

A PUBLICATION OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION

# FOUNDATION NEWS



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## TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS

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### ACADEMICS

Bill Morrison.....	4	Joanna and Alex Harrelson .....	10
The Kelly Gene Cook Charitable Foundation .....	6	Susie and Roger Friou .....	11
Carolyn and Marion Smith .....	6	Carol and Bob Dorsey .....	12
John Stone .....	7	Viking Range .....	13
Morgan Freeman and Linda Keena .....	8	Ginger and Charles Clark .....	13
Renvy Pittman .....	9	Rhonda and Ralf Zapata .....	14
Matthew Murphy.....	9	T. Michael Glenn .....	14
Kate and John Green.....	10	The MS Public School Consortium.....	14

### UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

Kathy and Joe Sanderson .....	15	Century Club Charities .....	20
The Sarah Elizabeth Allison Foundation .....	16	Trustmark.....	21
The Madison Charitable Foundation.....	17	The Indian Association of Mississippi .....	21
The Bower Foundation.....	18	Community Bank and Ann and Thomas Colbert.....	22
Pat and Jim Coggin.....	19		

### OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Sandy and John Black.....	23	Bettye and Dick Hendrix.....	26
Craig Geno.....	24	Marty and Bill May.....	26
Steve Rowell.....	24	Lynne and Sam Millette.....	27
Evelyn and Jeff Johnson.....	25	Tricia and Tim Cantrell.....	28
Chris Bonner .....	25	Ray Waddell .....	28

### ACADEMICS

Robert C. Pozen .....	29	Dr. T. Lee Baumann .....	31
The CoStar Group.....	29	The Stamps Family Charitable Foundation.....	32
J. Walter Michel and Michael J. Chaney .....	29	Kappa Alpha.....	32
Sandy and Robert T. Jackson Sr.....	30	The Annexstad Family Foundation .....	33
Mary and Van Hedges .....	30	The Dr. and Mrs. R. Faser Triplett Foundation .....	35
Doug and Taylor MacEachern.....	30	Allyson and Paul Riser .....	35
Sara Myers Turner .....	31	Becky and Ed Meek.....	35

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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  /olemissgives
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**THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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### The University of Mississippi Foundation

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## MESSAGE FROM THE **CHANCELLOR**



UM CHANCELLOR  
**GLENN BOYCE**

In a year that has been like no other, I want to express my special thanks for your continued support, loyalty and commitment to Ole Miss. Your contributions make all the difference in our ability to deliver life-changing academics and enriching opportunities. As a result, we enable our students to fulfill their potential as well as field competitive athletic programs and engage in meaningful research and service that improves lives.

I'm extremely proud of how the Ole Miss family demonstrated tremendous resilience in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. We retained the sense of community that defines us. We're especially grateful for the hard work and steadfast efforts of so many committed faculty and staff, which allowed us to navigate this challenging period and maintain the stellar level of support for which we are well known.

We are fortunate to emerge from the worst of the pandemic on solid financial footing. Our endowment has grown to more than \$825 million, the largest for any Mississippi public university. In FY2021, our external research funding surpassed \$150 million, the highest total in nine years. We opened the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower at Children's of Mississippi with contributions received during our continuing drive to raise \$100 million. I'm so grateful to the UM Foundation Board of Directors for its leadership and to all those who generously support our efforts to maintain and expand our excellence!

Looking ahead, we're especially excited to resume in-person classes fully for Fall 2021 and return to pre-COVID-19 campus operations. It's cause for celebration to welcome the return of all members of our community while embracing the enthusiastic and charming campus atmosphere we all know and love.

Thank you again for all you do!

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## MESSAGE FROM THE **FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR**



FOUNDATION  
BOARD CHAIR  
**T. MICHAEL  
GLENN**

It is my hope that you enjoy the 2021 edition of Foundation News and are inspired, as I have been, by the gracious generosity of so many members of our University of Mississippi family. I continue to be encouraged by your outstanding support for our students, faculty, facilities and programs, especially during a season that has been so challenging for everyone. You have rallied behind our beloved Ole Miss and made the future brighter. Thank you.

My special gratitude is extended to Chancellor Glenn Boyce for his excellent leadership during an unprecedented year. His commitment to help our students reach their education goals while also ensuring a strict level of safety under Covid-19 protocols is highly commendable. We are fortunate to have him at the helm.

As you read through these pages, I hope you will join me in appreciating the many donors who contributed to our endowment and the UM Foundation Investment Committee for its guidance toward strong market performance. In particular, I draw your attention to Bill Morrison's magnanimous estate gift extended to our J.D. Williams Library – a legacy that will benefit our students for generations to come. Likewise, please be sure to note the voluminous outpouring of support for our Medical Center students and scholar-athletes.

The stories herein provide clear evidence that our donor base is strong and growing. With your support as its foundation, our university is firmly enabled to embrace excellence as it prepares our students to meet the challenges ahead and ultimately change the world for the better. On behalf of the UM Foundation, please accept my sincerest gratitude for your gifts.

I look forward to gathering together to celebrate our many future successes.

The University of Mississippi complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate against anyone protected by law because of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran.

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#### **BACK COVER GRAPHIC**

Kirsten Simpson



Bill Morrison (left) visits the Grand Canyon with his friend, David Smallbones.



Bill Morrison (right) and Ken Horton spent time together, visiting the many attractions of their home city, Atlanta, Georgia.



Friends say Bill Morrison was a fantastic cook and was perhaps never happier than when he hosted a party.

## Cultivating Knowledge

### *University of Mississippi Libraries to Receive Multimillion-Dollar Gift*

**R**alph Vance tries to talk about the late Bill Morrison’s generosity to the University of Mississippi, but the words catch in his throat.

“We’ve all been meeting and putting our heads together about how to do the right thing with this gift, but mostly we just keep saying, ‘Oh my god: the things we could do! Things we haven’t even thought about,’” said Vance, his eyes welling with tears. “I’m so thankful. It’s just spectacular.”

Vance is president of the Friends of the Library at Ole Miss, the support society for the University of Mississippi Libraries. The gift in question is a 7.2-acre undeveloped parcel of prime real estate in the heart of metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia, in the affluent and historic Brookhaven neighborhood – a picturesque area dotted with golf courses amid beautiful, old homes and tree-shaded streets.

Morrison, a 1970 College of Liberal Arts graduate who majored in English, sociology and anthropology, bequeathed the land to the University of Mississippi Libraries with the understanding that it would be sold for millions.

“The news of Bill Morrison’s generosity came to the Friends of the Library as a complete surprise. I was smiling for days!” said Sarah Frances Hardy, immediate past president of Friends. “What an incredible gift to all students of the university.

“Plus, because the gift is unrestricted, we are free to make decisions based on the current needs of our library. We are, quite frankly, overwhelmed and thrilled.”

Friends of the Library was planning a capital fundraising

campaign before the Morrison gift was announced, so many needs already identified can easily be met.

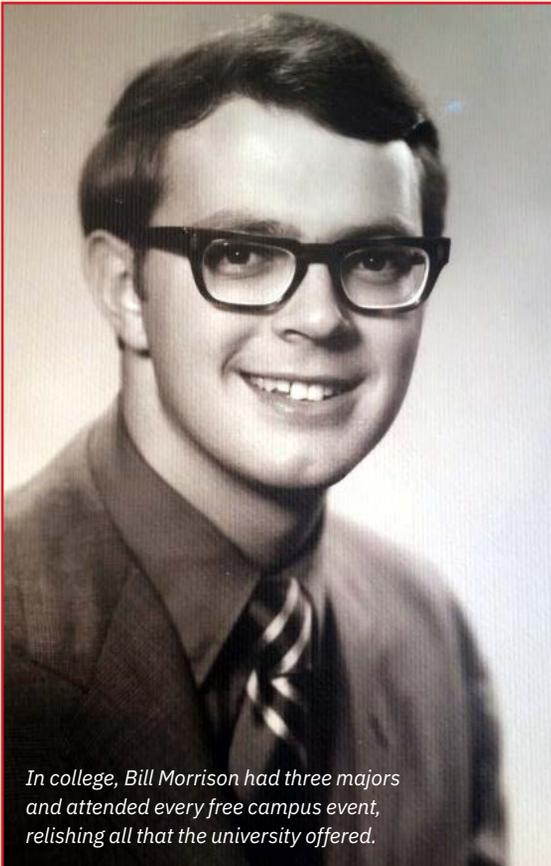
“Now we can update our wish list significantly and set our sights much higher,” Hardy said.

Among the many needs met by Morrison’s gift are:

- Procuring equipment for the IDEALab – a space dedicated to teaching students new technologies, preparing them to meet employers’ expectations in the workplace
- Funding for a university archivist to ensure UM history is properly preserved and organized
- The ability to enhance special collections with materials needed to help recruit and retain faculty members highly esteemed in their fields of study
- The process for digitizing and preserving both special and general collections, so more resources are accessible online
- The purchase of general research materials including online database subscriptions

“And we obviously want to honor Bill for this incredible gift,” said Wayne Drinkwater, vice president of Friends and chair of the organization’s upcoming campaign for which Morrison’s contribution will be the lead gift.

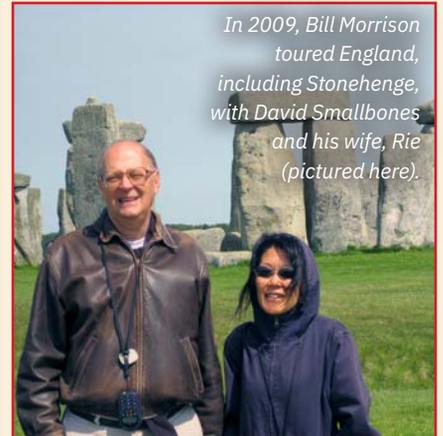
“This is not only the biggest thing that’s ever happened in the history of Friends of the Library by far. It is probably the biggest single thing that’s ever happened to our library itself,” he continued, adding that the gift will enable Library Dean Cecilia Botero to accomplish goals for which there were previously insufficient resources.



*In college, Bill Morrison had three majors and attended every free campus event, relishing all that the university offered.*



*Fascinated with travel, culture and new adventures, Bill Morrison explores Oxford, England. Here, he would have greatly appreciated the gardens.*



*In 2009, Bill Morrison toured England, including Stonehenge, with David Smallbones and his wife, Rie (pictured here).*



*A voracious reader, Bill Morrison's lifetime of learning would not have been complete without a trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, England, the birthplace of one his favorite writers, William Shakespeare.*

The library dean is ecstatic, sharing that the gift will significantly enhance the University of Mississippi Libraries and improve its function as a center for research.

“We are extraordinarily excited about the possibility this gift entails: increasing our informational offerings in support of both instruction and research and providing access to technology, both established and emerging,” Botero said.

“Libraries are the great equalizers and, as such, we strive to ensure greater access to resources of all kinds.”

It’s a fitting gift, friends and family say, because Morrison visited his local public library every day.

“Sometimes twice a day,” said Debbie Landers of Atlanta, Morrison’s friend of the past two years. “If he got bored, he would just go to the library. He would use the computer there and, of course, he went to read. He really loved the library in general and when it closed during the pandemic, he missed it terribly.”

Morrison read voraciously. His pastime was punctuated with books of all genres – fiction and non-fiction, Shakespeare and Faulkner, T.S. Eliot, classic poets and more.

“He read novels as well. And he liked some fairly obtuse things like Greek poets. In fact, he studied Greek for a while at Georgia State University so he could read things in the original,” said friend Ken Horton of Atlanta.

Even when the library was closed, Morrison would read at home, relaxing in a worn leather recliner surrounded by his own vast library of books.

“He took the whole living room and dining room and made bookcases ceiling to floor and filled them with books,” said Morrison’s sister and Ole Miss alumna Cindy Seibels of Montgomery, Alabama. “His places were always overrun with books. He was the most well-read person I’ve ever known and he could talk extensively on any subject.”

After college, Morrison returned to Atlanta to work with his parents at Morrison Flower Farm – located on the tract of land he left to Ole Miss – then the area’s leading supplier of bedding plants and more.

Perhaps feeling wanderlust even then, Morrison accepted a teaching job in Japan. After about seven years in Tokyo, he returned home to work with his parents and, when his father died, ran the business himself.

Morrison continued living on the property in the 1920s-style wooden house and died peacefully there at age 72 in April 2020, from undiagnosed heart disease.

Seibels believes her brother would have enjoyed knowing his gift will help current and future generations of students, as they cultivate their intellect and talents.

“He worked at the greenhouse, which was pretty much manual labor, but he would’ve been a great professor because his knowledge was so abundant,” she said. “He liked to see things grow, so I think he would like to know his gift is helping students’ minds grow through the expansion of knowledge.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Charlotte Parks, [cpparks@olemiss.edu](mailto:cpparks@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-3120.



## Cook Foundation Designates Major Gift to New STEM Building



*The Kelly Gene Cook Foundation treated its scholars to a lunch at Carrier House on the Oxford campus.*

The Kelly Gene Cook Charitable Foundation, a longtime supporter of the University of Mississippi, has pledged \$250,000 to the construction of a state-of-the-art facility on the Oxford campus dedicated to the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The Cook Foundation's commitment to STEM education will help provide laboratory facilities for students and faculty; one of the laboratories will be named for Kelly Gene Cook Sr.

The Jim and Thomas Duff Center for Science and Technology Innovation will house classrooms designed to facilitate active learning as well as chemistry, biology, physics, engineering and computer science labs.

"We believe this gift will bolster STEM literacy, advance active learning and promote curiosity and knowledge among STEM fields," said Deborah Rochelle, Kelly Gene Cook Charitable Foundation board president. "We further hope the funds will help meet the critical need to increase STEM graduates, contribute to world-changing scientific discoveries and transform teaching and learning in STEM."

The Cook Foundation also provides scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines. Additionally, the Ray S. Mikell Law Scholarship, established by the Cook Foundation, honors the late Kosciusko, Mississippi, attorney.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Charlotte Parks, [cpparks@olemiss.edu](mailto:cpparks@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-3120.

## Smiths' Love for the Humanities Inspires Gift to Liberal Arts

When UM alumni Carolyn and Marion Smith of Natchez, Mississippi, were briefed on the crucial call for funding to support academic infrastructure, they committed to establishing the Carolyn Vance Smith and William Marion Smith Endowment for Academic Excellence with a \$250,000 gift.

