

# FOUNDATION *News*

Produced by THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION FALL 2014



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## INSIDE

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The University of Mississippi Foundation  
406 University Avenue, Oxford, MS 38655

www.umfoundation.com

email: umf@olemiss.edu

Telephone: (800) 340-9542

Facsimile: (662) 915-7880

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## Editor

Katie Morrison

## Contributing Editors

Sandra Guest, Tina Hahn,

Donna Patton, and Meg Cummins

## Contributing Writers

Sara Camp Arnold, Metz Camfield, Bruce Coleman, Meg Cummins, Ruth Cummins, Bill Dabney, Mitchell Diggs, Erin Parsons Garrett, Tina Hahn, Jen Hospidor, Austin Miller, Charlie Mitchell, Sharon Morris, Katie Morrison, Mary Ashton Nall, Gary Pettus, Elaine Pugh, Lucy Schultze, Edwin Smith, Curtis Wilkie

## Graphic Design

Alan Burnitt

## Contributing Photographers

Kevin Bain, Jay Ferchaud, Robert Jordan, Nathan Latil, Jack Mazurak, Josh McCoy, UM Donors



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# Message from the Chancellor



UM Chancellor  
Dan Jones

The phrase “unprecedented growth” could not be our headline for this year’s *Foundation News* without those last five words: “made possible by donor gifts.” Thank you for your remarkable generosity. For the third consecutive year, private support has exceeded the \$100 million mark, powerfully giving voice to your affection for the University of Mississippi and your understanding of investments needed for outstanding teaching, research and service.

An American president once said, “Each generation goes further than the generation preceding it because it stands on the shoulders of that generation. You will have opportunities beyond anything we’ve ever known.” This could have been penned specifically for the Ole Miss family. Our students, faculty, researchers and staff are embracing opportunities made possible by your generosity and involvement. You are helping advance our work in academics, medicine and health care, and athletics, and all have potential to transform individual lives as well as elevate our state, nation and world.

When you see growth and progress, please also hear the chorus of gratitude for your support from students, faculty, staff and administration. Progress does also bring challenges and inconveniences, and we ask that Ole Miss family members exercise understanding and patience as construction and expansion occurs. We know we can count on you to help individuals have the kind of positive experiences usually associated with this magnificent university we know and love.

Future generations will be able to stand on our shoulders, as they enjoy this great university. Thank you.

## Message from the Foundation Board Chair



Foundation Board Chair  
Charles T. Cannada

We all agree, I believe, that the University of Mississippi is absolutely thriving. Consider the increasing student body, expanding programs and opportunities, and the additional construction fences in every direction. You must know that by combining our contributions and remaining involved, we have helped position our university on a path of excellence, with each year building on the next.

Every time I am on the Oxford campus, I am amazed by what I see and experience – constant progress in motion. Who thought we would be building another residential college, the fifth new residence hall on campus over just a few years? The same holds true for our Medical Center campus and our athletic facilities. Remarkable work is ongoing because of strong investments. I thank you and ask you to continue being a part of the many initiatives underway.

Growth and change sometimes bring some concern that the university we love will lose its magic. I don’t believe that will ever happen. We have core values being passed on to younger generations: our belief in building long-lasting relationships, networking to help fellow graduates, providing resources to expand educational opportunities and treasuring our beautiful environment. In fact, I look at all the service-oriented activities our students now pursue, and I have to believe some of the inspiration for this admirable work came from examples set by other generations. “Giving back” will always be part of who we are.

Thanks to our collective contributions, we are helping continually strengthen the University of Mississippi. We are Ole Miss.



## Thanks to Our Donors

The University of Mississippi is undergoing tremendous growth, but it’s not just about construction. We are teaching more students, offering more scholarships, housing more undergraduates, enabling more research discoveries and making greater impacts across Mississippi through more service-learning programs.

But all of this comes with its challenges: the need for new faculty, expanded learning and living facilities, and of course, increased funding. Yet as we have seen over this past year, when great challenges are on the horizon, the Ole Miss family steps to the plate to help continue the level of excellence that has become the University of Mississippi standard.

On behalf of the UM Foundation, we thank you for your unwavering support of our university’s people and programs. As we work to ensure a secure financial future for UM, we do so knowing that each of you has placed a solid stake in it. Together we rise to the challenges, and together we will celebrate our victories.



Construction on the Thad Cochran Research Center and Ole Miss Athletics complex shows progress.

## Journalism's Tommy Miller Remembered



The late Tommy Miller

One of the greats in newspaper journalism who taught at the University of Mississippi now has scholarships created in his memory to assist a new generation of reporters and editors.

Thomas C. "Tommy" Miller made a lasting impact, said H. Will Norton Jr., now dean of UM's Meek School of Journalism and New Media and former chair of the journalism department during Miller's two teaching periods, 1981-1983 and 1984-1986.

Miller left to become deputy managing editor of the *Houston Chronicle*. He later served as managing editor and then, in 2003, accepted the Roger Tatarian Chair in Journalism at Fresno State University in California.

In 2011, Miller died at age 66 of a debilitating illness. The Tommy Miller Scholarships have been established from memorial gifts and are designated for UM students pursuing reporting or editing careers.

"Through the years, when my children have asked me about my favorite color, movie or book, I've always had trouble committing to one," a donor wrote. "But not when it came to my favorite teacher. Tommy Miller. No doubt."

"Tommy Miller's critical eye made me plan, edit and review both my work and my direction much more effectively," another student recalled. "The accountability he demanded has benefited me greatly."

Miller was born in West Point, Miss., and earned his degree in journalism from Baylor University, where he was editor of *The Lariat*, the student newspaper. Miller married Darla Ferris, his childhood sweetheart, while both were at Baylor. He earned a master's degree from the University of California-Berkeley after serving in the U.S. Army.

**MAKE A GIFT:** John Festervand, (662) 915-1757 or [jfesterv@olemiss.edu](mailto:jfesterv@olemiss.edu)

## Home Sweet Home for Faculty from Hammonds

While walking his daughter down the aisle to marry her groom – a Mississippi State graduate – Jeff Hammond whispered, "Don't worry. You'll do better next time."

Hammond is blessed with a quick wit. But academics at Ole Miss, particularly programs in the College of Liberal Arts, is a subject he takes very seriously.

"I think academic giving is much more important than giving to the athletics programs, although we do give to them," said Hammond, a Moss Point, Miss., native, who earned an undergraduate degree in accountancy in 1974 and a Juris Doctorate in 1976.

Because of their affinity for the Ole Miss Department of Art, where Gale worked during their early married life, and because the university has one of the South's top creative writing programs, the Hammonds recently donated their second home to be used as a residence for visiting professors in the College of Liberal Arts. The property is six miles south of the Oxford campus in Taylor, Miss., a community becoming increasingly populated by local artists and creative minds.

"We hope our gift will assist in a small way in attracting up-and-coming writers, artists and other talented professors to the university, because we understand the liberal arts program is the backbone of any good university," said Hammond.

Hammond is an attorney with Watkins & Eager PLLC in Jackson. Gale Hammond worked for several years in Pascagoula, Miss., where they moved after he received his LL.M. from the University of Florida School of Law. She served as president of the nonprofit Junior Auxiliary of Rankin County and has been active in Brandon United Methodist Church, while also managing a small antique booth in Oxford.

The Hammonds have two children: Dr. Kate Hammond Estess, a Taylor Medalist who graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 2004 in biochemistry and classics and with a medical degree in 2008, and Ben Hammond, also a Taylor Medalist and Phi Beta Kappa graduate in 2006 with a degree in international studies and an emphasis in Latin American affairs.

"Ole Miss was kind enough to give full scholarships to both of our children, so having built a new house in Taylor, we thought it was time to give back," Jeff Hammond said. "Ole Miss has always been a part of our lives."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu)



Provost Morris Stocks, Jeff and Gale Hammond, UMF President/CEO Wendell Weakley and Dean Glenn Hopkins

## Graduates Give Permanent Grove Marker to UM



Class of 2014 officers presented a permanent marker for the Grove during commencement in May. The marker states, "The Grove is the heart of Ole Miss. It's where undergraduates gather, Alumni reunite, faculty hold class, fans cheer on their Rebels, and the Pride of the South Marching Band fills the air with music. For Rebels, it will always be a bit of a magical place. If you haven't been here before, we welcome you to The Grove."



## Roland and Sheryl Burns' Generosity Makes Significant Mark on Ole Miss



Roland, Sheryl, Tyler and Derek Burns with Professor Jimmy Davis

The philanthropy of Roland and Sheryl Burns of Frisco, Texas, has been celebrated several times this year, including a public dedication of UM's new Burns Residence Hall. The couple's new \$2 million gift for academics and athletics, which elevates their lifetime giving to more than \$5 million.

The couple previously had made a \$1.5 million gift to the Patterson School of Accountancy and subsequently gave \$1.5 million to the UM Department of Athletics to help fund a new football team meeting room. Their giving spirit makes possible the new Roland and Sheryl Burns Chair of Accountancy, held by Dale Flesher, associate

dean, Arthur Andersen Alumni lecturer and professor of accountancy.

"At no time did I think that I would be selected to be the initial holder of the Burns Chair, since it was designed to bring in a big-name professor from outside UM," Flesher said.

"Dr. Flesher is one of the top researchers in accounting," said Roland Burns. "He's a major reason why ours is one of the top-ranked programs in the country."

Burns – the president and CFO of Comstock Resources Inc. and a board member of the University of Mississippi Foundation and the Patterson School – understands the necessity of quality faculty and mentors to ensure future success at the school and recruitment of top students.

"Sheryl and I are honored to be part of the Ole Miss family and wanted to continue to support the university's excellent academic programs as well as help give the football program the facilities it needs to be competitive in the powerful Southeastern Conference," Burns said.

The Patterson School has exceptional rankings by *Public Accounting Report*, the independent newsletter of the accounting profession. UM's undergraduate program is rated No. 4 in the country and the master's and doctoral programs Nos. 5 and 8 respectively.

"As a result, we definitely need more faculty," Flesher said. "The availability of the Burns Chair has provided funds for the current faculty and will help in the future."

Patterson School Dean Mark Wilder reinforced the importance of alumni and friends. "We appreciate so much the generous support of Roland and Sheryl Burns," he said. "The long-term future success of the school depends on our ability to recruit and retain high quality faculty."

Said UM Chancellor Dan Jones: "Sheryl and Roland Burns' generous investments, wise counsel and exceptional involvement in the life of our institution are paying great dividends not only for the University of Mississippi that stands before us today, but also for the generations of students who will look to Ole Miss for opportunities in the future."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Debbie Vaughn, (662) 915-3937 or [dvaughn@olemiss.edu](mailto:dvaughn@olemiss.edu)

## Alumnus Wood Honors Speakes' Life



The late Larry Speakes, Whitehouse spokesperson, with President Ronald Reagan

Joel Wood, a 1981 UM graduate in journalism and prominent Washington, D.C., businessman and lobbyist, has honored the late Larry Speakes, former White House spokesperson, with a generous gift to the Overby Center Speakers Series.

Wood's contribution coincided with a tribute to Speakes at UM's Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics. Speakes, an Ole Miss journalism student in the 1950s, became White House spokesman for President Ronald Reagan in 1981. Speakes died Jan. 10 at age 74.

Wood became acquainted with Speakes at the White House while Wood served as congressional staff. "He was an inspiration, but mostly I remember him as utterly unpretentious, soft-spoken and humble," said Wood. "He was extremely generous with his time to all of us from Ole Miss. I'm grateful the university is honoring him and hope that others continue to find inspiration in his career and life."

"Joel is a great friend of journalism at Ole Miss," said Charles Overby, chairman of the center. "His gift will further the legacy of Larry Speakes."

Wood is senior vice president of governmental affairs for the Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers.

**MAKE A GIFT:** John Festervand, (662) 915-1757 or [jfestervand@olemiss.edu](mailto:jfestervand@olemiss.edu)

## Friends of the Museum Plan Harvest Supper Fundraiser



The 2014 Harvest Supper, the largest annual event held to benefit the University Museum, will be Oct. 16. The event offers a unique opportunity to build community over a meal offered on the grounds of William Faulkner's Rowan Oak. Proceeds help support numerous aspects of the University Museum, including acquisitions, the "Conversations" series, exhibitions, educational programming and special events. Numerous sponsorship levels are available. More information regarding sponsorships and event tickets is available by calling the University Museum at (662) 915-7073.

## KPMG Establishes Chair of Accountancy



Dean Mark Wilder, KPMG partners Tom Avent and Chuck Walker and Provost Morris Stocks

Big Four accounting firm KPMG LLP, through the KPMG Foundation, has elevated the KPMG Professorship in Accountancy at UM to the prestigious Chair level with a \$1.5 million commitment.

The Chair is the first established by an accounting firm at the Patterson School of Accountancy and the second announced for the school in just under a year. UM Provost Morris Stocks has named Mark Wilder, dean and KPMG Professor in the Patterson School, as the KPMG Chair of Accountancy.

KPMG has a strong legacy of support at the university through contributions undergirding

the Patterson School and recruitment of graduates. KPMG partners first established a lecture-ship endowment in 2002, and were joined by colleagues to elevate the position to the KPMG Professorship in 2008.

"State funding for higher education has decreased across the country," said Tom Avent of Atlanta, Southeast partner in charge of mergers and acquisitions-tax at KPMG and a UM alumnus. "To maintain a world-class program, you've got to have private support. As a top employer of UM accountancy students, we wanted to be the first firm to have a named chair-level faculty position. The KPMG Chair is a dream come true and attributable to the combined efforts and generosity of our partners, employees, alumni and the KPMG Foundation."

"Today, we see a direct correlation between the incredible faculty talent assembled, the quality of the students graduating and the school's rapid climb in national rankings," said Chuck Walker, KPMG national partner in charge, alternative investments-tax and Ole Miss alumnus. "We are fortunate to have such great support from Ole Miss accountancy alumni at KPMG, the KPMG Foundation, the accountancy school and the university. It is a very

collaborative and productive joint relationship."

UM Chancellor Dan Jones calls KPMG an important stakeholder.

"The University of Mississippi's goal is to transform lives through exceptional educational opportunities, and providing outstanding professors to teach our students is critical to that goal," said Jones. "Clearly, KPMG understands this priority. We are profoundly grateful for KPMG's involvement and support."

Wilder says the firm's support carries a powerful impact.

"The remarkable thing is that the KPMG partners who are Ole Miss alumni are leading by example by contributing to faculty support, but they also are encouraging other alumni in the organization to be part of the firm's commitment," the dean said. "They have established a goal to have 100 percent of KPMG Ole Miss alumni giving to this endowment. The KPMG Foundation continues to provide generous matching funds for employees' contributions. Because of this tremendous support, outstanding teachers and mentors continue to be a hallmark of our programs."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Brooke Barnes, (662) 915-1993 or [brooke@olemiss.edu](mailto:brooke@olemiss.edu)

## Joey Embry Scholarship Recipient Named



Dean Douglass Sullivan-Gonzalez and Rachel Byars

Rachel Byars, a freshman from Bruce, Miss., is recipient of the Joey Embry Memorial Scholarship at the University of Mississippi.

Joey Embry, like Rachel Byars, attended Bruce High and Ole Miss. He was a member of Ole Miss' Fellowship of Christian Athletes and an offensive lineman for the Rebels.

Embry tragically lost his life in a 1998 drowning, but his legacy lives on.

"After his death, people were asking us what they could do and where they could contribute in his memory," said his parents, Bill and Gwen Embry. "Ole Miss was contacted, and the staff told us how to set up a fund."

The scholarship is for students from Calhoun and Yalobusha counties. Byars, a Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College scholar, is double-majoring in English and Chinese.

