

THROUGH *the* LENS

Celebrating nearly four decades of service to MSU

By Karen Brasher

WHEN LYNN REINSCHMIEDT ARRIVED at Mississippi State University in 1977, he thought it would be a brief stop along his career path. Little did he know that he would have a 37-year career at the People's University.

Reinschmiedt began his career as an assistant professor at the University of Delaware prior to his move to MSU. Once arriving at Mississippi State, he moved through the professorial ranks in the Department of Agricultural Economics. He then applied and was appointed associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 2001. Nine years later he retired as associate dean and professor emeritus.

Many alumni remember the dean's office when Reinschmiedt served, all four walls adorned with photos. First in Lloyd-Ricks-Watson and then in Bost, his walls bore 300 images that he had taken over the years, every picture telling a story.

Although Reinschmiedt officially retired in 2010, the university recognized his talent, and wouldn't let him go.

"I didn't really know what I was going to do, it just seemed like the right time to retire," he said.

After a few months of retirement, then provost Jerry Gilbert called and asked

Reinschmiedt to serve as acting interim associate vice president. He was then asked to serve on the SACS accreditation process for a year.

"I thought I was done when the accreditation process was over but then Jerry Gilbert called and asked if I would serve with Linda Buehler as interim co-registrar during the search process," he said.

Buehler had worked in the CALS dean's office with Reinschmiedt so it was a natural fit for them to work together again. Simultaneously, he worked with the Maroon Edition First-Year reading program.

Reinschmiedt retired again for about a year when Gilbert called again to fill yet another administrative role on an interim basis.

"As before, Jerry said he needed me to serve for about a three- to four-month assignment as interim director of Distance Education," he said. "After serving in the role for 11 months, on May 31, 2016, I retired for the final time."

This time, I was ready to retire, Reinschmiedt added with a smile.

A native of Oklahoma, Reinschmiedt became a life-long Bulldog, fully immersing himself and his family in the university. Over the years, he has



Lynn Reinschmiedt enjoys life after retirement in his garage in Starkville, Mississippi. (Photo by David Ammon)

taken thousands of photos, archiving the history of Mississippi State and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

During his professional career, he witnessed numerous changes in academia and society but the two that stand out the most are technology and the composition of the student body.

"When I started graduate school in 1971, the graduate student pool office at Oklahoma State had the old Monroe-Matic calculators that set on your desk, were bigger than typewriters, and really

heavy," the economist quipped. "The early electronic versions cost several thousand dollars, and all they did was simple math. They wouldn't even do square roots.

"Just a few years later, when I began my doctoral degree at Texas A&M, you could buy hand-held calculators for a couple of hundred dollars that would do much more," Reinschmiedt continued.

Technology has developed exponentially through the years and continues to improve, he added.

In regards to students, the biggest

change has been the composition of students.

"When I was in my undergrad in agricultural economics at Oklahoma State, there were only a few females," Reinschmiedt said. "In my master's program, there was only one female graduate student and in my doctorate there were only four or five females in agricultural economics."

Now, when you go to a professional meeting, females represent 50 percent of the attendees, he noted.

Reinschmiedt said the changes are

welcome and he is excited about the future for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Mississippi State University.

"Mississippi State has been good to my family and me," Reinschmiedt said. "People asked me when I retired this last time, if I would be moving. I thought about it and realized, where would I go, I have been here for 40 years, this is home."

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences appreciates the dedication and service of Lynn Reinschmiedt and we are so glad he chose to spend his career here.