"We learned there is a great need for faculty support and wanted to support the programs and any academic needs the College of Liberal Arts might have and can be distributed through the discretion of the dean," said Marion Smith, an attorney at Truly, Smith & Latham PLLC in Natchez.

The Smith endowment will provide income to support any and all academic areas and opportunities in the College of Liberal Arts, which consists of 18 departments, 14 multidisciplinary programs and 17 institutes and centers within the discipline groupings of the fine and performing arts, the humanities, the natural sciences and mathematics, and the social sciences.

Both of the Smiths have taught at the college level.

Carolyn Smith said, "As we can see now, we live in an ever-changing world and professors need to keep abreast of what is new as well as have the means to continue their own education and keep learning."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Caroline Hourin, [cehourin@olemiss.edu](mailto:cehourin@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-3995.



*Carolyn and Marion Smith of Natchez, Mississippi, have established an academic support fund to help facilitate the continued recruitment and retention of top-tier faculty to the UM College of Liberal Arts.*



*(From left) Honorees Vaughn Grisham and John Winkle are pictured at the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College with Dean Doug Sullivan-Gonzalez.*

## UM Endowment Pays Tribute to Former Faculty Members

A \$100,000 gift to the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College (SMBHC), made by an Honors Program graduate who preferred to remain anonymous, establishes the Dr. Vaughn Grisham Experiential Learning Endowment while also naming an SMBHC study room in honor of John Winkle, professor emeritus of political science and affiliate faculty in the School of Law.

"Professor Grisham's classes are the basis for experiential-style learning, which I feel is important for the students," the donor said. "And Professor Winkle was pivotal in my academic career and the direction I took in my professional life."

Winkle said he greatly appreciates the designation: "I often list that I have been teaching in the Barksdale Honors College each year since it opened in 1998, so this honor is particularly special for me."

Grisham is professor emeritus of sociology and founding director of the McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement, housed on the university's Oxford campus. He taught more than 30,000 students in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and in the SMBHC before retiring in 2016.

"It is very, very gratifying to be recognized for my work in developing the experiential learning method at Ole Miss and it's especially heartening that this honor came from a graduate who felt that the Honors Program helped shape his future," he said.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Charlotte Parks, [cpparks@olemiss.edu](mailto:cpparks@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-3120.



## Computer Science Majors to Benefit from \$1M Gift to UM School of Engineering

*John Stone stands atop the front steps of his Germantown, Tennessee, home.*

In his 94 years, John Stone has witnessed the evolution of modern technology: from a time when families gathered for radio shows to today when dads, moms, brothers and sisters each stream a different show on their own devices.

The 1949 University of Mississippi graduate believes technology will continue to evolve, particularly with respect to computers, and he hopes his \$1 million gift to Ole Miss will help students become active pioneers in that progress.

The Tupelo, Mississippi, native established the John F. Stone Engineering Scholarship Endowment, which gives financial assistance to full-time computer science students from Lee County.

“I hope it will help someone from Mississippi receive a good education and do well in life and become a good tax-paying citizen,” Stone said, adding that he also hopes his gift will inspire others to give back.

“I had such pleasant times there. I just thought it was a good thing to do,” he said. “I’ve been lucky and just want to share a little bit. No big deal.”

Ole Miss Chancellor Glenn Boyce begs to differ.

“Mr. Stone’s generosity is a very big deal,” the chancellor said. “He recognizes that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are fields that are rapidly growing in importance to our nation and world.

“We are extremely grateful for his gift and for his desire to see our students use their education to become transformative innovators within those professions.”

In fact, the university is poised to bolster STEM education with its construction of the Jim and Thomas Duff Center for Science and Technology Innovation — a state-of-the-art facility that will house interactive class settings as well as chemistry,

biology, physics, engineering and computer science labs.

“There is a critical need to increase the number of computer scientists and engineers to support innovation and economic growth in our state, region and nation, and scholarships are critical for many students to pursue these life-changing career paths,” said Engineering Dean Dave Puleo.

“Mr. Stone’s gift comes at a most opportune time, and we are so thankful for Ole Miss alumni like him who want to invest in the future of our school.”

Stone enrolled at Ole Miss in 1944 because that’s where his buddies were going to college but attended only for the summer before joining the U.S. Navy.

Returning to Ole Miss in 1946, he graduated three years later with a degree in banking and finance. He then took a job in the Memphis, Tennessee, headquarters of Firestone, but ultimately landed at Boyle Investment Co., where he worked in residential mortgage for the next 50 years.

As his career progressed, he became interested in land development, working with contractors and builders to create new neighborhoods in and around Memphis. He now lives in The Vineyards, an upscale neighborhood in Germantown, Tennessee, and one of the properties he developed.

He and his late wife Elizabeth Anne “Tootsie” Haire have two daughters, Suzanne and Margaret, each of whom have two children.

Stone still plays golf several times a week at Chickasaw Country Club and drives to Florida once a year to play golf with a group of 40 to 60 friends.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Charlotte Parks, [cpparks@olemiss.edu](mailto:cpparks@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-3120.



## UM Receives \$1M to Study Evidence-Based Policing, Reform *Morgan Freeman, Ole Miss professor Linda Keena contribute gift to establish center*

**A**ctor Morgan Freeman and criminal justice and legal studies professor Linda Keena have donated \$1 million to establish the Center for Evidence-Based Policing and Reform at the University of Mississippi.

After months of planning with the Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies' leadership and other academic leaders, the two donors have set out to position the university as a pioneer in this field, preparing police and other officers of the law with specialized training to promote effective, positive responses.

"Look at the past year in our country – that sums it up," Freeman said. "It's time we are equipping police officers with training and ensuring 'law enforcement' is not defined only as a gun and a stick. Policing should be about that phrase 'To Serve' found on most law enforcement vehicles."

The center will be the only one of its kind at a Mississippi university and one of a few in the nation. UM leaders say they plan to build relationships and share data with policing agencies as well as use the data to enhance the preparation of students in criminal justice.

The Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies has established the center's roles, including training for police and other law enforcement in Mississippi and, as the center develops, around the country, using evidence-based practices for proactive responses. Other training will focus on how police can better engage citizens in crime prevention.

Training also will address improving community members' perceptions of and trust in police, as well as their willingness to call the police in time of need, said Wesley G. Jennings, chair of criminal justice and legal studies.

When asked if any one of the numerous accounts reported in the media about police encounters stand out to him, Freeman shook his head.

"All the stories are stuck in my mind," he said. "I often talk to police officers when I see them out and ask how they would do their work if they didn't have guns. Support of this center is about finding ways to help officers and arrive at solutions."

Likewise, events concern Keena, who believes "transformative and sustainable change" in policing can be achieved by providing better training covering more areas.

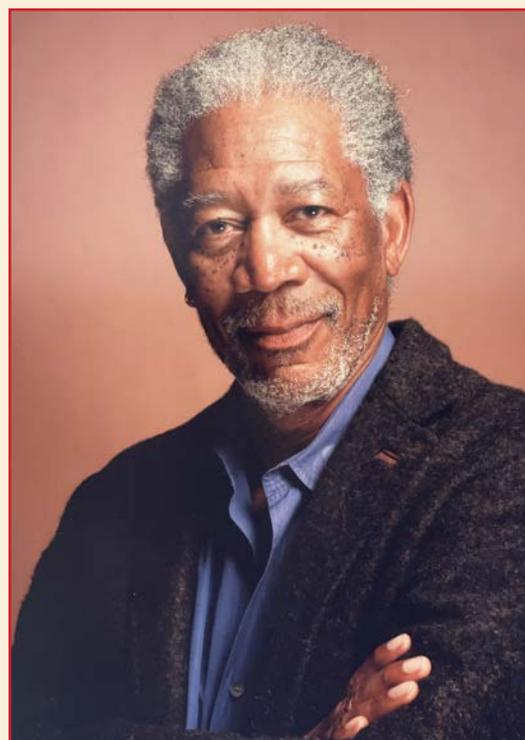
"The goal should be to give officers as many tools as possible to do their jobs more effectively," said Keena, an associate professor of criminal justice. "Our faculty will address critical issues inherently interwoven in the current and historic landscape of policing such as race, class, bias and lack of compassion.

"Requiring law enforcement only to be recertified in the use of their guns each year is not sufficient."

Leading the center will be Jennings, who was named the No. 1 criminologist in the world in a 2017 paper in the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*.

"Interest exists on all sides – police, citizens and policymakers – to see an infusion of evidence-based practices into policing," Jennings said. "While police relations with certain segments of the community have historically been tenuous and strained at times, the source of this mistrust and fear has never been more nationally and internationally recognized until recent, tragic events and the subsequent protests and movement to address social injustice."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Charlotte Parks, [cpparks@olemiss.edu](mailto:cpparks@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-3120.



## UM Alumna Continues Legacy of Giving to Grove Scholars Program

Renvy Pittman’s belief in the power of higher education is evident in her continued generosity to the Grove Scholars program at the University of Mississippi.

The 1977 Liberal Arts graduate’s recent \$100,000 gift to the program is the latest in her legacy of support, which now totals over \$900,000, including a 2019 gift of \$175,000 for the renovation of George Hall.

As the designated home for the FASTrack Learning Community and Grove Scholars on the Oxford campus, George Hall gives scholars and staff a place to spend time together.

“It’s a community,” said Pittman, a resident of Los Angeles, California. “Students need community to be successful in college. So Grove Scholars identifies these young people, brings them in and empowers them to unlock their potential and encourage each other.”

The program facilitates academic success and job placement among Mississippi residents seeking degrees in health professions or subjects related to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

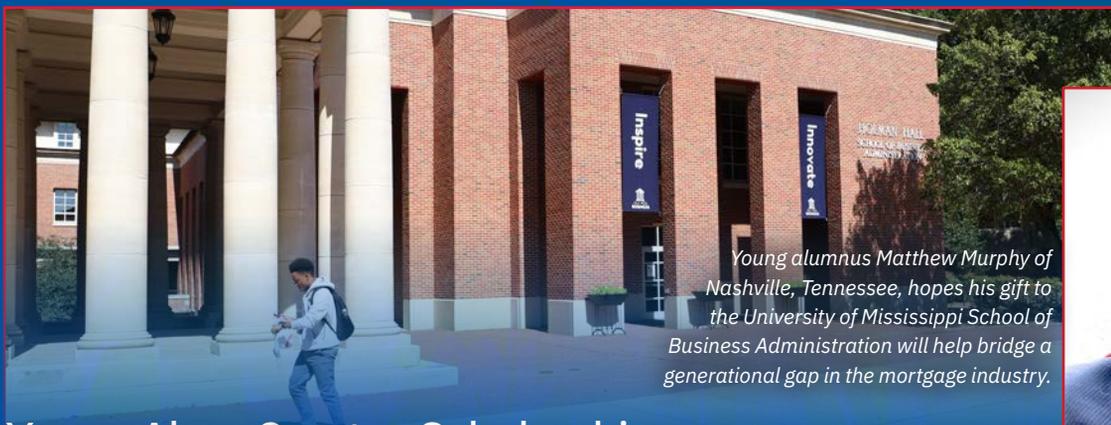


*Renvy Pittman enjoys visiting with “her” students whenever she’s on campus. In this 2018 photo, she chats with Jontae Warren (left) of Booneville, Mississippi, and Devante Yates of West Point, Mississippi. Both students have since earned their undergraduate degrees. Warren is pursuing a doctorate in pharmacy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center; Yates is at the University of Memphis working toward a career as a registered nurse.*

It’s a passion for Pittman.

“I would like to look back after 10 years and see these kids, who are then not children anymore at all, using their degrees in science, technology, engineering or math to make their communities in Mississippi a better place.”

• **MAKE A GIFT:** Charlotte Parks, [cpparks@olemiss.edu](mailto:cpparks@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-3120.



*Young alumnus Matthew Murphy of Nashville, Tennessee, hopes his gift to the University of Mississippi School of Business Administration will help bridge a generational gap in the mortgage industry.*



## Young Alum Creates Scholarship, Excellence Fund in Ole Miss Business School

University of Mississippi alumnus Matthew Murphy of Nashville, Tennessee, hopes his \$100,000 gift will encourage more students to study banking and bridge a generational gap he noticed in the mortgage industry.

The 2015 graduate’s gift will establish the Matthew C. Murphy Scholarship Fund and the Matthew C. Murphy Fund for Excellence in the School of Business Administration.

“Being able to give back so early after graduation and really establishing a firm relationship with the university was always at the top of my list,” said Murphy,

COO of the Commonwealth Group in Memphis, Tennessee.

“When I was analyzing the mortgage finance industry roughly six years ago and plotting a massive career change, I noticed an enormous age differential between executive management and the rest of the mortgage banking industry.

“This sparked my jump into mortgage banking, where the average age of a mortgage banker is roughly 58 to 60 years old. I realized very quickly that I could climb the executive business ladder, while bypassing the typical

corporate ranking structure and timeline required to obtain such status,” Murphy said.

At 29, he already has many of the industry’s top professional designations, crediting Ole Miss Business Dean Ken Cyree among other faculty for his success.

“It is very satisfying to me to see one of the students I taught giving back,” Cyree said. “I think it speaks volumes to Matthew’s dedication and appreciation for the education he received here.”

• **MAKE A GIFT:** Sally Rychlak, [sallyr@olemiss.edu](mailto:sallyr@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-3084.



## Greens' Gift Supports UM Public Policy Majors in Lott Leadership Institute

University of Mississippi alumni Kate and John Green, who've worked in some of the nation's highest political offices, hope a scholarship they established will give Mississippi students a similar experience.

The Kate and John Green Scholarship Endowment will support students majoring in public policy leadership through the Trent Lott Leadership Institute at Ole Miss.

"We decided now was the time to assist the Lott Institute. We have watched the program mature, expand and offer opportunity to so many future leaders," said John Green of Oxford, Mississippi, who serves on the Lott Institute's board.

Named in honor of distinguished UM alumna, former U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, the institute provides a wide range of programs that focus on enriching students' lives and abilities through education and leadership development, preparing them for government positions at the local, state and national levels.

In addition to their financial assistance, the Greens have supported the Lott Institute by helping to organize an educational experience in Washington, D.C., for rising high school seniors and by formalizing an intern program for two Lott students each semester.

John Green earned a bachelor's degree in general studies from Ole Miss, majoring in political science, English and business. In 1993, he began his career working in the U.S. Senate, managing policy and administrative matters for then Assistant Majority Leader Trent Lott — the eventual Senate Majority Leader.