"The thought that the individuals responsible for this scholarship have enough belief in me and my capabilities that they would reward my endeavors with monetary gain is incredible," she said.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Debbie Vaughn, (662) 915-3937 or [dvaughn@olemiss.edu](mailto:dvaughn@olemiss.edu)

## Scholarship Honors Pierron



Dean David D. Allen, William Patrick Jr., Melanie Pierron Patrick, William Patrick Sr. and Walter J. Pierron

In honor of 1954 School of Pharmacy graduate Walter J. Pierron Jr., his daughter and son-in-law recently established a scholarship in his name. Their gift created the Walter J. Pierron Jr. Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment.

Recipients of the Pierron Scholarship will be full-time students in their final year of the professional pharmacy

program who excel in academics, leadership and service.

Pierron's daughter, Melanie Pierron Patrick, an Ole Miss business alumna, was thrilled to honor her father, a Monroe, La., native. "Dad has always spoken of his time at Ole Miss as some of the best years of his life," she said. "He loves young people and has been a mentor to so many pharmacy students."

Pierron worked for 45 years as a pharmacist in Louisiana. "It's obvious that he has a genuine passion for the University of Mississippi and our school," said School of Pharmacy Dean David D. Allen. "I am so thankful for his family's generous gift. Education is our top priority, and this scholarship will provide many new opportunities for pharmacy students."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Raina McClure, (662) 915-6967 or [rmclure@olemiss.edu](mailto:rmclure@olemiss.edu)



## Osher Foundation Supports Nontraditional Students



Bernard and Barbro Osher of San Francisco, Calif., provide scholarships to nontraditional students.

Chancellor Dan Jones. "The Osher Foundation is to be commended for providing these 'second chances' to those who have had their dreams interrupted. The University of Mississippi will work to ensure these reentry scholarship recipients have the support and services to realize great success."

Since 2012, the Osher Foundation has provided UM \$50,000 annually, including \$50,000 for flow-through funds for 2014-15 scholarships while the endowment matures. This annual assistance is awarded to approximately 25 nontraditional students to complete degrees and realize greater career opportunities, and that number is expected to grow.

Osher Foundation President Mary Bitterman says they recognize the value in providing support to nontraditional students.

"We were impressed by how these students managed family, finances and work obligations while pursuing degrees. A strong belief in the potential of these students, plus the relatively meager financial aid available to them, inspired the Foundation to launch the Reentry Program."

Ole Miss has increased services to help assure returning students have the tools to be successful.

"We are extremely grateful to the Osher Foundation for its support," said UM Associate Provost Noel E. Wilkin. "We know that a college degree increases a person's opportunities and lifetime earning potential. The perpetuity of this gift enables us to permanently commit to facilitating students' abilities to return and accomplish their goals. It is a gift that directly benefits students."

**MAKE A GIFT:** *University Development, (662) 915-3937 or [umf@olemiss.edu](mailto:umf@olemiss.edu)*

## Musgroves Expand Legacy with Gift



Melody and former Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove

A gift from former Gov. Ronnie Musgrove and wife Melody Musgrove have established the Musgrove Educator Scholarship Endowment to award scholarships to junior and senior education majors who demonstrate academic excellence and financial need.

"We have always believed that a strong education empowers people to access opportunities, contribute to our economy and attain some part of the American dream," Ronnie Musgrove said.

An alumnus of the Ole Miss schools of Business Administration and Law, Musgrove served as Mississippi's 61st governor. Melody Musgrove, a former teacher, school administrator and state special education director, is director of the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education.

**MAKE A GIFT:** *John Festervand, (662) 915-1757 or [jfesterv@olemiss.edu](mailto:jfesterv@olemiss.edu)*

## Feders Enrich Heritage of Southern Harmony



The Feder and Hosey family

The Feder family of Ocean Springs, Miss., is furthering the mission of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi.

The Center, a flagship academic enterprise for UM and a standard-bearer for university Southern Studies curricula, is focused on expanding fundraising to create a full professorship for the study of Southern music. The Music of the South Endowment is being created by a \$100,000 pledge from Ron and Becky Feder, along with their daughter Elizabeth Feder-Hosey and her husband Matthew, all UM alumni.

"We are extremely grateful for the Feders' commitment," said Nikki Neely, director of development for the College of Liberal Arts. "Their ongoing support energizes our efforts to fund a music professorship, an effort that is gaining momentum."

Serving as chairman of the CSSC's advisory committee, Ron Feder remembers having the first conversations about increasing resources dedicated to Southern music.

"A time came when we realized that the South was losing lots of musicians. We recognized we needed oral histories, stories and archives," said Feder. "The center, with its faculty, students and resources, is the natural place to headquarter the study of Southern music."

Becky Feder has enjoyed participating with the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA), an institute housed at the center that focuses on another staple of Southern culture, food. "I love to cook and I love to eat, so the SFA is awesome to me," said Becky Feder.

Said CSSC Director Ted Ownby: "The ideal scholar for this professorship will approach the study of Southern music in a multifaceted way. Ron is an invaluable advisory committee member, and he and his family have been very active supporters."

**MAKE A GIFT:** *Nikki Neely, (662) 915-6678 or [nneely@olemiss.edu](mailto:nneely@olemiss.edu)*

## McRights' Passions Fuel Academic and Athletic Achievement



Johnny and Renee McRight

When Johnny and Renee McRight began graduate school as young newlyweds, they did so on a tight budget with help from fellowships, grants and lots of sweat equity. Today, they are enabling other UM students to pursue graduate study.

"Grad school is tough. We've been there," said Johnny McRight, who earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in biology from UM in 1973 and 1975. "We know from

experience that if your finances are stable, you can focus on your studies."

The Greenville couple created the McRight Biology and Speech Pathology Endowment in 2010. Through an additional gift they are now dividing the endowment, creating one for each department, so that scholarships can be awarded annually in both programs simultaneously.

"The McRights have both vision and generosity," said Interim Dean of Liberal Arts Richard Forrette. "The College of Liberal Arts is truly thankful. This investment will have lasting benefits to these students, the university and the state."

Velmer Burton, dean of applied sciences, echoed that gratitude.

"Financial assistance allows our students the opportunity to submit scholarly papers to conferences, participate in organizations, further their research and fulfill clinical hours in a timely fashion. The School of Applied Sciences is appreciative of their thoughtful and gracious support."

The McRights also generously support Ole Miss Athletics, through providing financial gifts and traveling to cheer on the Rebels. Not only did they make a major contribution to the Forward Together campaign, the McRights followed the Rebels to the Music City Bowl, the NCAA Basketball tournament, and the SEC Baseball tournament, regionals, super regionals and College World Series.

"Our constant involvement in Ole Miss sports has been a major factor in our desire to also support academics," said Renee McRight, who earned her undergraduate degree in education in 1973 and graduate degree in communicative disorders in 1975, both from UM. "We believe the academic and athletic leadership truly understand that sports are what keep a vast majority of our alumni coming back. Following and supporting Ole Miss athletics reminds us how critically important it is that we support academics."

"We recognize that we wouldn't be able to do any of this," she added, "without the education our university provided us, so we both feel it is important to support academics as well as athletics."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu)

## OMWC Legacy Award Salutes Barksdales



Donna and Jim Barksdale

Visionary champions for education Donna and Jim Barksdale of Jackson, Miss., were selected for the 2014 Legacy Award given by the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy (OMWC).

The Legacy Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions as philanthropists, leaders and mentors to bring about definitive, positive change in the University of Mississippi, the state and nation.

Donna and Jim Barksdale have initiated and built programs of scholarship and mentoring that have impacted thousands of students. They continue to create new ideas for educational improvement and provide the funds and personal time to see these programs grow and achieve success.

While working on public education in California when he was president and CEO of Netscape, Jim Barksdale said, he realized his efforts were needed more in Mississippi.

"Donna and I are humbled, proud and delighted to be chosen for the Legacy Award," Barksdale said. "We have continued our work because we are inspired by seeing our successes reflected in positive outcomes for thousands of children. We try to make investments in philanthropy efforts where results can be measured."

Jim Barksdale currently heads the Barksdale Management Corp., a philanthropic investment company, and Donna Barksdale is president of the Mississippi River Trading Company.

Their deep desire to improve education in Mississippi has resulted in effective programs in which they stay closely involved. They both define visionary leadership in education, according to the OMWC.

"While there are extremely generous individuals and couples throughout our society, I don't believe any surpass Donna and Jim Barksdale," said Mary Ann Frugé of Oxford, chair of the OMWC.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Sarah Hollis, (662) 915-1584 or [shollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:shollis@olemiss.edu)

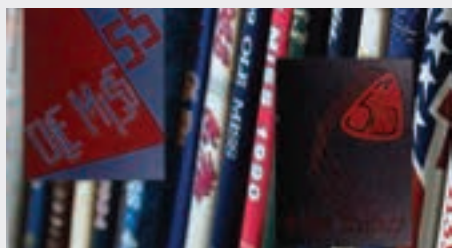


## Scholarship to Honor Sparky Reardon's Retirement

In honor of Sparky Reardon and his 37 years of service to the Ole Miss family, please consider contributing to the Sparky Reardon Scholarship Endowment. Your gift will perpetuate Sparky's legacy and allow future Ole Miss students the opportunity to enjoy a University of Mississippi education. If you have any questions about this fund, please contact the UM Foundation at (662) 915-5944 or [umf@olemiss.edu](mailto:umf@olemiss.edu).



## 50<sup>TH</sup> Reunion Classes Create 'Ole Miss Opportunities'



The Classes of '55, '56 and '64 have built legacies through scholarships.

additional scholarships to be awarded each year from OMO, providing a path to higher education for deserving Mississippi students.

Established in 2010, OMO allows the university to ensure access and affordability to Mississippi students, regardless of income.

"We realize that tuition increases create hardships, but we don't want to decrease access to higher education for our neediest students," said Chancellor Dan Jones. "Ole Miss Opportunity increases access and supports IHL's goal to increase the number of baccalaureate degrees in our state."

Realizing a worthwhile trend, the UM Foundation has declared intent to match future class gifts to OMO up to \$25,000.

"In talking with class reunion representatives, it was clear they wanted to support our Ole Miss students," said Wendell Weakley, UM Foundation president and CEO. "The Ole Miss Opportunity Initiative resonated with their desire to help. Using matching funds to establish these endowments will support students for generations to come. It is truly a win-win for all and a unique generational show of support."

Wallace Davenport of Houston, Texas, was pleased his class chose to dedicate a scholarship, and gives to the fund annually.

"Scholarships can outlive a physical monument. Plus, it's nice to give back in a way that not only recognizes where you came from but also looks toward the future."

Thanks to numerous UM alumni and friends, the OMO endowments currently total over \$2.3 million.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Suzanne Thigpen, (662) 915-6625 or [sthigpen@olemiss.edu](mailto:sthigpen@olemiss.edu)

## McKinneys Pledge Support to Faser Hall



Dean David D. Allen with Wendy and John McKinney

ways," said David D. Allen, dean of pharmacy. "This gift is just another example of their dedication and commitment."

The McKinneys, who reside in Moss Point and own retail pharmacies (Burnham Drugs) in seven Mississippi locations, serve on a committee to attract private funds for the capital campaign.

"They have contributed not only through monetary support, but also with advice and committee leadership," said Raina McClure, director of development for the pharmacy school.

Donating to the campaign is a great way to exemplify giving back to the pharmacy school, Wendy McKinney said. "It is up to us to ensure that the next generation of students have an even greater opportunity for an extraordinary education."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Raina McClure, (662) 915-6967 or [rmcclure@olemiss.edu](mailto:rmcclure@olemiss.edu)

## Scholarship Pays Tribute to Bill Trusty



Dean Glenn Hopkins, Sara and Elvis Champion and Denson Hollis

Sara and Elvis Champion of Water Valley, Miss. have established the William T. Trusty Mathematics Scholarship Endowment to pay tribute to her father's life through a major gift.

Trusty, a well known Water Valley businessman and leader, earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1933 from Ole Miss, and Sara Trusty Champion earned an undergraduate degree in education and a master's degree in mathematics.

"Daddy was very business oriented. Daddy also loved Ole Miss and wanted to give back through scholarships," Champion said.

Said Iwo Labuda, chair of UM's Department of Mathematics:

"In these times when education is so costly, scholarships take on special value. Mathematical education is crucial and yet remains underrated. We are very pleased that the family of Bill Trusty in their generosity made it possible for more students to pursue their dreams."

Trusty died in 2011 at age 99; his wife Rachel died in 1999. The Trusty Scholarship is designated for Mississippi students maintaining a minimum 3.0 grade-point average.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu)

## Thomases Give Major Support for IMC, Fastest-growing Degree



John and Mary Thomas

A new degree at the University of Mississippi will have an endowed chair, thanks to a forward-looking alumnus and his spouse who want others to experience the same inspired boost to their careers as he did.

“This gift is about helping Ole Miss students by investing in the best and brightest professors, those who will ensure the legacy of this great school is passed on through the generation of our children and their children after that,” said John B. Thomas, who with his wife, Mary, created the John and Mary Thomas Chair in Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) in the Meek School of Journalism and New Media.

The Thomas Family gift is part of the Barnard Initiative, a faculty support campaign named for Frederick Barnard, chancellor from 1856-1861 at UM and later chancellor at Columbia University in New York. The Thomases’ gift will be partially matched by Abbott Laboratories for a total \$1.5 million contribution.

John Thomas recently retired from Abbott Laboratories, where he was vice president for investor relations and public affairs, as well as president of the charitable Abbott Fund. The Thomases live in Glenview, Ill., with their two daughters and son.

“John was an exceptional student,” Dean of Journalism and New Media Will Norton said of the 1985 graduate. “His integrity and transparency were matched by intellectual depth and rich spiritual insight. To me, this is the reason for his uncommon stewardship.”

Said UM Chancellor Dan Jones: “John and Mary have chosen to make significant investments in an academic discipline and a university they love. The results will come as outstanding faculty members teach and mentor our students, preparing them to perform in an ever-changing global community.”

The Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) degree has more than 500 undergraduate majors, making it the fastest growing degree program, perhaps in UM history.

The faculty endowment follows two previous initiatives supported by the Thomases. A 2013 gift endowed the Thomas Family Speaker Series to help underwrite the cost of bringing leading specialists for campus visits. In 2011, the couple funded the Thomas Family Scholarship Endowment which will assist its first student in the coming 2014-15 academic year.

Mary Thomas also had a career in professional communications. “He’s a testament to what Ole Miss can do for young people,” she said of her husband. “It makes us feel good to be part of it.”

**MAKE A GIFT:** Debbie Vaughn, (662) 915-3937 or [dvaughn@olemiss.edu](mailto:dvaughn@olemiss.edu)



## Improving UM Law, Brick By Brick

With new senior director of development John Festervand on board, the UM School of Law is revitalizing fundraising efforts. Its brick campaign is one component of the plan.

The campaign, started in 2011 when UM Law moved to the new Robert C. Khayat Law Center building, raises general supplement funds for the school.

“This campaign is important because it not only supports the law school financially but also serves as a visual reminder of alumni support,” said Festervand.

Each brick is 4x8 inches and may be purchased for \$250 as a tax-deductible donation.

“Each graduate of the law school has helped build it and make it better,” said Dean Richard Gershon. “The bricks symbolize the foundation they have laid for the next generation of students.”

**MAKE A GIFT:** John Festervand, (662) 915-6881 or [jfesterv@olemiss.edu](mailto:jfesterv@olemiss.edu)

## Ten Exceptional Freshmen Awarded Top McDonnell Barksdale, Raymond Scholarships in Honors College

Ten high school graduates with exceptional academics and proven leadership received \$32,000 scholarships as 2013 freshman members of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.

