The University of Mississippi Foundation is a nonprofit corporation chartered in 1973 by the State of Mississippi to operate primarily for the benefit of the University of Mississippi. The foundation is responsible for receiving, receipting, investing, and distributing all gifts for the benefit of the University of Mississippi. It pursues this mission in an environment of productive teamwork, effective communication, and selfless service to our donors, university administrators, faculty, staff and students. Communication of university needs and priorities along with encouraging investment in the future of Ole Miss are integral to our success. Integrity, honor, civility, service, and respect for our donors and their wishes serve as the foundation's guiding principles.
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**UM FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004**

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It is impossible to overstate the importance of private support for the University of Mississippi and the positive difference private gifts make to the quality of our progress.

In recent years, we have been blessed beyond measure as we have seen gifts to the university increase exponentially. To a great extent, the progress we have made since 1995 is directly attributable to the funds received by our foundation for a variety of university needs.

Across the nation, state support for public higher education is dwindling, and most observers predict that trend will continue. At the same time, study after study concludes that economic vitality and quality of life are enhanced when higher education is well-funded and receives widespread public support. Those studies also agree that we are in the age of information and that the importance of higher education will continue to increase.

At Ole Miss, we have recognized that gifts made to the university provide the margin of excellence, and help establish a living legacy that impacts every aspect of life on our campus — academic programs, the libraries, labs, student scholarships, facility improvements, salary support for faculty, and the enhancement of the university experience through cultural and extracurricular activities. They all depend heavily on private support.

We have an aggressive gift solicitation program underway that enables donors to participate at levels comfortable to them and to designate specific areas as beneficiaries of their gifts.

We urge every person, company, and foundation that has an interest in assuring that Ole Miss continues to be a great American public university to generously include this university among your charitable contributions. Our pledge to you is that we will be good stewards of your investment and that every decision we make is intended to maintain the living legacy that creates opportunities for our students and therefore, a better quality of life for all.

Warmest Regards,

Robert C. Khayat
Chancellor
We all want to believe the work we do is worthwhile.

As University of Mississippi alumni and friends, I truly believe we define “worthwhile work” in a manner that goes far beyond normal loyalty and commitments to a school. We are answering a calling to be a part of something larger than ourselves; we are transforming society through our contributions to an institution of higher learning; and we are working – that is, investing our energies, expertise, and resources – to afford enormous opportunities for present and future generations of Ole Miss students.

Within this annual report you will see solid evidence of how our work providing scholarships is making a tremendous impact in the lives of young people. We are, indeed, creating a living legacy by extending scholarships to outstanding students who do not have the financial means to attend college, as well as to bright students who are considering other schools because of attractive scholarship offers. In both scenarios, scholarships recruit these exceptional students to Ole Miss, where they increase the intellectual reputation of the university through their many contributions – through their work.

Imagine, too, the significant roles they will take on after graduation: physicians, researchers, teachers, business professionals, engineers, attorneys, accountants, psychologists, artists, and musicians. One great thought gleaned from reading the personal stories of scholarship recipients offered in this report is how these young people are eager to give back in the future through scholarships to other deserving students. Passing on the core value of helping others reach their potential is a by-product of alumni and friends providing needed scholarships. It’s an essential lesson in how to continually strengthen and enhance our beloved university.

Our scholarship programs have become quite innovative, and for this we can all be proud. The Ole Miss First and Ole Miss Women’s Council for Philanthropy programs are incorporating important mentorship and leadership components to provide even more benefits for student recipients, and these programs are serving as a model to others. We continue to be measured by the quality of education we provide to our students and the reputation of our athletics programs. To maintain the integrity and growth of these programs, we must not rest on our current achievements. We must keep pursuing the highest standards and the greatest opportunities for the University of Mississippi.

Thank you for your worthwhile work. We can all know it’s being accomplished – and for the best reasons: to strengthen the University of Mississippi and leave a living legacy for those who come after us.

Sincerely,

William G. Yates, Jr.
Chair
The University of Mississippi continues to make a difference in the quality of life for those it serves. In these ever-changing times, it is imperative that we remain constant in our steadfast belief that higher education is the key to creating a living legacy for the future of our state and nation.

We are delighted you make giving to Ole Miss a personal priority. Your gifts play an important part in helping to sustain the margin of excellence for current and future generations of students and faculty. Highlights for 2003-2004 fiscal year-end include:

- 18,659 donors contributed $48.1 million in gifts.
- $17.7 million received from 1,837 foundations and corporations.
- As of June 30, 2004, the UM Foundation/university total endowment reached $367.3 million.
- The total endowment placed the university 134th in the nation among all colleges and universities and 32nd in endowment per student at public universities.
- $40.1 million was transferred from the foundation to the university for scholarships, library, academic, faculty, and programmatic support, as well as physical improvements.

The Joint Committee on University Investments in consultation with our overlay manager, the Fund Evaluation Group, oversees investment of your endowment funds. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, total returns were 16%, 3%, 3.3%, 6.3%, and 8.7% respectively for one, three, five, seven, and ten years. After the three worst years in security market history, we are seeing a dramatic increase in total returns. Your endowment is the ultimate long-term investor, and we are proud that the ten-year return – which includes those challenging years – is again over eight percent.

Opportunities to strengthen the university abound at all levels. Whether through an annual gift, endowment gift, life insurance policy, will bequest, or a trust that pays you income for life and the remainder to Ole Miss, you may direct contributions for unrestricted purposes or to any school, college, or initiative.

If we may ever be of any assistance, you may reach us at 1-800-340-9542, (662) 915-5003, or e-mail umf@olemiss.edu. We sincerely hope you enjoy reading this annual report, and we thank you again for creating a living legacy at Ole Miss through your generosity.

Sincerely,

Don L. Fruge’ Sandra M. Guest
President/CEO Secretary/Treasurer
$367.3 Million
Total Endowment
AS OF JUNE 30, 2004

Library Support
Faculty Support
Scholarship Support
Academic and Program Support

4.4%
14.1%
36.5%
45%

Growth of University’s Endowment 2000-2004
(MARKET VALUE IN MILLIONS)

350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0

Managed by the
University and the
University of
Mississippi Foundation

Managed by other
Financial Institutions

Private Support
2000-2004
(MARKET VALUE IN MILLIONS)
Consider an Oak Tree, which usually does not produce acorns until it's at least 20 years old. The tree's growth takes time, but its remarkable lifespan can range from 50 to more than 200 years.

Stroll through the beloved University of Mississippi’s Grove, a sacred green space graced by oak trees and others. Look up at the soaring, strong trees and know they stand as symbols of the contributions, or the living legacy, provided by alumni and friends.