There, he reconnected with his future wife. After graduating from Ole Miss in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in hospitality



*Members of the Green family are (from left) Mary Bea, John, Kate, Jack and Henry.*

management, Kate Green worked in Birmingham, Alabama, and Memphis, Tennessee, before moving to Washington in 1997 to work for Sen. Lott as an executive assistant. She later moved with Lott's team to the Capitol and ultimately worked for Vice President Dick Cheney.

The Greens said they designated their gift to the Lott Institute because they treasure their involvement in public policy and hope other Mississippi men and women will have similar experiences. The gift is also a tribute to their friend and former boss, Sen. Lott.

"Our hope is this gift will allow young men and women, who otherwise might not have the financial means, to experience Ole Miss and the Lott Institute," John Green said. "I struggled financially during my time at Ole Miss, so if we can ease the burden on others to some degree, we believe it's the right thing to do."

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

## Young Alumni 'Pay it Forward' with O'Haver Scholarship



*John O'Haver (center), a memorable professor, supportive mentor and good friend to Alex and Joanna Harrelson, celebrates the Harrelsons' graduation in 2013.*

By creating the Dr. John O'Haver Chemical Engineering Scholarship, two University of Mississippi graduates are expressing their appreciation to a beloved professor and the generous donors who provided the financial assistance they were given.

"Dr. O'Haver was an exceptional teacher for us, and he served as a mentor both when we were at Ole Miss and since we've left the university to begin our professional careers," Alex Harrelson said. "He is also a great friend."

"We were both tremendously blessed with scholarships provided by the generosity of Ole Miss alums and donors," Joanna Harrelson said. "We want to do what we can so that current and future students can receive similar blessings."

For O'Haver, having a scholarship established in his name is "truly humbling," he said. "I have never done my job for the recognition but for the students, and I'm thrilled that this scholarship will be there to help future generations of chemical engineering students long after anyone remembers who I am."

During their freshman year, the Harrelsons found themselves in the same study group, later became lab partners and then senior partners. In 2013, the same year they graduated, they became life partners and now live in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with their rescue dog, Archie Manning.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Greg Carter, [gjcarter@olemiss.edu](mailto:gjcarter@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-1849.

Roger and Susie Friou



## Friou Legacy Expands

### *Late alumnus directs \$1 million estate gift to Accountancy School*

**O**ne mother’s decision to send her son to the University of Mississippi launched a college experience that continues to transform the lives of students and the Patterson School of Accountancy – and that fruitful legacy is expanding.

The late Roger Friou of Ridgeland, Mississippi, was that son, and his estate has directed a \$1 million gift to two scholarship endowments he created years ago, representing another chapter in his relationship with his alma mater.

Friou might have attended another university, except his mother, Annie Belle H. Friou of Tupelo, Mississippi, sought the advice of a friend on the best accountancy program available for her only child. He, in turn, earned Ole Miss undergraduate and graduate degrees, played leadership roles in businesses, served on foundation boards and gave back through alumni service.

“Roger Friou has played a major role in the Patterson School’s growth and rise in prominence over many years,” said Mark Wilder, dean of accountancy. “He has provided strong leadership, personal resources and considerable time to our school.

“Over more than two decades, I have witnessed the tremendous impact

that the Friou Accountancy Scholarships have made on our program, enabling us to recruit the best and brightest to the university and to the Patterson School. These high-performing students have further strengthened our program, elevated our academic reputation and helped us move up in the national rankings of accounting programs,” he said.

The Patterson School programs have been ranked in the top 20 in the nation by the Public Accounting Report each year since 2008. Big4AccountingFirms.org named the “50 Best Accounting Schools in the USA,” and the Patterson School was ranked No. 8 nationally and No. 1 in the SEC.

“We will always be deeply grateful to Roger and Susie Friou for their legacy of providing educational opportunities. They have played a key role in the many successes we enjoy today,” Wilder said.

Not only has Roger Friou’s service impacted accountancy but also the entire university, such as his leadership with the UM Foundation. He served on its board and on the executive, audit and investment committees. The former chair was awarded emeritus board member status in 2020.

“Roger’s leadership of this foundation and his active role on its committees has

greatly contributed to UMF’s growth and success,” said Wendell Weakley, foundation president and CEO. “He always led from in front, and we see his positive impact in our work here each and every day.”

In addition, Friou served on the Luckyday Foundation board, which provides scholarship support to Ole Miss students.

The CPA, who passed away in 2020, began his career with Standard Oil (now Chevron). In 1960, he joined the public accounting firm of Ernst & Ernst (now Ernst & Young).

In 1966, he was recruited to the Jitney Jungle supermarket chain, remaining in an executive position until 1979. He became a senior officer with a national store chain and rejoined Jitney Jungle in 1984, as executive VP/CFO.

Friou was a director and the chair of the audit committee of Parkway Properties Inc. and a director of Daily Equipment Co.

He was inducted into the Accountancy Hall of Fame and served on the Accountancy Advisory Council, Ole Miss Alumni Association Executive Committee and the Athletics Committee. Vaught-Hemingway Stadium’s Gate 14 is named for the Frious’ support of athletics.

▪ **MAKE A GIFT:** Jason McCormick, [jason@olemiss.edu](mailto:jason@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-1757.



## Donors Fund Program to Equip Kids to Overcome Illiteracy

**T**he University of Mississippi, the Shelton School of Dallas, Texas, two Mississippi school districts, a former UM professor and an Ole Miss alumnus have joined forces in a fight against illiteracy.

For the next three years, the Shelton School will conduct a pilot program designed to improve literacy in the Oxford and Lafayette County, Mississippi, school districts. Shelton School is the largest school worldwide for students with learning differences.

A gift of almost \$1 million from Bob Dorsey, a former UM professor of economics, and his wife, Carol, will support the North Mississippi Literacy Project, which was introduced to the schools by UM's McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement.

"So many children fall behind before they get a good start in school because they have learning and developmental challenges and need a different approach," Carol Dorsey said. "This program will give teachers the tools to engage these students from the start so they can succeed."

Albert Nylander, director of the McLean Institute, said the Dorseys' gift will be transformative, impacting some 2,000 students.

Implementing a program to help Mississippi students who learn differently is the brainchild of Ole Miss alumnus Phillip Wiggins, founder and CEO of Stratford Land Co. in Dallas, whose three children attended the Shelton School to improve their reading skills.

"About 30% of the populace learns differently," said Wiggins, a 1977 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts and a Rebel tennis player. "They don't learn in the way that they're being taught in public schools."

Having served as chair of both the Shelton School and McLean Institute boards of directors, Wiggins approached Shelton's Joyce Pickering, director emerita, to gauge her interest in starting



*Ole Miss student Jodie Bartlett of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, teaches reading to rising first grader Jackson Knight of Oxford, Mississippi.*

a literacy program in Mississippi using a proven curriculum she wrote.

Shelton agreed and the pieces of the pilot program fell into place, Wiggins said. With introductions coordinated by Nylander, the school districts came on board and with a connection arranged by Denson Hollis, then executive director of development, the Dorseys offered their support.

"Having a child who struggled in school certainly made me realize that even the smartest kid can have a disability of some sort, a difference that singles them out. No matter how smart they are, they can't learn like everybody else," said Carol Dorsey whose late son, Adam, had dyslexia.

"He was very bright but he couldn't see the way everyone else saw, so he couldn't keep up in class. He did not learn to enjoy reading until he was about 25 years old. The miracle is that he got a two-year degree at a junior college and was able to find ways he could succeed, but it wasn't through reading.

"Adam had to find his own ways of learning," she said. "It shouldn't be so hard."

If all goes as expected, the North Mississippi Literacy Project will make life easier for children with learning differences. Shelton staff will train the districts' 130-plus teachers of pre-K through second-grade students to use a method that has been used to teach all children to read, write and spell, providing a solid foundation for the development of literacy skills.

Intervention before children reach third grade is the key to keeping students who learn differently from falling behind their peers, Pickering explained.

Shelton faculty member John Hodges will move from Dallas to an office within the McLean Institute to direct the pilot program for its three-year duration.

The Dorseys' gift will support Hodges' salary, benefits and move to Mississippi as well as the curriculum's training and testing materials, essentially covering the program's budget for the first year.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu or 662-915-8455.

## Viking Range Supplies Nutrition and Hospitality Management New Test Kitchen

Thanks to a continuing partnership with Viking Range, University of Mississippi Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management (NHM) students will enjoy a new test kitchen.

Viking Range, manufacturer of professional-grade ranges for homes, recently offered its product for use in the new NHM training center located at the South Oxford Campus.

“The new ranges (valued at nearly \$150,000) will allow students to train on industry-leading products manufactured here in Mississippi,” said Melinda Valliant, professor and chair of the Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management.

“Training future hospitality professionals is important to support the strong culinary and tourism industries, both of which play a large part in Mississippi’s economy, and is among ways UM supports economic growth in the state.”

The NHM, through the School of Applied Sciences, prepares students for managerial positions in the hospitality industry by providing diverse educational opportunities, such as student internship opportunities with Viking.

“We are honored to have our products showcased on campus and available for the NHM students. We look forward



*Thanks to the partnership between Viking Range and the University of Mississippi, student Caitland Jones, center, spent a summer interning at The Alluvian Hotel and Spa in Greenwood, Mississippi. Pictured with Jones are Beth Williams (right), The Alluvian’s general manager, and Kelly Castle, The Alluvian’s spa director.*

to continuing to develop our partnership with NHM, CME and the School of Engineering,” said Beth Tackett, UM alumna and director of Human Resources at Viking Range. “The Viking brand is an American icon, and our Mississippi roots and support of the university are extremely important to us.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Hughes Miller, [hughes@olemiss.edu](mailto:hughes@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-2885.

## Clarks Create OMWC Scholarship in Memory of their Mothers

With a testamentary gift of \$125,000 in support of the Ole Miss Women’s Council for Philanthropy (OMWC), Ginger and Charles Clark of Birmingham, Alabama, are passing on a love for education instilled in them by their mothers.

The couple’s gift establishes the Ginger Guice Clark Council Scholarship in Memory of Frances Rivers Clark and Jo Hornsby Guice Endowment.

“My mother, Frances, was a strong believer in education and was my tutor until I went to college,” said Charles Clark, a 1972 business administration graduate.

Clark has served as president of the Ole Miss Alumni Association and is a member of the Patterson School of Accountancy advisory board. He was inducted into the school’s Hall of Fame in 2012.

“We grew up giving back, and we’ve tried to give back for what we have been blessed,” said Ginger Clark, a 1973 graduate with a degree in art, theater and speech and an OMWC member for over a decade.

“Charles and Ginger are models of extraordinarily devoted alumni support and commitment that has been evident from the minute they graduated,” said Liz Johnson Randall, OMWC chair. “We are thrilled and grateful that they have continued their unwavering dedication to support our university and the Women’s Council.”

Establishing a council scholarship is a natural extension of the Clarks’ continued involvement in the Ole Miss family.

“We hope this scholarship will further enhance the experience at Ole Miss for the recipients,” Charles Clark said. “We also hope it will help attract outstanding students and thus continue to enhance the image of the university.”

Women’s Council scholarships, at \$40,000 per student, are among the university’s top awards.

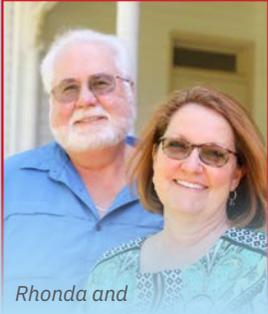
■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Suzanne Helveston, [shelveston@olemiss.edu](mailto:shelveston@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-2956.



*Ginger and Charles Clark*



*Ginger and Charles Clark, center, surrounded by their family*



Rhonda and Dr. Ralf Zapata

## Zapatas Create Scholarships for Future Generations of UM Students

As Dr. Ralf Zapata begins to ease into retirement after a successful dental career, he and his wife, Rhonda, hope to have the same impact on University of Mississippi students that he experienced – a fully funded education.

“Our plan was always to give back,” said Zapata of Niceville, Florida, a 1983 UM chemistry graduate.

The couple accomplished that goal with a planned gift of \$112,500, creating the Dr. Ralf P. Zapata and Rhonda M. Zapata Scholarship Endowment in the College of Liberal Arts. The endowment will award scholarships to freshmen from Okaloosa and Walton counties of Florida.

“When our oldest daughter, Courtney, enrolled at Ole Miss in 2005, there weren’t many other students from our part of Florida. This has changed. In the last five years, nearly 300 students from these two Florida counties have attended or are enrolled at Ole Miss.”

The alumnus said he hopes the endowment will convince more students from their area to consider Ole Miss.

“We know that if they take a campus tour, they won’t hesitate to join the Ole Miss family.”

Lee Cohen, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, praised the Zapatas for the gift: “We are so thankful to Ralf and Rhonda for their continued support of the College of Liberal Arts and for their passion to help students in their community.”

After their recipients graduate, Rhonda Zapata said she hopes they will “go out into the world and do something extraordinary. Then hopefully they will turn around and give back to the university themselves.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Rob Jolly, jolly@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3085.



Olivia Manning (left) visits with Donna, Mike and Katherine Glenn at an Ole Miss Women’s Council event.

## Board Chair’s Gift Supports UM Website, Brand Efforts

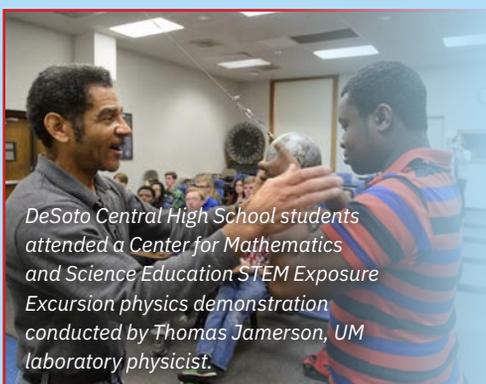
T. Michael Glenn, former executive vice president of market development and corporate communications for FedEx Corp., made a \$150,000 gift that will procure a digital asset management solution for the university.

“The university was instrumental in preparing me for my career at FedEx, and it is only appropriate that I give back in any way I can,” said Glenn, chair of the UM Foundation Board. “I am hopeful my family’s gift will inspire others to give to ensure we have best-in-class communication capabilities, as they are critical to student recruitment.”

The gift will enable the university to launch a digital asset management platform, which will provide an online, cloud-based archive of all digital resources created and captured at the university. These include photos, videos, graphic designs, logos, web-based content and designs, infographics, finished marketing collateral such as brochures or postcards, and more.