Four received McDonnell Barksdale Scholarships and six Doris Raymond Scholarships, which provide \$8,000 per year for four years. All have ACT scores of 30 or higher, three are National Merit finalists and seven had a 4.0 grade point.

“These scholars continue to set a high bar for both faculty and staff,” Honors College Dean Douglass Sullivan-González said. “We love their inquisitiveness and their engaging demeanor.”



Talented students receive top Honors College scholarships.

They’ll be exposed to critical thinking in the arts, sciences and humanities.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Debbie Vaughn, (662) 915-3937 or [dvaughn@olemiss.edu](mailto:dvaughn@olemiss.edu)

Recipients are John William Brahan of Hattiesburg, Austin Parker Durham of Southaven, Hannah Claire Farmer of Tupelo and Yujing Zhang of Oxford. Receiving the Doris Raymond Scholarships are Robert Hollis Burrow of Jackson, Brandon Carl Lynam of Knoxville, Tenn., James Roland Markos of Jackson, Tenn., Taylor Grace Moore of Ponca City, Okla., Thomas Gregory Moorman of Madison and Blake Andrew Sowers of Prattville, Ala.



## William and Lucile Hicks Provide Stepping Stones for Delta Students



Lucile and William Hicks

Home is a place that always beckons, calling to us no matter where we are. Likewise, as our alma mater states, Ole Miss is “a place that ever calls.” Recently, William and Lucile Hicks of Wayland, Mass., have answered that call by generously creating the William and Lucile Hicks Scholarship Endowment for UM FASTrack students through a \$250,000 gift.

Both originally from Greenwood, Miss., a recent visit home for the couple helped solidify their decision to create a scholarship fund supporting FASTrack students from Leflore County. FASTrack, an academic program for freshmen, helps students acclimate to campus life and adjust to the rigor of university academics.

“We appreciate that the university is embracing programs like FASTrack to prepare students who, for various reasons, might falter during their transition from high school to independent academic careers,” said William Hicks, who received his bachelor’s degree in accountancy from UM in 1959. “That we can play a role in enabling FASTrack to benefit more students, particularly children of the Delta, is an honor.”

“Bill and Cile Hicks understand that the University of Mississippi is special because of our people – both the students who come here and our faculty and staff who dedicate their lives to teaching and mentoring our future citizens and leaders,” said Chancellor Dan Jones. “The scholarships created by their endowment, like the FASTrack program itself, will help add an extra layer of support for deserving students.”

FASTrack addresses the needs of the whole person, with attentive advisors and peer mentors helping students resolve a multitude of challenges, and not just the academic variety.

“Our FASTrack program is helping students to succeed,” said Stephen Monroe, FASTrack director and assistant dean of liberal arts. “Now, because of Bill and Cile Hicks, it will have an even greater impact, especially for students from the Mississippi Delta. Bill and Cile care deeply about UM, about the Delta and about our state. We are grateful.”

**MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu)

## Quirks Invest in the Future



Lib and Neal Quirk

When Neal and Elizabeth “Lib” Quirk began saving for their children’s college education, they dreamed of also giving other young people the same opportunity.

“It’s easy to think, if we can’t do something on a grand scale, then whatever we can do doesn’t matter,” said Lib Quirk, a 1982 UM graduate and homecoming queen who earned her bachelor’s degree in advertising. “But we believe if it matters to one student, then it truly is making a great difference.”

The Atlanta couple endowed the Elizabeth Wight Quirk Scholarship in the School of Business Administration in 2003. After years of giving, the endowment now exceeds \$100,000.

It was especially rewarding when two of her four children chose Ole Miss. Eldest son, Neal Jr., graduated from UM in 2013. Third son Joe is a sophomore.

They joined the Ole Miss Family Leadership Council in 2012 and have been active supporters of the parents’ program.

“Ole Miss is part of our family’s past, present and future,” Lib Quirk said. “We just hope we can give other students the chance to have the Ole Miss experience and get their education.”

Ken Cyree, dean and Frank R. Day/Mississippi Bankers Association Chair of Banking at the UM School of Business Administration, said the Quirks’ support is impacting the lives of deserving students.

“The Quirks are wonderful people who have a passion for Ole Miss and our students,” he said. “They have had an important role in providing for the future of our students, and we appreciate their commitment to the success of our graduates.”

“I feel like everyone tries to repay their Ole Miss experience in whatever way they can,” Lib Quirk said. “This was something we could do from Atlanta and something we hoped would be around long after we’re gone.”

**MAKE A GIFT:** Tim Noss, (662) 915-5932 or [tnoss@olemiss.edu](mailto:tnoss@olemiss.edu)

## Ten Outstanding Freshmen Named 2013-14 Croft Scholars

Ten freshmen with outstanding academic and leadership records and the desire to pursue global careers are the 2013-14 Croft Scholars in the Croft Institute for International Studies.

Each received \$8,000 per year for four years. They have a mean grade point of 3.92 and ACT scores from 30 to 35.

The new Croft Scholars are Walker Daniel Bobo of Iuka; Cayla Jane Cardamone of Bloomington, Ill.; Savannah Winn Coleman of Biloxi; Meredith Noelle Cuilik of Gulf Breeze, Fla.; Connor Thweatt Holeman of Brandon; William Eric Mahoney of Greenwood Village, Colo.; Jane Alexandra Martin of Madison; Michelle Lynn Miller of



Gifted students receive top Croft scholarships.

Germantown, Tenn., Miller Anderson Richmond of Madison and Elizabeth Grace Romary of Greenville, N.C.

“The Croft Scholars are an amazingly bright and promising group, and this year’s cohort is no exception,” said Croft Executive Director Kees Gispén. “Every year I marvel at the depth of talent of the students entering the Croft Institute.”

All Croft Scholars major in international studies. It focuses on the connections between politics, economics, culture and international relations.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Debbie Vaughn, (662) 915-3937 or [dvaughn@olemiss.edu](mailto:dvaughn@olemiss.edu) or



## LEAVE YOUR LEGACY THE 1848 SOCIETY

When alumni and friends reflect on ways to make a positive impact through building meaningful legacies, they often gravitate to the University of Mississippi. Planned or deferred gifts to UM represent an investment in educational opportunities that will make a difference for generations to come, both in transforming individual lives and strengthening Mississippi, our region and nation.

As tax laws have changed, other gift plans emerged, and each year these planned gifts have added to the value of the university's endowment and provided funds for professorships, research, facilities, library books, scholarships, lectureships and many other specific programs to enhance academic and athletic excellence.

If you have already provided for Ole Miss in your estate plans, please contact the University Foundation at 800-340-9542 or [www.umfoundation.com/planning](http://www.umfoundation.com/planning), giving us the opportunity to properly thank you and honor you as an 1848 Society member, or planned giving donor. You can also work with foundation leadership if you are interested in planning an estate gift. There are numerous vehicles to accomplish your goals and ensure your wishes are recorded and carried out.

## THE 1848 SOCIETY EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR THESE CONTRIBUTIONS:

- Continuing gifts from the estates of two dedicated educators will strengthen the J.D. Williams Library. The late Oscar Richard Ainsworth of Northport, Ala., and his wife, Edith, touched many lives at the University of Alabama, where they were highly respected faculty members in the Department of Mathematics. They chose to leave part of their estates to Oscar Ainsworth's alma mater, with their gifts now totaling \$1.16 million.
- An estate gift of almost \$485,000 from the late Elke C. Davenport of Hattiesburg, Miss., supports a scholarship endowment named for her late husband, John C. Davenport. Combined with his 2002 bequest, the John C. Davenport Ole Miss First Scholarship Endowment totals \$530,000, providing assistance to students who demonstrate outstanding scholastic achievement and leadership.
- The late Ole Miss alumnus T.A. Liles of Oxford, Miss., a 1947 accountancy major and supporter of UM, designated a final gift to the J.D. Williams Library. This gift helps provide a wealth of services to students, faculty, researchers, staff and the general public.

## Russell's Planned Gift to Strengthen Political Science Faculty



Gail Russell

Kentucky native Gail Russell has committed a generous planned gift to the Political Science department within the UM School of Liberal Arts.

Russell received her bachelor's degree in political science from UM in 1976. She returned home and earned her Juris Doctor degree in 1979 from University of Kentucky College of Law. Now a partner with the Louisville, Ky., law firm Goldberg Simpson, her main areas of practice are Bankruptcy Law and Creditors' Rights.

"Ole Miss provided me a tremendous educational opportunity, and I left campus prepared to compete at the next level," said Russell. "I owe a debt to this university for giving me a wonderful foundation upon which to build a legal career."

Russell's gift will help the university recruit, retain and support faculty for the department – one of the most challenging tasks faced by administration. With proper resources, faculty members are able to excel in their research, thereby staying at the top of their field. Students benefit when faculty bring this expertise to the classroom; soon-to-be graduates are mentored by leading scholars.

"The decision by Ms. Russell to establish an 1848 Society gift is one that will profoundly strengthen the Political Science department in the years to come," said John Bruce, chair of political science. "We have been fortunate to have very good individuals on our faculty. Her gift will allow us to continue to support and develop such exceptional people in the future."

"When she was an undergraduate here, Ms. Russell had courses with Professor John W. Winkle III, and she credits those classes with setting the trajectory of her legal development," he added. "Our goal is to have each of our students enjoy such an experience. Ms. Russell's gift will help establish a financial base that will help us move toward that goal."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Ron Wilson, (662) 915-1755 or [jrwilso3@olemiss.edu](mailto:jrwilso3@olemiss.edu)



## Pope Expresses Lifetime of Devotion



Chancellor Dan Jones thanks Susan Pope for her planned gift.

UM alum Susan Pope, a retired elementary school principal, has committed a \$1 million planned gift to strengthen the university.

Ninety percent of the gift is designated as unrestricted, which means the funds, which will be endowed, will be used by the chancellor and provost to address the university's most pressing needs.

"Ole Miss is always like coming home. It's a part of who we are. The environment of the campus keeps alumni and friends coming

back, which strengthens their affection for the university," said Pope, who has been a giving back to the university since 1982. "I felt it was the right time in my life to make a decision about how I wanted to share what I have with Ole Miss."

UM Chancellor Dan Jones said he was moved by the gift.

"We thank this amazing alumna for her generosity as well as her vote of confidence. We will be good stewards as we make thoughtful decisions about how best to utilize the resources Susan is providing," he said.

Another portion of her gift is dedicated to the School of Education, reflecting her lifelong passion for education.

The seasoned educator was principal of Willow Oaks Elementary in Memphis, Tenn.

Said Dean of Education David Rock: "It is easy to see why Susan has such a love and passion for education. She has dedicated her life to helping children."

"Preparing young educators is a top priority," said Pope, who earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee-Martin before coming to the Oxford campus to pursue a master's degree in education and an Education Specialist degree.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Sandra Guest, (662) 915-5208 or [sguest@olemiss.edu](mailto:sguest@olemiss.edu)

## Turgeon Thanks Mother by Establishing Nursing Scholarship

Rose Turgeon never had the opportunity to become a nurse. But her son is now giving that chance to others.



The late Rose Audet Turgeon

As a tribute to his late mother, Robert "Bob" Turgeon of Northridge, Mass., cre-

ated the Rose Audet Turgeon Scholarship Endowment. An \$100,000 gift through a Charitable Remainder Unitrust will assist BSN pre-nursing students.

Stephen Monroe, assistant dean of liberal arts, said the fund will benefit students and the communities they'll serve.

"Bob Turgeon is enabling students to receive the education they need to launch their nursing practices," Monroe said. "His gift will have an impact throughout the state of Mississippi, enriching the health of its citizens."

For Turgeon, the fund honors his mother's memory, on his behalf and that of his late father Joe and sister Viola.

"This is about paying back my mother for taking care of the family," he said. "She was the glue."

The daughter of French-Canadian immigrants, Rose Turgeon lived a simple life. "We didn't have a lot of money ... but I would catch her making little checks to charities ...," her son said.

Rose Turgeon worked in textile mills and the state hospital. Her patient care work included nursing duties, but she was unable to seek the education needed to earn the title.

Her son, meanwhile, finished Worcester Junior College. He met two teachers, graduates of Ole Miss. He'd already thought of returning to college; their charms sealed the deal.

Turgeon earned an Ole Miss degree and enjoyed varied careers, settling in the hotel and real estate industries. He ultimately retired from the U.S. Postal Service's Central Massachusetts Processing and Distribution Center.

Along the way, Turgeon made sound investments. He'd considered establishing a scholarship and, with his 80th birthday approaching, decided to act.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu)

## Goudelocks Issue Challenge



UMMC's Dr. James Keeton with Dr. John Goudelock

A decade after Dr. John Goudelock severely injured his left hand and University of Mississippi Medical Center surgeons restored most of its function, he returned to UMMC to make a gift to purchase a much-needed microsurgical lab as part of his dream for a hand center at UMMC.

Dr. James Keeton thanked Goudelock during the visit and inducted him into the 1848 Society, a group that supports the university through planned and deferred giving.

In addition to their gift, Goudelock and his wife, Mary, have challenged others to join with them to make a gift to support the new microsurgical lab.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Sara Merrick, (601) 984-2302 or [smerrick@umc.edu](mailto:smerrick@umc.edu)

## Garrett's Planned Gift Honors Pharmacy Alumnus

Nashville, Tenn. native Gladys Garrett has committed a planned gift of \$100,000 to the UM School of Pharmacy.

Garrett is the widow of Marvin "Lynn" Garrett, a 1949 pharmacy graduate and former owner of Lynn Garrett Drug Store in Nashville.

"My dad looked at being a pharmacist as a profession, not a job," said Douglas Garrett, Lynn and Gladys Garrett's son. "That included being a pharmacist, counselor between doctor and patient, community leader and friend."

Half of Garrett's donation will support Faser Hall renovations, while the other half will establish a scholarship endowment bearing the Garrett name. The school is updating the second floor of Faser Hall to include a state-of-the-art skills laboratory. A room in the new space will be named after the Garrett family.

Garrett said she wanted to give to the pharmacy school not only



With family and friends, Gladys Garrett, fifth from left, visits with Dean David D. Allen about her late husband, Lynn, and the gift in his honor.

to honor her late husband but also to support a school that educates "some of the best pharmacists in the country."

"Ole Miss has so many fine qualities," Garrett said. "We hired many Ole Miss alumni. Whenever you get a good education, you can make a good living. That was the importance of the pharmacy school in my life."

Keith Shelly, a 1978 graduate and owner of Donelson Drug Mart in Nashville, also attended the luncheon with his wife Lori.

"I had the good fortune of

knowing Lynn Garrett and to relate to him as a pharmacist, independent pharmacy owner and proud Ole Miss alum," said Keith Shelly, a 1978 graduate and owner of Donelson Drug Mart in Nashville. "He was, without question, one of the most passionate and dedicated individuals I have known, and I was honored to be his friend."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Raina McClure, (662) 915-6967 or [rmclure@olemiss.edu](mailto:rmclure@olemiss.edu)

## Campbell Recalls Ole Miss Days, Funds Scholarships

When Royal Stewart Campbell considered creating an endowed scholarship fund at the University of Mississippi, what appealed to him was the "forever" aspect of the gift.

The Austin, Texas, retired businessman realized it not only becomes a permanent part of his alma mater, but his \$507,000 gift will also provide scholarships for students in Ole Miss' Patterson School of Accountancy for generations to come.

"I could give to many different charities, but I wonder if they would remember me tomorrow," said Campbell, who graduated from Ole Miss in 1952 and enjoyed a long career as a stockbroker and real estate broker. "I've always wanted to do something for people who didn't have the resources I've been blessed to have."