Not very long ago, people who care very deeply for the University of Mississippi found the school at a crossroads. UM Chancellor Robert C. Khayat shared what resources and efforts would be needed to take the university to a higher level, enabling it to become a great American public university. It was an unparalleled moment when immense possibilities were considered.

The path chosen – the journey embraced – was one requiring tremendous investment on the part of Ole Miss alumni and friends, as well as faculty, staff, and students. Unprecedented growth and progress followed and continues today, as evidenced in this annual report by the University of Mississippi Foundation. Everyone leaves a legacy, but heads of families, foundations, and corporations determined that they desired to leave an enduring legacy through an educational institution – a living legacy to perpetuate important values and strengthen society.

“The ultimate test of a man’s conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard,” a U.S. senator once said.

True, donors won't ever fully know the lives they’ve touched because investments of resources and time are long-lasting and far-reaching, just like the oak tree's lifespan and limbs. Featured in this annual report, however, are stories of some of the lives touched by scholarships, and they echo gratitude that will be felt for generations. Private gifts have transformed the University of Mississippi on its four campuses through library, academic and program, faculty, physical improvements, and scholarship support, but for now examine scholarships. They pave the way for outstanding students who would not otherwise have the resources to attend college and recruit remarkable scholars who might have made their mark at other institutions of higher learning. These students enhance and strengthen the intellectual community, then go on to make a difference in the world at large.

At a gathering of people on the Oxford campus, several people were heard voicing the question, “Where would I be without Ole Miss?” It’s a sentiment many may ponder at different times in their lives or careers. Scholarship recipients likely have thought about that question. Reflect on the words of scholar April Taylor Broussard, who grew up in a small community: “College has been an eye-opening experience. I’ve learned just as much about life as I have academics.” Think about the comments Joey Rodrigue, a young engineer, offers, “I would tell (donors) their gifts truly are priceless. Technically, they are helping fund an education, but in reality they are helping people have a complete college experience. They are taking responsibility for the future, and that is a tremendous gift.”

Of course, another question could be posed: “Where would the University of Mississippi be without extraordinary students?” A university, after all, is only as strong as its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. The university’s own chancellor, Dr. Khayat – who continues to be lauded for his inspiring leadership that has brought about a remarkable renaissance – first came to Ole Miss as a freshman student because of a scholarship and speaks of the worlds opened to him by his college experience.

“Scholarships are the currency that makes possible a college education for many deserving students,” says Dr. Glenn Hopkins, dean of liberal arts. “Students benefit, of course, and so does our society, for without scholarships we deprive our society of artists, scientists, scholars, and teachers.”
"Receiving a scholarship is like having a lot of confidence physically placed in you, as though I'm being told, 'Hey, you can succeed at this – school, job, life, whatever – and we'll help you do it.'"

Drew Compton, student
Joel Fyke, who is focusing on Guatemalan labor relations at the grass-roots level, may change the world before he’s finished. And at 22 years of age, he’s just getting started.

The University of Mississippi student completed an internship in Guatemala, where he designed a database and oversaw the web site for Coverco, a non-governmental organization dedicated to labor relations. In Oxford, Joel single-handedly established an English language tutoring program for Mexican workers and served as a Spanish translator for dentists on three different mission trips to Peru.

“I am returning to Guatemala to work in the non-profit arena,” says Joel of Jackson, Miss. “After gaining some experience in the development field, I hope to return to school to pursue a master’s degree in public policy or public affairs and concentrate on development studies. Receiving a scholarship for my study opened doors that otherwise would not have existed.”

Joel’s stellar high school career as a scholar, musician, and athlete captured the attention of universities around the nation, and he narrowed his choices to Ole Miss and Vanderbilt University. Ole Miss’ Newman and Barnard scholarships were offered, and opportunities available through the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and the Croft Institute for International Studies – both established by private gifts – played a role in his decision. Joel also became the university’s 11th Truman Scholar, a prestigious honor and scholarship bestowed on only 75 students nationwide. The award charges Joel with continuing his work to help others.

“Students like Joel Fyke raise the bar not just for his colleagues but also for professors,” says Dr. Douglass Sullivan-Gonzalez, Honors College director. “Joel has a gentle but steady drive to know and understand. His passionate conviction for what is right combined with his moral compass and the mortar of his good humor and humility make him truly remarkable.

“Joel has a calling. His opportunities for service in Guatemala to work with non-profit organizations focusing on labor codes give Joel the experience he needs to pursue further graduate work in this uncanny time of globalization. Joel will be a part of this remarkable generation that will establish historic guideposts for all of us to follow as traditional political and economic borders crumble and new alliances emerge. Joel will be a beacon that will guide us through this transitional phase,” Sullivan-Gonzalez says.

Joel recognizes the importance of scholarships.

“In addition to the money, receiving scholarships gave me a sense of responsibility in the vein of that phrase ‘To whom much is given ….’ I have been given so much during the past four years at Ole Miss. There is a lot of pressure in high schools, sometimes by guidance counselors, to get students out of the state to pursue degrees at other institutions. Scholarships help keep students in the state where they realize they can receive a top-notch education without ‘going north.’ Those students talk to younger students, and the cycle continues.”
The siblings graduated from Meridian (Miss.) High School one year apart and majored in chemistry at Jackson State University, where they finished first in their respective classes. They were both named to Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society for their scholastic excellence. Greg and Kristina have always liked competing to get the highest grades in school.

Now the two are pursuing studies at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine and are the only brother and sister to receive Barksdale Scholarships. Greg and Kristina remember the days they received the news. “When Dr. (Steven) Case handed me the envelope, I tried to stay contained, but it was really exciting,” Greg says.

“I remember the date,” Kristina says, “I was at home when Dr. Case called. I was ecstatic.”

A second-year medical student, Greg holds the Bryan Barksdale, M.D., Scholarship, and first-year medical student Kristina benefits from the Fred McDonnell, M.D., Scholarship. Science has always come naturally for the siblings, who are children of two retired educators. Greg debated whether to go to graduate school or medical school. While doing research at Yale University one summer, he made up his mind.

“I had the opportunity to shadow a doctor, and I liked the interaction with people rather than staying in a lab,” he says.

“I knew I wanted to do something in sciences as well,” Kristina says. “I had a chance to do some outside research opportunities at Louisiana State University and Harvard University.”

Kristina grew to enjoy the research aspect but thought she also needed medical comprehension. “I wanted to come to medical school to get a better understanding of how the body works and to get a deeper understanding of where research fits in because one of my career paths possibly involves research,” she says.

