

A PUBLICATION OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION

2022

FOUNDATION NEWS



*Ole
Miss*

LEK OF CHAMPIONS



Children's
of Mississippi

YOUR SUPPORT

- Strengthens Academics
- Improves Health Care
- Fuels Athletics



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2022

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Special thanks to Sheryl and Roland Burns; the Joseph C. Bancroft Charitable & Educational Fund; Cile and Bill Hicks; Tonya and Dale Flesher; Doug Self; Colleen and Chris Haley; Lea Ann and Brian Roberson; Ginger and Charles Clark; Marsha and Brent Wood; and Janet and Olen Akers.	

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FOUNDATION NEWS



A PUBLICATION OF
**THE UNIVERSITY OF
MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION**

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 relentless 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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MESSAGE FROM THE **CHANCELLOR**



UM CHANCELLOR
GLENN BOYCE

The University of Mississippi enjoyed a spectacular year of successes. We're strong because of your robust investments in our people, places and resources. I offer my deepest gratitude for your loyal and enthusiastic support.

This year, we launched the ambitious \$1.5 billion Now & Ever campaign. It's the largest in the state's history, and it will advance our teaching and research along with the health care, service and innovation we bring to the state and world.

Our students and academic programs attained elite accomplishments. Gifts to academics provide students with the support they need to thrive. This year, Ole Miss celebrated six Fulbright recipients and three Goldwater Scholars, and we were among only six institutions in the nation with multiple Truman scholars. We commemorated the "topping out" of the Jim and Thomas Duff Center for Science and Technology Innovation, a significant milestone in construction where the last beam is placed atop a structure. This facility will be transformative for science and math education.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center provided leading health care and made major contributions to research and innovation. I'm pleased to share that the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi surpassed its original \$100 million goal. These funds directly impact children and families of Mississippi through the state-of-the-art facility that doubled the square footage devoted to pediatric care at the Medical Center.

Ole Miss Athletics delivered tremendous victories this year. And, we launched the \$350 million *Champions. Now.* campaign. This effort will provide our teams with first-rate equipment and facilities. It will also help us attract high-level talent in an increasingly competitive SEC atmosphere.

I'm proud that we offer the education, experiences and opportunities for current students and future generations to pursue their passions, reach their potential and build their legacies. We achieve this thanks to the support of the Ole Miss family!

MESSAGE FROM THE **FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR**



FOUNDATION
BOARD CHAIR
**T. MICHAEL
GLENN**

It is my hope that you enjoy the 2022 edition of Foundation News. I continue to be encouraged by your outstanding support for our students, faculty, facilities and programs, and especially by your eagerness to contribute to Now & Ever: The Campaign for Ole Miss (see page 6). Already, more than \$1 billion has been secured toward this \$1.5 billion goal, and at the close of the fiscal year, June 30, the combined university endowment totaled more than \$850 million.

My special gratitude is extended to Chancellor Glenn Boyce for his continued excellence in leading our university. Much credit can be given to him for the return to normalcy our students are experiencing on our campuses. I am impressed by his commitment to help our students realize their dreams of achieving higher education degrees and by his desire to see greater focus on veteran services at Ole Miss. We are fortunate to have Chancellor Boyce at the helm.

As you read through these pages, I hope you will join me in applauding the many donors who contributed to our private support totals. In particular, I draw your attention to a \$2 million gift from Melanie and Bill Roper in support of business and STEM majors (see page 2); to the incredible outpouring of support for the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building (page 18); to the many generous gifts like Shelly and Scott Ririe's \$7.5 million (page 20) that will benefit our student-athletes, and to the voluminous outpouring of support for our Medical Center, especially the record-breaking donation from Century Club Charities for our hospital, Children's of Mississippi.

On behalf of the UM Foundation, please accept my sincerest gratitude for your generosity. Our beloved university's future is bright, thanks to you.

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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Funding the Future

New endowment establishes Roper Scholars, four-year support for business and STEM majors

To say Bill Roper is driven is an understatement. The Jackson, Mississippi, native has continued to work ever since he started selling tomatoes door-to-door

at age 8. Back then, he used some of the money to buy model cars. Today, he collects the real thing — the kind he enjoys driving on the lush and winding Coast Boulevard overlooking the Pacific

Ocean’s sapphire waves near his La Jolla, California, home.

Hard work, Roper said, is the foundation for his success and the reason he and his wife, Melanie, are able to make a \$2 million gift to the University of Mississippi, establishing an endowment that will provide four-year scholarships in the amount of \$10,000 annually to two entering freshmen.

The Ropers’ gift will go toward Now & Ever: The Campaign for Ole Miss, a historic fundraising initiative to secure \$1.5 billion in private gifts to strengthen the university for generations to come.

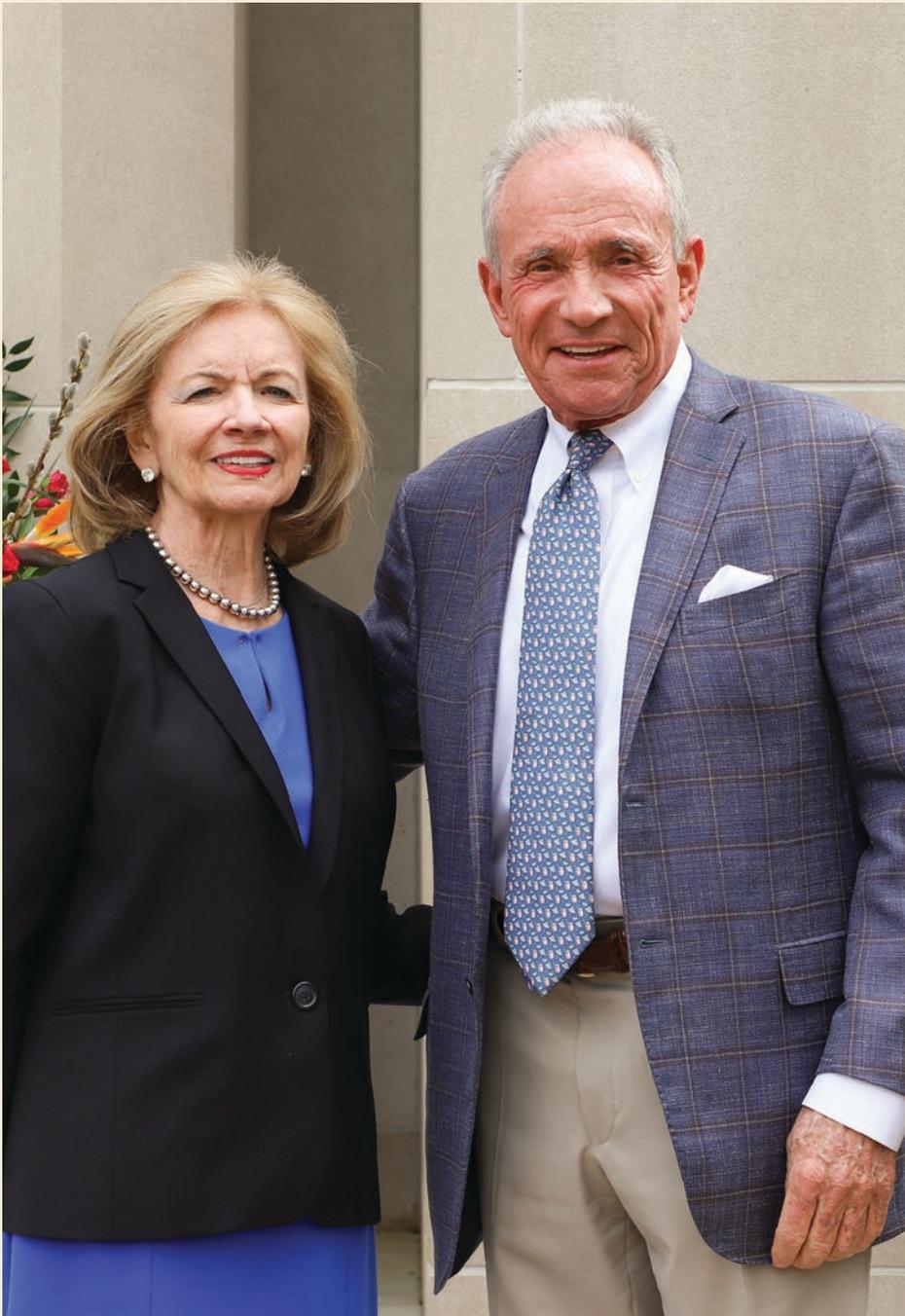
“Our vision is that by supporting these students financially — and with the able assistance and guidance of the educators and staff at Ole Miss — we will be able to help identify and proudly produce any number of future leaders that will ultimately make our nation and the world a better place,” said Roper, a 1968 graduate of the UM College of Liberal Arts.

To be eligible for the Bill and Melanie Roper Scholarship, students must be enrolled in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College majoring in business, science, technology, engineering or math.

“Melanie and I would like to assist in producing more business or technology leaders for the future, and that starts with a STEM-related education. Those are the areas that have served me well,” said Roper, president of Roper Capital Company, a private investment firm that provides growth capital and management services to help small-to-midsize businesses create value and improve owner liquidity.

Ole Miss Chancellor Glenn Boyce expressed gratitude for the Ropers’ gift.

“Bill and Melanie have a great vision



Melanie and Bill Roper made a \$2 million gift to the University of Mississippi, establishing an endowment that will provide four-year scholarships in the amount of \$10,000 annually to two entering freshmen. The Ropers’ gift will go toward Now & Ever: The Campaign for Ole Miss, a historic fundraising initiative to secure \$1.5 billion in private gifts.

continued on page 3



continued from page 2

for the future with respect to technology and its role in society, specifically in the U.S. but also globally,” Boyce said. “Through their extraordinary generosity, they are effectively taking steps to ensure that our students become integral leaders within the landscape of tomorrow, and for that, we are very thankful.”

In addition to the other requirements, Roper Scholars must have a demonstrated record of academic excellence and leadership.

“My parents taught me that when you see something that needs to be done, you should jump in and take the lead,” Roper said. “So I was always the guy who volunteered to take on difficult assignments. And along the way, I discovered that one of the ways to differentiate myself and be successful in business was to be willing to go above and beyond, take on additional tasks and lead.