The Campbell Scholarship Endowment bears the names of Campbell; his late mother, Martha Stewart; his late wife, Joyce Higginbotham Campbell; and his children, R. Stewart Campbell Jr. of Dallas and Elizabeth Higginbotham Campbell of New York. The scholarship is designated for students from

the Mississippi Gulf Coast, where his mother grew up.

"Mississippi sometimes receives negative publicity when a poll comes out that puts it near the bottom in various rankings," Campbell said. "Education can be the solution to a lot of issues. Through this scholarship gift, I also hope to help the state by expanding educational opportunities."

Said UM Chancellor Dan Jones: "He has made a point of keeping up with our progress through various Ole Miss publications and newspaper articles over the years, and he has made a thoughtful decision to support young Mississippians through the Campbell Scholarship Endowment."



Royal Stewart Campbell and UM Chancellor Dan Jones

All three UM accountancy programs are ranked nationally in the Top 10 by the *Public Accounting Report*. "We are humbled and honored by Mr. Campbell's belief in our program and profoundly grateful to him for this incredible investment in our students," said Mark Wilder, dean of the Patterson School.

**MAKE A GIFT:** (662) 915-5944 or [www.umfoundation.com/planning](http://www.umfoundation.com/planning)



## Ole Miss Builds Safety Net for Students in Need



ASB President Gregory Alston, VC for Student Affairs Brandi Hephner LaBanc and Chancellor Dan Jones

Everyone can identify with life-changing crises: unexpected illness, death of a family member or loss of property due to natural disaster. If a costly emergency impacts a UM student, no resources were available to assist, until now. Brandi Hephner LaBanc, vice chancellor for student affairs, recognized this need and worked to establish the Ole Miss Family Fund (OMFF) Endowment.

"Most universities, including ours, used to have a budget line that allowed for this type of discretionary spending, but over time they disappeared due to increasing expenses," Hephner LaBanc said. "This endowment will allow us to extend our abilities and tangibly apply the true Ole Miss family spirit."

The emergency fund may purchase textbooks, help with rent or other costs to enable a student to stay enrolled and in good standing.

Generous gifts totaling \$25,300 endowed the OMFF. The first came from the Madison Charitable Foundation, an organization known for its spirit of giving. Additionally, the UM Foundation chose to designate its annual holiday gift to the OMFF.

Upon receiving the foundation's holiday card, Louis and Lucia Brandt of Houston, Texas, inquired about the OMFF. Hearing its mission, their gift immediately followed.

"Providing financial support for students in crisis is consistent with the caring culture of Ole Miss," Louis Brandt said. "I am blessed to be able to share my good fortune, which in large part is a result of having graduated from Ole Miss. I hope that my support will provide others with the same opportunity."

Future fundraising will bolster the endowment and provide resources to activate the fund.

"The big impact is that we could change a student's mind about withdrawing from Ole Miss," Hephner LaBanc said. "Whether faced with a \$2,500 or a \$200 issue, the student will know that Ole Miss is not just a place they go to class, but a community that will help them succeed."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Brett Barefoot, (662) 915-2711 or [bmbarefo@olemiss.edu](mailto:bmbarefo@olemiss.edu)

## Hunts Establish Collegiate Recovery Community Endowment



VC for Student Affairs Brandi Hephner LaBanc, Dr. Glenn and Sharon Hunt, Chancellor Dan Jones and Sara Hollis

A college campus can seem like an untenable environment for students enrolling after treatment for alcohol or substance abuse. Thanks to expanded support services for such students, the Collegiate Recovery Community (CRC) at UM has received new private support.

Dr. Glenn and Sharon Hunt of Oxford, Miss., have stepped forward with a lead gift to establish an endowment for the program and are encouraging others to join them.

"Sharon and I became involved in the Collegiate Recovery Community because of the great need we saw among young people," said Dr. Hunt, a physician specialist in Oxford. "Our son Clark was attending law school at another university and came across a support group that was extremely important to him throughout his successful completion of a juris doctor degree. We recognized how key that support can be for individuals."

Students involved in a collegiate recovery community have a lower relapse rate, an average grade-point average of 3.34 and a graduation rate that exceeds 80 percent.

"Collegiate recovery programs are an effective way of supporting students in recovery," said Brandi Hephner LaBanc, vice chancellor for student affairs. "We are deeply grateful for Sharon and Glenn Hunt's gift to this critical area. We encourage others to join in our efforts to support students in recovery who are actively pursuing academic goals. We want them to know they are not alone."

Clark Hunt echoed that sentiment. "Only because of sobriety am I able to pursue a master's in professional counseling at Ole Miss. My hope is that every student in recovery receives the same opportunity and support I have in order for them to achieve their academic goals."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Sarah Hollis, (662) 915-1584 or [shollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:shollis@olemiss.edu)

## ATΩ Raises \$40,000 for Fellow UM Students in Recovery



Alpha Tau Omega members host 'Greek Cup' to raise money for CRC.

One does not often associate college fraternities with sobriety efforts – but the Delta Psi chapter of Alpha Tau Omega at the University of Mississippi chose the Collegiate Recovery Community (CRC) at UM as the beneficiary of their 2014 Greek Cup.

A weeklong philanthropic competition, the ATΩ Greek Cup pits Ole Miss sororities against each other to raise money and heighten awareness

in the spirit of charity and fellowship. The Delta Gammas took home the soccer tournament cup while the Phi Mus captured best overall.

But at the end of the day, it was the CRC that won, receiving a check from ATΩ for \$40,000.

"The Collegiate Recovery Community at UM sheds light on an issue that often gets brushed under the rug on college campuses: substance abuse and addiction," said ATΩ Philanthropy Chair Stephan Castellanos. "One of our own brothers is a member of the CRC at UM and it has had a profound impact upon his life. So, when it came time for us to select our beneficiary for this year's Greek Cup, the CRC was not only a very worthy cause, but also one close to our hearts."

Founded in 2010, the CRC at UM provides recovering students with resources and

support to achieve their academic goals and professional growth while having fulfilling collegiate experiences without the use of alcohol or drugs. A network of peers, faculty and staff familiar with the pressures of collegiate life facilitate CRC's transitional support.

"We are so grateful for the generosity of the ATΩ fraternity," said Susan Nicholas, a UM academic mentor who heads the CRC advisory committee. "This gift will directly fund scholarships for Collegiate Recovery Community students, but even more importantly it says to CRC students that their experience matters. This support is especially meaningful when it comes from fellow UM students."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Sarah Hollis, (662) 915-1584 or [shollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:shollis@olemiss.edu)



# THE OLE MISS FUND

## FAITHFUL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS KEEP GIVING, STRENGTHENING THE UNIVERSITY

Think of giving to Ole Miss this way: If you gave \$50 and nine other alumni and friends each gave \$50, the Pride of the South Marching Band could have a new snare drum. We know the beloved Pride of the South is coming when we hear that beat – the unmistakable cadence that heralds the band's entrance on a vibrant football Saturday.

If you gave \$100 and 19 other people each gave \$100, an Ole Miss student would have a scholarship. "But a \$2,000 scholarship won't go far with today's tuition costs," you might be thinking. Really? Ask a student how a \$2,000 scholarship would impact him or her and watch the relief wash across a young face.

Let's try another example: If 2,851 alumni each gave \$50, there would be a major investment of \$142,550 for the unexpected needs that arise each year at UM. Amazing, right? That's what donors can achieve when their gifts are combined.



Suzanne Thigpen

Fortunately, many donors believe in giving back and embrace **THE OLE MISS FUND**, making annual gifts of varied, modest sizes to combine with others. Annual contributions from more than 8,000 donors in this fiscal year added up to almost \$900,000 for programs across campus, focusing on academics and other student needs.

Meet Suzanne Thigpen, director of Annual Giving in the Office of University Development. Here she explains the impact gifts make:

### Why is Annual Giving important to Ole Miss?

**ST:** "Gifts to the Ole Miss Fund, or Annual Giving, make an immediate and profound difference in students' lives. The university depends on generous support to supplement state funding and assure that students have the resources to thrive. The dollars raised through Annual Giving go to work immediately and reach every corner of campus. Annual Giving falls into two distinct categories: unrestricted giving – gifts in support of the university's budget – and restricted giving – gifts to support specific areas."

Describe the impact that would occur if the majority of alumni and friends participated?

**ST:** "Gifts to the Ole Miss Fund support academics and campus programs right now. Even very modest gifts, combined with others, enable our academic units to provide better technology, learning opportunities and increased faculty support. No gift is too small; all gifts count and make a difference."

What would surprise most alumni and friends about Annual Giving?

**ST:** "Our donors are as diverse as the needs they help meet. Alumni, friends, parents, faculty, staff and students choose the area to which they designate their gift. A gift can help ensure that Ole Miss:



Students express gratitude to alumni and friends.

- puts students first by offering a challenging and exciting academic environment, while providing crucial support for student success
- never turns a student away because of financial barriers
- creates meaningful educational experiences like community engagement, study abroad and research opportunities
- sustains a top-notch faculty dedicated to research and student learning
- maintains and builds facilities that meet the growing needs of the university"

What can alumni and friends expect in the new academic year?

**ST:** "I am very excited about the new Annual Giving stewardship efforts that will be taking place next year. Our donors will receive more thank you acknowledgements. We are also expanding efforts in educating donors on the various needs of the individual schools and programs. Everyone can expect to see more email communications next year."



Student callers share their Ole Miss experiences.





A caller talks with an alum.

Why do we use students to call alumni and friends for gifts? How would you hope alumni and friends would respond to the callers, even at times they aren't planning to make a gift?

ST: "Our hope is that our alumni and friends will take a moment to remember what it was like to be a college student when they hear from a student caller. Our students give alumni and friends the opportunity to hear about their experiences at Ole Miss, and the students benefit from career and life advice that

alumni share. Our student callers are extremely dedicated; many graduates have contacted us to say they enjoyed the chance to speak with students and become more involved. Our ultimate goal is to make our alumni and friends feel more connected to the university and keep them abreast about various needs."

Can you share an example?

ST: "Chris Muller, a 1995 graduate, wrote: 'I wanted to let you know what a pleasure it was to visit with the female Ole Miss student who called me Sunday night. While I don't remember her name, the young woman was

engaging, polite and I'm sure a great representation of the other members of the phone-a-thon staff and Ole Miss. I always enjoy visiting with the students who call for a few minutes before they get to the point of the call. If you could find a way to acknowledge her contribution and great Rebel energy, I would greatly appreciate it.'"

When callers have comments about the University, what happens to that feedback?

ST: "All comments are tracked through our Campus Call system and reviewed by our Call Center manager. I handle responses on a case by case basis. It is important to our office that we respond in a timely manner to questions or concerns expressed by alumni and friends."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Suzanne Thigpen, (662) 915-6625 or [sthigpen@olemiss.edu](mailto:sthigpen@olemiss.edu)



A caller checks information.

## DID YOU KNOW FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014:

We have made over **524,362** attempts to reach alumni.

We have raised over **\$750k** in pledged support from **4,886** alumni, parents and friends.

Through our calls, we secure gifts for the academic communities of the University of Mississippi and its Medical Center.

Our average gift is **\$148**, however we receive pledges of all sizes!

Almost **40%** of the dollars pledged are instantly secured on credit cards, although we would like to see that number grow.

We will spend almost **8,000** hours a year making calls to ask for gifts.

Over **2,500** alumni, parents and friends will pledge their support to Ole Miss for the first time as a result of our phone calls.

We provide a great campus job to more than **80** students every year. They have a great opportunity to connect with alumni, build professional skills, and represent their university.

## THANK YOU POWER HOUR



A number of UM deans, faculty and staff gathered at the Call Center recently to phone more than 340 donors and express thanks for their support. The inaugural "Thank You Power Hour" was a way to connect university leadership with alumni and friends to express deep appreciation for gifts of all sizes that strengthen Ole Miss.

## Hughes' Passion Fuels Gift to MIND Center



Robbie and Dudley Hughes

Philanthropy, Robbie Hughes says, "has come easy" for her and husband Dudley. "We were both raised in families that were rich in love, but sometimes poor by some folks' standards in cash," the Jackson resident said. "Our parents taught us to be aware of the needs of others and to be generous with what we have."

But through the years, Hughes said, they've been blessed – her husband, with success in the oil and gas field, and for her, success in the stock market.

Their recent philanthropy includes a \$2 million donation to the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Memory Impairment and Neurodegenerative Dementia (MIND) Center, a major research initiative aimed at elucidating the causes and treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia through innovative research and forward-thinking healthcare.

Led by Dr. Tom Mosley, a nationally recognized expert in brain aging, The MIND Center began as a research collaboration to better understand and track factors that may lead to Alzheimer's and dementias. In March, the MIND Center opened its first clinic, which provides research-based patient assessment and state-of-the-art treatment.

The gift, which will create an endowed faculty chair, is personal for the couple. As Dudley Hughes continues to cope with dementia, Robbie Hughes has gained a new passion: educating herself about the disease that is debilitating to her husband, and that already has affected six members of his extended family.

Friends invited her to lunch at UMMC, where she met with Mosley and learned about The Mind Center's work and goals. "I would not have any of them live through the anxiety, confusion and loneliness of this disease," she said of the couple's children and other relatives who are at risk.

"That is why I wanted to do what I could to stop dementia from ravaging our family, and families like ours," Robbie Hughes said.

"The Hughes' gift demonstrates tremendous philanthropic leadership that can inspire others to give to The MIND Center, thus speeding the ability to research and treat Alzheimer's and other dementias," said Susan Hollandsworth, senior major gift officer with the UMMC Office of Development.

The MIND Center's research includes the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Neurocognitive Study, one of the largest and most comprehensive investigations ever undertaken to attempt to identify mid-life risk factors for late life cognitive decline and dementia.

"I have toured The Mind Center, and everything about it is special," Hughes said. "Every little nuance of research brings us that much closer to the elusive cure."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Susan Hollandsworth, (601) 815-7469 or [shollandsworth@umc.edu](mailto:shollandsworth@umc.edu)

## Aflac Supports UMMC Center for Obesity Research



J. Dave Butler, Sarah Nelson and Dr. James Keeton

The supplemental insurance company Aflac is supporting the work of UMMC's Mississippi Center for Obesity Research through a \$500,000 donation to support Dr. John E. Hall, MCOR director, in building a team of basic, clinical and population scientists specializing in obesity, diabetes and related research.

Mississippi Aflac sales coordinator J. Dave Butler presented the gift to Dr. James Keeton, vice chancellor for health affairs, during a Nov. 22 ceremony and included a second gift: a necktie patterned with the company's signature duck.

"We owe a major debt of gratitude to our friends at Aflac for this generous commitment," Keeton said. "It's clear Aflac's executives understand the disease burden and the economic toll that obesity is having – and will continue to have – on Mississippi and our nation."

"It is through the support of partners like Aflac that we'll be successful in our goal of addressing the obesity crisis."

Founded at UMMC in 2010, MCOR seeks to unravel the complex web of hows and whys surrounding obesity and its connections to other diseases, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke and hypertension.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Susan Hollandsworth, (601) 815-7469 or [shollandsworth@umc.edu](mailto:shollandsworth@umc.edu)

## New Chair Honors Work of Dr. Paul Parker



Dr. James Keeton, Dr. Neelesh Tipnis and Dr. Paul Parker

In the midst of a raging spring storm, colleagues, friends and family braved the elements to stand by professor emeritus Dr. Paul Parker at the announcement of completed funding for the Paul H. Parker Chair of Pediatric Gastroenterology, a position endowed to enhance research and clinical care in pediatric gastroenterology.

Parker, a University of Mississippi School of Medicine graduate who began the pediatric gastroenterology program in 1981, is still shocked by the tribute.

"I never even in my wildest dreams imagined that I would have a chair named after me," Parker said.