“This online archive will enable us to manage a significant chunk of the digital history of the university, as documented by communicators who work across the university,” said Jim Zook, UM chief marketing and communications officer. “It will also make our work more efficient by making brand assets more accessible to marketers and communicators to help them create new content in the future.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Charlotte Parks, cpparks@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3120.



DeSoto Central High School students attended a Center for Mathematics and Science Education STEM Exposure Excursion physics demonstration conducted by Thomas Jamerson, UM laboratory physicist.

## Gift Creates New School of Education Position

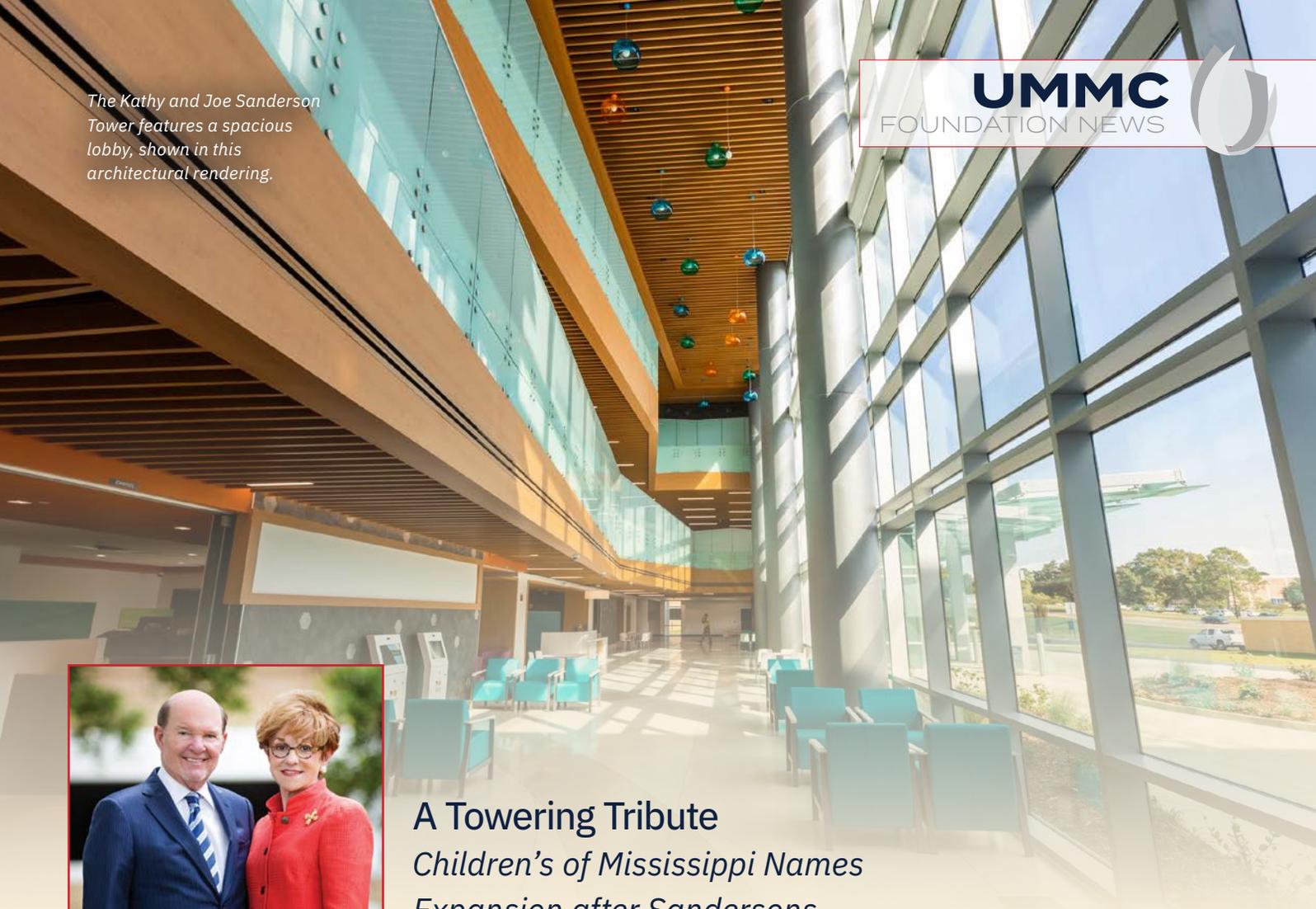
A gift of \$85,000 from the Mississippi Public School Consortium for Educational Access, represented by the Scott County School District, has created the Advanced STEM Access Program Support Fund.

With these resources, the School of Education is creating a new position – executive director of the Mississippi Public School Consortium for Educational Access.

The faculty designee holding this new position will provide direction for the Consortium that will support advanced STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) instruction, including advanced placement (AP) in rural high schools that traditionally cannot offer such courses.



The Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower features a spacious lobby, shown in this architectural rendering.



Joe and Kathy Sanderson

## A Towering Tribute *Children’s of Mississippi Names Expansion after Sandersons*

**T**he Children’s of Mississippi seven-story expansion will bear the name of the couple whose philanthropy

and leadership made it possible: Kathy and Joe Sanderson.

The Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower at Children’s of Mississippi more than doubles the square-footage of pediatric hospital space at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. It will join the Blair E. Batson Tower, named for UMMC’s first pediatrics chair, as an integral part of the state’s only children’s hospital.

The name was revealed during a virtual event for donors to the Campaign for Children’s of Mississippi, the philanthropic drive to raise \$100 million to bring the expansion to completion. The Sandersons launched the campaign with a \$10 million personal gift and are chairing the effort.

“There is no more fitting name for this children’s hospital expansion than the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower,” said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. “Without their leadership, generosity and care for the children and families of Mississippi, this expansion would still be on the drawing board.”

Seeing this expansion go from a need to a tower has been gratifying, said Joe Sanderson, CEO and board chairman of Sanderson Farms, a Fortune 1000 company headquartered in Laurel, Mississippi.

“We know the importance of the children’s hospital to the families of Mississippi, and we knew the need for an expansion,” he said. “This

expansion will ensure better outcomes for children, but also better research now and research that hasn’t even been thought of yet. It will bring more doctors to the state and more jobs.”

The Sandersons found out just how important having a children’s hospital is when their granddaughter, Sophie Creath, needed care from Children’s of Mississippi for pancreatitis as a young child.

“Sophie was in severe pain,” said Kathy Sanderson, “but she was never afraid because of the extraordinarily competent and very loving care she received. That all the children in Mississippi can receive this kind of care here warms my heart.”

The Sanderson tower will include a dozen state-of-the-art surgical suites as well as 32 private pediatric intensive care rooms. For the smallest and most critically ill infants in the state, the expansion will have 88 private neonatal intensive care rooms where parents can stay with their babies as they grow stronger.

A pediatric imaging center, a first for the state, will offer MRI and CT scans in a child-friendly area.

Woodward said the towers, one named for a medical leader and the other for a leader in business, symbolize what can be achieved when medicine and philanthropy work in concert.

“This is a shining example of what can be achieved when leaders from across the state come together in support of the health of our children,” she said. “Hope is bright for what the future of pediatric care holds for Mississippi.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, [mmaldridge@umc.edu](mailto:mmaldridge@umc.edu) or 601-815-7269.

## Allison Foundation Gift Nurtures Nurses', Patients' Resilience



Sarah E. Allison

Helping nurses develop resilience during stressful times is the focus of a \$600,000 gift from the Sarah Elizabeth Allison Foundation to the School of Nursing.

The gift will create the Sarah E. Allison Research Lab for Self-Care and Wellness, which will promote instruction in how self-care can fight burnout among Mississippi's nurses and how nurses can teach their

patients these resilience-building skills.

Kathryn Long, a registered nurse and diabetes care and education specialist at UMMC, is a member of the Allison Foundation board.

"Dr. Allison's desire would be to support nurses' resilience and their continuing education," she said. "This will give nurses the skills they need to manage the stress and anxiety that can occur in this profession."

Symptoms of burnout, which can include insomnia, headaches, fatigue and depression, not only harm nurses' health but also can increase turnover rates in the profession and affect the quality of patient care.

"This (pandemic) has been such a scary time, and our nurses



Dr. Julie Sanford, left, School of Nursing dean, thanks Dr. James Hughes and his daughter, Kathryn Long, of the Sarah Elizabeth Allison Foundation for their \$600,000 gift.

have been under a tremendous amount of stress," said Dr. Julie Sanford, dean of the School of Nursing. "We are so grateful to the Allison Foundation for this gift and look forward to the difference this will make for nursing students and nursing faculty, who can access this resource for self-care research."

After serving as director of clinical nursing at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Allison moved to Mississippi, to serve as nursing administrator at Methodist Rehabilitation Center from 1976 to 1990.

"Her legacy will be in the training of nursing students at UMMC," Sanford said, "and the care they provide. By learning how to be more resilient during stressful times, nurses will be able to provide better care and show their patients self-care techniques that can help in their recovery."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, [mmaldridge@umc.edu](mailto:mmaldridge@umc.edu) or 601-815-7269.

## RebelTHON Rocks!



Ole Miss students move during the RebelTHON dance marathon in the Student Union. The annual event raised more than \$185,000 for the Children's of Mississippi.



RebelTHON, an annual student-driven dance marathon, raises funds for Children's of Mississippi, the state's only children's hospital on the campus of the University of Mississippi Medical Center.



## Radiothon Benefits Children

Raising funds throughout central Mississippi to benefit the state’s only children’s hospital, the 20th annual Mississippi Miracles Radiothon broadcast patients’ stories of hope from the community room of the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower of Children’s of Mississippi. Although 2020-2021 was challenging for the state’s residents, Mississippians once again showed their generosity, raising \$443,928 to surpass the amount donated to the event last year. In two decades, more than \$7.1 million has been raised by the annual broadcast to benefit Children’s of Mississippi.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Jen Hospodor, [jhospodor@umc.edu](mailto:jhospodor@umc.edu) or 601-984-1105.



## ‘Twice as Bright’ Doubles April Gifts to Children’s Campaign

Children grow quickly, and so did gifts to the Campaign for Children’s of Mississippi during the month of April.

Thanks to the Madison Charitable Foundation, a Texas nonprofit that supports children’s health, donors had the opportunity to have every gift to the campaign doubled in April, up to \$100,000. The drive, Twice as Bright, was aimed at completing the funding of the seven-story children’s hospital expansion at Children’s of Mississippi that opened Nov. 2, 2020.

Twice as Bright raised more than \$225,000 for the campaign.

“We’re already seeing the difference the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower has made for children and families in Mississippi,” said Meredith Aldridge, executive director of development at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. “Since the opening of this state-of-the-art pediatric hospital tower, thousands of children have received the care needed to thrive.”

Children’s of Mississippi is the pediatric branch of UMMC that includes the state’s only children’s hospital as well as specialty care clinics around the state.

The Campaign for Children’s of Mississippi is the philanthropic drive to help fund the Sanderson Tower’s construction. Since 2016, the campaign has raised more than \$88 million of the \$100 million project that has more than doubled the square-footage devoted to pediatric care at the Medical Center.



*Gifts to the Campaign for Children’s of Mississippi during April were doubled up to \$100,000, thanks to the Texas-based Madison Charitable Foundation.*

“The generosity of Mississippians and the love they have for children is incredible,” Aldridge said. “Gifts of all sizes from around the state have made the opening of the Sanderson Tower possible, and we look forward to reaching the campaign’s \$100 million goal.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, [mmaldridge@umc.edu](mailto:mmaldridge@umc.edu) or 601-815-7269.



*Joining together to announce the \$3.8 million Bower Foundation grant April 19 at the School of Nursing are, from left, Dr. Ralph Didlake, UMMC associate vice chancellor for academic affairs; Dr. Kandy Smith, professor of nursing; Dr. Julie Sanford, School of Nursing dean; Anne Travis, Bower Foundation CEO; and Kathy Elliott, dean of health science at Hinds Community College.*

## Grant Benefits Nurses

### *Bower Foundation grant funds UMMC-trained nurse educators*

**A** \$3.8 million grant from the Bower Foundation will create critically needed health care administrators and community college nursing educators by providing life-changing graduate education for 64 registered nurses through the RN-to-MSN program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The project, Building a Strong Future for Nursing in Mississippi, will also spread the School of Nursing leadership development program statewide and will provide online resources for nursing educators in the state’s community colleges.

“The grant investments of the Bower Foundation seek to benefit health and health care outcomes in our state,” said Anne Travis, Bower Foundation CEO. “This grant to UMMC for the benefit of community college nursing faculty and students statewide will build nurse educator and nurse manager capacity in Mississippi.”

The grant addresses the need for additional nursing educators at the state’s community colleges by providing full tuition and a stipend to registered nurses with associate degrees entering UMMC’s Master of Science in Nursing program for RNs.

This investment in nursing education will result in more nurses in the state, and, for the 64 recipients, a leap forward in their nursing careers, said Dr. Julie Sanford, dean of the School of Nursing.

“There is a dire need for nurses in Mississippi as well as nationwide,” Sanford said. “This generous grant from the Bower Foundation will provide the education that will put more nursing educators in Mississippi’s community colleges around the state. This grant will be transformational for the state and for the students in this program.”

Of the 64 scholarships awarded, 32 will be in the MSN nursing education track, and 32 will go to incoming students in the MSN

nursing and health care administrator track. The scholarships will be awarded to incoming RN-to-MSN students in 2022 and 2023. Each student will also receive a stipend and funding to purchase a laptop computer meeting program specifications.

Nurses will be nominated for the scholarships by the community colleges from which they graduated. Participating community colleges are Coahoma, East Central, East Mississippi, Hinds, Holmes, Itawamba, Jones, Meridian, Mississippi Delta, Mississippi Gulf Coast, Northeast Mississippi, Northwest Mississippi, Pearl River and Southwest community colleges.

The program also will support current nurse educators at the community college level by expanding the School of Nursing’s Dean’s Emerging Academic Leaders program, or DEAL, statewide, and by providing online resources from UMMC.

The two-year DEAL program helps develop leadership skills among its participants through class sessions and projects. Building a Strong Future for Nursing in Mississippi will support current nursing faculty in the state by offering online resources including a preparation course for the Certified Nurse Educator exam.

The grant will pay for one nurse educator from each community college in Mississippi to take the exam, which is \$400 for members of the National League of Nursing and \$500 for nonmembers.