“So, Melanie and I are hoping these scholarships will indirectly help develop leaders out of bright kids who want to impact their world, but maybe need a little extra boost.”

The Roper Scholarship will also benefit the Honors College, which incidentally was founded by Roper’s Sigma Chi fraternity brother Jim Barksdale.

“This family’s generous gift will help us continue to attract some of the brightest students in STEM and business to the University of Mississippi,” said Ethel Young Scurlock, dean of the Honors College.

“Private support allows us to enrich the experiences of our citizen-scholars in the Honors College. Some gifts will change their lives by alleviating the burden of high tuition and fees while others will enable us to support students as they engage in High-Impact Practices,” she continued.

High-Impact Practices encourage students to excel beyond the classroom

and can include practices such as conducting research alongside faculty members, traveling to national and international conferences, studying abroad and working unpaid internships.

“Studies show us that these experiences lead to a higher rate of placement in jobs and a higher rate of acceptance in graduate schools. Many

‘Our vision is that by supporting these students financially – and with the able assistance and guidance of the educators and staff at Ole Miss – we will be able to help identify and proudly produce any number of future leaders that will ultimately make our nation and the world a better place.’

of our citizen-scholars may not be able to afford these experiences, so we rely on private support to overcome any economic barriers our students face and level the playing field,” Scurlock said.

“I want to be able to tell every student who excels in the Honors College that if they can dream big academic dreams, we will fight to find a way to fund those dreams,” she continued. “And that’s where private support like the Ropers’ is crucial.”

Roper himself attended Ole Miss with assistance from two scholarships and majored in math “because it provided logic and discipline, and honestly it was an easy subject for me,” he said. During college, he also worked as a dorm manager and math tutor in addition to selling class rings and fraternity pins for Balfour and clothing at Carl Coers, an on-campus retailer.

After college, he returned to Jackson to work for Deposit Guaranty National Bank and met his wife during that time. His career progressed from there. For 17 years, he was executive vice president of SAIC Inc., a diversified science and technology services organization, whose annual revenues grew from less than \$1 billion to nearly

\$9 billion during his tenure with the company.

He also served as president and CEO of Verisign Inc., the leading global provider of internet infrastructure and security services and a member of the NASDAQ 100, where he was responsible for restructuring and repositioning the company.

The donor has also served on the boards of several public and private companies, along with active involvement in numerous civic and philanthropic organizations.

Roper said he credits his UM education not only for his degree but also for providing “all the socialization, the maturation and many of the things that I learned to be better prepared for a successful career and life.

“Education at all levels is a key ingredient in our society for future success — personally, locally and nationally.”

But it was that introductory level — his first job selling produce to the neighbors — that taught him many of the lessons he would use throughout his career.

“I learned about margins and markup. I learned about inventory losses when I got lazy and let some of the tomatoes get soft before I could sell them because I was busy playing baseball or whatever,” Roper said. “And I learned about customer service, dependability and responsibility — so many of the important factors in life.”

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



Henderson's Estate Expands Legacy

Major gift endows UM Foundation operations

For 37 years, the late Alice Henderson of Jackson, Mississippi, supported the University of Mississippi with funds for scholarships. Now her \$3.1 million estate gift further illustrates her devotion to strengthening her alma mater.

The gift is directed to the John P. and Wanda Alice McKee Henderson Endowment, an unrestricted endowed fund for the general use of the UM Foundation. Combined with the former gifts from Henderson and her late husband, John, the couple's impact on Ole Miss totals more than \$3.9 million.

Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the UM Foundation, expressed appreciation for the estate gift providing permanently endowed funds to the foundation. While the university thrives as a higher education environment, the UM Foundation operates as a supporting business attracting, managing and investing private resources.

"With more than half of the current management/development fee revenue generated by the foundation being used to fund university activities, the Hendersons' generous gift moves us even closer to a goal of being fully endowed. A fully endowed foundation would allow all revenue generated to be used to address the greatest needs of Ole Miss. We greatly appreciate their generosity, thoughtfulness and trust."

John Henderson, who passed away in 2011, and Alice Henderson, who passed away in 2021, were deeply devoted to each other as well as to assisting their respective alma maters.

A Mississippi native, Alice Henderson attended Millsaps College and then graduated from Ole Miss, where she was active in the Chi Omega sorority. Her late husband, a Texas native, earned his college degree at Trinity University. His alma mater has been a beneficiary of their giving as well as First Baptist Church of Jackson and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

In addition to the endowment supporting the UM Foundation, they created an Ole Miss First Scholarship in 2005 and an OMWC Scholarship endowment in 2012, with both assuring recipients receive financial assistance, mentoring and leadership training.

Jan Farrington of Jackson, a longtime friend of the Hendersons and a founding member and past chair of the Women's Council, expressed appreciation for their support.

"Alice Henderson was one of those sweet, bright spirits who exuded positive, good feelings all the time," said Farrington. "When Alice and John established an Ole Miss First Scholarship and provided other support, no one was surprised because it was typical of their ever-present willingness to help others."

The Hendersons were loyal UM benefactors. Their other gifts were directed to a membership in the Chancellor's Trust (another unrestricted fund) as well as support for the Ole Miss



The late Alice Henderson (left) directed a \$3.1 million estate gift to the University of Mississippi Foundation, after previously funding an Ole Miss Women's Council Scholarship and an Ole Miss First Scholarship. Pictured here with Henderson at the Rose Garden dedication of her OMWC Scholarship are Jan Farrington (center) and Mary Ann Frugé, both members of the OMWC.

Associates, School of Education, Alumni Center renovation and the University Museums and Historic Houses.

"It was a great privilege to have a longtime, close relationship with the Hendersons," said Sandra Guest, retired vice president of the UM Foundation. "They always inspired me through the extraordinary kindness they showed one another as well as to others — a beautiful quality that really defined their lives."

John Henderson was an executive with Exxon Mobil Corp. for some 44 years in Texas and Louisiana, providing expertise in the areas of refinery, exploration and production. He also served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Alice Henderson taught third grade for one year before moving to New Orleans, Louisiana, to work for Chevron. She met her husband there, married in 1967 and retired in 1981 to her hometown of Jackson.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Anna Langley, alangley@umfoundation.com or 662-915-5944.



Students in EDWP 340: *Integrated Music and Movement for the Elementary Classroom* get up and get moving to a video presented by Mississippi's Move to Learn initiative. The course is part of a 12-hour endorsement in wellness and physical activity offered to elementary education majors in the School of Education.

Sharing Their Vision for the Future

Webbs' estate gift will support students in law, education and medicine

An estate gift will ultimately provide scholarships for students in the schools of law, education and medicine.

The gift's benefactors are the late Taylor Webb, a 1950 graduate of the Ole Miss Law School, and his wife Sue Webb of Leland, Mississippi.

"My husband and I never had children, so we decided a number of years ago to make a gift to Ole Miss after our lifetimes," said Sue Webb, a Taylor, Mississippi, native who grew up in Oxford. "We decided it would be divided between the School of Law and the School of Education because Taylor practiced law and also believed very strongly in public education."

Taylor Webb practiced law for 40 years, focusing on estate and land title litigation. His wife worked as his secretary all those years, and they retired together in 1990.

When Taylor Webb passed away in July 2017, Sue Webb decided to include the University of Mississippi Medical Center in their estate plans.

"I'm very encouraged by the things I read about UMMC and I think the state of Mississippi needs a good teaching hospital like that," she said.

Taylor Webb became an Eagle Scout at the age of 13. At 17, he left high school

after his senior football season to walk on as tight-end for the Ole Miss Rebels. He was soon drafted by the U.S. Army during World War II and served in Japan for three years.

Returning home, he graduated at 22 from law school and, throughout his career, served in various positions with



Taylor and Sue Webb

the Mississippi Economic Council and other organizations. Since the 1960s, he advocated for public support of education as the solution to Mississippi's economic and social problems.

The Gillsburg, Mississippi, native grew up in Leland and always had a project going, his wife said. He also had rental property in Oxford and a 75-acre pecan grove that he harvested behind

their Leland home. He loved hunting and playing tennis.

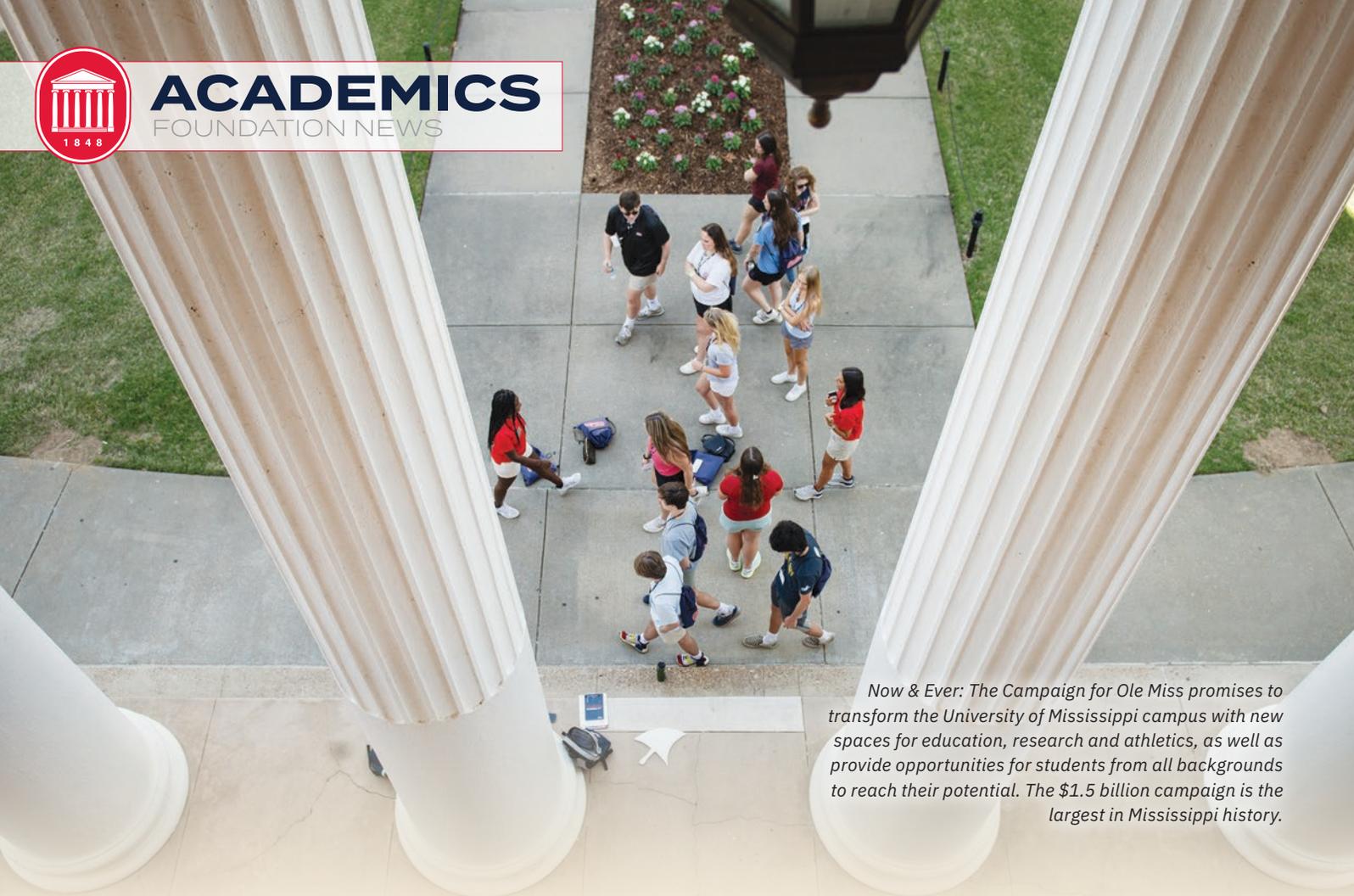
He also had a pilot's license. Though his wife never flew with him, she always joined him on their many road trips throughout the United States and Canada, even driving together as far as Alaska, Key West, Seattle and San Diego on different trips.