The chair will be held within the Department of Pediatrics and is only the third funded chair in the department, following the Suzan B. Thames Professor and Chair of Pediatrics and the D. Jeanette Pullen Professor and Chair of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology.

Dr. Rick Barr, the Thames professor and chair of pediatrics, said having endowed chairs helps raise the profile of the entire institution.

"It signals a real commitment to excellence from the institution," he said.

The first holder of the chair is Dr. Neelesh Tipnis, division chief and associate professor of pediatric gastroenterology. Prior to joining the Medical Center, he was associate professor of pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition at the University of California in San Diego, Calif., practicing in UC San Diego's affiliated hospital, Rady Children's Hospital.

Tipnis said he is honored to be named chair. "The endowed chair recognizes the importance of Dr. Parker's commitment to improve the lives of children in Mississippi," he said. "I am excited to continue this mission in Dr. Parker's name as the institution builds a dynamic and far-reaching pediatric gastroenterology program."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Travis Bradburn, (601) 984-2107 or [tbradburn@umc.edu](mailto:tbradburn@umc.edu)



## Drs. Ed and Margie Lancaster Smith Create Scholarship



Dr. LouAnn Woodward, Drs. Margie and Ed Smith, and Dr. James Keeton

As a new employee of the state Health Department Laboratory, then located behind the Old Capitol in Jackson, Margie Lancaster Smith kept up with construction of UMMC's School of Medicine just blocks away on North State Street.

She resolved she'd one day work at the new facility, and six months later, in January 1956, she landed a job as a research assistant in the new Department of Medicine.

Fast forward to 1969, when Lancaster Smith graduated from the School of Medicine, completed an internship and residency in neurology and commenced a long career at the Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield. Her ties to UMMC remain strong, as they do for her husband Ed Smith, a retired pathologist who graduated from the School of Medicine in 1959 and worked in physiology with acclaimed physician and researcher Dr. Arthur Guyton.

The couple's devotion is exemplified through their creation of the Drs. Edward E. and Margie Lancaster Smith School of Medicine Scholarship Endowment. The first scholarship will be awarded in 2015 to a student ranking in the top 10 percent of the entering first-year class, covering about 55 percent of the recipient's tuition. The scholarship is renewable based on satisfactory academic performance.

"With the current year's tuition costing medical students roughly \$25,000, this is a major gift and will change the lives of some of Mississippi's best and brightest future physicians," said Natalie Hutto, UMMC Office of Development director of gift planning.

She'd dreamed of medical school, but as one of four children, dollars were in short supply. "I was talking to the head of the Department of Biochemistry one day, and he asked me why I wasn't going to medical school," Lancaster Smith said.

She had completed a master's degree in 1965. "I told him I didn't think they would accept someone at my age. He advised me to apply," she said.

She enrolled the following fall, completing her residency at UMMC and becoming a staff physician at the State Hospital. "I loved working at Whitfield. We had all kinds of neurological diseases."

The Hinds County couple created the endowment to give back to a school that was so good to them. Their gift of coins and a stock transfer also provides a tax benefit. Both gifts saved the Smiths on capital gains tax.

"I have been helped by so many people at the university," Lancaster Smith said. "They admitted me to medical school when I didn't think they would. Everyone encouraged me. Now, I want to help someone else."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Natalie Hutto, (601) 984-2306 or [nhutto@umc.edu](mailto:nhutto@umc.edu)

## Hollingsworth Scholarships Expand



The late Dr. Jefferson Hollingsworth

Scholarship programs established in memory of the late Jackson heart surgeon Dr. Jefferson Hollingsworth continue to thrive, enabling UMMC to educate doctors and nurses who provide premier patient care.

The Ridgeland-based nonprofit Medical Support and Development Organization Inc. is stepping up its annual Dr. Jefferson Hollingsworth Scholarship Award, given annually to two nursing students. Each scholarship is valued at \$3,000.

The nonprofit is also growing the Dr. Jefferson Hollingsworth School of Medicine Scholarship endowment benefitting UMMC medical students. The endowment has a fair market value of more than \$100,000.

"My late husband, Dr. Jeff Hollingsworth, cared deeply for the university and understood the importance of nursing in the medical profession. These scholarships are a most appropriate way to create a memorial for him," said Jan Griffin Farrington, a 1965 Ole Miss graduate.

"UMMC provides excellent medical education, as well as excellent medical care for our state. This plays a vital role in attracting business and industry to our state."

Medical Support and Development Organization Inc. was until recently led by Farrington. She has handed over executive director duties to her daughter, Jennifer Clark.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Travis Bradburn, (601) 984-2107 or [tbradburn@umc.edu](mailto:tbradburn@umc.edu)

## Tharps Honor Hutton With Dental Hygiene Scholarship

Dr. Gregory E. Tharp's dental patients fell in love with Catherine Hutton almost from the moment they met her.

Characterized by Tharp as "smart as a whip, efficient, diligent and very personable," Hutton joined Tharp's practice in Flowood immediately after receiving her dental hygiene degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in May 2002.

Patient care was foremost with Hutton, a Tchula native who made an indelible impression on everyone around her. But at 27 years of age, "Cat" was diagnosed with Stage IV Adenocystic carcinoma of the liver. After a valiant year-long battle, she died on May 12, 2008.

"I accompanied her through all the stages of dying," said Tharp. "The grace, faith and dignity of Cat and her family affected me deeply. My faith was at first shaken, then reaffirmed mightily by this journey."

Tharp's wife, Karen, decided to start a scholarship in Hutton's honor. The Tharps set up a fund, and on Nov. 18, 2013, the Catherine Anna Hutton Memorial Endowment was established.

Recipients of the academic scholarship must be actively seeking an undergraduate degree in dental hygiene with a minimum 3.5 grade point average; possess high moral character; emulate the kindness, compassion and leadership skills of Catherine Hutton; and be a U.S. citizen and resident of Mississippi.

Recipients will be selected by a scholarship selection committee comprised of dental hygiene program faculty, staff and the donor or his designee in perpetuity.

For Tharp, the endowment represents the qualities that made Hutton a "wonderful young lady."

"She deserves this, and it's a great way to give back and reward other young people who share those traits that made Cat who she is," he said.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Sheila Henderson, (601) 815-3302 or [sahenderson@umc.edu](mailto:sahenderson@umc.edu)



Sam Hutton, father of the late Catherine Hutton, and Dr. Gregory Tharp

## Keeton Continues Fondren Tradition, Gives Back



Dr. Bill Keeton

Dr. Bill Keeton's family name and legacy are intimately linked to the history of Jackson and the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

His grandfather, D. F. Fondren, gave a rejuvenated Jackson community its name.

His cousin, Dr. James Keeton, is the vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine at UMMC, where the two Keetons earned medical degrees within a year of each other on the Fondren campus; both attended the University of Mississippi.

But Bill Keeton, who has lived in the Atlanta area for more than four decades, recently strengthened that connection by establishing with his wife the Dee and Bill Keeton, M.D., Scholarship Endowment.

"I had always wanted to do something for the university. It seemed like the time to do it," said Keeton, a trained anesthesiologist now working in pain management. "It's an incredible place. It's where my heart is."

A portion of the endowment will go, each year, to at least one deserving medical student with financial need. Keeton hopes each recipient might someday pay it forward.

"The idea is, 'Someone helped me, now I want to try to help someone in return,'" Keeton said.

Keeton is also generously donating proceeds from his book, *A Boy Called Combustion*, to the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children.

"Dr. Keeton cares about the students who represent the future of health care in Mississippi and his support of our children's hospital is truly altruistic," said Sara Merrick, executive director and chief development officer, UMMC Office of Development. "He's a great guy and a compelling storyteller. People line up to chat with him at his book signings."

"He's one of those rare individuals who, in a short time, can make you feel like you've known him for years. We're so glad he's part of UMMC's philanthropic community."

Keeton's memoir, subtitled *Growing Up in 1940s Mississippi*, is an account of his mischievous, Tom Sawyer-like adventures during boyhood. It is also a limited, but vivid, history of Fondren.

*Combustion* was named the co-winner of the regional (South) Bronze Medal for non-fiction by the 2014 Independent Publisher Book Awards. Keeton returned home for book signings earlier this year – not far from the former site of his boyhood home and Fondren Grocery, the store run by his grandfather.

Keeton's childhood antics often got him into trouble, but his natural curiosity has been a plus during his adulthood, he said.

"Certainly, it has served me well as an intern, resident and practitioner."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Sara Merrick, (601) 984-2302 or [smerrick@umc.edu](mailto:smerrick@umc.edu)

## Burkett Leaves Planned Gift for Mississippi Children



Mary Burkett

Centenarian Mary Burkett has a passion for daylilies. She has one of those gardens people drive long distances to see and counts gardening as her favorite hobby. Her other hobby – real estate – has grown a garden of a different variety, one that will help thousands of sick and injured children at Batson Children's Hospital.

Burkett is leaving the bulk of her estate, sprouted from wise real estate investments, to the children's hospital. The Hattiesburg resident has never stepped foot in Batson and with no children of her own and no relatives who've been treated there, she has no personal story of triumph or tragedy that framed her choice to include Batson in her will. Her reasons for doing so were far more simple. She loves children.

"I feel like somebody has to take care of them because they cannot take care of themselves," said Burkett. "I want them to get the best of care."

"Ms. Burkett is a truly beautiful person, and it is clear her life has been dedicated to bringing beauty, joy, and most of all hope to others," said Dr. Rick Barr, Suzan B. Thames Professor and Chair of Pediatrics. "With this gift, she is now committed to bringing hope to children."

Burkett encountered Batson for the first time through a letter sent to donors from Batson's Children's Miracle Network Hospitals program. Each time she received a letter, Burkett would reply with a small donation.

This went on for nearly seven years until one day, Burkett enclosed a handwritten letter to Barr, who co-signs the letters with hospital chief executive officer, Guy Giesecke.

"I almost fell out of my chair when I read Mary's letter, especially the last paragraph," Barr said. "It was similar to other letters I receive in that it outlined her personal connection to child health issues and her dedication to research in her career, but that last paragraph, that was really special."

That last paragraph explained that Batson would receive a significant portion of her estate.

The declaration, worthy of some fanfare, was done in Burkett's typical matter-of-fact fashion.

"I try to follow a Christian faith and I feel like if you're in a position to help somebody and if it doesn't hurt you, then do it."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Natalie Hutto, (601) 984-2306 or [nhutto@umc.edu](mailto:nhutto@umc.edu)

## Premiere of 'The Book of Manning' Raises \$100,000 for Batson Children's Hospital



Archie Manning in Oxford

Hundreds gathered Sept. 6, 2013, to honor Archie and Olivia Manning and their family's generosity to the University of Mississippi. Opened with a reception at Brandt-Memory House and followed with a red-carpet entry to the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts for a premiere screening of ESPN's documentary "The Book of Manning," the event raised \$100,000 for the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children, a cause to which the Manning family is quite devoted.

"I'm honored and flattered that Ole Miss wanted to make an event out of this," said Archie Manning, joined by several members of his family and many former Ole Miss teammates. "I'm excited that the benefactor will be Batson Children's Hospital in Jackson, which is part of the University Medical Center. It's going to raise a lot of money for them and help the sick children of Mississippi get well and get home."

Earlier in the day, Ole Miss Director of Athletics Ross Bjork announced the naming of the Olivia and Archie Manning Athletics Performance Center.

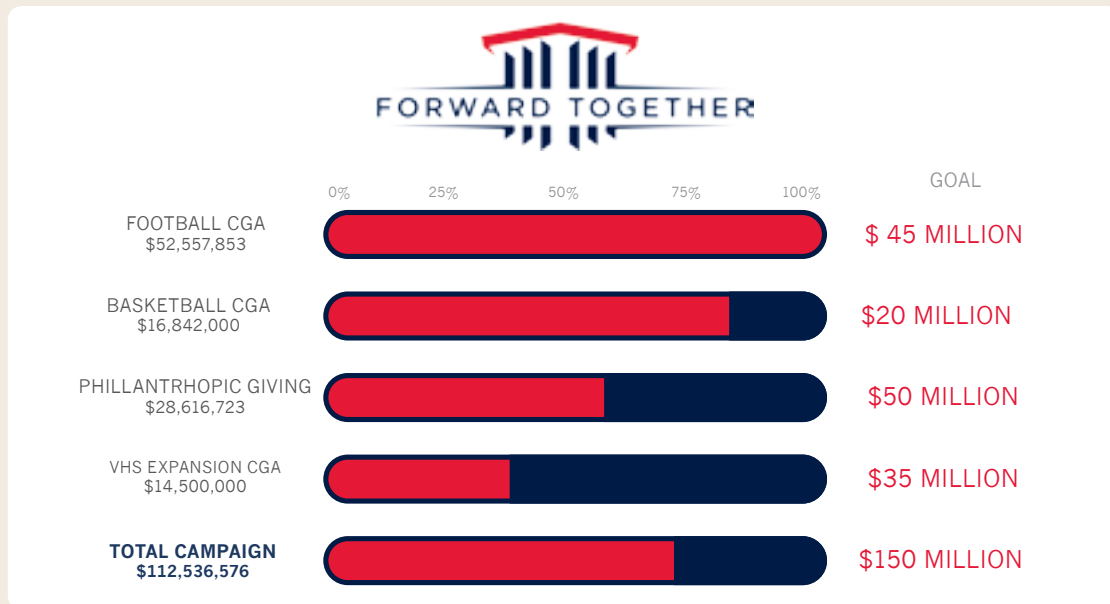
"The names Olivia and Archie Manning will remind our athletes for generations to come of the values that represent the best of Ole Miss," said Chancellor Dan Jones. "Olivia and Archie will be a daily inspiration to each of them."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Travis Bradburn, (601) 984-2107 or [tbradburn@umc.edu](mailto:tbradburn@umc.edu)



# Forward Together Campaign Reaches \$112 Million

## Campaign Continues Positive Momentum



Adding to some major summer sports achievements – the Rebel baseball team competing in the College World Series and Sam Kendricks earning a second-straight NCAA pole vaulting title – the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation announced reaching \$112 million in cash and pledges toward the Forward Together Campaign’s \$150 million goal.

“Reaching \$112 million marks an exciting milestone for Ole Miss athletics,” said Ross Bjork, Ole Miss athletics director. “Our goal throughout this campaign has been to provide our student-athletes the best opportunities to perform, give our coaches the best chances to teach and recruit, and to give our fans the best atmosphere where they can root on their teams and have the most enjoyable experience possible.”

Perhaps the biggest sign of progress is the ongoing construction of the new multi-purpose arena and parking garage west of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium. Fans can view the construction via a live video feed online at [ForwardTogetherRebels.com](http://ForwardTogetherRebels.com).

“We’ve worked so hard to get to this point, and we still have \$38 million left to reach our goal, but this is a big day for all of us,” said Keith Carter, Ole Miss Athletics Foundation executive director. “We have shovels in the ground and there’s visual progress for all to see. With the help of our generous donors, we’ve raised over \$30 million in the last year, and we’d love to do that

again this year, if not more, and reach our goal.”

The new arena, set to open December 2015, will have a seating capacity of 9,500 and offer first-class amenities. It will include intimate student seating bringing them closer to the action, plus three club lounges and over 1,500 premium seats.

“Since our campaign entered the building phase, we have raised another \$15 million and renamed the Indoor Practice Facility the Olivia and Archie Manning Athletics Performance Center and completed the entire scope of the center,” Bjork said.

Upgrades to the Manning Center included a full kitchen and dining hall open to every student, faculty and staff member. The facility also provides a nutrition center for student-athletes.