These features of the Bower Foundation grant will support the development of the next generation of nursing educators and nursing leaders, which will have a ripple effect on the students they teach, said Dr. Ralph Didlake, UMMC associate vice chancellor for academic affairs. “In a very real way, this grant reaches every patient those future nurses will touch.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, [mmaldridge@umc.edu](mailto:mmaldridge@umc.edu) or 601-984-2841.



*Pat and Jim Coggin of Jackson started the fund to renovate the Children's of Mississippi Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders with a \$1.5 million gift.*



*Jordan Carroll of Liberty, a Children's of Mississippi patient, and his mother, Retasia, read during his treatment in the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders infusion room.*

## Coggins' Gift Bolsters Children's Cancer, Blood Disorders Renovation

**A** more accommodating space for patients and their families will be coming to the Children's of Mississippi Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders along with additional exam rooms and pharmacy upgrades.

"This much-needed renovation will add space needed for the care of the state's pediatric cancer patients and will make the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders a more comfortable place for our families," said Dr. Anderson Collier, director of the center and chief of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The \$2.5 million project will be fueled by a fund started with a \$1.5 million donation from Jim and Pat Coggin of Jackson, Mississippi.

"We were looking for a way to give to our community and when we were presented with this opportunity, it just felt like the right thing to do," said Jim Coggin, who retired as president and chief administrative officer of Saks Inc.

Collier said the gift will help children coping with cancer or blood disorders such as sickle cell disease now and for years to come.

"We are grateful for the support of the Coggin family," Collier said. "Their gift and

the fund it started will improve the care and the experience of our patients and their families at a time when they need it most."

Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair, professor and chair of pediatrics, said the updates to the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders will improve the patient experience for thousands of children and will closely mirror the improvements offered at the newly opened Sanderson Tower at Children's of Mississippi.

"The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders is the state's only center for the treatment of pediatric cancer and blood disorders in Mississippi, so we have children from throughout the state who come here for treatment and follow-up care," she said. "This gift will make a huge difference for children and families."

The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders includes one of the largest pediatric clinics for sickle cell disease in the country as well as care for other disorders including iron deficiency anemia, and disorders involving platelets, clotting or bleeding.

The plan includes expansion of the infusion room where children receive chemotherapy and blood transfusions to

allow for social distancing and to make space for semi-private areas. Currently, eight patients at a time can receive treatment there, with social distancing, and the room offers no privacy for families.

Additional clinic rooms would allow for additional hematologists and oncologists to see patients and for multidisciplinary clinics.

Also in the plans are pharmacy upgrades, allowing for an on-site pharmacist and for additional clinical trials, and an administrative space for faculty and staff, which will enhance collaboration among providers, professors, students, residents and fellows.

The Coggins, who have an adult son and two grandchildren, lost a daughter, Allison Coggin Lee, to melanoma at age 33.

"Spending time with her during treatment gave us an understanding of patient families' needs," Pat Coggin said.

"Cancer patients and their families face a difficult situation, but it can be made easier when they're situated in an environment that's comfortable, up to date, and spirit lifting."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, [mmaldridge@umc.edu](mailto:mmaldridge@umc.edu) or 601-815-7469.



*Celebrating a record-breaking \$1.45 million donation from the Sanderson Farms Championship to benefit Children's of Mississippi are, from left, Melanie Morgan, Friends of Children's Hospital board chair; Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair and professor and chair of pediatrics; Steve Jent, Sanderson Farms Championship executive director; Hilary Burroughs, Sanderson Farms director of marketing; Pat Busby, Century Club Charities president; Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine; and Guy Giesecke, Children's of Mississippi CEO.*

## Children's Hospital Gift from Century Club Charities Breaks Record

**N**ot even a pandemic could stop Sanderson Farms Championship host Century Club Charities from making another record-breaking gift to benefit pediatric care at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Century Club Charities announced a \$1.45 million gift to Friends of Children's Hospital from funds raised through the 2020 tournament, which was held without spectators in October.

"We've always said, 'It's about the children,'" said Pat Busby, Century Club Charities president. "This past year, we've had to say that more often."

The funds will go toward Friends' \$20 million pledge to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, the \$100 million philanthropic drive to help fund the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower at Children's of Mississippi. The expansion, which more than doubled the square footage of pediatric space at UMMC, opened Nov. 2, 2020.

Joe Sanderson, CEO and board chairman of Sanderson Farms, and his wife, Kathy, launched the campaign in 2016 with a \$10 million personal donation.

Hilary Burroughs, director of marketing for Sanderson Farms, recalled how, in winter of 2020, she and tournament

executive director Steve Jent questioned whether COVID-19 would affect whether the tournament could be held.

Knowing the Sanderson Farms Championship had raised more than \$7.6 million for the state's only children's hospital since 2013, when Sanderson Farms became title sponsor, "we were bound and determined to have this event, no matter what it would take," Burroughs said.

After conversations among officials with Century Club Charities, Sanderson Farms and the PGA Tour, the tournament was green-lighted, but with no spectators and none of the parties at the Country Club of Jackson that usually coincide with tournament week.

What resulted was extraordinary, Burroughs said. Sponsors kept commitments even if their events couldn't be held, and people from across the state purchased "All in for Children's" facemasks to offset lost revenue from ticket sales.

Not just persevering but thriving in the middle of a pandemic shows the "unwavering commitment to the children of Mississippi" that's at the heart of the Sanderson Farms Championship, said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

"Last year was a year that in so many

ways we could have just written off," she said. "It would have almost been expected. The fact that not only was the tournament not cancelled, but, in pandemic style, it was wildly successful speaks to the commitment of everyone involved."

For the first time, the announcement of the annual presentation was made inside the Sanderson Tower. The significance of that was not lost on Melanie Morgan, board chair of Friends.

"At this very moment, there are children upstairs in this remarkable Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower receiving life-saving treatment. That would never have been possible without the unwavering commitment that Century Club Charities has shown year after year in supporting Friends of Children's Hospital in our quest to raise the dollars necessary to help make it happen," she said.

Jent said hopes are high that during the 2021 Sanderson Farms Championship, set for Sept. 27-Oct. 3 at the Country Club of Jackson, "we can get back to the fans and get back to the parties, and I promise you we will put on a phenomenal event."

▪ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, [mmaldridge@umc.edu](mailto:mmaldridge@umc.edu) or 601-815-7469.



## Trustmark Contributes \$500K for New Pediatric Expansion

Trustmark, a Mississippi-based financial services company and longtime ally of children’s health, presented \$500,000 to the Campaign for Children’s of Mississippi to help fund the new pediatric expansion at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The Campaign for Children’s of Mississippi is the \$100 million philanthropic effort to fund the completion of the expansion, which will more than double the square-footage of the state’s only children’s hospital.

“Like many in our community, Trustmark views the Children’s Hospital of Mississippi as a beacon of hope and healing for families across our state,” said Jerry Host, Trustmark CEO. “As a company committed to supporting health care in Mississippi, we are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Children’s of Mississippi and know our support will enable medical professionals to continue serving our children and families in our state.”

Trustmark has a long history of supporting children’s health in Mississippi through financial resources and associate volunteerism.

The seven-story hospital expansion will include two floors of private neonatal intensive care rooms, an imaging center designed for children, and 12 new state-of-the-art surgical suites, that will be available for inpatient and outpatient surgeries. The new tower will also include 32 larger private pediatric intensive care rooms, which will provide more space for medical professionals, equipment, patients and families.



Dr. Mary Taylor, left, and Dr. LouAnn Woodward, second from right, UMMC vice chancellor for health affairs, discuss the children’s hospital expansion with Jerry Host, Trustmark chairman and CEO, and his wife, Olivia.

For follow-up care from Children’s of Mississippi physicians, the tower will also include an outpatient specialty clinic and a 517-space parking garage.

“It’s very nice to have good news to share,” said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. “This expansion will be transformational in the care of Mississippi’s children. We are so grateful to Trustmark for their continued support and for their generosity in making this gift.”

• **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, [mmaldridge@umc.edu](mailto:mmaldridge@umc.edu) or 601-815-7469.

## Indian Association of Mississippi Makes Philanthropic Gift

The Indian Association of Mississippi raised over \$100,000 for the Campaign for Children’s of Mississippi to help complete funding of the hospital’s Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower.

“Our goal was \$101,000, which was given to the campaign. As of now, our total raised is \$117,000, so we used the additional \$16,000 to buy toys for patients during the holiday season,” said Jerry “Babu” Patel of Clinton, Mississippi, who spearheaded fundraising efforts.

“We appreciate each person represented by this generous gift from the Indian Association of Mississippi,” said Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair, professor and chair of Pediatrics. “The expansion of Mississippi’s only children’s hospital will bring generations of healing to our state’s families.”

The Indian Association of Mississippi fundraised throughout November in honor of Diwali, the festival of lights.

“During these unprecedented times, I thought it was time to give back to our home state, Mississippi. I also want to express our gratitude for the support we have received from our amazing family, friends and vendors across the country,” Patel said.

The Indian community in Mississippi has a long-standing reputation for making prominent contributions in times of crisis and for capital campaign projects.

• **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, [mmaldridge@umc.edu](mailto:mmaldridge@umc.edu) or 601-815-7469.



Indian Association members (in back, from left) Tori Harrigill, Jerry “Babu” Patel, Dr. Manisha Sethi and Sumesh Arora (far right) are pictured with young members of the Indian community in traditional outfits.



*Occupational therapist Mary Lowry Vollema works with ASD patient Justin Youngblood of Pearl, Mississippi, at the Center for Advancement of Youth.*

## Community Bank Gift to Boost Center for Advancement of Youth’s ASD Program

**A** \$1 million gift to the University of Mississippi Medical Center’s Center for Advancement of Youth from Community Bank and senior chairman of the Board Thomas W. Colbert Sr. and his wife, Ann, will advance care for Mississippi children who have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

“Ann and I have been so greatly blessed throughout our lives, it is our privilege to give back to the underserved children of Mississippi,” Colbert said. “The Center for Advancement of Youth (CAY) will not only identify the great need we have for behavioral services throughout the state, but provide these services through their exceptionally designed program.”

Community Bank and the Colberts each donated \$500,000 through the University of Mississippi Foundation to support CAY, which offers comprehensive, coordinated care across disciplines for children with behavioral or developmental issues. The center is located in the Highland Bluff building on Old Canton Road in Northeast Jackson.

“Community Bank is honored to stand beside the personal contribution of our senior chairman, Thomas Colbert, and his wife, Ann, to partner with the Center for Advancement of Youth,” said Community Bank President and CEO Chuck Nicholson. “There is a great need for behavioral services in the lives of many Mississippi children. Our hope through this contribution is that CAY will be better equipped to identify and treat the developmental and behavioral disorders throughout our state.”

Dr. David Elkin, CAY executive director and professor of psychiatry at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, thanked Community Bank for the gift and the difference it will make in the lives of children, including those residing in areas without behavioral health care providers.

Mississippi has the third lowest ratio of behavioral health professionals to primary care providers. Of Mississippi’s 82 counties, only 37 have a single practicing psychiatrist or psychologist.

“This very generous gift will broaden the care available to underserved and underprivileged children who have Autism Spectrum Disorder,” Elkin said. “This donation will prime the pump, allowing CAY the seed money to build up our ASD treatment program.”

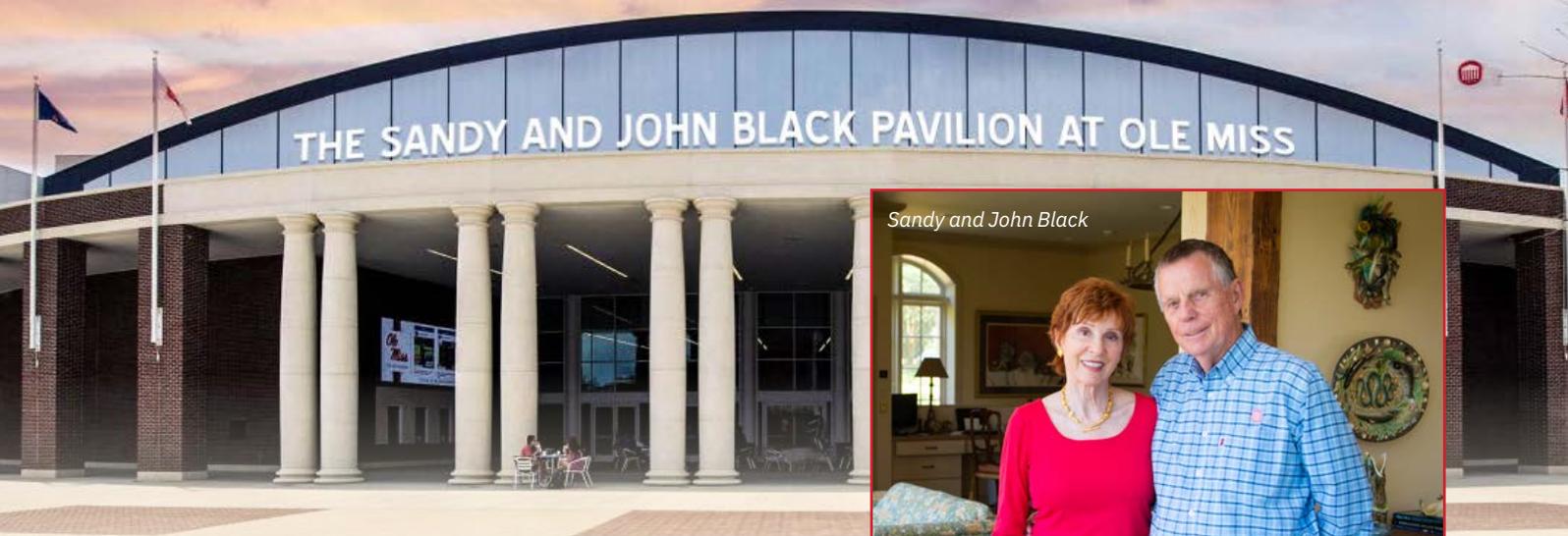
ASD is a complex neurobiological disorder that usually appears in early childhood. Children with ASD can struggle with focus, social skills, organization, speech and language skills, emotional control and frustration. About one in every 54 American children are diagnosed with ASD, according to 2016 data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Community Bank’s gift will spark the start of an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program at CAY. A therapy based on the science of learning and behavior, ABA therapists work to increase helpful behaviors with positive reinforcement and decrease behaviors that are harmful or affect learning.