"I cannot stress enough what a remarkable person he was. I know I was very fortunate to be married to him. We had a fun life; we really did," Sue Webb said. "We had a storybook life."

Planned gifts award donors membership in the 1848 Society, named for the year the university welcomed its first students. The society recognizes those who thoughtfully provide for the university through bequests and deferred gifts.

"I hope our gift will offer students an opportunity to accomplish what they want to in life," Webb said. "I hope it will provide for someone, or several someones, to be teachers in elementary or secondary school and certainly practice law. Additionally, I want our gift to help health care students continue to experience the hands-on training that UMMC provides."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Charlotte Parks, cpparks@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1586.



Now & Ever: The Campaign for Ole Miss promises to transform the University of Mississippi campus with new spaces for education, research and athletics, as well as provide opportunities for students from all backgrounds to reach their potential. The \$1.5 billion campaign is the largest in Mississippi history.

Ole Miss Launches \$1.5 Billion Campaign

Historic initiative to strengthen university for generations

The University of Mississippi launched the largest comprehensive campaign in Mississippi history on Nov. 12, 2021, to raise \$1.5 billion in private support and increase the flagship university’s endowment to \$1 billion to strengthen it for generations to come.

University officials introduced Now & Ever: The Campaign for Ole Miss to alumni and friends in the Johnson Commons ballroom.

Over \$1 billion has already been secured toward this \$1.5 billion goal during the silent phase of the campaign, and at the close of the fiscal year, June 30.

“A campaign of this magnitude is ambitious, but then we are Ole Miss and do not shy away from lofty goals,” Chancellor Glenn Boyce said. “Gifts to this campaign will help us keep doing what we do best – offering education, experiences and opportunities so that our students can pursue their passions and reach their fullest potential in order to build legacies of fulfilling lives and successful careers.”

Now & Ever is securing philanthropic support to advance and grow a number of areas and efforts across the university from student scholarships and faculty research to campus facilities and athletics. Campaign goals are focused on how the university builds leaders, empowers academic excellence, fuels

research and innovation and creates economic opportunity.

For example, the university will apply its proven freshman-to-sophomore retention initiative to all undergraduate years, moving students from all backgrounds to timely graduations. More scholarships will be established to increase access to higher education and to recruit high-performing students.

Learning experiences for its almost 22,000 students will be expanded, such as increasing existing capacities for undergraduates to pursue research and developing more multidisciplinary academic and research centers.

“Our Student Success Center will pull together all the programs and expertise we have built and apply it across all classes,” Boyce said. “Our

remarkable 88.2% freshman-to-sophomore retention rate will carry through students’ time here.”

Through the Now & Ever campaign, the university will also secure more endowed faculty chairs and professorships to recruit and retain world-class professors. As a leader in engineering and the applied sciences, Ole Miss will address crucial national, state and local needs to grow a science, technology, engineering and mathematics-educated workforce and citizenry.

NOW & EVER
THE CAMPAIGN FOR
Ole Miss

continued from page 6

In order to fuel research and innovation, the campaign will enhance how the university applies scholarly work to develop practical solutions and improve lives. This will be accomplished through existing expertise resident in the Center for Diagnostics, Design, Devices and Biomechanics; Center for Insurance Transformation; Center for Air and Space Law; and the National Center for Natural Products Research – to name a few examples among many.

Additionally, Now & Ever will spur economic opportunity by bringing students across disciplines together to solve



University of Mississippi students in a general ecology class conduct research in Bailey's Woods as part of a lab exercise. One of the goals of the Now & Ever campaign is to expand opportunities for undergraduates to pursue research and prepare for successful careers.

real-life problems, create products and seed new businesses. Ultra-modern technology designed to meet tomorrow's needs will accelerate the transfer of research and innovation to commercialization, growing prosperity through investment, job creation, partnerships and economic opportunities.

"When this campaign is completed, the University of Mississippi will look different, and I don't just mean different because of the new incredible buildings and learning spaces, such as the Jim and Thomas Duff Center for Science and Technology Innovation, a new home for the nationally recognized Patterson School of Accountancy and the expanded Olivia and Archie Manning Athletics Performance Center and other athletics facilities," Boyce said.

The chancellor said that after the campaign, there will be "increased research with valuable application to our health and well-being. And, you will see graduates able to stay in Mississippi with exciting jobs and a more vibrant economy."

Charlotte Parks, vice chancellor for development, called

Now & Ever: The Campaign at Ole Miss a "monumental undertaking that is achievable because of generous alumni and friends, who recognize their investments will define the university's future."

"Ole Miss' first responsibility is to Mississippi as its flagship institution, but its influence spans far beyond the borders of this magnificent state," Parks said. "We are committed to securing crucial resources to elevate the lives of our students, families, other citizens and the world."

Leading the campaign in the first year are co-chairs retired Major Gen. Leon Collins and Debra Collins, of Madison, and Leigh Anne and Sean Tuohy, of Memphis, Tennessee. The four are supported by a 44-member Campaign Steering Committee of alumni and friends.

"We urge everyone to come forward now and invest in the future of our beloved university – one bursting with tremendous potential," Sean Tuohy said.

"Funding is crucial for embracing opportunities, and the vision of this campaign is one that everyone in the Ole Miss family can support. It gives us a clear path to serve Ole Miss and provide the best for future students, as well as a way of expressing gratitude for all the university has given us.

Fundraising priorities have been set by the Oxford campus academic

units as well as the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the Ole Miss Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

The university's endowment offers both financial stability and increased opportunities to students, faculty, researchers, health care professionals and staff, Parks said.

The last two comprehensive campaigns saw the Commitment to Excellence campaign wrap up in 2000 after raising \$529.9 million, and the MomentUM campaign ran from 2007 to 2009 and secured \$241 million in private gifts.

"On another level beyond classrooms and campus, we are excited for how this campaign will serve as a unifying force for all Rebels to come together and strengthen our beloved university," Boyce said. "It will cultivate new generations of diverse givers and inspire increased numbers of alumni and friends to become engaged in how we offer vibrant opportunities that create lifelong connections and transformational opportunities."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** nowandever.olemiss.edu



Deloitte, Foundation Endow \$1.5M Accountancy Chair

Gift helps attract, retain top faculty to renowned program

Deloitte and its foundation are expanding support of the Patterson School of Accountancy with a gift of \$1.5 million to establish the Deloitte Foundation Chair of Accountancy.

The new chair is funded by contributions from Deloitte partners, principals, managing directors and employees who are UM graduates coupled with Deloitte Foundation matching gifts. With this addition, the School of Accountancy now has eight endowed chairs, two endowed professorships and one endowed lectureship.

Establishing the Deloitte Foundation Chair of Accountancy provides the school the resources it needs to appoint a “nationally recognized scholar to this new position,” said Barry Atkins of Memphis, Tennessee, managing director, Deloitte & Touche LLP and a 1987 UM accountancy graduate.

“Faculty members are a key driver in preparing students for the future of work and the profession,” Atkins said. “I have fond memories of many professors at Ole Miss. The impact they had on me, my college experience and my career was immense. I am proud of the Deloitte UM alumni who, by virtue of this gift, are helping attract and retain top educators teaching the next generation of business leaders.”

The ideal candidate for the Deloitte Foundation Chair will be an “all-around outstanding faculty member with a great focus on students, teaching and preparing students for the profession,” said Mark Wilder, dean of the school. “We also want the Deloitte Foundation chairholder to have a national reputation for research while being a committed steward for the Patterson School and the University of Mississippi.”

This latest gift builds on the organization’s previous gift of \$250,000

to UM to create the Deloitte Foundation Lectureship in Accountancy. That fund provided resources for research and creative support for faculty members, as well as salary supplements.

The Patterson School programs have been ranked in the top 20 in the nation by the Public Accounting Report

that help develop the talent of the future and their influencers. Additionally, the foundation seeks to promote excellence in teaching, research and curriculum innovation with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion through an education lens.

“We are honored to have the Deloitte



Barry Atkins (left) of Memphis, Tennessee, managing director of Deloitte & Touche LLP and a UM accountancy graduate, visits with Mark Wilder, dean of the Patterson School of Accountancy, on the Oxford campus. Deloitte and its Foundation have funded a \$1.5 million named chair in the Patterson School.

each year since 2008. Earlier this year, Big4AccountingFirms.org released a list of the “50 Best Accounting Schools in the USA,” and the Patterson School was ranked No. 8 nationally and No. 1 in the SEC.