The Roland and Sheryl Burns Team Meeting Room was constructed on the north end of the facility. Doubling the capacity of the previous team room, it seats approximately 200 and is outfitted with state-of-the-art audio/video equipment and coaching software. Adjacent is a new head coach’s office, putting all staff on the same level in the renovated coaching suite.

A new entry and recruiting room pays tribute to Ben Williams and James Reed, Ole Miss’ first two African-American football student-athletes. The Williams-Reed Football Foyer celebrates the rich tradition of Rebel football with interactive exhibits and memorable images

from the program’s history.

On the east side of the Manning Center, the weight room was expanded; on the west side, the locker room was overhauled to include new player lounges and renamed the Van Devender Family Foundation Locker Room.

“The Manning Center additions and renovations are among the best in the country; it was our goal to build a first-class facility,” Bjork said. “Now, we can use this energy to capture the next phase of the Forward Together Campaign, helping us reach our goal of \$150 million. The reality of the campaign is evident in our extensive construction throughout the athletics complex. We will continue to work hard to bring our goals and objectives to fruition.”

Ole Miss continues to develop final plans for the north end zone of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium and the expansion that will increase overall capacity, create an impressive north entry and develop exterior consistency with the rest of the stadium. It will also include additional premium seating, both clubs and suites.

“We are doing everything in our power to expedite the process and expand our football stadium,” Bjork said. “Our goal remains the same – to create an impressive front door for Ole Miss athletics and enhance the game day experience for our fans and student-athletes.”

**MAKE A GIFT:** (662) 915-7159 or [Givetoathletics.com](http://Givetoathletics.com)

**OLE MISS REBELS: MUSIC CITY BOWL CHAMPS****Ole Miss Dedicates Tuohy Basketball Center**

Leigh Anne and Sean Tuohy

Thanks to extraordinary gifts from Sean and Leigh Anne Tuohy of Memphis, Tenn., Ole Miss Athletics has renamed the Basketball Practice Facility the Tuohy Basketball Center.

The 51,000-square-foot facility is considered one of the top collegiate basketball practice facilities and serves both the Ole Miss men's and women's basketball teams.

"Ole Miss is eternally grateful to Sean and Leigh Anne for contributions, and now generations of student-athletes will know the values that represent the Tuohy family," Athletics Director Ross Bjork said.

"Leigh Anne and I were blessed to experience the life lessons afforded to student-athletes," said Sean Tuohy. "Our hope is that the legacy left with the Tuohy Basketball Center will continue to teach those lessons. Nothing would make us prouder than when a future little Rebel walks across campus with his Dad and asks what is a Tuohy? His father will reply a Tuohy is a proud member of the

Ole Miss family that, when given opportunity, gives not only with a happy heart and loving spirit but with the expectation that the next generation will rise to the challenge and aspire to make the same difference."

Tuohy, who played for the Rebels from 1979-82, is the SEC all-time assists leader with 830, and his 260 assists as a sophomore are an SEC single-season record. An Ole Miss Athletics Hall of Fame member, Tuohy earned All-SEC honors three times and guided Ole Miss to three consecutive postseason appearances for the first time in school history.

"Sean Tuohy's latest assist is his best one yet," men's head coach Andy Kennedy said. "We will take great pride in preparing to compete for championships in the Tuohy Basketball Center."

"We're honored that the Tuohys have added to the Ole Miss basketball legacy," said women's head coach Matt Insell. "I couldn't be prouder that our staff and players will be able to work and practice in a building named after a family who have provided so much for our university."

After his career at Ole Miss, Tuohy founded RGT Management, Inc. A franchisee with Yum Brands, Tuohy's company owns and operates over 90 restaurants. He also serves as a TV analyst for the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies.

Sean and Leigh Anne, an interior designer and motivational speaker, are the proud parents of one daughter, Collins, and two sons, Michael Oher and Sean Jr.

"If you had told me when I was attending Ole Miss that one day a building would bear the Tuohy name, I would have told you it would have to be due to graffiti and someone please call the Physical Plant for cleanup. In all seriousness, it has been a pleasure working with Ross and (OMAF Executive Director) Keith (Carter) on this endeavor. Leigh Anne, Collins, Michael, SJ and I want to thank the Ole Miss family for always having our backs, being there for us and believing in us."

**MAKE A GIFT:** (662) 915-7159 or [Givetoathletics.com](http://Givetoathletics.com)

**Realtree's Jordan Supports Vaught Society**

Bill Jordan and family

When Bill Jordan visited Ole Miss as a blue chip wide-receiver recruit in 1968, Archie Manning's fiery arm and notable completion rate impressed him. But the avid outdoorsman wasn't sold until he ventured to Sardis Reservoir, a premier hunting and fishing spot located just outside of Oxford.

After lettering for the Rebels and graduating in 1973, Jordan returned home to Columbus, Ga., where he became the creator and owner of Realtree, a leading camouflage manufacturing company. He also serves as host of the company's TV series, "Realtree Outdoors."

His success has allowed him to give back to Ole Miss, the school he says influenced his life in a big way. His generous donation to the Vaught Society marked the second contribution Jordan and his family have made to UM.

"The contributions help me give back to a school that gave me a lot," said Jordan. "All the intangibles of Ole Miss helped mold me into who I am."

Jordan's relationship with Ole Miss grew this year when his son Tyler enrolled as a student. Jordan said Tyler grew up going to Ole Miss games and having him in Oxford makes it an extra special place for their family.

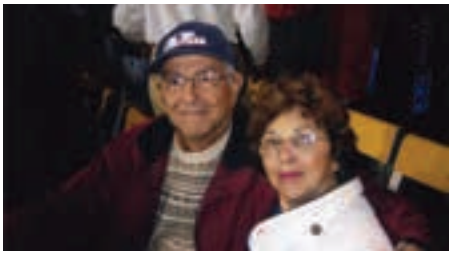
Jordan said he thinks the Rebels will continue to see more athletic successes and hopes his contributions will assist the athletic program in its upward campaign.

"It's an exciting time for Ole Miss. Rome wasn't built in a day and our athletic program is no different – it's going to be a growing process," said Jordan. "I'm just happy my family and I can be a part of it in some small way."

**MAKE A GIFT:** (662) 915-7159 or [Givetoathletics.com](http://Givetoathletics.com)



## Recognizing Mattingly Family Tradition



Thomas and Barbara Mattingly

The late Thomas J. Mattingly and his wife, Barbara, raised their three children – Olivia, Mitchell and David – in Marion, Ark. While their address read Arkansas, the family's heart pumped Ole Miss through its veins.

When it came time for the kids to go to college, the choice to attend the University of Mississippi was a no-brainer. After Thomas J. started his company, Metro Logics, in 1980, each of the children joined him within the company's first 10 years.

After Thomas J. passed away, the family gathered to find a way to honor him.

"Immediately after my father started his company, he started making donations to Ole Miss," Mitchell Mattingly said. "Two years prior to his death he donated to the building of the indoor practice facility. We decided we would like to finish what my father started and make another donation and do something that would be enduring."

Imagine their pride now that the Ole Miss football equipment room bears the name of the Mattingly family. Mattingly's children say it is a surreal experience to reflect on their childhood and now see their father's name at the Olivia and Archie Manning Athletic Performance Center.

"When they first built the skyboxes (at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium), my dad was among the first people to get a skybox," Mitchell said. "We kept that skybox until my father passed away."

"You can enjoy a skybox like we did for 20-something years, but when you turn it back in there's nothing to say that Dad was ever there. We made the decision to take that investment and rather than put it in a skybox, put it into something that would last forever."

Ole Miss football has always been a part of the Mattingly family, but now it is also a way to remember the man they call their leader.

"My father was our leader in life," Mitchell said. "That's what good fathers do. It was important to him and therefore it was important to us. That passion for Ole Miss football is something my father started and you can't just take it out. You love who you love. It's that simple."

**MAKE A GIFT:** (662) 915-7159 or [Givetoathletics.com](http://Givetoathletics.com)

## FedEx Student-Athlete Academic Support Center is Making the Grade



Coach Mike Bianco and Rebel baseball graduates Jeremy Massie, Aaron Greenwood, Will Allen and Austin Blunt

The stars of the Rebel athletics programs are University of Mississippi students first and foremost.

Thanks to the FedEx Student-Athlete Academic Support Center, student-athletes can be as successful in the classroom as they are in competition.

About 45 percent of the university's 376 student-athletes earn a 3.0 cumulative GPA or better every semester.

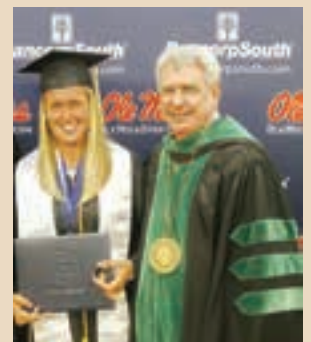
At least 26 achieve a perfect 4.0.

Ole Miss has more than 60 graduating athletes each year, achieving a 75 percent graduation rate or better over the past three years. The Rebel football program is tied with Alabama among all SEC schools for highest number of graduates playing on the field this season.

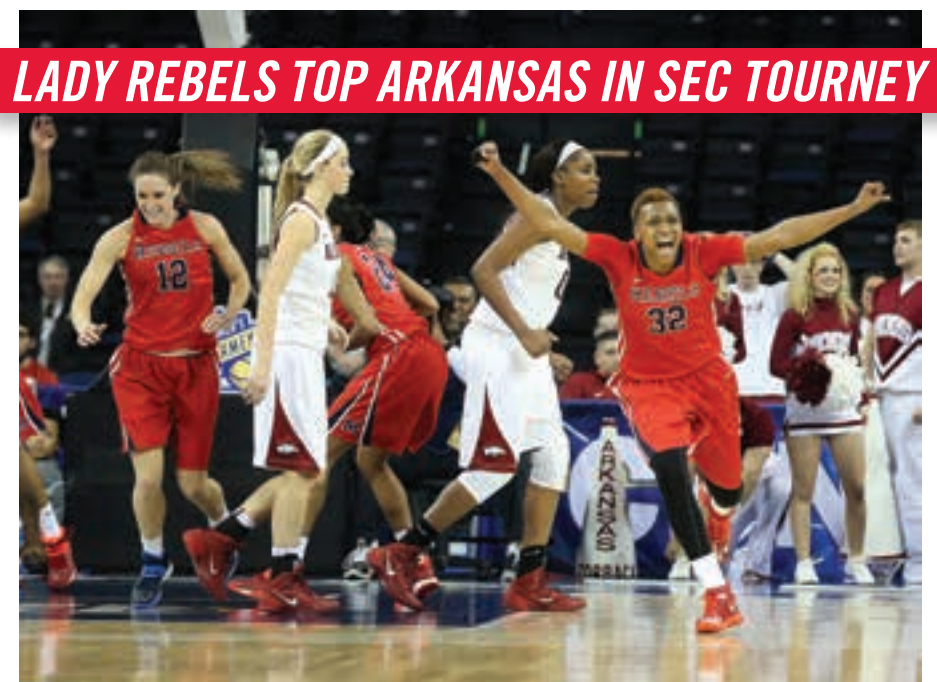
The academic success of student-athletes is a major priority, said Derek Cowherd, UM senior associate athletics director for academic support.

For help with balancing athletic commitments and academic coursework, student-athletes can turn to the success center.

"The demands that we put on these young men and women are significant," said Ronald Rychlak, professor of law, Faculty Athletics Representative and chairman of the Athletics Committee. "FedEx provides tutoring, study hall supervision, class attendance monitoring and some of the most important guidance that these students will ever have."



Caroline Rohde-Moe, Rebel tennis player, earned a Taylor Medal, UM's highest academic honor.



## LADY REBELS TOP ARKANSAS IN SEC TOURNEY

## Van Devenders Share Special Moment with Mannings

Billy Van Devender and members of the Archie Manning family have made significant contributions to the Forward Together campaign. In thanks, Ole Miss Athletics renamed the Indoor Practice Facility the Olivia and Archie Manning Athletics Performance Center, and on its west side, instated the Van Devender Family Foundation Locker Room.

Both families were gathered for the dedication.

"It was very emotional," said Van Devender, Manning's college teammate and roommate. "My wife, Mollie, my children and I were there. Archie and Olivia did not know that it was going to be named after them. They walked in the room, and there were a lot of moist eyes. Everybody was emotionally charged. They were very appreciative; it's a great tribute to them."

A three-year letterman at the "Monster Man" position from 1968 to 1970, Van Devender graduated with an undergraduate degree in civil engineering. He received a master's degree in business administration in 1973 from Southern Methodist University and then joined the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

After four years with the CIA, Van Devender moved back to

Mississippi to begin a career in oil and gas, followed by investments in real estate development and forest products. His family now primarily deals in timber management and lumber manufacturing.

The Ole Miss chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame honored Van Devender with its Distinguished American Award in November 2013.

"I was not a great football player," said the Jackson, Miss. resident. "But I enjoyed it, and it taught me about discipline, hard work and perseverance. Those are the keys, I believe, to being successful. I want to instill those things in our student-athletes and be an example for those who participate in athletics and graduate from Ole Miss."

Van Devender and Manning enjoy a longtime friendship that began as Ole Miss freshmen. Van Devender was Manning's best man in his wedding, and he and Mollie have attended several games over the collegiate and professional careers of Cooper, Peyton and Eli Manning, including all four Super Bowls.

**MAKE A GIFT:** (662) 915-7159 or [Givetoathletics.com](http://Givetoathletics.com)



Billy and Mollie Van Devender and Archie and Olivia Manning with their families



**SAM KENDRICKS WINS  
U.S. POLE VAULT TITLE**

## DIAMOND REBS ADVANCE TO WORLD SERIES





## Olivia and Archie Manning Honored



The Manning Center dedication on Friday, April 4, 2014, in Oxford, Miss.

In honor of their extraordinary contributions to the University of Mississippi, Ole Miss Athletics named the newly renovated Indoor Practice Facility the Olivia and Archie Manning Athletics Performance Center.

The renovation and expansion was made possible by gifts to the Forward Together Campaign. The Manning family and the family of Billy Van Devender made significant contributions to the campaign in order to honor Olivia and Archie Manning in this special way.

"Archie and I want to thank Chancellor Dan Jones and the entire Ole Miss administration," Olivia Manning said. "We want to express

our appreciation to Ross Bjork and everyone in the athletic department. Archie and Billy Van Devender have been best friends for 47 years. We are so grateful to his family and our children for their role in making this possible.

"Archie and I feel that having our name on this beautiful facility is the greatest honor we have ever had. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

"One of my favorite quotes in a time like this is, 'a university's greatest treasure is its names.' Today we recognize the association of the university with great Ole Miss names," Jones said. "The families represented here today are being recognized because they demonstrated and committed their love for the University of Mississippi."



Head coach Billy Chadwick retires after 31 seasons leading the Rebels' tennis program. Chadwick was named SEC coach of the year three times, national coach of the year in 2009 and inducted into the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Hall of Fame in 2014.

## Kirk Enjoys Longtime Ties to Rebel Nation, Ole Miss Experience

Bob Kirk's grandfather played football and baseball at the University of Mississippi nearly a century ago, and his uncle Ken Kirk was a co-captain of the 1959 national championship team. Continuing the family tradition, Bob Kirk played for the Rebels from 1973 through 1976, lettering in his last year.

The Destin, Fla., resident has now been a season ticketholder for baseball, basketball and football for 35 years, and his latest gift to the Vaught Society has put him over the \$1 million mark for lifetime contributions.

"Ever since I was a child, a big part of my joy in life has been Ole Miss," Kirk said. "I'll never be able to repay the experiences, pleasures and friendships I've been given from my Ole Miss experience, and I feel like I owe something back. I got my diploma, but (alumnus) Frank Everett was right, 'One never graduates from Ole Miss.'"