The scholarships are possible because of a gift to encourage highly qualified African-American medical students to stay in Mississippi for their medical training. Recipients must commit to reside and practice medicine in the state for a period of five years. The scholarships are named for physicians in the family of Jim Barksdale and his wife, the now late Sally McDonnell Barksdale, scholarship donors.

“Mississippi needs more African-American physicians,” says Dr. Daniel W. Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. “The Barksdale Scholarships help the School of Medicine recruit and retain outstanding young African Americans like Greg and Kristina Vaughn.

“Because the scholarships have a commitment provision to practice in the state for at least five years, we have a reasonable expectation that recipients will probably choose to remain in Mississippi,” Jones says. “That’s a win for health-care delivery in our state.”
The Khayat family name is synonymous with improving Jackson County through education,” says Seth, a University of Mississippi freshman and the inaugural recipient of the Ole Miss First Robert and Margaret Khayat Scholarship.

“Chancellor Khayat’s sister, Kathy Murray, had a tremendous impact on me in high school. She was my teacher, my counselor, and sometimes my mother,” Seth says. “It was through my relationship with her that I learned how extraordinary the Khayat family is.”

Seth excelled in high school: He graduated 17th in his class, was greatly involved in student government, played on the high school golf team, ran track, pole vaulted – and had plans to attend Tulane University. He then was offered the Khayat Scholarship.

“When I heard about the scholarship, I could hardly believe it. Chancellor Khayat has been my hero since I heard him speak in my eighth-grade year. He talked about taking opportunities offered to you,” says Seth. “So even though I hadn’t thought about going to Ole Miss, when I remembered his words about opportunity, I realized that I needed to go with it.”

The UM chancellor was impressed with the student.

“Seth and I met when he was in a gifted student class at Moss Point High School. It was apparent, at the time, that he was an unusual young man and would have an impact on whatever university community he chose,” says Chancellor Khayat. “Although I was not involved in his selection for the Khayat Scholarship, I was delighted he would be the first recipient.”

Seth, like his mentor, Khayat, loves the written word and is majoring in English with the hope of law school in his future.

“I think that studying literature improves your ability to be analytical. I’m looking forward to studying Faulkner, Frost, and Whitman at Ole Miss,” the student says. “I also really like John Grisham’s books and inspirational writer Max Lucado’s work.”

Seth is serious about academics but manages to enjoy extracurricular activities, as well. He is president of his Kappa Sigma pledge class, attends St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, plays guitar, and plans to get involved in student government as soon as he gets a year under his belt.

“We expect Seth to be a leader on this campus and after graduation when he moves into the mainstream,” the chancellor says. “The OMF scholarship initiative includes a personal relationship between the donor and the recipient – Margaret and I look forward to spending time with Seth.”

“As much as being the first recipient of the scholarship may have made me prideful, the generosity and mentorship of the Khayat family has greatly humbled me,” Seth says.

“Ole Miss is a great American public university, and I have learned that public education should be the centerpiece of public policy. Scholarships make it easier for more students like me to succeed,” he says.
If it weren’t for alumni and friends who invest in scholarships, April would not be sharing her talents with Ole Miss and the state of Mississippi. It’s not that April wasn’t interested in the university’s nationally recognized music department – she was. “I wanted to pursue a music degree in an environment that provided a great deal of performance opportunity and world-class instruction, and that is exactly what I have received,” says April. “I would never have had this wonderful opportunity at Ole Miss, however, if it weren’t for scholarships. It has allowed me to go for my dreams and expand my goals.”

The Bartlett, Tenn., native decided to enter the Miss University pageant at Ole Miss even though she had no prior pageant experience. She won and found herself preparing for the Miss Mississippi Pageant, where she placed in the Top 10, captured a talent preliminary, and was named the state’s Academic Scholar by the Miss America organization.

Through this experience, April has met scores of people across campus, in Oxford, and throughout the state. She continues to promote her platform of children’s hospitals and performs concerts for cancer patients and their families. April has founded Children Helping Children, a program that encourages students to donate items to Ronald McDonald Houses at pediatric hospitals.

“Serving as Miss University impacted my life by teaching me how to have a genuine love and respect for all people and to focus on others,” she says. “As far as my platform, it is amazing to encourage children and families suffering from catastrophic diseases. It puts life into perspective and makes me thankful for the opportunity to represent my school, a place I genuinely love.”

Dr. Glenn Hopkins, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, says, “Scholarships are the currency that makes possible a college education for many deserving students. Students benefit, of course, and so does our society, for without scholarships we deprive our society of artists, scientists, scholars, and teachers. Scholarships were essential for April Lancaster, a vocal music education major with a 4.0 grade-point average, who will graduate in May after student teaching.”

April looks forward to her career.

“I am applying and auditioning for graduate school in vocal performance,” April says. “I want to continue studying voice and develop the performance skills required to be a professional singer. I would love to establish a performing career in the United States and in Europe. Not only do I want to sing, but I also want to teach music on the university level – somewhere like Ole Miss. So many people have equipped me with the tools to go for my dreams that I want to invest in others in the same way.”
When he’s not in class pursuing a double major in insurance/risk management and management information systems in the School of Business Administration, Brandon can be found managing the web sites of the Ole Miss Alumni Association, Ole Miss First scholarship initiative and the Ole Miss Women’s Council for Philanthropy, as well as creating an online résumé database of insurance majors to be accessed by professionals seeking employees. The business school is implementing his database for all its majors, undergraduates and graduate students alike.

Brandon would not be leaving such an indelible mark on Ole Miss if he had not been offered the A.F. Dantzler Business Scholarship. The St. Martin High School senior from Ocean Springs, Miss., was not even considering Ole Miss until a personal call came one evening from Associate Business Dean Ann Canty.

“It was the first time someone in my family had attended a four-year university,” he says. “My dad and I came to visit campus, and we could not have been more impressed. Now as a senior, I have learned that I made the right choice in more ways than just financially. Students can get involved as they want in so many campus activities; the opportunities are endless. The most impressive thing, though, is the people. I never meet a professor who does not have an open-door policy; professors always are available to students whenever needed.”

Brandon’s involvement garners the attention of faculty, administrators, staff, and fellow students.

“Brandon is an outstanding young man, who possesses a unique combination of personal drive, technical ability, and effective communication skills; he connects instantly with other people. When I think of our best students, I think of Brandon Sherman,” says Dr. Brian Reithel, interim dean of the School of Business Administration.

“I fully expect Brandon to rise into a significant leadership position in his own company or in one of the nation’s leading corporations,” Reithel says.

Brandon – who is a chief emissary officer, or ambassador, for the business school – is thankful for scholarship donors and plans to follow their example.