According to its mission, the Deloitte Foundation is dedicated to supporting education through a variety of initiatives

Foundation name on an endowed chair at Ole Miss and we greatly value our long-standing relationship with the organization,” Wilder said. “Their investment will enhance the work we do and impact the lives of our accountancy students for years to come.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Jason McCormick, jason@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1757.

Setting the Stage

Gift creates space for Ole Miss costume design shop

In the hands of a costume designer, reams of fabric can be used to transport a theater patron to another time or even another world.

A \$650,000 gift establishing the Nancye Starnes Theatre and Film Fund celebrates those transformations and expands the educational experiences of students who work to dress the stage.

“The people who create costumes put audiences in the middle of what the theater is trying to project, and those costumers play such an immense role,” said Nancye Starnes of Daniel Island, South Carolina. “They set the tone and deserve to have the best possible environment in which to work and a space that is functional.”

Starnes witnessed the impact a live theater performance can have during

“The Phantom of the Opera,” which she attended with her then 11-year-old daughter.

“She knew the music from listening to the soundtrack, and that moment for her was almost overwhelming. She was so excited to be in the audience and see the performers on stage,” said the UM alumna. “My daughter grabbed my hand and looked over at me with tears in her wide eyes. That’s what theater can do for a person, especially when there’s so much attention to detail.”

Starnes’ gift will support renovating and moving the costume and craft shops from Fulton Chapel to the South Oxford Campus as well as locating all of the costuming classes there. The new space will be dedicated to both costume production and costume



Nancye Starnes speaks at Celebrating the Arts, a fundraising campaign kickoff event for the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts at Ole Miss.

design students, and it will expand the space for the production and storage needs of the program.

The Department of Theatre and Film offers costume design and costume technology courses that prepare students for professional job opportunities.

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

McMullan Foundation Gifts Make Students’ College Dreams a Reality

In her lifetime, the late Madeleine McMullan’s philanthropy and service improved the lives of countless people.

Now, the James and Madeleine McMullan Family Foundation continues her legacy with recent gifts totaling \$500,000 to the Foundations for Academic Success Track (FASTrack) program.

This is the latest among 30 years’ worth of gifts made to UM by McMullan and her late husband, Jim McMullan — a 1956 UM graduate — and the McMullan Family Foundation, which was established in 1987 and is managed by the couple’s



Madeleine and Jim McMullan

daughters Carlette McMullan of Lake Forest, Illinois, and Margaret McMullan of Pass Christian, Mississippi. To date,

the foundation has provided over \$1.25 million in scholarships.

Carlette and Margaret McMullan incorporate their parents’ primary philanthropic concerns and goals into every decision they make.

“Our parents were both keen on education, community work, health care and organizations that help the underserved,” Margaret said. “My sister and I always consider them when we make foundation decisions.

We are so proud of the faculty, staff and students at the University of Mississippi for sharing our parents’ vision.”

“Our Mississippi-born and raised father was deeply interested in and passionate about Southern history and supporting research and learning,” Carlette McMullan said. “Our parents’ shared passion for helping those less fortunate and their confidence in the benefits of education, inspired much of their philanthropy. Margaret and I are blessed to be guided by their vision.

“We are excited to continue our family foundation’s partnership with the University of Mississippi and the FASTrack initiative.”

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



Building a Premier Esports Program

Payne family gift applauded as an investment in the future

Alumnus Abb Payne of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, his wife, Jennifer, and their family are football fans who tend to spend fall weekends at university stadiums. One family member, however — the Paynes’ 10-year-old son, Ford — prefers the online gaming competitions of esports over the traditional gridiron.

Thanks to the family’s transformative gift to Ole Miss Esports,

the university now has the resources to continue building a program that helps recruit students and talented esports players, and particularly appeals to those interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

“My son is into gaming more than football, and at first it was something fun for us to do together. Then, I started to see the tournaments, the athletes and all that went into holding these events,” said Payne, a graduate of the Ole Miss School of Business Administration.

“Jennifer and I discovered that through the Ole Miss Esports program, students are learning about STEM applications, broadcasting skills, creative functions and more. We think it’s important that the university continues to evolve to teach students in environments they understand and desire, and esports will do just that.”

To help grow the program, the Paynes established the Jennifer and Abb Payne Esports Facility Fund, the Payne Family Esports Operations Fund, the Payne Family Esports Gamers Fund and the Jennifer and Abb Payne Esports Gamers Scholarship Endowment.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Nikki Neely, nneely@olemiss.edu or 662-915-6678.



Abb and Jennifer Payne’s transformative gift is helping to recruit talented esports players to Ole Miss. Here, they’re photographed with their children (from left) Ford, Arden and Duke.

Gift Establishes William Magee Institute for Student Wellbeing

A \$500,000 gift from the Dr. and Mrs. R. Faser Triplett Foundation provides the seed money needed to establish the William Magee Institute for Student Wellbeing.

The institute will serve as the umbrella organization over a number of wellness centers designed to encourage holistic well-being and improve lives through education, research and support related to alcohol and other drugs.

The existing William Magee Center for AOD and Wellness Education, with its primary focus on preventing substance abuse, will be moved within the new institute along with a research center and other services that address such issues as mental health and eating disorders. The Magee Center will continue focusing on

servicing Ole Miss students with support and education, while the broader Magee Institute can work beyond campus, finding solutions for students and families.

The Triplett Foundation, named for the late Jackie and Faser Triplett

Greenwood, South Carolina; Liz Walker of Jackson; and Lou Ann Woidtke of Madison, Mississippi.

“We’re all for a total-wellness type of facility to which students can go to seek help,” said Chip Triplett, president of the

Triplett Foundation. “Students need a place to go where they can talk to somebody when they’re struggling with an issue that they or a family member or friend are encountering. And now, building this institute, we can serve even more.”

The Magee Center and Institute tribute William Magee — an Honor’s College alumnus and track member — who lost his life to an overdose in 2013.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Brett Barefoot, bmbarefo@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2711.



The Triplett siblings are (from left) Lou Ann Woidtke, Liz Walker, Suzy Fuller, Diane Holloway and Chip Triplett.

of Jackson, Mississippi, is managed by their children: Chip Triplett of Ridgeland, Mississippi; Diane Holloway of Nashville, Tennessee; Suzy Fuller of

Giving Back to Business, Athletics

Graduate's gifts support job placement for students, improved facilities

After a 30-year career as CEO of four companies, Dean Douglas is giving back to the university he credits for his success.

With gifts totaling \$250,000, the 1978 graduate of the School of Business Administration established the Dean Douglas Business Student Preparation Endowment and the Dean J. Douglas Business Advisory Board Business Connect Program Endowment.

The funds will work in tandem to support an initiative designed to make the School of Business Administration a go-to source for companies recruiting new executives, meaning graduates will be better prepared to be hired by top companies in global business.

“When I talked about Ole Miss to others at IBM and many other companies, I realized that University of Mississippi graduates weren’t on the top of their recruiting lists and that bothered me,” said Douglas, now retired and teaching a sales class within the business school. “I understand that there’s a 90% placement rate for our students within six months but I’m not sure that they’re getting the best jobs. I want to help make certain they do.”

Douglas hopes his gift will be used to support the development of software or artificial intelligence tools to drive a stronger job-placement result for School of Business Administration graduates.



Visiting at the Douglas Family Gate at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium are (from left) Business Dean Ken Cyree, Dean Douglas, Keith Carter, vice chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics, and Matt McLaughlin, assistant AD for major gifts.

Douglas also supports Ole Miss Athletics; his most recent gift of \$500,000 is designated to the Vaught Society and Champions. Now. campaign.

“I’m a big fan of Ole Miss both academically as well as from a sports-on-the-field standpoint,” Douglas said. “It just seemed to me that this would be a nice way to help out going forward as plans were being put in place to expand athletics facilities.”

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

Supporting a Proven Program

Gift will expand Ole Miss faculty support, grow RMI program

A new commitment from Brown & Riding Insurance Co. (B&R) will further expand faculty support for UM’s nationally recognized Risk Management and Insurance (RMI) program, helping ensure professors have the resources needed to effectively teach and prepare students.

B&R is increasing an initial gift to the



Brown & Riding president and CEO Jeff Rodriguez visits with an Ole Miss student.

RMI program establishing the Brown & Riding Faculty Support Endowment in the School of Business Administration to a \$500,000 total commitment.

B&R’s president and CEO Jeff Rodriguez said the 10-year partnership between the company and the RMI program has resulted in growth and expansion for both organizations.

“The Ole Miss RMI program has gained more recognition in recent years as graduates of the program have performed well and ascended in the industry on a national level,” said Rodriguez of Dallas, Texas. “I have enjoyed seeing the program’s success build and believe it is a direct result of the strong efforts and strategic initiatives of professors Andre Liebenberg and Stephen Fier.”

The RMI program is ranked among the largest RMI programs in the U.S.

and is one of only 34 Global Centers of Insurance Excellence recognized across 11 countries. The program is also one of the oldest programs nationally among higher education institutions.

With over 50 current employees from Ole Miss, B&R is the largest employer of RMI graduates and a leading employer across disciplines at the university.

“The intent of our ongoing investment in the RMI program is to see long-term stability, an expanded facility dedicated to the program and more students enrolling and graduating from all walks of life,” Rodriguez said. “I believe the insurance industry offers tremendous merit-based opportunities for those of us fortunate enough to have discovered insurance as a career.”

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



Celebrating a record-breaking \$1.5 million donation raised through the Sanderson Farms Championship are (from left) Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba; Children’s of Mississippi CEO Guy Giesecke; Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan Thames Chair and professor of pediatrics; Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine; Sanderson Farms CEO and board chairman Joe Sanderson Jr.; Century Club Charities President Pat Busby; Sanderson Farms Championship executive director Steve Jent; Friends of Children’s Hospital executive director Rochelle Hicks; and Friends of Children’s Hospital board chairman John Scarbrough.

Caring for Children

Century Club Charities breaks record with Children’s of Mississippi donation

The host organization of the Sanderson Farms Championship made a record-breaking \$1.5 million donation to benefit Mississippi’s only hospital for children.