Keith Carter, Ole Miss Athletics Foundation executive director, applauds Kirk for his longtime support.

"One of the keys to developing a high-level



Bob Kirk continues to provide exceptional private support to Ole Miss.

athletics program is private support," Carter said. "We are extremely grateful for Bob's remarkable commitment to the momentum our

programs are experiencing. Not only does he give of his resources but he also makes great efforts to be present at our events. He helped his uncle, the late Ken Kirk, direct a major planned gift to Ole Miss athletics. We are very fortunate to have the Kirks as part of the Ole Miss family."

"In my lifetime, I've never seen such a package of leadership at Ole Miss," Kirk said. "From the chancellor, to (Athletics Director) Ross Bjork and the coaches, the future is as bright as it's ever been. The facilities upgrades are amazing. Our fans are totally behind our teams. What student-athlete wouldn't want to come here? I wish I still had some eligibility myself," Kirk said laughing.

Kirk believes now is the best time to invest in Ole Miss.

"If we all get together, with the leadership we have now, the sky is the limit," Kirk said.

**MAKE A GIFT:** (662) 915-7159 or [Givetoathletics.com](http://Givetoathletics.com)

## Fants Endow Chair of English, Acknowledge McAlexander



Harper Fant, Hubert McAlexander, and Ruff and Susan Fant

Much like chess pieces moving around a game board, Ruff Fant and Hubert McAlexander have been in and around each other's lives since they were boys. In fact, it was the game of chess that bonded their friendship.

"We were both kind of intellectual little boys and I think that intellect was one of the bonds between us," McAlexander said of their childhood in Holly Springs, Miss. They've been close friends ever since.

Close enough that Fant and his wife, Susan, now of Washington, D.C., made a \$1.5 million gift to the University of Mississippi, establishing the Hubert H. McAlexander Chair of English.

"I was just flabbergasted when I learned

about that!" McAlexander said.

Fant says he wanted the chair established not only to honor McAlexander, but also to serve as a tribute to his friend's teaching and writing.

"His career should be an inspiration to all students," Fant said. "I also wanted to honor, indirectly, Hubert's many friends at Ole Miss and in Oxford. I truly believe that Hubert and his generation were Ole Miss' great generation."

Fant is founder and chairman of TowPath Partners, a Washington, D.C.-based specialty finance company that invests in mature renewable energy projects. A practicing attorney for more than 30 years, Fant was a partner in the Washington office of Sidley & Austin from 1984 until 1995. From 1969 until 1984, Fant was an associate and then a partner in the D.C. law firm Cohen & Uretz. He served as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center.

Chancellor Dan Jones applauds the Fants and McAlexander for their contributions.

"We are profoundly grateful for the devotion and generosity of Susan and Ruff Fant. They obviously gave great thought to creating a meaningful tribute to Hubert McAlexander. Their significant gift honors

his lifelong teaching and writing career, while also strengthening a university they all love," Jones said.

When the endowment matures, the McAlexander Chair of English will be filled through a nationwide search. The Fants' gift will enable the UM English department to recruit an esteemed senior scholar.

"It's very expensive to hire a senior faculty member with a national reputation," said Ivo Kamps, chair of English. "We therefore typically hire at the assistant professor level, which is less expensive, and which is fine, but it takes about 14 years before a new hire reaches the rank of full professor."

McAlexander is professor emeritus of English at the University of Georgia. Also a celebrated author, he attracted widespread praise for biographies of authors Peter Taylor and Sherwood Bonner.

McAlexander would like to see the chair filled by someone with a genuine interest in students. "I wanted them (students) to think and draw their own conclusions, not just repeat what some critic has decided."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu)

## Avent Brothers Devote Scholarships to Mother



The late Louise Avent

Louise Avent, UM's first female accountancy graduate in 1947, successful family business owner and spirited ambassador for Ole Miss and Oxford, is being honored by her sons, Tom Avent of Atlanta and Murray Avent of Oxford, through a \$250,000 commitment to endow four annual accountancy scholarships.

"My mother ran the family business and took care of her boys – my father, my brother and myself – but she was also a brilliant student," said Tom Avent, Southeast partner in charge of mergers and acquisitions-tax at Big Four accounting firm KPMG LLP. "I remember asking why she didn't go work for one of the Big Eight accounting firms. To my surprise, she explained that the Big Eight firms at that time didn't hire women, so she started her professional career keeping books for a large steamship company in New Orleans and served as a Spanish interpreter."

Murray Avent says his mother had a "missionary zeal" about Ole Miss and Oxford. The university's alma mater was performed at her graveside services in 2004.

"Mother believed an Ole Miss education was as good as any in this great nation. She truly believed that with an Ole Miss education and a work ethic you could accomplish anything. This endowment will serve to validate that heartfelt belief on her part."

Louise Avent served on numerous state and local boards and was active among civic organizations. Also an avid Rebels fan, she was an early member of the Quarterback Club, rallying others to join. She attended games faithfully in all sports. She also proudly witnessed her sons earn five degrees from UM.

"Louise Avent was an extraordinary Ole Miss alumna," said Mark Wilder, dean of the Patterson School of Accountancy. "We are deeply grateful for this scholarship endowment, which will help our school recruit top students and continually strengthen our nationally ranked programs. We are thrilled to have the Avent name associated with the Patterson School."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Brooke Barnes, (662) 915-1993 or [bbarnes1@olemiss.edu](mailto:bbarnes1@olemiss.edu)

## Award Benefits Pharmacy Students, Remembers Classmate



The late Amie Ewing

Nearly 10 years after University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy student Amie Ewing was killed, a scholarship is honoring her legacy.

The Amie Ewing Memorial Scholarship Endowment awards \$1,000 per academic year to pharmacy students exhibiting traits she exemplified.

"Amie was a remarkable young lady who would have been an excellent pharmacist," said Marvin Wilson, associate dean emeritus of academic and student affairs.

Ewing died in 2004 after being struck by a car following a night game at Vaught-Hemingway stadium.

Established in 2005, the scholarship is predominantly funded by pharmacy license plate sales in Mississippi. Ewing's classmate, Beau Cox, was a driving force behind creation of both the tags and the scholarship.

"I found out that the tag would have to be placed in a bill and passed by the Legislature, so I called Rep. Bobby Howell (Kilmichael, Miss.) and asked him if he would help me with the process," Cox said. "It hit me that we could set up a scholarship to be funded by tag sales in Amie's memory."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Raina McClure, (662) 915-6967 or [rmclure@olemiss.edu](mailto:rmclure@olemiss.edu)



## Attorney and Professor Charles Walker Honored



Tim Noss, George and Annie Haymans, Charles and Mary Walker, and Dr. Bob Robinson

helped him purchase his first house. Haymans received a Juris Doctor degree from UM in 2006, the same year his future bride, Annie Powers, received an undergraduate degree in psychology.

"Everything I do has something to do with real estate, whether it is consulting with developers or rezoning work," George Haymans said. "I'll always appreciate those who helped me find my path as I was starting out."

"Students comment that Charles was one of their favorite instructors due to his enthusiasm and storytelling to illustrate a point," said Ken Cyree, dean of business administration and the Frank R. Day and Mississippi Bankers Association Chair of Banking.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Tim Noss, (662) 915-5932 or [tnoss@olemiss.edu](mailto:tnoss@olemiss.edu)

A stickler for grammar, a lover of clever songwriting and a "natural explainer," Charles Walker taught business law and real estate law courses in the UM School of Business Administration and the Patterson School of Accountancy for 38 years while practicing real estate law in Oxford.

George and Annie Haymans of Oxford, Miss., two Ole Miss alumni who have been influenced by Walker, established the Charles H. Walker Real Estate Scholarship Endowment.

George Haymans earned a bachelor's degree in English in 2001 and met Walker in 2003, when Walker

## New Fund for Charles Reagan Wilson



Charles Reagan Wilson's contributions are being honored with the creation of a graduate student support fund.

Charles Reagan Wilson covered topics from Hank Aaron to zydeco as co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, and now his final chapter at Ole Miss is complete. After 33 years as a professor, Wilson, the Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Chair and Professor of History and Southern Studies, retired in May.

The Charles Reagan Wilson Graduate Student Support Fund was created to provide financial support for graduate students in history and southern studies.

Wilson directed the Southern Studies academic program from 1991 to 1998 and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture (CSSC) from 1998 to 2007. As CSSC director, Wilson helped establish the Southern Foodways Alliance and the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation. In 2010 he was given the Distinguished Research and Creative Achievement Award.

"For more than 30 years, Charles has helped students develop research and writing strategies," said Ted Ownby, CSSC director. "I'm not sure anyone knows the true number of how many times Charles has served on master's thesis, Ph.D. dissertation, Honors College thesis and internship committees, but the number is extraordinary. He has directed and encouraged all sorts of different research, held high standards for student writing, and more importantly, dealt with student scholars as whole human beings who deserve respect."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Nikki Neely, (662) 915-6678 or [nneely@olemiss.edu](mailto:nneely@olemiss.edu)

## New Scholarships Reward Top Scouts



Bryce and Brant Akins with their father and scoutmaster, Sean Akins

Ole Miss is courting Eagle Scouts and Gold Award winners, the top two leadership levels in Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of America.

"These outstanding young men and women are exactly the kind of students we want at the University of Mississippi," Chancellor Dan Jones said. "Less than five percent of all Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts achieve these honors, and the ones who do demonstrate remarkable commitment both to the values of their respective organizations and to setting and achieving worthy goals."

Honorees are eligible for a \$6,000 scholarship.

When Ole Miss honors Scouts, it "says a lot about Scouting, and it says a whole lot about the university," said Sean Akins, scoutmaster of Troop 38 in Ripley, Miss., and father of Ripley High scouts Brant and Bryce Akins.

## Three Ole Miss Rebels Live On



Family and Kappa Alpha fraternity members continue building a scholarship fund to memorialize Sam Clayton Kelly, Walker Kelly and Mason Wilbanks.

Almost three years after a tragic car accident led to the deaths of three UM freshmen, the legacy of Sam Clayton Kelly, Walker Kelly and Mason Wilbanks continues.

"All three boys loved Ole Miss and everything about it," said Sam Kelly, father of Sam Clayton. "They were always smiling and upbeat – something we could all learn," said Kelly.

Kappa Alpha Order, with help of the young men's family and friends, raised over \$150,000 in their names. The Charles Walker Kelly, Samuel Clayton Kelly, and Bryant Mason Wilbanks Memorial Scholarship is annually awarded to a deserving member of KA.

Harrison Bryant, a senior accountancy major from Madison, was the 2013 recipient.

Bryant is among his family's sixth generation to attend UM. "My younger sister, Emily, is also here at Ole Miss, and having two kids in college is a lot for one family, so I'm grateful to have been chosen for the scholarship."

Organizers plan to grow the fund to award three scholarships annually, one in each boy's name.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Sandra Guest, (662) 915-5208 or [sguest@olemiss.edu](mailto:sguest@olemiss.edu)

## ExxonMobil Executive Gives Back



Alumnus Albert Hilliard

When it comes to supporting the University of Mississippi School of Engineering, Albert Hilliard goes all out.

The projects execution manager for ExxonMobil Upstream IT Division, Hilliard manages 120 IT project managers. He donates a private gift annually (getting a triple match from ExxonMobil), networks with other alumni, advises undergraduates on career opportunities and assists with job searches.

"Being from rural Mississippi, Dr. (Tobin) Maginnis helped me understand the unimaginable possibilities of computer technology by presenting real-world problems to solve," said the Hernando, Miss., native, who earned a bachelor's degree in computer science 31 years ago. "It was great seeing a young African-American engineering professor in the classroom at Ole Miss"

Hilliard has a master's degree in computer science from the University of Dayton and an EMBA from Baylor University. His wife, Harriet, earned a bachelor's degree from Ole Miss and a M.D. from the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Hilliard is "successful, generous, professional, yet personable and, most of all, dedicated to maintaining excellence in the educational programs at the institution that gave him his start," said Kevin Gardner, the school's development officer.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Kevin Gardner, (662) 915-7601 or [kevin@olemiss.edu](mailto:kevin@olemiss.edu)

## Scholarship Pays Tribute to Hale



Lenette Ivy, Gloria Kellum, Sue Hale, and Margaret Johnson gather as Hale is honored with a scholarship in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Sue T. Hale, former president of the 167,000-member American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and an Ole Miss alumna, is seeing her legacy expand.

The Sue T. Hale Scholarship Fund, created by former students, colleagues and her family, will assist students in the UM Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Hale, a UM faculty member for 24 years, is

now associate professor and director of clinical education in the Vanderbilt School of Medicine's Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences.

"As I approach the end of my career and look back at so many wonderful and gratifying opportunities, I would say that having a scholarship in my name at the institution I love so much is the highest honor I could ever receive," Hale said.

Margaret Johnson, one of Hale's former students, headed up the scholarship initiative. Johnson is department chair and associate professor of the Speech Language Pathology Program at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

"She has invested her life in helping others and, in particular, helping students find their way in communication sciences and disorders," Johnson said.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Michael Upton, (662) 915-3027 or [mupton@olemiss.edu](mailto:mupton@olemiss.edu)

## Elsherbeni Establishes Endowed Engineering Scholarship Fund



Professor Atef Elsherbeni

After 26 years of teaching and research at the University of Mississippi School of Engineering, Atef Elsherbeni continues to contribute to the educational pursuits of talented students.

With the creation of the Atef Z. Elsherbeni Electrical Engineering Doctoral Scholarship Fund, the retired associate dean is offering a 1:1 match for contributions made by alumni and colleagues. The endowment will assist full-time students who are Ph.D. candidates in the Department of Electrical Engineering.

Recipients must have passed the prospectus examination and must be pursuing electromagnetic research. The goal is for recipients to receive \$1,000 per year for a maximum of two years.

Elsherbeni made a significant national impact in the areas of electromagnetic waves, radar power, miniaturized antennas, radio frequency identification and personal communications systems. "The department was known for its electromagnetic research all over the

world," Elsherbeni said.

His "benevolence in creating this endowment expands his legacy for the benefit of future electrical engineering scholars," said Dean Alex Cheng.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Kevin Gardner, (662) 915-7601 or [kevin@olemiss.edu](mailto:kevin@olemiss.edu)



## New Faculty for Study of Foodways



Catarina Passidomo

Thanks to an endowment created by the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA), the Center for the Study of the Southern Culture, the College of Liberal Arts and generous gifts from individuals and foundations, cultural geographer Catarina Passidomo is joining the UM faculty. She will merge the study of food and society through a joint appointment in the departments of Southern studies and sociology and anthropology, teaching foodways courses to undergraduate and graduate students.

Since 2010, Passidomo has been an instructor of human geography and the geography of food at the University of Georgia. In addition to holding the joint appointments, Passidomo will work closely with the SFA.

"Since its inception in 1999, the SFA has pioneered documentary and public programming approaches to the field of foodways," said John T. Edge, the alliance's director. "With this hire, we aim to serve the next generation of students, excited by the prospects of foodways studies."

"It is an exciting and dynamic time to both study and engage with issues of food and society, and I am eager to work with the many creative and thoughtful individuals pursuing this work both in the university and throughout the region," Passidomo said.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Nikki Neely, (662) 915-6678 or [nlneely@olemiss.edu](mailto:nlneely@olemiss.edu)

## Professor Summers Invests in Graduate Students, Honors Reidy for Research



Chancellor Dan Jones, Dr. Don Summers and Dr. James Reidy

When professor Don Summers was an undergraduate, he knew he wanted a career in higher education. But he didn't want his work to be limited to research; he wanted to teach, as well.

His strong teaching legacy has now been expanded through his gift of \$175,000 to assist Ole Miss graduate students pursuing degrees in experimental particle physics. Summers has named the fund for James

J. Reidy, former chair and professor emeritus of physics and astronomy, whom he credits with bringing UM to the attention of the international scientific community.