“There is no greater way to give back to the university than the opportunity to help a student afford to attend Ole Miss. If these big scholarships are not funded, then the top students from the state will look elsewhere,” he says. “In the future, I will, without a doubt, give back through scholarship donations because I want to give someone the opportunity to attend Ole Miss like the Dantzler family helped me. I would never be here if not for the generosity of the Dantzlers of Moss Point, Mississippi.”

Brandon starts his master’s of business administration program this summer at Ole Miss and also is considering law school. His goal is to become a CEO of a Fortune 500 company.
The Luckyday Scholarship recipient is just months from graduating from the University of Mississippi, where he is preparing to become a high school teacher.

“I want to do something to have an impact on other people’s lives,” Kenneth says. “I had good teachers, so I naturally thought of a career helping young people. People say that as far as teaching jobs, there’s no money in Mississippi – but there’s no denying there are students in Mississippi. This is where I want to make an impact.”

Kenneth, a non-traditional college student, went from high school graduation to U.S. Army service. The overseas travel was relished by Kenneth because of his fascination with history, which also influenced his decision to teach social studies. After military service, Kenneth enrolled in a community college to become an electronics technician. He worked for two years in a local industry upon finishing that program and then accepted a job as an electronics technician/facilitator at the University of Mississippi-Tupelo campus. Working in that environment led to him to pursue classes in education.

After two years of coursework, Kenneth came to UM-Oxford. “I’ve had a good experience, a good transition, particularly for someone who was in the military and has worked. The School of Education professors really have encouraged me.”

Luckyday Scholars are committed to working in Mississippi for at least three years after graduation. In Kenneth’s case, he hopes to contribute to the state’s educational community and to its diversity.

“To really make today’s schools effective, the diversity of classrooms should be matched by a diverse faculty. You don’t see enough black males and females in the classroom, and I want to do my part to change that,” says Kenneth, who also is interested in school administration and college-level teaching.

Dr. Tom Burnham, dean of education, says, “For many students in the School of Education, scholarship assistance is a critical component of their college experience. Without financial assistance, they could not complete their degree programs and fulfill their career goals. The current shortage of well-prepared teachers makes our efforts toward increasing scholarship opportunities even more important. We are extremely grateful for our scholarship donors and encourage others to consider the establishment of scholarship endowments, which help outstanding students like Kenneth Evans.”

Kenneth is grateful for his scholarship.

“Receiving the Luckyday Scholarship was very important,” Kenneth says. “I was trying to work and go to school, and the scholarship enabled me to focus on my studies. The cost of tuition and books makes it difficult for some people not only to begin college but also to stay with it. Scholarships go a long way in encouraging people not to give up. The impact of scholarship money goes far because recipients are eager to learn, and they take that spirit with them wherever they go.”
The inaugural holder of the nation’s only doctoral scholarship for studying the life and work of Nobel laureate William Faulkner, Taylor also is the first recipient of a freshman teacher award. Donors established the first to memorialize UM graduate Frances Bell McCool and the second to pay tribute to Professor Lawrence “Shaky” Yates.

Taylor of Ripley, Miss., hopes to build a career teaching on the college level, researching, and writing on Faulkner, Southern literature, and American literature. He sees the critical implications teaching has in students’ lives.

“The teacher must perform, must make the classroom experience worthwhile, vital, as interesting as the latest blockbuster hit, and as challenging as making a decision in the United Nations,” says Taylor.

“The best classes unfold slowly and gracefully; there is something furious about them in those few contact hours in a week. They begin to blossom so that one, five, ten, even twenty years later, the student says, ‘Oh, I see, I remember.’

“Of course, one must work a lifetime and may never reach such a lofty goal. The best teachers I have had achieved such an effect – the greatness of their classes lay not just in the amount and quality of information they offered but also in the experience, the machinery, and all the subtle aspects of things that were set in to motion and came to fruition,” Taylor says.

He holds degrees from Ohio University but chose to pursue a doctorate at Ole Miss, where much is offered in Faulkner studies – including the writer’s home, an international conference, faculty, and library holdings – and where two generations of his family attended.

“I also came here to reconnect with the South,” Taylor says. “I have long had a deep love for Ole Miss, and I wanted to be a part of the UM family.”

Taylor recognizes the responsibility of the scholarship awards.

“I believe my duty to be that of performing extraordinarily, so those who have been so generous as to establish these awards can be proud and so that in the future others will be proud to be part of whatever legacy I have established as a recipient. I consider this a lifelong responsibility and will continue to do all in my power to set the bar as high as I can for those who follow. How I perform will affect recruiting for the English department and can ultimately help all aspects of the university’s image, from its national academic ranking to its national football ranking.”

“The binding relationship between teaching and research is exemplified by Taylor Hagood and his pursuits,” says Dr. Maurice Eftink, dean of the Graduate School. “While deeply immersing himself in the study of William Faulkner’s writing, as he works toward a Ph.D. in English, Taylor also is bringing his love for literature and writing to life through teaching freshman composition courses. Written expression is a great part of our heritage here in Mississippi, and it is fitting that we are able to assist young scholars in realizing their dreams.”

Taylor Hagood is both student and teacher at the University of Mississippi, and his exceptional work at the two pursuits attracts attention.

Taylor Hagood
The Oakland, Miss., sisters are using the shared wisdom for their own journeys, which already include community service and involvement.

“I am an individual who has always dreamed of going to college,” Kimberly says. “Without the Women’s Council Scholarship, I still would have attended, but I would have had a very difficult time paying for it. I want the world to remember me as a hard-working person who would give anything for the community and the betterment of others.”

Kimberly is pursuing academic work to become an educational psychologist, while Jennifer plans a career as a tax accountant.

“Hopefully when I get my degree, I can use it to help some of the underprivileged families in my area and other small towns get the help and consultations surrounding their tax information that they need,” Jennifer says. “I also want to set a mark for some of the young people in our town and other areas who think they can’t grow up to be what they want to be because they come from such a small area – they think they must settle for less. I want to help them change that attitude and realize that there are so many opportunities to be what they desire to be.

“Giving back to others is important, and the Women’s Council has taught us that in many ways. We have learned many desirable leadership traits, such as the importance of leading by serving others,” she says.

In addition to the monetary support of a scholarship, the Women’s Council mentors students and provides other experiences to expand students’ perspectives on life. The Wilks sisters recently traveled to New York for their first time on a council-sponsored trip.

“A scholarship is one of the biggest reasons that I’m what I am today,” Jennifer says. “Through the generosity of others I have learned how important scholarships are. I look forward to the day I can help some other bright student on the journey to success as the Women’s Council has done for me.”

Molly Meisenheimer, director of the Leadership-Mentorship Program of the Women’s Council, meets frequently with the scholars.