Century Club Charities made the donation from proceeds of the state’s only PGA TOUR event during a news conference at Children’s of Mississippi’s Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower.

The donation to Friends of Children’s Hospital will go toward the Campaign for Children’s of Mississippi, which made the seven-story hospital expansion possible. The Sanderson Tower, opened in November 2020, more than doubled the square footage dedicated to pediatric care on the UMMC campus.

“We say it’s all about the children,” said Century Club Charities President Pat Busby, “but it’s also about their families and the dedicated doctors, nurses, staff and students who provide miraculous care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. That’s why we’re here.”

Since Sanderson Farms became the title sponsor in 2013, the tournament and Century Club Charities have contributed more than \$14.7 million to Friends of Children’s Hospital and other Mississippi charities. Since 1994, Century Club Charities has raised more than \$21 million for Mississippi charities.

Children’s of Mississippi, which includes the children’s hospital as well as clinics around the state, cares for nearly 200,000 children a year.

“When Sanderson Farms took on the responsibility of this golf tournament, it was about this,” Sanderson Farms CEO and board chairman Joe Sanderson Jr. said of the presentation. “It was about the babies and the mothers and dads who come through these doors with fear and anxiety. They meet a doctor, nurses and staff, and sometime later, a lot of them leave with a smile and hope for the future.”

The Sanderson Tower includes two floors of private neonatal intensive care rooms where parents can stay with their babies

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as they grow healthier, a dozen advanced surgical suites, and a floor of private pediatric intensive care rooms. A pediatric imaging center and a multidisciplinary outpatient specialty clinic are also included, as is a parking garage nearby.

Thousands of children have received care inside the Sanderson Tower since its opening. This includes more than 1,000 babies starting life in its NICU floors, and more than 1,000 children who have received pediatric intensive care. Nearly 9,000 surgeries have been performed in the tower's operating rooms, and scans performed in the pediatric imaging center number almost 70,000.

Friends of Children's Hospital pledged \$20 million to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, which is chaired by the Sandersons. The couple launched the campaign in 2016 with a

\$10 million personal gift. The campaign raised the majority of its \$100 million goal through donations of all sizes.

"Already this building has touched thousands of lives," said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. "Children have been born here and lived the first part of their lives here. Children have been transferred here from other hospitals because they need the kind of care we have here. Thousands of children, thousands of surgeries, thousands of CAT scans and MRIs and clinic appointments, and we're just getting started."

The 2022 Sanderson Farms Championship is set for Sept. 26 to Oct. 2 at the Country Club of Jackson.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, mmaldridge@umc.edu or 601-984-2841.

Fighting Childhood Cancer

Junior League of Jackson gives \$500,000 for cancer center renovation

Members of the Junior League of Jackson raised funds to build what is now the Children's of Mississippi Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Now they're donating \$500,000 toward its renovation.

The center's new interactive waiting space will be named in honor of the League's commitment.

"The renovation will provide hope and healing to so many Mississippi children and their families for years to come, and this directly aligns with the Junior League of Jackson's mission," said JLJ President Katie Lightsey Browning.

The renovation fund started with a \$1.5 million gift from Pat and Jim Coggin of Jackson. The updates to the center are expected to cost close to \$3 million, and these improvements will mirror the connecting Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower.

"This project will bring much-needed updates to the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders that will make it a more comfortable space for our patients and their families," said Dr.



Celebrating a \$500,000 gift from the Junior League of Jackson to the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children's of Mississippi are (from left) Suzanne Crell, UMMC major gifts officer; Shalon Wansley, JLJ training and organizational development vice president; Molly Griffin, JLJ Placement Chair; Meredith Aldridge, UMMC executive director of development and a JLJ past president; JLJ President Katie Lightsey Browning; Collier Taylor, JLJ President-elect Bethany Smith; Thames; JLJ Communications Vice President Kaitlyn Vassar; Melanie Hataway, UMMC operations and stewardship officer and a JLJ past president; Jane Harkins, UMMC planned giving officer and JLJ treasurer; and Children's of Mississippi CEO Guy Giesecke.

Anderson Collier, director of the center and chief of pediatric hematology-oncology at UMMC.

The new clinic space will include 14 examination rooms, an increase from eight. The center's infusion room, currently an open space for eight, will be enlarged to house 20 semi-private infusion bays. Each bay will have an infusion chair, guest chair, and electronics to keep patients entertained.

A larger, more efficient nurses' station named in honor of the Selby and Richard McRae Foundation's generous support of the project is included in the renovation. Research areas and additional workspace for hematologists and oncologists to improve collaboration are also included in the plans.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, mmaldridge@umc.edu or 601-984-2841.

A Boost from Banking

The First, A National Banking Association, donates \$1M toward children's hospital

The expansion of the state's only children's hospital is getting a \$1 million boost from The First, A National Banking Association.

"Our company is thrilled to participate in and be a part of the campaign to grow and strengthen Children's of Mississippi," said M. Ray "Hoppy" Cole, president and CEO of The First. "Our company is proud to support Kathy and Joe Sanderson's vision to further medical research and care specifically for the children of our state."

Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair, professor and chair of pediatrics, said gifts such as this are critical to advancing pediatric care for the state's children.

"The Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower, together with the Blair E. Batson Tower, is a resource for children and families throughout the state," Taylor said. "We are already seeing the benefits of having this state-of-the-art facility to match the skills of our medical team, and those benefits will only grow as we continue to serve patients in the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower."

The children of this state, Taylor said, "deserve to have the highest level of care close to home."

Children's of Mississippi, the pediatric arm of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, includes the children's hospital on the UMMC campus as well as specialty clinics in Jackson, Tupelo, Biloxi, Hattiesburg and Meridian.

"We're a hospital for the entire state," she said.

The Sanderson Tower opened for patient care Nov. 2, 2020, more than doubling the square footage devoted to pediatric care at UMMC.

Inside the seven-story tower, two floors of neonatal intensive care rooms give the smallest and most critically ill babies in the state space to heal and grow. The rooms are large enough to allow parents to stay alongside their babies.

Larger private pediatric intensive care rooms fill another floor of the Sanderson Tower, providing space for parents as well as medical teams and life-saving equipment.

The Sanderson Tower also includes a dozen larger surgical suites as well as an imaging center designed for children, complete with a CT scanner that looks like a sandcastle and MRI machines that look like a lighthouse and a ship.

Children's of Mississippi patients go to follow-up visits at clinics designed for collaboration among pediatric specialties and convenience for families.

The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi was launched by Sanderson Farms CEO and board chairman Joe Sanderson and his wife, Kathy, in 2016 with a \$10 million personal donation.

Joe Sanderson thanked The First for helping the Campaign reach its goal.

"Providing the care children need close to home is good business," Sanderson said. "Employers want the children of their workers to get the care they need in Mississippi instead of leaving the state. We are grateful that The First values the health of Mississippi's children enough to make such a generous investment in the state's future."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, mmaldridge@umc.edu or 601-984-2841.



Announcing a \$1 million gift from The First, A National Banking Association, to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi are (from left) C. Jerome Brown, executive vice president of The First; M. Ray "Hoppy" Cole, president and CEO of The First; Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair, professor and chair of pediatrics; and Children's of Mississippi CEO Guy Giesecke.



Nursing students (from left) Lillie Jones, Ismaeel Baig and Kierra Brown chat as they leave the School of Nursing building on the University of Mississippi Medical Center campus in Jackson.

Supporting Nursing

Estate gift to establish chair in School of Nursing

A \$1 million planned gift from retired nurse Patricia Dyre Kimble of Friday Harbor, Washington, will benefit the School of Nursing at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) while honoring her in perpetuity.

The gift will establish the Patricia Dyre Kimble Endowed Chair in Nursing and will supplement the salary of an outstanding nursing school professor who is selected to hold the chair.

Kimble said she hopes her gift will help students achieve their educational and professional goals.

“My years at UMMC were instrumental in shaping my life. If it had not been for the excellent faculty, the opportunities available through the program, such as the availability of mental health traineeships, and the wise counsel of persons like Dr. Art Dohlstrom, I would not have been able to continue on to graduate school at the University of Washington, and to my future,” said Kimble, who spent most of her formative years in Grenada, Mississippi.

“I’m sure there are others in Mississippi with similar backgrounds to mine who could benefit, as I did, from a solid education, an opportunity toward a better life and a different understanding of the people who make up our country.”

In 2009, Kimble — the 1965 class president of the School of Nursing — and her now-late husband Rees “Skip” Kimble, established the Patricia Dyre Kimble Scholarship in Nursing. A portion of her recent estate gift will supplement this student scholarship fund as well as the School of Nursing Class of 1965 Fund.

“We wanted to make sure a student who gets the scholarship would have enough money to stay in school,”

Kimble said when the scholarship was established. “We also thought that it might be nice to be able to eat when you’re a student, and we wanted to help with living expenses.”

As a student, Kimble worked a psychiatric rotation at the Mississippi State Hospital and soon found herself fascinated by psychiatric nursing. Learning that financial aid was available for a graduate program in psychiatric nursing at the University of

Washington, she relocated after graduating from UMMC and earned a master’s degree.

Kimble then earned her advanced registered nurse practitioner certification and enjoyed a 22-year career as a psychiatric care nurse and mental health clinical specialist with Community Psychiatric Clinic, which was then one of many mental health centers in the Seattle area. She also spent five years in private practice.

During her career, Kimble also served as a consultant for Columbia Lutheran Home, a 5-star skilled nursing facility for short-term transitional care, rehabilitation and long-term elder care.

Kimble retired in 1995 as did her husband from Boeing, and the couple moved to San Juan Island in the Pacific Northwest, near the border of British Columbia.

Since then, Kimble has worked as a volunteer with a local wildlife rehabilitation center and as a ticket office volunteer for her community theatre. She also plans and leads walks for the Friday Walking Group on San Juan Island and enjoys gardening and reading, including the work of Ole Miss alumnus John Grisham.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, mmaldridge@umc.edu or 601-984-2841.



Pat Kimble

Supporting Health Care

MIND Center Study of Aging Campaign reaches halfway mark thanks to Thames' gift

The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) MIND Center and Mayo Clinic Study of Aging surpassed the halfway mark of its \$5 million fundraising goal, thanks to a generous gift from Suzan and Tommy Thames.

