [your first year]. So I missed out on a lot of core."

Smith said her adviser was very helpful about putting everything in perspective and trying to fit classes she should have taken into a four-year plan. "She said some [courses] are offered in the summer, and I could take classes in the summers to graduate in four years."

Barnes said if students do not have a good match with their adviser, then as early as possible students should contact the department chair or secretary to find a better adviser to suit their

needs. "[Academic advising] is a two-way street," she said.

"[Students] have to be persistent."

"Students don't take advantage [of academic advising], don't plan and are not able to achieve their career goals," Woods said. "[Some students] see college as classes, and not career planning."

Woods said the problem she sees in the academic advising is the uneven distribution of majors and students.

Deitrich said problems the education department faces is the large number of advisees. "Everything is so different in education because of the large numbers. Most of [the education advisers] have over 70 advisees," she said.

"During pre-registration, career advisement is doing nothing but advising, but teachers still have to continue to teach," Woods said.

Hall said he thinks there could be a way to set up the academic advising to free up the faculty "so they can give insight to things they know a lot about." Hall also said that new provost will help talk to students about how to help

See *Advising*, Page 2