“To say that these two young ladies from a small Mississippi town and from the same family have been a bright spot in my life would be an understatement. They are hard-working both in class and in service to the community. They both also hold part-time jobs and join in everything the council has to offer. I have such high aspirations for Jennifer and Kimberly,” she says.
Neil had other plans just weeks from his high school graduation. He received a coveted appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

“I had connections to both the University of Mississippi and the Air Force Academy,” Neil says. “My brother and sister both attended Ole Miss, and my father served in the Air Force for 20 years. My siblings had wonderful experiences at Ole Miss. My father told me about the benefit of being in the military, but he was very supportive of whatever decision I made.”

During Neil’s senior track season in high school, the academic high achiever became one of the state’s best pole vaulters. The Patterson School of Accountancy at Ole Miss presented Neil the prestigious H.E. Peery Scholarship, and Head Track Coach Joe Walker offered him a place on the track team. Neil’s decision was firm as he headed to the Oxford campus.

The academic scholarship Neil holds is named for the late H.E. Peery, a respected accountancy professor who mentored countless students and served as a guiding force in the UM Patterson School of Accountancy for many years.

“I have thought about the name of the scholarship, and it makes me feel very honored to receive such an important scholarship,” says Neil, a freshman accountancy major from Olive Branch, Miss. Neil enjoys an interest in both business and in law enforcement and hopes to pursue a career that combines the two.

“I would like to thank university donors for helping me make an important decision in my life,” says Neil. “I was torn, and the Peery Scholarship ended up tilting the scale enough for me to make a decision. Already in only a few months in college, I have learned so much. As a member of the Ole Miss Track Team and Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, I have met such a diverse group of people. I am very excited about my future and am looking forward to continuing these new relationships and making more.”

Neil’s decision to attend Ole Miss helps both the student and the university.

“The continued success of the Patterson School of Accountancy depends upon the recruitment of outstanding students,” says Dr. Morris Stocks, dean of accountancy. “Neil Tabor is exactly the type of student we want – bright, articulate, and well-rounded. Even though he had an appointment to the Air Force Academy, we were able to recruit him to the Patterson School with the Peery Scholarship. I expect that Neil will be a leader at the university and in his professional endeavors.”

Neil Tabor attends Ole Miss because former students and colleagues of a professor knew the best way to honor their beloved mentor and friend was through creation of an endowed scholarship fund to recruit bright students to the university.
After graduation I want to work in a sports-related field,” says the Collierville, Tenn., native. “I would like to have a career in sports law or administration, possibly as an athletic director, or legal counsel to players, teams, leagues, and the like. I also have an interest in government and politics that I want to pursue, possibly by working behind the scenes for campaigns or even running for public office someday.”

The soccer player received a degree from Guilford College with majors in exercise and sport studies, and sports management, while earning an incredible array of academic and athletic honors. She also earned the National Strength and Conditioning Association’s Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialist designation and was recently appointed to serve as state director for the NSCA Mississippi Chapter through 2008. Her other experiences include serving as a White House Travel Office intern; coaching soccer, basketball, and lacrosse; teaching physical education; assisting others as a personal trainer; and working as a legal secretary.

Being part of a law firm inspired Alex to explore legal education. She found herself in the enviable position of being accepted to 11 law schools, eight of which offered her scholarships. Alex says her “final four” choices were Ole Miss, Tulane, Georgetown, and William and Mary. She ultimately determined the UM law school scholarship was the most attractive, especially after visiting campus and experiencing the school’s friendly atmosphere and the city of Oxford’s quality of life.

“Without the scholarship, I would not have been able to attend,” says Alex. “Because of that, I’d tell donors who provide these funds, first and foremost, thank you, and also that your gifts are truly making a difference. Not only are you positively influencing individual students, but you are impacting Mississippi’s future as well. I can’t speak for every student, but I want to settle down and work in this region. Being able to stay here and obtain a high-quality education will better enable me to fulfill that dream.”

“Alexandra Hutton was one of the most qualified students to apply to the University of Mississippi School of Law last year,” said Dr. Samuel Davis, dean of law. “She was seriously considering other law schools, but we were able to recruit her with the Levi Pettis Scholarship. Exceptional students like Alex continually raise the standard of excellence for everyone involved in the law school. She is contributing to the intellectual life of the school and is certain to have an impact through law school organizations. The academic reputation of the School of Law is enhanced by her presence.

“Ultimately, Alex will become an outstanding attorney and alumna who can make substantial contributions to her profession and to humankind. We applaud private donors who provide scholarships that continually support bright minds, as well as strengthen the university and society at large,” he says.
Joey Rodrigue enjoys conducting field inspections of oil and gas facilities in Louisiana and contributing to the cleanup and restoration of abandoned oil and gas fields.

Joey Rodrigue

Joey Rodrigue and Dr. Kai-Fong Lee

"I think the most important thing about my Ole Miss experience was meeting lots of different types of people and realizing that every single person has something to offer," says Joey.

If the young engineer had the opportunity to interact with donors who contribute scholarship funds, he knows what he would say.

"I would tell them their gifts truly are priceless. Technically, they are helping fund an education, but in reality they are helping people have a complete college experience. They are taking responsibility for the future, and that is a tremendous gift," Joey says.

Dr. Kai-Fong Lee, dean of engineering, says, “The scholarship endowments in the School of Engineering, the largest of which are the Adler and Brevard endowments, help us attract the best and brightest students. These students contribute greatly to the learning environment. The low student-to-teacher ratio enables our dedicated faculty to interact with our students personally and to help them with difficulties.

“Joey has benefited not only from the educational programs but also from the personal help of his department chair and professors. The well-rounded education and interpersonal skills that we provide our students enable them to become leaders in their professions, and we expect Joey to do no less.”

Joey confirms that UM School of Engineering faculty and staff members became his friends – a fact that brings him back to campus as often as possible.

“Catching up with friends is one of the best parts of returning to Oxford,” he says, “and the School of Engineering is full of them.”
The challenge is working with a different individual with specific problems that require a whole new approach than the last person I treated. Each individual has his or her own set of needs,” says the speech-language pathologist.

Mandy wants to know she is making a difference in patients' lives. “There’s an unspeakable satisfaction in knowing you’ve helped ensure a better quality of life for someone,” says the professional, who also wants to make an impact by serving on committees and being involved politically on issues that affect her profession on the state and national levels.

Watching her grandmother enter a rehabilitation center to regain communication skills after a stroke inspired her career choice. In addition, Mandy’s father and sister suffer from severe sensorineural hearing losses.

Mandy earned her undergraduate degree at Delta State University and remembers Dr. Carolyn Higdon, chair of the University of Mississippi Department of Communicative Disorders, speaking there to recruit students to the graduate program.