With the Thames' gift, the Study of Aging Campaign has now raised \$2.3 million. Funds raised for this study will help The MIND Center purchase equipment and hire physicians, scientists and research staff. The money will also be used for administrative support, participant recruitment and seed funding for new research projects.



Tommy and Suzan Thames

"We are incredibly grateful for Suzan and Tommy's longstanding support," said Dr. Thomas Mosley, Robbie and Dudley Hughes MIND Center Chair and director of The MIND Center. "For the last five years, Suzan has played an integral

role as our Community Advisory Board chair in promoting awareness of our center and championing our cause. This has resulted in the ability to secure additional private funding for The MIND Center's mission to stop Alzheimer's."

Thames, who lost her mother and her sister to Alzheimer's, said their diagnoses shocked her family.

"At the time, we had so many questions and did not know very much about the disease," she said.

Since then, Thames has become a staunch supporter of The MIND Center and an advocate for others navigating the memory-care landscape.

"Tommy and I knew that we had to help other families battling these tragic diseases, and we did not have to look very far to find a cutting-edge organization right here in Mississippi to get involved with The MIND Center. We want to prevent families from experiencing the loss and grief associated with Alzheimer's disease. To do that, we have to support research that will help us identify these diseases earlier so we can target treatments more effectively. That is what the Study of Aging is aiming to do."

Regarding the study, Thames said that she and her husband hope their gift will bring more awareness and inspire others to contribute, as they are able.

"We want to encourage others to get on board and make this The MIND Center's time to shine," she said.

The MIND Center and Mayo Clinic have collaborated on brain aging and dementia for more than 20 years. The goals of the Study of Aging include: exploring the factors that contribute to brain aging and dementia; identifying better methods to diagnose and prevent Alzheimer's disease; and understanding the interaction between brain and physical function, such as gait and balance, and how to protect those abilities as we age.

About one in eight Baby Boomers, people born between 1946 and 1964, will develop Alzheimer's disease, the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States. Mississippi has the country's third-highest death rate from this devastating illness. Alzheimer's also has a substantial financial cost. According to the Alzheimer's Association, the Medicaid cost to care for people with Alzheimer's

in Mississippi in 2020 was \$606 million, and the number is expected to rise by 22.9% by 2025.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, mmaldridge@umc.edu or 601-984-2841.



BankPlus and Rays Honor a Friend to Children’s Hospital

Through the years, Tena Payton McKenzie has been a constant, first as a part of UMMC’s Office of Communications and Marketing before becoming executive director of Friends of Children’s Hospital, a nonprofit dedicated to raising funds for Children’s of Mississippi.

At McKenzie’s retirement, BankPlus, a perennial Friends supporter, and Sara and Bill Ray donated \$100,000 in her name. This gift in her honor will be celebrated with a recognition plaque at a family consultation suite and echocardiogram room.

“Tena has been at the side of sick children and their families since her arrival more than three decades ago,” said Friends co-founder Suzan Thames.

Through Friends and Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, McKenzie raised millions for health care.



Tena McKenzie reacts with surprise after being honored with a \$100,000 gift to the Campaign for Children’s of Mississippi. Friends board member Rob Armour congratulates her as Sara Ray, a past board chairman of Friends, looks on.

Radiothon Raises \$441,544 to ‘Power Children’s of Mississippi’



Children’s of Mississippi patient DeNahri Middleton smiles during a radio interview with Y101.

The familiar radio voices from morning and evening commutes teamed up with Children’s of Mississippi patients and their families to raise \$441,544 for the state’s only children’s hospital during the 21st annual Mississippi Miracles Radiothon.

The event, March 2-4, featured families sharing their children’s medical journeys with listeners to The Radio People’s stations in Jackson, Meridian and Vicksburg.

Family members of patients shared their health care journeys and thanked the Miracle Giving Club members who pledged donations of \$15 or more a month.

During the past 21 years, Mississippi Miracles Radiothon has raised more than \$7.54 million for Children’s of Mississippi, helping purchase medical equipment and items to make patients and their families more comfortable.

RebelTHON 2022 Sets Record

UM’s 10th annual student-driven dance marathon raised \$227,148 for Children’s of Mississippi, the Children’s Miracle Network hospital at UMMC. Some 1,321 students registered for the event, which ran from noon to midnight.

Harrison Grimes, a senior from Madison and RebelTHON president, said, “We ended up having a record 708 of our participants raise at least \$100.”

Grimes said the record in donations is especially rewarding considering there was no set fundraising goal for this year.

“Each year our hope is just that we will be able to make a positive impact on the children’s hospital through our fundraising efforts,” he said.

It was inspiring to see so many students enthusiastic about participating in RebelTHON, Chancellor Glenn Boyce said, adding, “This event truly embodies the character and spirit of Ole Miss.”



Students participate in the 2022 RebelTHON.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, mmaldrige@umc.edu or 601-984-2841.



Donors Unite in Support of Accountancy's New Home

Nationally ranked for the 10th consecutive year of top 10 rankings, the Patterson School of Accountancy enjoys longtime renown as one of the country's premier programs in accountancy education.

Now, with continuing generous support from donors, the Patterson School will have a new \$70 million 100,000-square-foot home worthy of representing the prestige it enjoys.

The Patterson School's courtyard will be named for the Burns family to honor the longtime donors' \$1 million gift. Sheryl and Roland Burns of Frisco, Texas, made the gift to recognize Roland, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting, and their sons, Derek and Tyler, also accountancy graduates.

"The Patterson School of Accountancy has always had a special place in our family," Roland Burns said. "In the bigger picture, the Patterson School has the best program at the university, and it is nationally ranked."

Sheryl and Roland Burns serve on the steering committee for Now & Ever: The Campaign for Ole Miss, the historic \$1.5 billion campaign to strengthen the university for generations. Roland Burns, a Patterson School Hall of Fame inductee, also provides alumni leadership on the UM Foundation Board and on the foundation's Audit Committee.

A second \$1 million gift from the Joseph C. Bancroft Charitable & Educational Fund of McComb, Mississippi, names a classroom in the new building.

The non-profit Bancroft Fund was established with the intention of supporting charitable and educational programs by assisting qualifying organizations within Mississippi.

"Our mission is to continue supporting the university in many different ways," said Gerald Abdalla, president and CEO of Croft LLC and the fund's chair.

For more than half a century, Mississippi-born Bill and Cile Hicks of Needham, Massachusetts, have lived and worked 1,400 miles from Oxford, Mississippi, but Ole Miss has never been far from their hearts.

They have made a new gift of \$500,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy.

"Cile and I believe it is important to give back to places that were instrumental in our lives and Ole Miss is certainly one of those places for us," said Hicks, who earned his accountancy degree in 1959.

The Hickses are in turn enhancing the lives of generations of future accountancy students. The couple's support for the Patterson School will be recognized with the naming of the east rooftop terrace.

Dale and Tonya Flesher are supporting construction of the school's new home as a testament to their 45-year careers in the School of Accountancy.

The award-winning researchers and teachers have committed \$300,000 to the highly respected program they helped build. The

executive boardroom will be named in honor of the Fleshers, who are 2020 inductees into the school's Hall of Fame.

Doug Self, a 1985 accountancy graduate, made a \$250,000 commitment to the building fund as part of Giving Day, a social media-heavy fundraising event, saying he wanted to make the gift because his experiences at Ole Miss offered him opportunities to achieve.

"I went to Ole Miss to study accounting in order to build a successful business," said Self, founder and president of JDouglas, a home furnishings showroom and sales agency in Atlanta, Georgia. "In my career, never a day goes by that I don't tap into something I learned at the School of Accountancy or working my way through school in Oxford."

"Connective tissue" is one of the reasons Colleen and Chris Haley of Jacksonville, Florida, have made a major gift to the Patterson School's new home.

Many of Chris Haley's family members graduated from Ole Miss, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees. To honor the couple's gift, the south side of the second floor of the new building will be named the Haley Family Terrace.

"The accountancy school has been a constant in my life and Ole Miss has been a common thread that brings my family together," said Haley, chair of the Accountancy Alumni Board and a member of the Now & Ever: The Campaign for Ole Miss committee for the Patterson School. "I am who I am professionally because of starting my education at the Ole Miss School of Accountancy."

Brian Roberson, a partner with KPMG in Cincinnati, Ohio,

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said, “As soon as I heard that constructing a new building for our accountancy school was being considered, I knew I wanted to support the effort.”

He and his wife, UM alumna Lea Ann Hughes Roberson, have committed \$200,000 to the building fund.

“The Patterson School of Accountancy has given so many people, including me, wonderful careers,” said Roberson, who earned undergraduate and master’s degrees in accounting. “I think this building will do the same for generations to come.”

Charles and Ginger Clark of Birmingham, Alabama, made a \$150,000 gift to the building fund. In recognition of the gift, the school will feature the “Charles and Ginger Clark Porch,” honoring the couple in its new academic home.

“Ginger and I want to be a part of this, even if in just a small way, and I am confident that many of our alumni will also want to be a part of this,” Clark said.

Brent Wood is among those alumni who want to participate.

“After taking an Accounting 201 class taught by Dr. Jimmy Davis, he encouraged me to consider pursuing a major in accountancy. Looking back, I see that his advice established the entire course for my future,” said Wood, chief financial officer with EastGroup Properties who earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accountancy.

Residents of Madison, Mississippi, Wood and his wife, UM alumna Marsha Magee Wood, made a \$150,000 stock-transfer gift to the building fund.

“Ole Miss has been so

meaningful to our family and extended family that we were seeking a way to give back to the university,” said Wood, a UM Foundation board member.

Olen and Janet Akers of Dunwoody, Georgia, are supporting the Patterson School while enjoying income from their investment.

With the residual of a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT), the donors are establishing the Olen S. and Janet T. Akers Patterson School of Accountancy Endowment.

The CRUT was established with \$320,000 which will ultimately benefit the building fund. A CRUT is a planned-giving tool that generates income for donors, while providing a charitable tax deduction and an opportunity to offset capital gains taxes.

Olen Akers is a 1963 UM graduate with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and an emphasis in accountancy, having studied under acclaimed Professor Gene Peery.

“I have always been very appreciative of the education I received and the opportunity I had, which was beneficial to me and my career,” Akers said. “I hope our gift and many others like it will expedite the construction so it can be enjoyed and provide a dedicated place for our students.”