The gift will also help CAY to broaden its telehealth outreach to school districts in the state, as well as reach underserved populations.

“There are very few options across the state to treat ASD,” Elkin said, “so this will make behavioral health care available to a greater number of children. Having treatment can make a world of difference, helping children have more interest in people around them and having more focus in school. This gift will enable us to provide care that will result in better lives for children today and as they grow up.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, [mmaldridge@umc.edu](mailto:mmaldridge@umc.edu) or 601-815-7469.



*Sandy and John Black*

## \$10 Million Gift to Name Pavilion at Ole Miss

**T**he University of Mississippi’s gleaming, state-of-the-art basketball and event arena has been officially named the Sandy and John Black Pavilion at Ole Miss in recognition of a \$10 million gift from the Madison, Mississippi, couple.

Longtime supporters, the Blacks said they’ve been fortunate financially and want to make a gift they could enjoy with their family: three adult children, eight grandchildren and a great-granddaughter – most of whom attended Ole Miss.

“We’re fortunate that we’re able to do something like this and leave a legacy so to speak,” said John Black, a retired certified public accountant and entrepreneur. “We decided to respond with a gift that we could be proud of and have our kids and grandkids take a look from time to time as they happen to pass by this facility.”

Sandy Black agreed: “Our children and grandchildren will get to see our family’s name, and we hope it will instill in them the importance of giving back to the community. We also want them to realize how important the University of Mississippi is to us.

“We value giving and we believe in giving back,” she continued. “We’re just really proud to be a family with so many members associated with Ole Miss.”

The Blacks’ latest gift is their third contribution to the Vaught Society, the philanthropic leadership group of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation.

In 2015, the Blacks made an \$11 million gift to the University of Mississippi Medical Center, the largest private gift ever received by UMMC in a single year. Since then, the Blacks also made a major gift to renovate the guest house at the chancellor’s home on the Oxford campus.

In 2019, Sandy Black made a \$500,000 gift, essentially

purchasing all of William Faulkner’s furniture from the Nobel Prize-winning author’s extended family with the understanding that the pieces would remain permanently on display at Rowan Oak – Faulkner’s historic Oxford, Mississippi, home owned by the university.

John Black, a University of Mississippi Foundation board member, earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the university in 1961 and a master’s degree in accountancy in 1962. In college, he was a Taylor Medalist and member of Omicron Delta Kappa academic honorary and Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Sandy Black attended the university and was a member of Phi Mu sorority.

The couple, who met at a fraternity party, married in 1963.

After college, John Black joined the accountancy firm Pete Marwick, now KPMG, as a CPA in Jackson. After several years, he founded HCM Inc., which operated 53 locations of nursing homes and assisted living facilities in seven southeastern states.

In 1981, he sold the business to Beverly Enterprises, the largest company in the field, and continued to find success as an investor both in stocks and real estate. At one time, he owned all Courthouse Racquet & Fitness locations in the Jackson area, which he later gifted to UMMC to promote wellness.

On July 31, 2014, ground was broken on the 225,000-square-foot arena that officially opened its doors on Jan. 7, 2016, with the Rebel men’s basketball team’s victory over Alabama.

The Pavilion, which includes a five-story parking garage with 800 spaces that services the entire campus community, is also the site for many university events, such as lectures, receptions and the annual freshman convocation.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu or 662-915-8455.

## UM Graduate's Generosity Memorializes Son



Craig Geno Sr.

Alumnus Craig Geno Sr. hopes his gift to Ole Miss Athletics will encourage Rebel basketball players to fight hard for the fans they represent.

"I want it to inspire them to realize that they're playing for more than just a win or a loss or for personal glory," said Geno, who earned BA and JD degrees in 1975 and 1978, respectively. "They're playing in honor of a lot of people who've gone before them."

One of those people is Craig Geno Jr., who was shot to death at age 17 when he entered a friend's home in 1996 unaware that a robbery was in progress. The case remains unsolved.

Geno Sr., a lawyer in Ridgeland, Mississippi, has made a \$500,000 gift that will name the entrance to the men's locker

room at the Sandy and John Black Pavilion. The teen had planned to attend Ole Miss, study broadcast journalism and one day follow David Kellum as the "Voice of the Rebels."

"I hope, when the basketball players realize that God saw fit not to let Craig become the play-by-play guy, it will inspire them to dig a little bit deeper when they come in from the first half and see his name," Geno said.

"Maybe these student-athletes will be inspired to reach goals above and beyond what they might ordinarily do because of the people who've sacrificed to put their name in their locker room who are now up above watching them play."

Geno's daughter, Charlotte, graduated from Ole Miss in 2006. He also has a 12-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son.

"This is a good project and something my family will be proud of for a long time and hopefully so will the players," Geno Sr. said. "And if it inspires somebody to make a steal in the second half or get a three-pointer at the buzzer, that will be all good."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu or 662-915-8455.

## UM Alumnus Supports Budding Entrepreneurs, Student-Athletes

University of Mississippi student-athletes and business students will benefit from gifts made by alumnus Steve Rowell of Brandon, Mississippi.

The 1978 accountancy graduate's gift establishes the Stephen E. Rowell Entrepreneur Award – a \$5,000 prize that will be awarded annually to students participating in the Gillespie Business Plan Competition.

Rowell said he hopes his award will validate students' ideas, giving them confidence in bringing them to fruition.

"Our economy now is global. Our competitors for good and useful products and services are not just in the United States but also in other continents," he said. "Students' skills need to be honed at this early age to be able to compete in both national and international markets."

Business Dean Ken Cyree expressed gratitude for Rowell's gift: "We greatly appreciate Steve's service on our advisory board and his desire to see us maintain our level of excellence in higher education."

Rowell established a scholarship endowment in 2008 to memorialize his father, William Paul Rowell, and has made major gifts to Ole Miss Athletics.

"Because of the pandemic and the loss of revenue last year, I felt like it was a good time to contribute more money to Ole Miss Athletics," he said. "Hopefully, more alumni and fans will make similar contributions. If we all help, we can make a difference."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Sally Rychlak, sallyr@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3084.



UM Business student Prahar Patel of Ridgeland, Mississippi, presents a business plan during the 2019 Gillespie Business Plan Competition.

*Evelyn Johnson takes a look at the new players' lounge for Ole Miss Baseball that bears her family name.*



## A Place to Chill

*Unique players' lounges help Ole Miss student-athletes build unity*

When Evelyn and Jeff Johnson saw the remarkable result of their gift to Ole Miss Football, they decided Ole Miss Baseball needed one too.

A \$500,000 gift from the Monroe, Louisiana, couple enabled the University of Mississippi to construct a contemporary lounge space for Rebel football players. And the resulting dynamic was instantly obvious.

"Athletes of any team sport develop a sense of unity as they work together toward the common goal of winning the game," said Keith Carter, vice chancellor for intercollegiate athletics and Rebel basketball All-American.

"As our football players began to enjoy the space created by the Johnsons' generous gift, we noticed them bonding as never before. This stronger cohesiveness will translate to better performance on game days."

The team lounge, which features big-screen televisions, video game systems, pool and ping-pong tables, and cushy recliners and sectionals — all branded with UM colors and logos — was such a hit that the Johnsons made a second \$500,000 gift to create a similar space for Ole Miss baseball players.

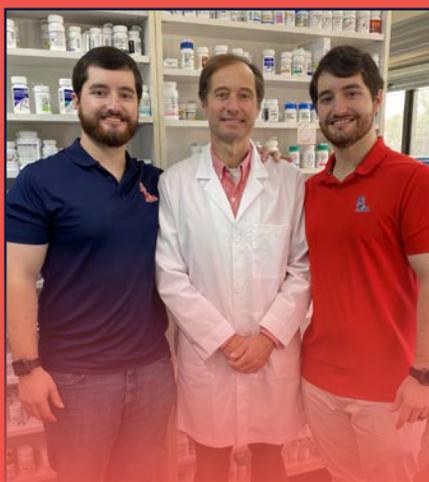
"Watch our players during games; they have a noticeable camaraderie," said Ole Miss head baseball coach Mike Bianco. "Having this amazing space to relax together enables them to carry that feeling off the field and continue it in their daily lives. It strengthens their bond with each other and ultimately helps them work better together."

The player lounges at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium and Oxford-University Stadium-Swayze Field have both been named in honor of the Johnsons whose children, Drew and Abigail, graduated from Ole Miss in 2017 and 2019, respectively.

Ian Sadler, director of development for major gifts, said the Johnsons are friends of Ole Miss Athletics in every sense of the word.

"Their hearts are always for the student-athletes and the success of Ole Miss," he said. "They care so much about the players and they just want them to have the best possible experience at Ole Miss. Likewise, they think so highly of our program that they want to do whatever they can to elevate it."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu or 662-915-8455.



*Chris Bonner (center) and sons Bryant (left) and Will are all passionate Rebel fans.*

## UM Pharmacy Grad's Gift Supports Student-Athletes Via Vaught Society

Chris Bonner's \$125,000 gift to the Vaught Society will help provide scholarships, academic guidance and wellness support to student-athletes while serving as a tribute to late head football coach Johnny Vaught.

"He was a winner," said Bonner, a 1992 UM graduate and pharmacist in Columbus, Mississippi. "At that time in Mississippi, we didn't have much to latch onto, but Vaught was someone you could brag about. He was an equal to Bear Bryant; he just retired a decade earlier and, in my mind and heart, a decade too soon."

Bonner hopes his gift will help Ole Miss Athletics be the best it can be.

"What I would like most for Ole Miss is for it to be a source of pride for the people who care about our university and student-athletes."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu or 662-915-8455.

## Hendrix Gift Honors Family Lineage



Bettye and Dick Hendrix

Gate 12 of the University of Mississippi's Vaught-Hemingway Stadium will bear a new name — the Bettye and Dick Hendrix Family Gate — and stand as a monument to the lineage of Woodruff and Hendrix family members who graduated from Ole Miss.

Bettye W. Hendrix of Helena, Arkansas, a 1956 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts, made a \$250,000 gift to the Forward Together campaign, which bolsters facilities and programs for student-athletes.

While the gift honors more than 20 members of her family, all of whom attended Ole Miss, it represents an especially appropriate tribute to Hendrix's father, Lee "Cowboy" Woodruff, and brother, Jim "Cowboy" Woodruff — both Rebel football players.

"One of my favorite memories includes being there on the first day of the signing period when Coach Vaught came to our home to share breakfast and sign my brother to play for Ole Miss," said Hendrix, a native of Batesville, Mississippi.

Among those Hendrix hopes to honor are her great-grandfather; grandfather; a paternal great-aunt and two maternal great-aunts; her father and two of his sisters; her brother; four paternal first cousins; three maternal first cousins; her sons, Rick, Ron and Phillip; Ron Hendrix's wife, Debbie; two granddaughters, Brooke and Lori Lee; and a niece.

Additionally, the gift honors her late husband, Dick Hendrix, a 1955 graduate of the School of Business Administration. The two met at Ole Miss through mutual friends.

Hendrix said she hopes her gift will help Ole Miss "continue to impact hearts and lives in a positive way."

▪ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-8455.

## Alumni Couple's Gift Supports Ole Miss Football

Marty and Bill May of Ridgeland, Mississippi, rarely miss a football game at their beloved University of Mississippi, from which they both graduated and where Bill May was himself a Rebel defensive tackle from 1969 to 1973.

Most recently their love of the sport manifested in the form of a gift to Ole Miss Athletics that will name Gate 1 at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium in their honor.

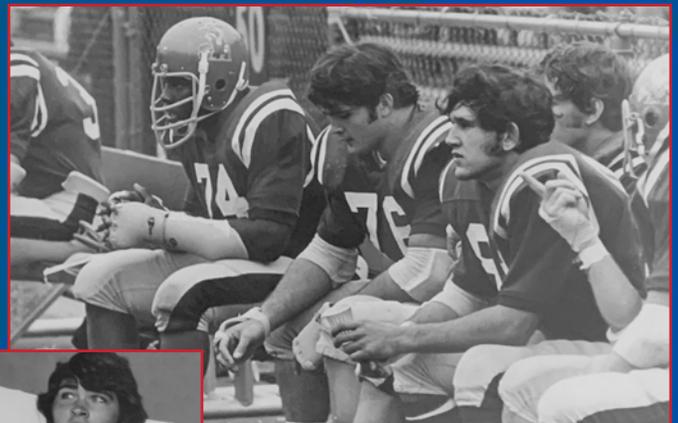
"I think the Rebels have had a lean year. So we wanted to do a small part to try to help the football team out and get them back on the winning track," said Bill May.

The best SEC football programs strongly recruited May out of Itawamba Agricultural High School. He chose Ole Miss because of its proximity to Fulton, enabling him to return home frequently to help his widowed mother and disabled brother.

Marty May has loved Rebel football since elementary school when she began attending games at Memorial Stadium in Jackson with her father, Zach Hederman, publisher of the Ole Miss football programs and chair of the stadium commission.