She was accepted to three graduate schools, but chose Ole Miss and was later selected by the faculty to receive the Patricia Ridgeway Award, which provides scholarship support.

“There aren’t a lot of scholarships in the communicative disorders field. Not only was the scholarship beneficial to me financially, but it also gave me a renewed sense of belief in myself because I knew other people believed in me,” Mandy says. “This confirmed for me that Ole Miss supports and takes care of its students.

“During my Ole Miss years I encountered experiences that prepared me for the real working world, such as being allowed to complete my last externship in the Veterans Administration Healthcare System in Austin, Texas. I also made connections with other professionals in my field because of the Ole Miss faculty. Dr. Higdon afforded me opportunities to publicize my personal interests in the field through presentations at state and national conventions,” she says.

“Through the professional knowledge Mandy gained in the Department of Communicative Disorders, she is now able to help people across the lifespan,” says Dr. Linda Chitwood, dean of the School of Applied Sciences. “For example, one of the most anticipated moments for a parent is the sound of their child’s first words. But what if the words are delayed or never come at all? Speech and language disorders can affect anyone at any age – millions of infants, children, and adults in America from all walks of life. Mandy is able to help individuals overcome a variety of communication challenges.

“Our scholarships enable the School of Applied Sciences to ensure that bright, gifted people are allowed to pursue their hope of having an impact on other people and helping them to lead more enriching and fulfilling lives,” she says.
Shea Jackson Polk believes her efforts as a pharmacist at the University Hospital at the University of Alabama-Birmingham will improve the lives of the hospital’s physicians and nurses by helping them deliver effective pharmaceutical therapies.

Shea Jackson Polk

And ultimately, that will improve the lives of patients.

“I view pharmacy as an opportunity to serve those around me,” Shea says. “What better life accomplishment is there than to serve others?”

The Louisville, Miss., native earned both an undergraduate degree and a doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy, where she received several scholarships.

“The School of Pharmacy not only was concerned with our knowledge of medication facts but also with our application of that knowledge and our ability to function as pharmacists,” says Shea. “The pharmacy school taught us professionalism, communication skills, and a love for our patients and the good of the medical community.”

Shea’s overall Ole Miss experience is impacting her career in many ways.

“I learned so much during my years at Ole Miss. Every experience taught respect, love of learning, and an enthusiasm for life and all that it offers. Extracurricular activities, such as the Baptist Student Union, allowed me to serve other students and develop leadership skills and compassion for those around me. I think both of those lessons enable me to be a better member of the pharmacy community.”

The young pharmacist chose the pharmacy profession for several reasons. “I knew two pharmacists in my hometown who were great role models. I saw how they cared for their patients and the vital role they played in our community,” says Shea, who completed experiential preceptorships under UM pharmacy alumni.

Dr. Barbara Wells, dean of pharmacy, says scholarships are essential in recruiting outstanding students to the School of Pharmacy.

“The scholarship support offered to Shea Jackson Polk helped us attract a young woman of great potential and helped her to concentrate more on her studies and leadership development. She worked with compassion and commitment to help her classmates achieve their academic goals. Today Shea is making a wonderful difference in the lives of patients by providing comprehensive, patient-centered care to prevent disease and drug-related problems and by assuring patients achieve maximal benefit from their drug therapy. She is an exemplary pharmacy practitioner and a stellar reflection on the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy,” says the dean.

Shea calls her Ole Miss experience “one of the best periods of my life” and expresses appreciation to alumni and friends who provide scholarships.

“I think that allowing aspiring students to accomplish their goals is a wonderful use of donors’ money,” she says. “I am so very grateful for the scholarships that I received; they played an integral part in my being able to attend school full time and devote my time to my studies. Those monies allowed me to focus intently on my education and acquire all of the knowledge available to me as a student at an excellent and progressive institution.”
University Libraries

“University Libraries have the potential to make a lifelong impact on our students, and I am committed to making our libraries as friendly, accessible, and technology infused as possible. I also am committed to building strong research collections so that Ole Miss will continue to be one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the country. In order to achieve these goals, we will, however, need continuing support from donors.”

Julia Rholes, Dean of Libraries

Just as scholarships propel students along their journeys in higher education, libraries provide both roadmaps and tools – knowledge amassed over time, as well as the fast-changing and expanding information of a technological age.

“When a student passes through the glass doors to the library, he enters upon all human experience and finds within his arm’s reach the vast intellectual resources of the past, the foundation of his own development, and the comfort in which to enjoy his own mental and spiritual advancement,” says Dr. John Pilkington, distinguished professor emeritus of English and president of the university’s Friends of the Library. “Truly the library is the student’s gate to the past and his opening to the future.”

Students can turn to the University Libraries across UM campuses when seeking information for class assignments and other papers, investigation for a theory or debate, a quiet haven for work or study, a different perspective from a review of history, data for experiments, a broader outlook from study of a person’s experiences, support for a business idea, instruction for a new hobby, an escape to a great novel, and even a shared cup of coffee with friends. Libraries support the mission of teaching, scholarship, public service, and so much more.

University Libraries offer an astounding array of books, journals, government publications, special collections, microfilm, recordings, databases, and newspapers. When measuring the quality of a university, in fact, library holdings play a tremendous role. In the instance of the successful quest of UM faculty to shelter a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, library resources – which include 1.2 million volumes and other materials – passed rigorous scrutiny during the selection process.

Students can navigate the wealth of resources within library walls with the assistance of the library staff or through their own personal computers. Student and faculty researchers addressing the challenges of society turn to University Libraries for support.

“University Libraries have the potential to make a lifelong impact on our students, and I am committed to making our libraries as friendly, accessible, and technology infused as possible,” UM Dean of Libraries Julia Rholes says.

“I also am committed to building strong research collections so that Ole Miss will continue to be one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the country. In order to achieve these goals, we will, however, need continuing support from donors. In the past, generous donations have enabled us to build our collections, and they have allowed us to offer exciting new services, such as our new online reference chat service,” says the dean.

Alumni, faculty, and friends have created yet another living legacy through support of the University Libraries. Great libraries, of course, are essential for a progressive academic environment, as students and faculty pursue their work. Libraries support American democracy because they provide “everyone with access to ideas and access to every idea,” embrace intellectual freedom, and preserve cultural heritage.

The University Libraries help define the UM community and are worthy of investments. When students successfully complete their studies and go on to enjoy fulfilling lives and careers, you can know the Universities Libraries played an extraordinary role in their journeys.
"Your scholarship is truly the difference in me being able to participate in this educational opportunity of a lifetime."