A significant number of generous donors have also supported this project with gifts less than \$100,000.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Jason McCormick, jason@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1757.



Artist's rendering of the Patterson School of Accountancy's new home at University Avenue and Grove Loop



Shelley and Scott Ririe of St. Louis, Missouri recently gave \$7.5 million to Champions. Now., an ongoing fundraising campaign for Ole Miss Athletics. Pictured are (from left) Matt McLaughlin, assistant athletics director for major gifts; Courtney Murphree Ririe, Mike Ririe, Shelley Ririe, Scott Ririe, James Ririe, Kelsey Baich, and Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Keith Carter.

A Gift with Weight

Ririe support to Ole Miss Athletics underwrites competitive weight room

When University of Mississippi student-athletes gain a competitive edge through improved strength, they'll have the Ririe family to thank.

Scott and Shelley Ririe of St. Louis, Missouri — whose sons are Ole Miss graduates — recently gave \$7.5 million to Champions. Now., an ongoing fundraising campaign designed to support the expansion and renovation of the Olivia and Archie Manning Athletics Performance Center.

Among other highlights, the stellar facility will feature a state-of-the-art weight room that will be named for the Ririe family and utilized to strengthen Rebel football players and track & field athletes.

“You have to have first-rate equipment and facilities to attract high-level talent in a very competitive Division 1 atmosphere,” Scott Ririe said. “If you have a first-class weight room, a coach who’s going to have a winning program for as many years as Ole Miss can hold onto him and this beautiful campus, a lot of kids are going to want to go here.”

“We like the idea of really being able to make a first-class improvement in the Athletics department because that’s what’s going to sway the kids who are on the fence — in football at least — to want to come to Ole Miss,” he continued. “If you have first-class facilities, you’ll get five-star players.”

With respect to the weight room specifically, “It will be an area where they will enjoy going and working out with equipment that will give every opportunity for anybody who wants to put their mind to it to become the best athlete they can be — the strongest and the fittest,” Shelley Ririe said.

The Riries’ gift is the third largest in Ole Miss Athletics’ history. The family has made similar gifts — \$1 million and \$3.5 million respectively — to support a reorganization and renovation of athletics facilities at Shelley Ririe’s high school (Dowling Catholic High School in Des Moines, Iowa) and to construct the Ririe Family Wellness Center at Scott Ririe’s alma mater, Cornell University.

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Shelley Ririe is a graduate of the University of Iowa.

Additionally, the couple made a \$250,000 gift to a previous Ole Miss Athletics campaign in 2020 and, in recognition, the Gate 7 entrance of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium was named in their honor. The couple's gift of \$300,000 to the university in 2018 established the Ririe Family Scholarship Endowment, which originally awarded scholarships to two St. Louis freshmen in the School of Business Administration. The Riries made a second gift to the endowment in 2019, increasing the number of available scholarships to four.

"Though Scott and Shelley graduated from other universities, they are as much a part of the Ole Miss family as our most loyal alumni, and for that we are very grateful," said UM Chancellor

excellence in our student-athletes but also the self-confidence and drive they will need to succeed in life after college."

Scott Ririe was introduced to Ole Miss in 2005 when he visited the Oxford campus with his son, Mike – then a junior in high school. The two enjoyed a campus tour, a Rebel football game and festivities in the university's historic Grove.

"We never visited another school after that day," said Ririe, founder and co-president of Control Technology and Solutions (CTS), an energy service company based in St. Louis.

Mike Ririe graduated from Ole Miss in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and is a commercial real estate agent in Chicago, Illinois. His brother, James Ririe of St. Louis, graduated from the

"We keep expanding the Ole Miss family," Scott Ririe said. "Our family has become attached to Ole Miss through our boys and their love and loyalty to the university."

The couple has two other grown children: Andy and Elise.

Scott Ririe began his career working in sales for Honeywell International Inc. in Des Moines, Iowa. He became service sales manager in 1984 and moved to St. Louis, where he was soon promoted again to district general manager. In 2000, he and a business partner founded CTS, which has grown to become the CTS Group, operating in nine states with over 124 employees and revenue of more than \$100 million a year.

Scott Ririe is a member of the executive committee as treasurer for National Association of Energy Services Companies (NAESCO) board and the Midwest Easter Seals Association board. He also has served on the advisory boards for General Motors and (along with his wife) Ranger Bass Boats.

His high school sweetheart and wife of 39 years, Shelley Ririe began her career with Revlon Inc., marketing cosmetics to retailers. She then joined Ormco, an orthodontic supplier. Today, she owns Branson West Marine and Powersports.

"I can imagine it will be an amazing feeling for the Riries when they see our student-athletes perform at the top of their game, knowing that their gift contributed to such excellence," said Matt McLaughlin, assistant athletics director for major gifts at the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation. "Their gift will be appreciated by generations of student-athletes, and we are extremely grateful for their support."

"It's a great honor that we're able to make this gift," Scott Ririe said. "It's a forever type of gift that our family and extended family can be proud of for generations."

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



James, Shelley, Scott and Mike Ririe visit the Walk of Champions.

Glenn Boyce. "Their support through the years has, and will continue to have, a transformative impact in the lives of our students."

Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Keith Carter agreed: "We expect Scott and Shelley's recent gift in support of the Manning Center to play a huge role in building not only physical

UM School of Business Administration in 2020, earned his master's degree in business from UM in 2021 and is a financial analyst for Cashman and Wakefield in St. Louis.

Mike Ririe's wife, Courtney Murphree Ririe, is a 2012 UM graduate and James Ririe is in a committed relationship with 2020 UM graduate Kelsey Baich.

Benefiting Ole Miss Baseball

Tracy family gift enriches Ole Miss Athletics, names baseball performance center

A \$3 million gift from the parents of a University of Mississippi student will bolster the Ole Miss baseball program.

Amanda and Todd Tracy of Dallas, Texas, whose son, Grayson, is a freshman business major, made the gift — the first of many his family intends to make to Ole Miss.

“Amanda and I believe it’s the responsibility of people who have been fortunate in business to share that good fortune in worthwhile endeavors. Some people with money prefer to endow chairs or to have buildings named in their honor. We have always donated money toward enriching athletic opportunities,” said Todd Tracy, a trial lawyer who handles cases nationwide on behalf of catastrophically injured persons against automobile manufacturers when a vehicle’s safety systems fail in a motor vehicle accident.

Grayson Tracy’s UM experience inspired his parents to offer private support.

“Our son Grayson fell in love with Ole Miss within seconds of stepping on campus,” his mother said. “He loved the feel of the campus and he has not been disappointed in choosing Ole Miss. He greatly enjoys the Greek life and the many new friends he has made.”

UM Chancellor Glenn Boyce welcomes the Tracys to the Ole Miss and Rebel Nation family.

“The involvement and support of passionate and committed donors like Amanda and Todd contribute to a more meaningful Ole Miss experience for everyone including students, student-athletes, fans, alumni, visitors and employees,” Boyce said. “It is particularly rewarding when the entire family engages in how we continue offering one of the best college atmospheres in the country because of the stellar experiences their own student has discovered here.

“We’re incredibly grateful for the Tracys’ vision and

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On campus to celebrate opening day for Ole Miss Baseball are (from right) Amanda, Todd and Grayson Tracy. Joining them are (from left) Denson Hollis, associate athletics director of development and chief development officer; Fowler Staines, then CEO of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation; and Head Baseball Coach Mike Bianco.

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commitment to enhancing campus life, and we can't wait to see how their gift will help grow our excellence."

Amanda Tracy said she hopes her family's gift will encourage like-minded benefactors to provide similar support for various sports at Ole Miss.



Amanda, Grayson and Todd Tracy visit their gate at OU Stadium.

"We believe that a competitive athletic program attracts better students from across the country," she said.

In recognition of the gift, the university has named the Baseball Performance Center at Oxford-University Stadium in the family's honor. Featuring a state-of-the-art health and fitness facility as well as indoor practice areas, the center

equips Rebel athletes to be in peak game shape.

Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Keith Carter expressed gratitude for the Tracys' gift, which will help strengthen facilities and programs for student-athletes.

"With gifts like theirs, we are able to greatly improve many

facets of our athletics offerings, giving our student-athletes a level of excellence comparable to or better than that of our peer institutions," Carter said. "We are extremely grateful for Todd and Amanda's support and their desire to see our student-athletes compete at the level they deserve."

Tracy himself played baseball. And as a dad, he coached his son's baseball team and his daughter Alexandra's softball team.

"I always loved baseball because it is the ultimate team sport that teaches players that the team is always bigger than individual stats," Tracy said.

"Baseball is also a game that

rewards hard work, dedication and patience.

"Most importantly, I believe that baseball, more so than any other sport, requires players to adapt, overcome and improvise on literally every play."

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

Kings' Gift to Help Upgrade Athletic Facilities at Ole Miss

A \$250,000 gift from Denny and Faye King will upgrade facilities for student-athletes.

A longtime donor to the university, King said he feels "an obligation and desire to share [his] good fortune with Ole Miss."

King, a graduate of the School of Business Administration, lives in Madison, Mississippi, and is the president of Hesselbein Tire Co. of Jackson.

"I remember watching Ole Miss football as a 10-year-old and always wanting to go there," King recalled. "I got my wish and then some."

Along with his wife, who earned

a bachelor's degree in history from UM in 1964, King's family has followed in his footsteps in pursuing degrees at Ole Miss. His two sons, a daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren have all passed through the university's halls.

"For three generations, Ole Miss has provided a lifetime of memories and education for my family and me," King said. "It's my desire that all my gifts, whether academic or athletic, will be



Faye and Denny King

used to help support and further educational opportunities for deserving students and athletes alike."

King said that, in addition to his recent gift, he plans to contribute further to the scholarship fund that he and his

wife founded: The Denny and Faye King Scholarship Endowment within the School of Business Administration.

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

Cultivating National Champions

Tosh Family Short Course gives Ole Miss golf teams competitive edge

A former University of Mississippi faculty member's gift to Ole Miss Golf has literally become a game changer.