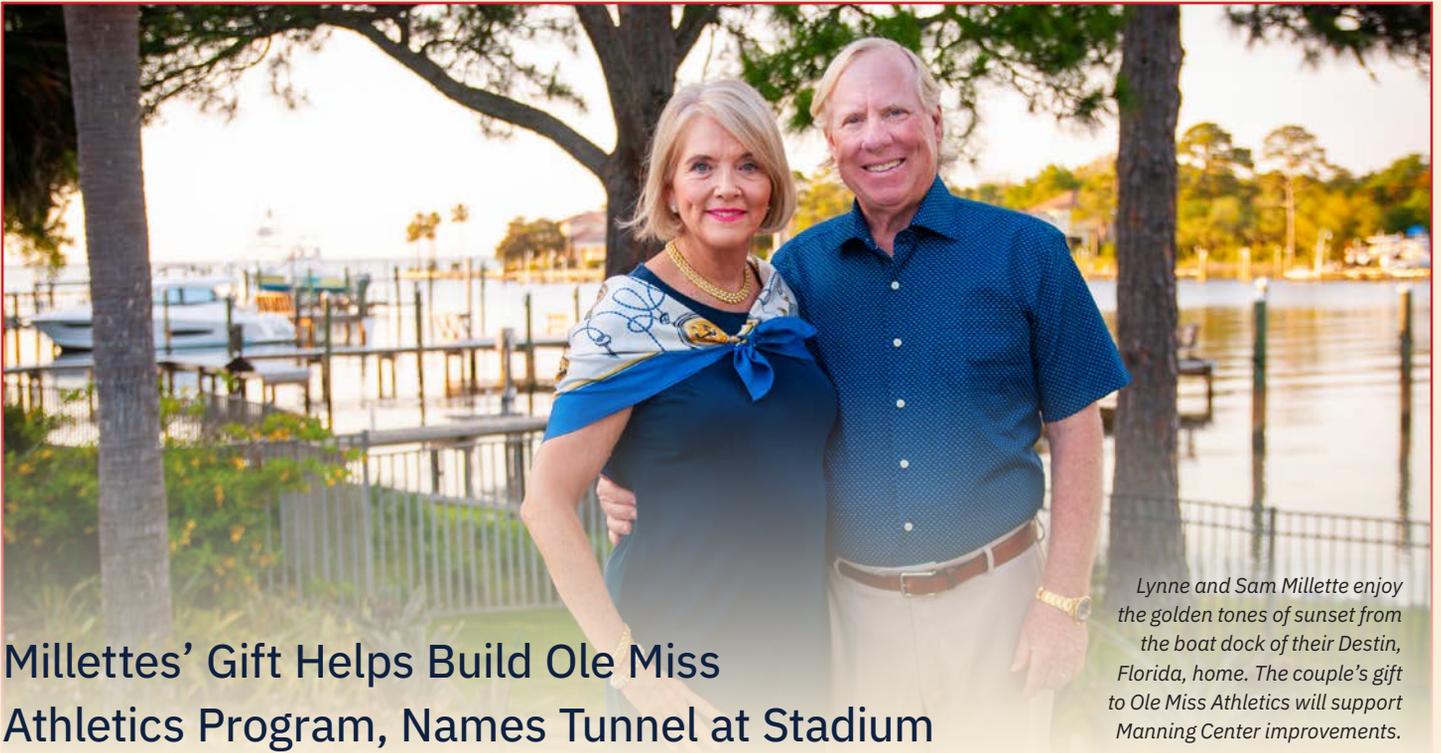
"Daddy would bring home a copy of the program and I would get so excited to start studying it; I had all the Ole Miss players' numbers memorized," Marty May said. "That excitement for the sport never left me."

▪ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-8455.



Bill (Number 76 for the Rebels) and Marty May's recent gift to the Vaught Society will benefit Ole Miss Athletics.





*Lynne and Sam Millette enjoy the golden tones of sunset from the boat dock of their Destin, Florida, home. The couple's gift to Ole Miss Athletics will support Manning Center improvements.*

## Millettes' Gift Helps Build Ole Miss Athletics Program, Names Tunnel at Stadium

**S**am Millette understands that, for Ole Miss Athletics to be competitive, it must continually improve, especially in the aftermath of a pandemic that left most collegiate sports programs struggling financially.

He and his wife, Lynne, also understand those improvements — along with a return to a program's peak success — can be realized with the generous support of the Rebels' loyal fans.

"The crisis' effect on the university will be minimized if all alumni and friends will consider contributing as they have faithfully done throughout these many years," said Sam Millette Jr., a 1975 graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Business Administration and Destin, Florida, resident.

"Our alumni and friends are notable for their love for Ole Miss and the university. I am confident everyone will step up in this instance."

The Millettes are leading the way. Their recent \$2 million gift to Ole Miss Athletics will support Manning Center improvements while also honoring their family by naming the Rebel tunnel at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

"Sam and Lynne's tremendously generous gift proves the passionate support of our Ole Miss Family and comes at a pivotal time for Ole Miss Athletics and our university. We are extremely grateful for their support and for leading the way through their philanthropic generosity," said Chancellor Glenn Boyce.

"It's our pleasure to publicly thank the Millette family for this selfless act and their generations of support."

While humbled by the naming, Millette said he enjoys knowing his family members will appreciate the honor for years to come.

The "Sam Millette Family Tunnel" opens at the stadium's southwest end and is the portal through which the football team enters the field amid intense fanfare on game days. At its mouth

stands the bust of Rebel legend Chucky Mullins — a talisman of sorts for the student-athletes who rub the statue for luck as they pass by.

"This is where the energy happens; it's where the players get psyched up for the game ahead; it's where the fans first see the team and then cheer them into the arena. The Millette name will be right there — a part of all that excitement," said Jordie Kindervater, OMAF associate director for development. "We are extremely grateful for this gift and all that it will help us accomplish on behalf of our student-athletes."

Donor support has been crucial to the completion of a number of projects for Ole Miss Athletics. Among these are construction of Sandy and John Black Pavilion at Ole Miss, enhancements of the Olivia and Archie Manning Athletics Performance Center, expansions of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium with new suites and a field club, newly constructed football practice fields, renovations to the Gillom Athletics Performance Center for Women's Sports, development of the Jake Gibbs Letterwinners Walk in the North End Zone Plaza, expansion of the Oxford-University Stadium/Swayze Field, creation of the Tosh Family Short Course at the Ole Miss Golf Course and building the William F. Galtney Indoor Tennis Center.

The Millettes are life members of the Ole Miss Alumni Association; Lynne, a 1975 UM Liberal Arts graduate, is a past board member. Both are charter members of the Vaught Society and members of the Lyceum Society. Additionally, Sam Millette is a member of the UM School of Law's Lamar Order. Their children are UM graduates Martin (and Clare Smith) Millette and Lindsey Millette Bryant; Lindsey and husband, Brett, have two children, Adelaide and Bennett.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu or 662-915-8455.



Tim and Tricia Cantrell (center) stand at their Pavilion entrance with (from left) Development Director Ian Sadler, Men's Basketball Coach Kermit Davis, Women's Basketball Coach Yolett McPhee-McCuin and Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Keith Carter.

## Cantrell Gift Names Pavilion Entrance

Memphis, Tennessee, native and now Oxford, Mississippi, resident Tricia Cantrell grew up a Rebel fan inspired by her father, Ralph Ross, who played center for Ole Miss in the Old Gym (now Martindale-Cole Student Services Center).

Visit her home and she's quick to show off slats she collected from the gymnasium's floor when the Rebels moved their venue to C.M. "Tad" Smith Coliseum, affectionately known as the Tad Pad.

Cantrell, a 1977 UM School of Education graduate, rarely missed a game in either of those venues and now she's a fixture in courtside seats at the Rebels' new home arena: the vibrant, state-of-the-art

Pavilion at the University of Mississippi.

Having her name attached to the Pavilion seems a fitting way to "recognize what Ole Miss Basketball has meant to her life," said husband Tim Cantrell, a 1979 graduate of the UM School of Business Administration with a degree in accounting and recently retired CFO of Tenax Aerospace. The couple's \$500,000 gift to the university has named the venue's northwest entrance.

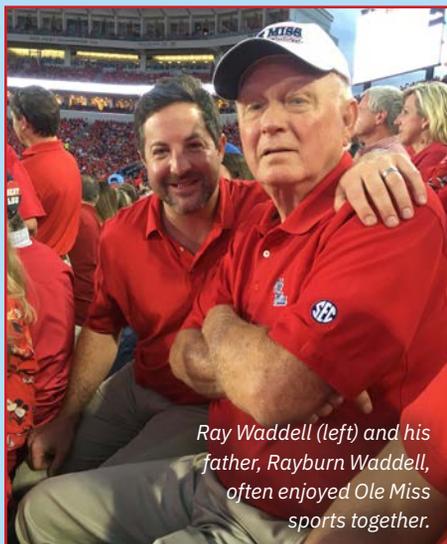
"Their investment into our program will directly benefit our student-athletes who are always our first priority," said Keith Carter, vice chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics. "The Cantrells are some of our most ardent fans, especially Tricia who has

invested so much of herself into our players' lives through the years."

After the Rebels graduate, some seek Cantrell's advice. She offers them encouragement and affirmation, even admonishment when needed. She talks to them about life skills: the importance of getting a good education, saving money, staying out of debt, putting off self-gratification — the stuff of adulthood they didn't learn in a classroom or on the basketball court.

"Tim and I are blessed to be able to make this gift," she said.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu or 662-915-8455.



Ray Waddell (left) and his father, Rayburn Waddell, often enjoyed Ole Miss sports together.

## Waddell Gift Honors Father, Names Pavilion Mezzanine

Former Rebel basketball player Ray Waddell of Dallas, Texas, has made a gift that honors his late father by naming a mezzanine in the Pavilion at Ole Miss.

"I chose to support the Vaught Society in honor of my father because he was a big Rebel fan," said Waddell, who grew up attending Ole Miss games with his dad, Rayburn Waddell of Madison, Mississippi, who died in August 2020.

"It's so encouraging to see one of our former players give back, and I greatly admire Ray for wanting his gift to be used to support any of our initiatives," said Keith Carter, vice chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics.

Waddell said he looks forward to watching basketball from the mezzanine named for his dad.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu or 662-915-8455.

## Gift Funds Tuition for Two Ole Miss MBA Students

A \$60,000 gift to the University of Mississippi for the Robert C. Pozen Scholarship MBA Diversity Fund covers \$30,000 in tuition for two full-time students from Mississippi, who are entering the on-campus MBA program this summer or fall.

“I made the gift to three MBA programs to promote the admission of a more racially diverse MBA class and hopefully the programs will help train racially diverse leaders who will stay within the state after receiving their graduate degrees,” said Pozen of Boston, Massachusetts, senior lecturer at MIT Sloan School of Management.

In addition to tuition assistance, the Pozen Scholars will be matched with mentors.

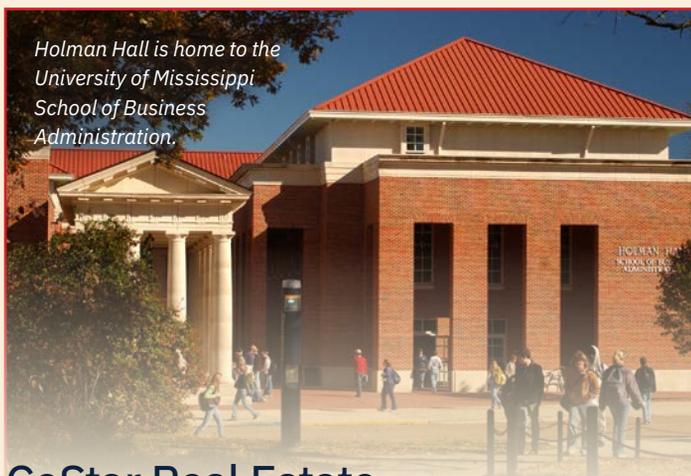
■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Angela Brown, browna@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3181.



Robert C. Pozen



Ole Miss students study in the breezeway outside of Holman Hall, home to the School of Business Administration.



Holman Hall is home to the University of Mississippi School of Business Administration.

## CoStar Real Estate Software Gift Provides Students Professional Insights

University of Mississippi real estate students have access to information available only to industry professionals thanks to a gift of 50 software licenses from the CoStar Group – the leading provider of commercial real estate information, analytics and online marketplaces.

Sergio Gárate, assistant professor of real estate, said the platform will add value to the nationally recognized business school by enhancing experiential learning for students.

“Any real estate professional will encounter this dataset at some point in their career to aid in their market research,” he said. “Having CoStar helps our students understand how the commercial real estate market evolves, while gaining access to information about market supply and demand.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Angela Brown, browna@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3181.



The scholarship established for seniors in the Risk Management and Insurance Program by Mississippi Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney (center) and state Senator Walter Michel (right) is “inspiring,” said Ken Cyree (left), dean of the University of Mississippi School of Business Administration.

## Insurance Commissioner, State Senator Team Up to Start RMI Fund

The J. Walter Michel and Michael J. Chaney Risk Management and Insurance Scholarship of Excellence Fund annually will provide \$2,500 scholarships to two seniors in the School of Business Administration’s RMI program.

The fund is supported by a combined \$50,000 gift from Mississippi Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Walter Michel, a state senator and real estate professional from Ridgeland, Mississippi.

“In addition to benefiting our students, the Michel and Chaney Risk Management and Insurance Scholarship of Excellence Fund will enable our program to better serve the industry by attracting more students to this major,” said Andre Liebenberg, associate professor of finance.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Angela Brown, browna@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3181.



## Alumni Make Planned Gift to Aid Accounting Scholars

Robert T. Jackson Sr. and his wife, Sandy, both of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and their four children have been awarded a total of nine degrees from the university, three in accounting.

“I absolutely loved my undergraduate years, majoring in accounting – and my law school experience was wonderful as well,” Jackson said. “I fully intend to continue supporting both.”

The Jacksons recently took steps to ensure future generations of Patterson School of Accountancy students are

given opportunities to earn degrees from their alma mater.

The couple established the Robert T. Jackson Sr. and Sandy Jackson Accountancy Scholarship Endowment at UM in 2014, and they now have made a testamentary gift of Robert Jackson’s life insurance policy that will add \$100,000 to the scholarship designed for full-time accountancy students.

The Jacksons know well the current costs of attendance.

“We have five grandchildren who have recently graduated from Ole Miss, and two granddaughters enrolled there now,” said Jackson, who collected his first diploma at UM in 1964. “We have two grandchildren enrolled for this fall ... Of my 15 grandchildren, I expect most of them to go to Ole Miss.”



*Sandy (right) and Robert Jackson recently increased the amount of a scholarship endowment they established in 2014 on behalf of Patterson School of Accountancy students.*

Over the years, the couple has given UM more than \$250,000. These funds have been designated to the Patterson School and a variety of other UM schools and areas in need of financial support.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Jason McCormick, [jason@olemiss.edu](mailto:jason@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-1757.



*Mary and Van Hedges*

## Adjunct Professor Supports RMI Program

With a \$50,000 gift, Van Hedges and his wife, Mary, of Nashville, Tennessee, established the Van E. Hedges Faculty Support Endowment benefiting the Risk Management and Insurance (RMI) Program in the School of Business Administration.

“There is a great need for qualified young people in the insurance industry, and I want to help support the outstanding job the Risk Management and Insurance Program is doing at the university,” said Hedges, president of Southern Insurance Consulting of Nashville, Tennessee.

In 2017, the university’s RMI program was recognized as a Global Center of Insurance Excellence by the International Insurance Society and now is ranked as the nation’s 12th largest RMI program.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Angela Brown, [browna@olemiss.edu](mailto:browna@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-3181.

## MacEacherns Establish Scholarship in Memory of Wife, Mother

To pay tribute to their late wife and mother, Doug MacEachern of Covington, Louisiana, and son Taylor MacEachern have created the Jane B. MacEachern Memorial Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment.