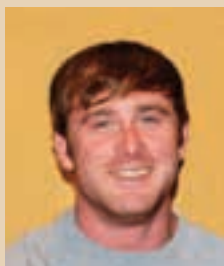
"I saw the opportunity to help with what I consider to be a real need – our graduate students – while also honoring Dr. Reidy, who started particle physics research here," Summers said. "We have to provide more support to our graduate students so they do not have to work full time while they are pursuing important research. Funding for higher education is more challenging these days, and at the same time science teachers are scarce in many parts of the country. I saw this gift as a way to make a real contribution to address both needs."

Summers was recruited to Ole Miss in 1989, becoming a full professor in 2002. Reidy, a close research colleague of Summers', says when he learned the new fund paid tribute to him he was "flabbergasted."

"I really couldn't imagine having a scholarship named in my honor. This certainly ranks as the greatest honor I have received at Ole Miss, and I am deeply grateful to Dr. Summers for his thoughtfulness and generosity," he said.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu)

## Paying Tribute to the Life of Ryan Malone



The late Ryan Malone

Ryan Malone's life was defined by his great love of people and his calling to help others with health and physical issues.

The University of Mississippi graduate student majoring in kinesiology was only 24 when he died in September 2012, but his passions and dedication will live on through the lives he touched and now through two new funds created by his parents Phil Malone, retired UM chair and associate professor of finance, and Charlotte Malone, a retired teacher with the Oxford Public School System.

Created to provide scholarships for students majoring in exercise science, the Ryan P. Malone Memorial Endowment has been established by the Malones with a planned gift of \$1.25 million. The annual income from the endowed funds, which will be held permanently, can also be used to support student activities and programs.

In addition, the Malones have created the Ryan P. Malone Graduate Assistantship and a Senior Achievement Award Fund by committing gifts to provide financial assistance each year to a student pursuing a graduate degree in kinesiology or related field in the department of exercise science. Furthermore, a \$1,000 annual award will go to an outstanding senior exercise science major with plans to pursue a graduate degree in the same field. Initial recipients of the inaugural assistantship and senior award will be selected this spring.

John Garner, interim chair of the Department of Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management in the School of Applied Sciences, taught Malone in both undergraduate and graduate classes and described him as a model student.

"The Malones' gifts are a fitting way to remember Ryan because he loved Ole Miss and loved this program. Their support represents the largest, single private contribution ever designated for this department, and it will make a tremendous difference in the future. The graduate assistantships and senior awards funded by the Malones will provide a tangible way for rewarding students for a job well done," Garner said.

Phil Malone said when his only child graduated from Oxford High School he tried to get him to look at other universities as a means of comparison. "Ryan wouldn't hear of it. It was World War III, and I lost the war. He was a fun kid with overly conservative parents. He loved being with his friends, and he loved Oxford and Ole Miss."

The Malones have also have committed a major planned gift to the Department of Finance in the School of Business Administration, designated for faculty support and non-scholarship support of student activities.

UM Chancellor Dan Jones said Ryan Malone will always be a part of the university.

"Ryan will live on in the Ole Miss family, and his spirit will be felt across our campus, where he literally grew up. He enjoyed a lifelong relationship with this university, and we are grateful he chose Ole Miss for his college home," said Jones. "We thank Charlotte and Phil Malone for paying tribute to their son's life by assuring other students will have meaningful opportunities."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Michael Upton, (662) 915-3027 or [mupton@olemiss.edu](mailto:mupton@olemiss.edu)

## SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Everett-Williams Memorial Scholarship



Logan Wilson and Davelin Woodard are the 2012-2016 recipients of the Everett-Williams Memorial Scholarship, one of UM's most prestigious four-year scholarships.

Thanks to the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Everett of Meridian, Miss., Logan Wilson and Davelin Woodard are attending their top choice school, the University of Mississippi.

Wilson is the proud product of North Forrest High School in Hattiesburg, Miss. An Honors College student, Wilson is pre-med.

"Ole Miss was easily my first choice – but I needed more financial assistance to make it happen. I was set to attend a different school because of its scholarship package, even though I didn't feel it was right for me. When I was offered the Everett-Williams scholarship, I knew the right things were finally taking shape."

Davelin Woodard of Oxford, Miss., graduated top of her class from Water Valley High School. A heavily involved student, Woodard was captain of her cheerleading squad and active in many clubs.

"Since I was old enough to think about college, Ole Miss has been my preference," said Woodard. "Every time I visited campus I knew I wanted to be part of this family."

While proud of her choice, Woodard's family crunched the numbers for tuition, housing and books. When word came she had received the prestigious scholarship, they were thrilled.

"I was so excited – to put it lightly," said Woodard. "Initially, Everett-Williams was just a name and a dollar amount. But when I learned the back-story of the scholarship, met the donor's family and learned I was one of the first recipients, those factors made this scholarship even more special. I will forever be grateful."

Woodard has chosen a challenging path toward becoming a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu)

## Anonymous Gift Provides Competitive Edge



Chris Presley with Polished Brass scholarship recipients

Honoring Chris Presley, drum major from 2010-2012, an anonymous gift of \$100,000 has been presented to the UM Pride of the South Marching Band.

Presley is a Batesville, Miss., native and 2012 UM graduate. He was also an Ole Miss Women's Council Scholar, a 2011-2012 Campus Favorite, Marcus Guinn Spirit Award recipient and Chancellor's Honor Roll honoree.

"I am grateful for being a member of the Pride of the South Marching Band as it gave me the opportunity to develop as a true leader on campus," said Presley, pursuing a master's in higher education and student affairs administration at the University of South Carolina.

"At Ole Miss, I was part of a family of 300 who shared our love for playing music. As drum major, I was able to achieve my goal of more positive recognition and respect for our band from students, faculty, administrators and alumni."

This new scholarship fund creates eight \$3,000 scholarships awarded for four years. It has allowed David Willson, director of bands, to recruit freshmen or transfer students from Mississippi who excel at the trumpet, trombone, baritone or tuba and exhibit strong leadership qualities.

"We hope this will motivate others to help us endow scholarships to maintain a strong margin of excellence against our peer institutions," Willson said.

The UM Band is currently the largest in its history. The first recipients are Brandon Boyd, McComb; David Cuevas, Pass Christian; Charles Keveryn, Ridgeland; Donnie McGee, Oxford; Matthew Moore, Fulton; Sarah Nichols, Amory; Matthew Recker, Olive Branch; and Keajir Sparks, Southaven.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Ron Wilson, (662) 915-1755 or [jrwilso3@olemiss.edu](mailto:jrwilso3@olemiss.edu)

## Initiative to Increase Jere Hoar Scholarships, Matching Gift Offered



Professor Jere Hoar

Retired journalism professor Jere Hoar's former students, who several years ago created a scholarship in his honor, are launching an initiative that will record history and make history.

Alumni and friends are invited to log onto a dedicated link on the University of Mississippi Foundation website to share their memories of the professor. If the goal of increasing the endowment by \$100,000 is met, an anonymous donor has pledged another \$100,000 to make the fund among the largest in UM's Meek School of Journalism and New Media.

The career of Curtis Wilkie, a senior fellow at the UM Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics, began with Hoar. He shares a confession about arriving late for class: "As I handed over my papers, Dr. Hoar had the look of a man confronted with an unpleasant odor," he said.

Wilkie failed the class, the same class he now teaches in the Meek School – and he tells students about it on their first day every semester. "The story demonstrates Jere Hoar's strong commitment to the highest standards," Wilkie said. "It taught me a valuable lesson about meeting deadlines as a newspaper reporter."

Students who receive the Jere Hoar Scholarship in Journalism will be selected from journalism majors who are also members of UM's Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. As a perpetual endowment, the scholarships will be based on the fund's annual earnings.

A Tennessee native, Hoar continues to live and work in Oxford, where he writes short stories and novels. He says he's as happy about students who "chose to do good work in small places" as he is those who have had more notable careers.

The "tell your story" portal can be found at [www.umfoundation.com/jerehoar](http://www.umfoundation.com/jerehoar).

**MAKE A GIFT:** John Festervand, (662) 915-1757 or [jfesterv@olemiss.edu](mailto:jfesterv@olemiss.edu)



## Premier Scholarships Go to Stamps Scholars



UM's inaugural group of Stamps Scholars

Six freshmen have the distinction of being the first University of Mississippi students to benefit from one of the nation's top scholarship programs, thanks to Ole Miss' new partnership with the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation.

Valued between \$98,000 and \$138,000 each, the Penelope W. and E. Roe Stamps IV Leadership Scholarships at Ole Miss become the most comprehensive, full scholarship packages for in-state and out-of-state students. Each package covers the cost of attendance, along with a \$12,000 stipend for unique educational pursuits, including study abroad, research and academic conferences.

The 2013 recipients are Madeleine Achgill of Indianapolis, Ind., Benjamin Carter Branson of Madison, Miss., Kathryn Elsa James of Mandeville, La., Kathryn Louise Prendergast of Luling, La., Dylan James Ritter of Somerset, N.J., and Eloise Wright Tyner of Oxford, Miss.

Their ACT scores range from 33 to a perfect 36 and grade-point averages from 3.8 to 4.0. All have impressive records in leadership and service.

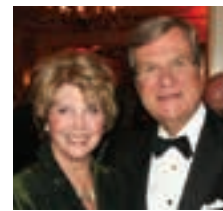
"These six freshmen are among the most gifted students in the country, and each of them had many options for next steps in their education," UM Chancellor Dan Jones said.

"I have no doubt they will have a profound impact on our community as Ole Miss students. I look forward to following each of them through their educational careers and can't wait to see how they make a difference in our world as future leaders."

"I am forever grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Stamps for believing in me," Achgill said. "I feel that the Stamps Scholarship has opened so many doors for me. I can now feel free to explore more of the opportunities the world has to offer. I'm already looking into research and service projects I can do over the next four years."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Michael C. Ward, (662) 915-1758 or [mcward@olemiss.edu](mailto:mcward@olemiss.edu)

## Lotts Expand Scholarship, Offer Leadership Lessons



Patricia and former Sen. Trent Lott

Leadership is not just about elected office, says former U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, who with his wife Patricia are helping UM undergraduates seek meaningful careers

in medicine, law, education and governance by way of a public policy leadership education.

The couple is expanding the Patricia Thompson Lott Scholarship Endowment in UM's Lott Leadership Institute (LLI) with recent gifts totaling \$200,000. Established in 2005 with gifts from friends and colleagues, the endowment has exceeded \$1 million and granted 55 scholarships.

Sarah Robinson of Pelahatchie, Miss., 2013 graduate, said the Lott Scholarship was a determining factor in her college decision. "My twin sister attended Mississippi State, so my decision to attend Ole Miss made me a 'Rebel' in more ways than one. The Lott Institute, particularly the Lott Scholarship, was the main reason I chose Ole Miss.

"Without the Lott Scholarship I would not have been afforded many of the opportunities that impacted my future," Robinson added. "I was able to devote my summers to personal and professional development, studying abroad in South Africa and interning in Washington, D.C. These experiences served as a springboard for my career. The Lott Institute and Patricia Lott Scholarship are forging leaders in our state at a time when leadership is critical."

Chancellor Dan Jones recognizes the Lotts' impact for both students and the university. "Because of their generosity and foresight, the Lott Leadership Institute will continue to produce leaders in government, healthcare, education and beyond. LLI has, in less than ten years, become a cornerstone program at UM and one of the top in its field, no doubt highly due to these scholarships."

The Lotts have contributed \$500,000 to the endowment since 2010. "When I retired, we decided to focus our contributions to make the greatest impact," said Sen. Lott. "When you look our students' resumes and track their progress – law degrees, Fulbright scholarships and more – they are going to have a tremendous impact in the future on our country."

**MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu)

## Capertons' Gift Exemplary of Their Faith and Service



Chancellor Dan Jones, Cape and Barbara Caperton, and Debbie Vaughn

Winston "Cape" and Barbara Caperton of Warrenton, Va., have dedicated additional funds to the Barbara Caperton Ole Miss Women's Council Scholarship (OMWC) Endowment.

"We never dreamed we'd be able to do something like this, as we aren't people of wealth," said Cape Caperton. "But we made a nice investment and had a good estate planner through United Services Automobile Association, my former employer, and they've provided matching gifts to the endowment as well."

Cape Caperton graduated from a class of only 14 from Noxapater High School in 1946. After attending Hinds Community College, he transferred to UM and borrowed \$1,000 to put himself through school. Graduating in 1950, he entered the Air Force and met Barbara, a nursing student at Trinity University from Mercedes, Texas.

"Working your way through school is not like it was when I did it," Cape Caperton said. "In honor of my wife, we indicated that we'd like it to go to a nursing student or a Noxapater graduate."

The Capertons were pleased to meet the first recipient, Mia Kloth of Greenville, Miss. "She's a lovely young lady and an excellent student," said Barbara Caperton. "It's so nice to put a person's face to something you believe in and have worked hard to do."

Chancellor Dan Jones thanked the Capertons during their visit. "When you give to scholarships, you're really giving to us two ways: You're helping us recruit fine students to the University of Mississippi, and those funds also help support our academic programs. It moves us forward."

First pledged in 2007, the Caperton scholarship provides tuition, books, and training in leadership skills, career development and personal growth through OMWC. Upon a recent visit, the Capertons took son and daughter-in-law Chris and Rebecca to see the plaque in the OMWC Rose Garden that bears Barbara's name.

"Cape never promised me a rose garden, but now I have my name in one," said Barbara Caperton.

**MAKE A GIFT:** Sarah Hollis, (662) 915-1584 or [shollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:shollis@olemiss.edu)



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# UM ALUMNI, FRIENDS COMMIT \$118 M

*Private support exceeds \$100 million mark for third straight year*

With \$118 million in private support, the University of Mississippi again experienced record fundraising, advancing academic, medical and healthcare, and athletics programs. Notable were increased faculty contributions, meeting a top UM priority.

"On the Oxford campus alone, our generous donors committed more than \$6 million for new named, endowed faculty positions – powerful recruitment and retention tools," said Chancellor Dan Jones. "With help from alumni and friends, our commitment to education and important research continues."

Increased faculty support is critical with fierce competition nationally for top professors. Over the next few years, more than 200 professors will be added to keep up with enrollment growth.

Gifts touched all areas of UM, including its Medical Center.

"This is a generous state and it's gratifying when people choose to help make a difference in the health of Mississippians," said Dr. James Keeton, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of medicine. "We rely on philanthropy from donors to give us that added margin of excellence, and I'm always humbled by their support."

UM Foundation CEO and President Wendell Weakley said, "Our donors want to give back to the place they love, and they clearly see the return on their investments compounding over time. The successful investment and management of these private

funds are due to countless hours of service by our alumni leaders to ensure our assets are in the most favorable, long-term position."

More than \$27.4 million in cash went to Ole Miss Athletics. The Vaught Society received \$6.7 million in cash gifts; another \$6.3 million came from Forward Together Capital Gift Agreements. The Forward Together campaign topped \$112 million, which includes \$32 million in new pledges for the fiscal year. The total campaign goal is \$150 million.

"This is an extraordinary demonstration of the generosity and commitment by the Ole Miss family," Ole Miss Athletics Director Ross Bjork said. "It remains our quest to provide student-athletes with a world-class experience. There are many victories and achievements yet to be fulfilled, but we cannot thank our donors enough as we move forward together."

## PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014

\$ 90.3	million cash and realized gifts
\$ 25.7	million new pledges receivable in future years
\$ 2	million in deferred and planned gifts

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**\$118 MILLION TOTAL PRIVATE SUPPORT**