Katherine A. Griffin, student
“The balance is shifting as states steadily reduce the appropriation for higher education, leaving public colleges and universities to depend more on tuition, private gifts, and grants to operate. Private support will play an increasingly important role in our ability to provide an outstanding educational experience and educated workforce that is critical to Mississippi’s economic success.”

Dr. Gloria Kellum,
Vice Chancellor for University Relations

Tour the University of Mississippi-Oxford campus – named the best maintained college campus in the country by a national landscaping society – or visit the University of Mississippi Medical Center campus in Jackson and the UM-Tupelo and Southaven campuses to see living legacies.


All are signs of a committed, involved base of alumni and friends whose hallmark has become making significant investments in higher education, which translates into strengthening society and building a brighter future. The successes and progress reflect one important truth: every individual – not just the very wealthy – can make a significant impact on the life of the University of Mississippi.

Consider the recent example set by School of Engineering alumni and friends. When the school identified an immediate need for better, more modern equipment in its student labs that had to be met before an Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology visit, a call to action was issued.

Using a variety of sources, Dean of Engineering Kai-Fong Lee amassed $221,000 to buy the equipment. One-third of the total came from alumni and friends in the Woods Order and the Engineering Alumni Chapter.

“This is a prime example of alumni giving having a tremendous impact on the school,” says Stephen Sneed, the University Foundation advancement associate serving the engineering school. “The average gift to the Engineering Alumni Chapter is $100, and the average gift to the Woods Order is $500. This initiative represents a large-scale effort by our alumni; a lot of folks made this possible.”

The School of Engineering is involved in the Commitment to Excellence in Engineering campaign to attract $40 million to establish engineering endowments and renovate Carrier, Anderson and Old Chemistry halls. Alumni and friends of engineering, no doubt, are drawing from their shared history of coming together and combining gifts of all sizes to accomplish this ambitious goal. Both the school and the participants in this campaign are growing stronger by creating this living legacy.
The momentum the university continues to enjoy is only possible through alumni and friends, as well as students, faculty, and staff, who embrace the possibilities and opportunities that continually unfold. Profound gratitude is expressed for these efforts and contributions. Recent achievements are a source of great pride, as they should be. But the fervent call to contribute time and resources is repeated today.

Included here are programs and initiatives in which alumni and friends can become involved:

- **Ole Miss First Scholarship Initiative** – Individuals, businesses, and corporations can fund one student’s education with a $25,000 gift or establish a scholarship endowment. Ellen Rolfes at (662) 915-3939.

- **The Inn at Ole Miss** – A $15 million expansion of the Alumni House Hotel can better meet the needs of alumni, friends, and visitors from all over the world relying on the convenience of the campus hotel that also allows them to be immersed in campus life. Warner Alford at (662) 915-7375.

- **Commitment to Excellence in Engineering** – Tom Black at (662) 915-5932.

- **Indoor Athletic Facility** – Ole Miss is now home to the most progressive multi-sport indoor complex in the South. George Smith at (662) 915-7159.

Other initiatives not already mentioned are:

- **School of Accountancy** – Clay Cavett at (662) 915-7375.
- **School of Applied Sciences** – Shelia Dossett at (662) 915-7375.
- **School of Business Administration** – Robert Forster at (662) 915-1610 or Vic Sullivan at (662) 915-6730.
- **School of Education** – Brandon Dixon at (662) 915-6678.
- **The Graduate School** – Dr. Maurice Eftink at (662) 915-5974.
- **School of Law** – Stephen Snead at (662) 915-6929.
- **College of Liberal Arts** – Perry Moulds at (662) 915-5961.
- **School of Pharmacy** – Lance Tolbert at (662) 915-1584.
- **The University of Mississippi – Desoto Center** – Dr. Bonnie Buntin at (662) 342-4765.
- **The University of Mississippi – Tupelo Center** – Tim Angle at (662) 844-5622.
- **The University of Mississippi Medical Center** – Dr. Tom Pitt at (601) 815-3300 or Geoffrey Mitchell at (601) 844-5800.
- **University Libraries** – Dr. Julia Rholes at (662) 915-7093.
- **Center for the Study of Southern Culture** – Angelina Altobellis at (662) 915-1546.
- **Chancellor’s Trust Initiative** – Sandra Guest at (662) 915-5944.
- **Ford Center for the Performing Arts** – Ted Smith at (662) 915-5946.
- **Ole Miss Women’s Council Scholarship Initiative** – Ellen Rolfes at (662) 915-3939.
- **William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation** – Dr. Susan Glisson at (662) 915-6727.

Or, for any information about becoming involved in meeting the needs of the university, call the University of Mississippi Foundation at 1-800-340-9542 or (662) 915-5944, visit the foundation website at www.umfoundation.olemiss.edu, or email: umf@olemiss.edu.
Among Living Legacies created during 2003-04...

NFL running back Deuce McAllister of the New Orleans Saints gives $1 million toward the construction of the Indoor Practice Facility. “I have a strong bond with the University of Mississippi,” says McAllister, who played football for Ole Miss during 1997-2000. “I helped kick start the recent success of the Rebel football program, and I want to see that success continue.”

The Clare Leslie Marquette Estate provides $1 million for scholarships and a history department professorship. Professor Marquette taught American history to UM students from 1946 to 1972. “We are deeply moved by this astounding gift, by what it meant to Dr. Marquette, and by what it will mean to future scholars and to the history department,” says UM Chancellor Robert Khayat.

The Albin J. Krebs Estate provides $210,789 for journalism scholarships. Dr. Roy Sheffield, professor emeritus, and his wife, Reda, announce a gift of $300,000 for student scholarships and faculty research in mathematics. “Through this endowment, I can still help others even though I’m not teaching any longer,” says Roy Sheffield, who now lives in Dorsey, Miss. “I know from experience that the chair needs money for the department above that in the budget.”

The Ashbury Foundation of Hattiesburg, Miss., commits $1 million to Ole Miss First scholarships. The gift is designed to assist students from seven counties in the southern portion of the state. “In light of the state’s difficult budget situation, private support by foundations and other such organizations is more important than ever,” says William K. Ray, the foundation’s executive director. Numerous other individuals and groups announce gifts to the Ole Miss First initiative.

Frances and Lewis Graeber of Marks, Miss., see the scholarship endowment they began in 1996 build to almost $900,000. The fund rewards students who excel during their freshman year in both academics and leadership but are not receiving other scholarship assistance. “We believe that by rewarding these students, they will continue to do well at the university,” Lewis Graeber says.