MacEachern, who died in May 2019, earned a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree in 1980. After receiving a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Tennessee, she devoted the majority of her 39-year professional career to designing and implementing oncology drug trials while associated with GlaxoSmithKline and Eisai.

The couple’s son said his mother’s focus was on service to individuals living with cancer.

“My mom was always willing to get involved, helping to determine a course of action for those who might otherwise be lost in the nightmare of a cancer diagnosis,” said CPL Taylor MacEachern, U.S. Marine Corps.

She also was an active member of the Ole Miss Alumni Association and served as president of the Pharmacy Alumni Chapter’s board of directors.

“The University of Mississippi was the enabler for Jane to reach her first goal of receiving an undergraduate in pharmacy,” said Doug MacEachern of his wife. “Taylor and I want other students to have the opportunities afforded her.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Port Kaigler, [port@olemiss.edu](mailto:port@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-2712.



*The life and work of the late Jane MacEachern, right, is being honored by her husband and son, Doug and Taylor MacEachern.*

## UM Class of '47 Alum Creates Fund to Assist Law Students so They Can Assist Others

Sara Myers Turner, a member of the University of Mississippi Class of 1947, witnessed much of Mississippi and U.S. history unfold, some of it troubling, especially when it came to ensuring the civil and legal rights of all citizens.

But it's a brighter, more just and legally equitable future that this Hattiesburg, Mississippi, native is focused on today.

That's the goal of the James D. and Sara Myers Turner Public Interest Law Support Fund that she established at the UM School of Law with a \$76,000 gift three years ago.

This year, she made an additional \$100,000 gift to the fund, which provides crucial financial support to law students working in the public interest, primarily for legal service providers who offer free or low-cost legal services to the community.

"My hope is that the fund creates more opportunities for our law students to work on behalf of people who can't afford to pay for the legal services they need," Sara Turner said.

The funding was essential for Terrence Hunter, a 2020 UM Law School graduate.

"It allowed me to intern for the premier racial justice organization in the country: the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in New York City," said Hunter, originally from Natchez, Mississippi. "Without this fund, my experience in New York would not have been as fulfilling."

Jim Turner passed away in 2003, and Sara Turner now lives in Arcata, California.

"I am fortunate to be able to support a cause in which my late husband and I believed and that I still do, which is that one day there will be justice for all, especially for those who continue to be poorly served by the legal system."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Suzette Matthews, [suzette@olemiss.edu](mailto:suzette@olemiss.edu) or 601-937-1497.



*Sara Myers, University of Mississippi senior photo, 1947*



*Terrence Hunter*



*Tucker Carrington and Sara Turner on the Humboldt State University campus in Arcata, California.*

## Baumann's Commitment to Growing Endowment Benefits Students



*Dr. T. Lee Baumann*

Years after earning medical certifications in internal medicine, geriatrics and medical management, Dr. T. Lee Baumann turned his copious quantum physics notes into the best-selling book "God at the Speed of Light," with profits impacting many University of Mississippi students.

Baumann first began researching a connection between quantum physics and spirituality as a college student, and said his conclusions made him, a former atheist, believe in God.

The physician and his wife, Dr. Brenda Baumann, of Pell City, Alabama, initially established the God at the Speed of Light Scholarship Endowment at Ole Miss in 2003, the name coming from the title of his first book. Totalling more than \$200,000, the endowment has supported 16 Mississippi students since its founding.

"It is important for us to add to it every year because we feel strongly about the importance of

education in its role for humankind and the survival of our planet," said Baumann, a Vanderbilt University graduate who has established similar endowments at universities throughout the southeast. "We hope this will help future generations."

The continued financial support of donors like the Baumanns plays a key role in the success of students and programs in the College of Liberal Arts.

Elizabeth McDowell, a mathematics major from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, had a financial burden lifted thanks to Baumann's gift.

"Over the past few months, my mother struggled with her health. Between completing this semester, working on applications for law school and helping take care of my mom, not having to stress about affording this academic year has been a blessing."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Claire Moss, [ccmoss1@olemiss.edu](mailto:ccmoss1@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-3086.



*The Stamps class of 2021 forged strong bonds of friendship, support and camaraderie. Left to right: Madeline Cook, Tyler Yarbrough, Eleanor Schmid, Chinwe Udemgba, JR Riojas, Victoria Gallegos, Kennedy Cohn, Robert Wasson and Harrison McKinnis (not pictured Matthew Travers).*

## Stamps Scholars Celebrate Senior Year

The Stamps Family Charitable Foundation, founded by Penelope and E. Roe Stamps IV of Miami, partners with the University of Mississippi in offering premier scholarship opportunities to incoming freshmen. Each scholarship package covers selected students' full cost of attendance along with significant enrichment funding.

Valued between \$98,000 and \$138,000 each, the Stamps

Leadership Scholarships at Ole Miss are the most comprehensive, full scholarship packages for in-state and out-of-state students identified for their strong intellect, leadership and service.

The package includes a \$12,000 stipend for educational activities outside the classroom, including study abroad, research and other enrichment pursuits.



*Andrew Cofield, Peyton Greenwood and Westbrook Ross (from left) are the 2021 recipients of the Charles Walker Kelly, Samuel Clayton Kelly and Bryant Mason Wilbanks Memorial Scholarship Endowment, honoring the three friends depicted in the portrait on the wall.*

## Endowment Honors Memories of Three Friends Scholarship recipients carry on fraternity brothers' legacies

A scholarship endowment paying tribute to the lives of three University of Mississippi students has grown to more than \$468,000, and three new recipients of the scholarship say they feel honored to represent the men for whom the scholarship is named.

Continuing gifts from the Kappa Alpha fraternity have expanded the Charles Walker Kelly, Samuel Clayton Kelly and Bryant Mason Wilbanks Memorial Scholarship Endowment that remembers the lives of lifelong friends tragically killed in a 2011 car accident.

This year's recipients are Andrew Cofield of Memphis, Tennessee, Peyton Greenwood of Flowood, Mississippi, and Westbrook Ross of Madison, Mississippi.

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



*Donna Patton (left) and Ron Guest stand on the front steps of Brandt Memory House, home of the UM Foundation.*

## Retiring UM Foundation Employees Leave Strong Legacies

UM Foundation employees Ron Guest, executive director of Foundation Services, and Donna Patton, director of stewardship, retired in March 2021 — both leaving a legacy of decades of service.

“Their collective years of service to the foundation and ultimately to the University of Mississippi have been invaluable. Both Ron and Donna have been instrumental in strengthening our work here, so that we can better support Ole Miss students, faculty, facilities and programs,” said Wendell W. Weakley, foundation president and CEO.

“Ron and Donna will be greatly missed on our team, but we expect to keep in touch, and we wish them well in the next chapter of their lives.”

Guest of Oxford, Mississippi, joined the foundation staff in 1983. Patton of Pontotoc, Mississippi, has helped support Ole Miss for the past 42 years, having retired from the university in June 2009 after 31 years and joining the UM Foundation staff a month later.

For full bios on each of these outstanding individuals, visit <https://umfoundation.com/main/2021/04/05/a-fond-farewell/>



*Cathy and Al Annexstad (front row, second and third from left) along with Karen and Tom Annexstad and Elin Wahman of the Annexstad Family Foundation (second row, second, third and fourth from left) joined their UM Leaders for Tomorrow honors scholars for a campus reception in 2019. The Annexstad Foundation has provided more than \$230,000 for student scholarships since 2015.*



*Annexstad Honors College scholars Ajah Singleton and Elsi Muñoz Ramos (second and third from left) are pictured with Rachel Coleman (left), Minority Engagement Council advisor, and Ashleen Williams, faculty mentor for the First-Generation Student Network.*

## Annexstad Family Foundation, Honors College Create Supportive Communities

Ajah Singleton and Elsi Gabriela Muñoz Ramos, two first-generation students at the University of Mississippi, have discovered a community where they can thrive, thanks to scholarships awarded by the Annexstad Family Foundation.

The students, both members of the university’s Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College (SMBHC), are now on a transformative path to career opportunities they wouldn’t have had otherwise.

Additionally, they’ve joined others with common interests

in the SMBHC-sponsored Minority Engagement Council and the First-Generation Student Network — supportive programs that help ensure students successfully complete their academic journeys.

The Annexstad Family Foundation, based out of Minnesota, awards three to four Leaders for Tomorrow National Scholarships to Ole Miss students each year.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Katie Morrison, [katie@olemiss.edu](mailto:katie@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-2135.



William G. "Bill" Yates Jr.



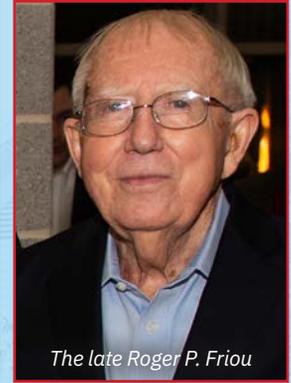
Janet G. "Jan" Farrington



Michael T. "Mike" McRee



The late R. Faser Triplett Sr.



The late Roger P. Friou

## UM Foundation Honors Five Alumni with Emeritus Board Member Status

**F**ive individuals with deep histories of service to the University of Mississippi have been named emeritus members of the UM Foundation Board of Directors.

At its autumn 2020 meeting, the UM Foundation awarded the honorary distinction to Janet G. "Jan" Farrington of Ridgeland, Mississippi; Michael T. "Mike" McRee of Flora, Mississippi; William G. "Bill" Yates Jr. of Philadelphia, Mississippi; and posthumously to Roger P. Friou of Ridgeland and R. Faser Triplett Sr. of Jackson, Mississippi.

"Our Foundation Nominating Committee recommended these former board members in recognition of their leadership, guidance and many years of highly valued dedication to our Foundation," said Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the UM Foundation. "Over the decades, we have excelled in large part due to their many contributions of service across our organization."

For full bios on each recipient, visit <https://umfoundation.com/main/2020/11/20/honoring-longtime-service/>

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## Three Major Gifts Enable Magee Center to Expand

One evening a mother called with grave concerns about her son, an upperclassman struggling with depression and substance abuse.

By 8 a.m. the next day, multiple steps were underway by the University of Mississippi’s Magee Center for Wellness Education to provide in-depth support, counseling and assessment, with academic coordination.

By mid-morning, the student was fully involved in the process – relieved that help and hope were just a phone call away. Days later, the student’s father shared praise for the Magee Center’s work, including cross-functional coordination in one location.

“Our son has work to do, but he is stabilized, hopeful and wants to change the course,” the father said. “We are so thankful.”

Such praise is rewarding, but the result mattered most.

This story and others about students getting their lives back on track thanks to Magee Center resources illustrates why generous donors continue to step forward to invest. It’s about giving Ole Miss students care, support and holistic education beyond the classroom.

The alumni, parents, friends and students whose 2019 grassroots movement established the Magee Center in memory of the late William Magee, a young alumnus who died of an accidental overdose, may not have initially envisioned how major the initiative would become.

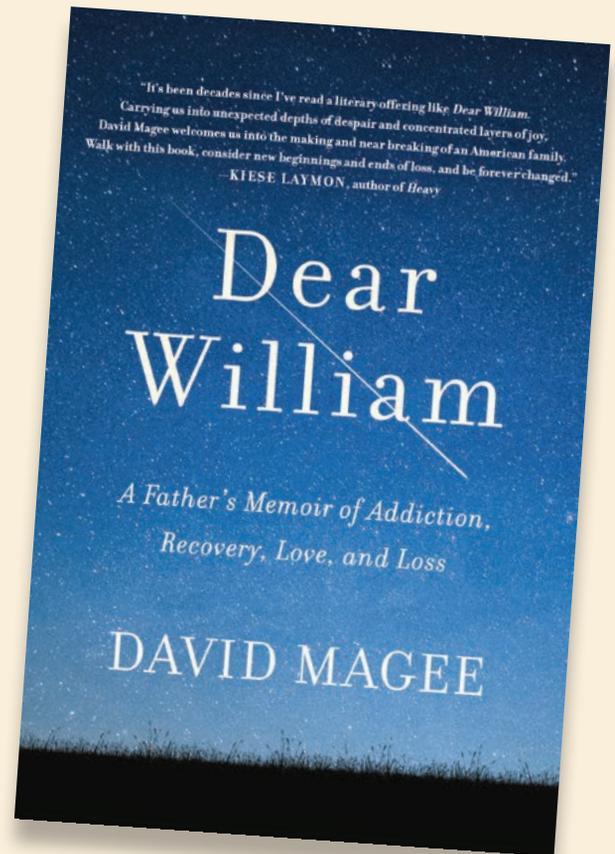
The state Institutions of Higher Learning board has approved an umbrella organization, the stand-alone William Magee Institute for Student Wellbeing. Long-range plans include the Magee Center (alcohol and other drugs), a research center and national symposium to be under the Magee Institute.

Recent, notable gifts include:

- \$497,000 for research and staff from the Dr. and Mrs. R. Faser Triplett Foundation of Jackson, Mississippi, building on the foundation’s previous gift of \$750,000 to the Magee Center
- \$100,000 from Allyson and Paul Riser of Little Rock, Arkansas, and another \$100,000 from Becky and Ed Meek of Oxford, Mississippi, for special programming

A Nov. 2 launch of “Dear William: A Father’s Memoir of Addiction, Recovery, Love and Loss,” the powerful story by David Magee, father of William Magee, will be a Robert C. Khayat Lecture hosted by the Ole Miss Women’s Council, and a percentage of total book sales will go to the Magee Institute.

Best-selling author Tom Franklin said, “‘Dear William’ educated me as a parent, dazzled me as a writer and moved me as a human. This book is a big, soulful account, told with fearless



honesty and insight. David Magee’s ardent-hearted journey will inspire all.”

Following Magee’s remarks at the book launch will be a panel discussion on addiction and a concert by a Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter in the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets will be available soon through the Ford Center’s ticket office.

“We are grateful for the magnitude of support – 700 major gifts. Everyone knows or loves someone who is battling substance abuse, whether alcohol, drugs or both,” said Magee, who first wrote a newspaper column about losing his son that has been read by more than 1 million people.

“The misuse of alcohol and other drugs is stereotypically a rite of passage for college students. Still, the truth is that the issue runs much deeper – many students have extensive experience with alcohol and other drugs before they reach college. They use substances to manage anxiety and to fit in with others, and substance misuse is often a family problem.”

■ **HELP FOR A STUDENT:** [wellnessedu@olemiss.edu](mailto:wellnessedu@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-6543

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



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