The Harriet Jackson Estate bequeaths $445,300 to the university’s School of Medicine, College of Liberal Arts, and Friends of the Library. In addition to creating student scholarships, the gift is expected to add around 600 volumes to the J.D. Williams Library. Jackson, a daughter of a physician and a native of Water Valley, Miss., taught French as a faculty member on the UM-Oxford campus.

The Eugenia Miller Estate creates pre-medical and medical scholarships with a gift of $325,000. The scholarships pay tribute to Miller’s Uncle “Doc” Pittman, a country doctor who practiced at the turn of the century. “Love of education defined her life, and her gift of worldly possession to the university reflects that,” says Hal Crenshaw, a lifelong friend of Miller, who was a Crenshaw, Miss., native.

The Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts opens with a star-studded gala with an audience of 1,200 celebrating the new state-of-the-art complex. Hollywood actor Morgan Freeman hosts the talent showcase featuring UM students, faculty, alumni, and friends. Sam Haskell III, executive vice president for the William Morris Agency in Los Angeles and an Ole Miss alumnus, produces the gala.

The Institute for Racial Reconciliation is named for former Gov. William Winter during a series of events in Jackson, Miss., marking the statesman’s 80th birthday. Leaders headline a symposium titled “The Future of Race in America.”

Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation of Memphis supports the Ole Miss Women’s Council for Philanthropy scholarship program with a $125,000 gift. A $100,000 gift from Elizabeth “Betsy” Sherman Shelton of McComb, Miss., supports a Women’s Council scholarship in honor of her father, Prescott “Peck” Sherman. Ole Miss student Margaret Bardwell creates a Women’s Council scholarship honoring her mother, Patsy Brumfield of Tupelo, Miss., and her late grandmother, Betty Jane Dial Brumfield of McComb, Miss., through a life insurance policy with the university as beneficiary. Martha Kirkley of Columbus, Miss., gives $100,000 for a Women’s Council scholarship honoring her daughter, Lindsay Kirkley, and Professor of English Joseph Urgo.

The Emma Rogers Estate addresses the broad needs of the J.D. Williams Library through a $100,000 endowment. The New Albany, Miss., native headed up the library’s circulation department for many years.

The Bedford Foundation of Madison, Miss., honors Glynne and Ann Simpson with a $100,000 gift in their name. The resources are designated to provide scholarships, both to assist deserving student trainers and managers in athletics, as well as graduate students in elementary education.

The Institute for the Study of Southern Religion at Ole Miss is given $100,000 to create the nation’s first doctoral scholarship for students studying the life and work of author William Faulkner and to pay tribute to the late Frances Bell McCool.

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Dr. Charles W. Montgomery, Dr. H. Kellum, and Dr. Julian B. Hill of Tupelo, Miss., establish the Spencer L. Schreiter Memorial Fellowship in Hematology and Oncology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Their $200,000 gift honors the memory of Schreiter, who was their partner. “Spencer Schreiter gave 150 percent to every undertaking in his life,” Montgomery says.

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The Albin J. Krebs Estate provides $210,789 for journalism scholarships. The late Krebs, who enjoyed a distinguished career with The New York Times, served as editor of the UM student newspaper in 1950. He wrote editorials speaking out for the integration of the law and graduate schools because such courses were not offered at the Mississippi’s then-black colleges.
Public higher education endures in a climate of mounting and varied challenges – one of which is decreased funding by state governments. In this same environment, the University of Mississippi not only is persevering but also gaining great prominence.

Why? The support of alumni and friends is ensuring the university stretches beyond what it was ten years ago, one year ago, and even one day ago.

The dramatic growth and expansion of the university points to two key factors: leadership and trust. Alumni, friends, faculty, administrators, staff, and students are fully engaged in leading the University of Mississippi to its destiny as a stellar force in education, research, leadership, and mentorship.

Alumni and friends also trust that the university is a good steward of gifts in that it educates and prepares productive citizens and leaders, as well as serves as a vehicle to address societal issues. Countless Ole Miss alumni and friends want to help other people – particularly young people – achieve remarkable goals and fulfillment, and they believe they can do that most effectively through the university environment.

This report focuses on the living legacies – such as life-changing student scholarships – being created and nurtured at the University of Mississippi. For building legacies with diligence, with focus, and with creativity and passion…

Thank you.
“Thank you again for this incredible opportunity for me to develop as an individual and a student here at the University of Mississippi. You can never understand the true magnitude of your contribution and the meaning it holds for my family and me.”

Meghan C. Blalock, student
Board of Directors

Front Row (left to right):  David E. Brevard, Roger M. Flynt, Jr., William G. Yates, Jr., Sandra M. Guest, R. Faser Triplett, Jan G. Farrington, Suzan Thames, Mary Sharp Rayner, Jon C. Turner, and William M. Renovich


Board Officers

Left to right: William G. Yates, Jr., Chair; Jamie G. Houston, Chair-Elect; Don L. Frugé, Sr., President/CEO; Sandra M. Guest, Secretary/Treasurer
The Joint Committee on University Investments consists of the officers and one person elected by the University of Mississippi Foundation and four persons appointed by the chancellor representing the University of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi Medical Center endowments. The committee is charged with investing all endowment funds, deciding on the appropriate asset allocation for investments, establishing the endowment spending policy and selecting fund managers.

The Joint Committee on University Investments for 2003-2004 includes Michael T. McRee, chair; Charles T. Cannada; Roger P. Friou; Don L. Frugé, Sr; Sandra M. Guest; Brenda Melohn; Jamie G. Houston; R. Faser Triplett; Johnny Williams; and William G. Yates, Jr. Cynthia Henderson, Bob Dowdy, and Lisa Chow serve as resource personnel to the committee.

This committee employs the Fund Evaluation Group as an overlay manager to assist with these responsibilities. Currently, the committee has employed 13 different firms to manage the diversified portfolio of stocks, bonds, and alternative investments. This broad diversification resulted in total returns for our endowment of 8.7 percent for ten years, 3.3 percent for five years, 3 percent for three years, and 16 percent for one year ending June 30, 2004.

Much has been written about the new corporate governing regulation, and while the Sarbanes-Oxley Act does not apply to non-profit organizations, foundation officers have adopted the spirit of the act into its operations. Chair William G. Yates, Jr. appointed an Audit Committee chaired by Roger Friou with Jamie Houston, Charles Cannada, and Johnny Williams as members. The Audit Committee employed KPMG to conduct the 2003-2004 audit of the foundation.

**Investment Committee**

*Front, from left:* Roger P. Friou, R. Faser Triplett, William G. Yates, Jr., Brenda Melohn

*Back, from left:* Michael T. McRee, Robert W. Dowdy, Sandra M. Guest, Don L. Frugé, Charles T. Cannada, Johnny Williams
Staff

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