"After the course opened in 2019, I really saw our program take off," said Kory Henkes, head women's golf coach.

facility developed with a \$1 million gift from retired real estate professor Dennis Tosh and his wife, Beth. The Oxford, Mississippi, couple has recently committed a second \$1 million gift to the golf program, which will be used to renovate the teams'

the Women's Golf Coaches Association and the SEC Coach of the Year. "We spend 80% of our practice time on it."

The facility boasts eight different greens with multiple elevation changes, two types of grass (Bermuda and zoysia), numerous deep pot bunkers, shallow bunkers, areas of rough, a sound system through which the student-athletes can play their music of choice, lights for night practices and more.

All of these features enable the student-athletes to work on their short game by replicating scenarios they may face in the heat of competition.

"The majority of the time we're working on seven irons and under, so a lot of your scoring clubs — you know, the ones that help you make those birdies and pars," Henkes said. "So we get to work on a lot of our short game, which is the most important part of our game."

Chris Malloy, head men's golf coach, said the short game could be any Par 3 distance, for example.

"Before we leave for a golf tournament, we have a general idea of what the length of the Par 3 is going to be and what it looks like — what shape the green is, what size, uphill, downhill, if it's over a hazard or not — and we can replicate the shots our guys and girls will need to play," Malloy said. "They've seen those shots a hundred times before they actually get to the tournament and play the course."

It makes the student-athletes not only more competitive, but also more confident, the coaches said.

"The more confident you are that you've worked on the shot and you know you can do it, the easier it will be to pull it off in a tournament versus just wishing and hoping that you know how to hit the shot," Henkes said.

This year, the women's golf team captured the fourth team national



Dennis and Beth Tosh

"Since that time we've won eight golf tournaments — two of those being the SEC championship, which we won about three months after the facility opened, and the national championship this past year."

Henkes is referring to the Tosh Family Short Course, a golf practice

headquarters by updating office spaces, upgrading locker rooms and adding player lounges.

"I know without a doubt that our wins would not have been possible without the Tosh Family Short Course," said Henkes, who was named 2020-21 Division I National Coach of the Year by

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championship and first outright NCAA Championship title in Ole Miss Athletics history. The Rebels claim a share of three national championships in football in 1959, 1960 and 1962. Including individual titles, the Rebels boast 26 total national championships all-time.

“I can’t speak for Dennis and Beth but I think it’s exciting for them to witness what a difference the short course has made,” Malloy said. “They’ve seen Braden Thornberry winning a national championship. They’ve seen our women’s team winning both national and SEC championships. Those are all tangible. Without their support and gifts, we wouldn’t be able to achieve those wins. And, I think the best is yet to come for both programs.”

Dennis Tosh was among the spectators at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona, when the Rebels claimed their title — an experience he will never forget.

“It was a storybook finish in the way they played and the way they respect the game of golf,” he recalled. “They love each other. They cheer for each other. And I was fortunate enough to be able to stand by the 17th hole to see them close out the match with hugs and kisses and tears.

“It was super. It was unbelievable. It was one of those experiences when you just think, ‘I’m glad I’m here.’”

Henkes remembers the moment well.

“It was truly incredible and the best part was having Dr. Tosh out there to celebrate with us because he’s just as big a part of this team. This wouldn’t be possible without him and his family and their generous support of the golf program,” she said.

“It’s truly special to have people like that who want to give back to the student athletes and make their college experience that much better. It was just the icing on the cake.”

Malloy agreed: “I think anyone who knows Dr. Tosh knows what a selfless guy he is. He and Beth, and the entire

The 2021 NCAA Women’s Golf Champions



Coach Kory Henkes and golfer Kennedy Swann

family for that matter, are really family of ours. We spend a lot of time together. His passion for Ole Miss and athletics programs — and especially Ole Miss Golf — is unrivaled really.”

An avid golfer himself, Tosh said he’s humbled by the coaches’ remarks.

“Both Chris and Kory are, first of all, wonderful people, wonderful coaches. I’m happy to call them both my friends as well as their assistants: Austin and Zack,” he said. “If this gift helps them in preparing, recruiting and being competitive, that just helps us feel better than we already feel.



Coach Chris Malloy and golfer Sarut Vongchaisit

“They were really in need of a practice facility, and God has blessed my family in many ways. To be able to share some of those blessings with the university was an easy decision for us to make.”

Tosh retired from the university in 2003 after he and three other business professors founded FNC Inc., a provider of real estate collateral information technology serving the nation’s largest lenders. FNC was sold to California-based Core Logic in 2015.

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

Honoring Generations

Gate stands as tribute to past, future Rebels

Gate 11 at the University of Mississippi’s Vaught-Hemingway Stadium represents past and future generations.

The William Abbott Windham Family Gate memorializes the life of an Ole Miss graduate while also honoring his great-grandchildren and namesakes: siblings William, Abbott and Windham.

“My dad lived and breathed Ole Miss and taught us to do the same, so I wanted this gift to honor him,” said Bill Windham of Bossier City, Louisiana, referring to his recent gift to Ole Miss Athletics, securing the gate naming. “I also want the gate to honor my dad’s grandchildren who are Ole Miss graduates and his great grandsons who will someday also be Rebels.

Windham, an investor in real estate, casinos, health care, and oil and gas, said, “Dad would be very pleased to



Bill Windham (in cap) gathers with his family in front of their gate.

know this gift was made in his memory — and more so in honor of him.”

The elder Windham, a resident of Tallulah, Louisiana, died in April 2016.

“Dad’s passion for education and care for children made him a strong, supportive leader for so many of his students. That’s why I felt that this gift was so appropriate. It stands at a university, representing a man who loved education and it honors

young people — his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and the students at Ole Miss who will be helped by the gift,” Bill Windham said.

Windham and his wife, Carol, have a home in Oxford and enjoy attending Rebel sporting events together. Their daughter, Summer Adams and her husband, Drake, graduated from the university in 2006. Her brother, Carter, is also an Ole Miss graduate in the Class of 2020; another brother, William, graduated from Duke University.

The elder Windham also has two other grandchildren, Kristen Patrick and Reagan Nosser, both Ole Miss graduates in the classes of 2006 and 2014 respectively, as well as current UM sophomore Rob Mahaffey.

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

Gate Naming Honors Peck Family

Gift supports Ole Miss student-athletes

A \$250,000 gift from Betty Peck of Long Beach, Mississippi — the grandmother of an Ole Miss Rebel — memorializes her late



Betty Peck stands in front of the entrance to Vaught-Hemingway Stadium that honors her family.

husband, honors her extended family and supports student-athletes.

The Ole Miss Athletics Foundation recognized Peck’s gift by placing the family’s name on entrance Gate 37 of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

“Seeing that would bring tears to his eyes,” said the donor referring to her husband, Patrick Barry “Pat” Peck, who died on Aug. 29, 2020. “He would be very happy and very honored.

“He was so active in the lives of our grandchildren (Patrick, Jonathan and Christopher Hodges of Memphis, Tennessee, and Conner and Carter Kelly of Biloxi, Mississippi), and I was trying to find ways to honor his being a good grandfather,” she explained. “Our grandsons have all been very active in sports. It just seems like Pat would want his money to support athletes.”

The Pecks’ grandson, Jonathan Hodges, ran track for Ole Miss, specializing in the high jump.

“We’re all very thankful for her gift. It represents our family as a whole — everybody who’s part of the Pat Peck family,” said Hodges, a 2013 graduate of the UM School of Business Administration. “Whenever we go to games, walk through the Pat Peck Family Gate and sit in that section, it will be special for us because we’ll always remember our grandfather and how much he meant to us.”

Pat Peck served in the U.S. Air Force before beginning a lifelong career in automobile sales and service. As owner of Pat Peck Inc., he operated dealerships throughout Mississippi and in Mobile, Alabama.

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



Honoring Coolidge Ball (center) at the dedication of his statue were (from left) Bill and Lee Anne Fry, Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Keith Carter, Ruth Ball, Marion Ball, Mason Ball, Chancellor Glynn Boyce, Telitha Ball, and Women's Basketball Coach Yolett McPhee-McCuin.

Honoring a Legend

Ole Miss unveils statue of Coolidge Ball, first Black student-athlete

When fans attend football and basketball games on the University of Mississippi's Oxford campus, a trailblazing Rebel welcomes them: a new bronze statue of Coolidge Ball, Ole Miss' first Black student-athlete.

"It's a beautiful thing," said Ball, admiring the monument that stands adjacent to the Sandy and John Black Pavilion at Ole Miss. "I'm excited about having a statue. I never dreamed of having one, and I thank the university for it."

On Oct. 7, 2021, the 1975 UM graduate was inducted into the Ole Miss Alumni Association Hall of Fame. His legacy will continue in perpetuity with the statue serving as a reminder of his impact on the university.

The monument was funded with a private gift from business executive Bill Fry, a 1980 UM graduate, and his wife, Lee Anne, of New York, New York.

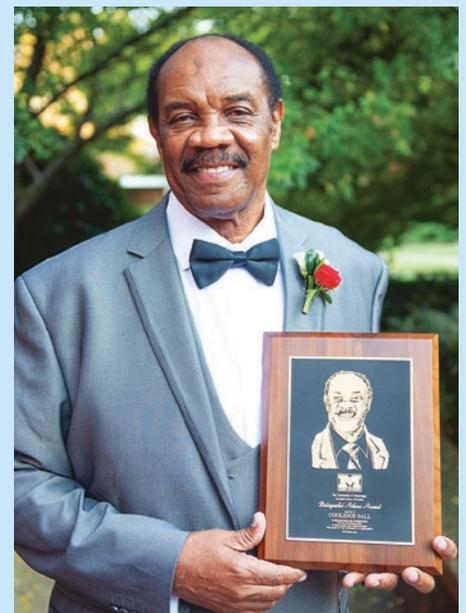
"Lee Anne and I believe that Coolidge's

courage and grace stand as a great example for everyone who comes on the campus," Fry said. "We hope everyone will take a few minutes to learn his story."

On August 6, 1970, Ball signed UM's last available basketball scholarship for that season and his decision to attend Ole Miss opened the door for future Black student-athletes to become Rebels.

Ball's ground-breaking Ole Miss career saw him earn first-team All-Southeastern Conference honors from the league coaches in 1972 and 1973 and second-team All-SEC honors from the Associated Press in 1972 and 1973. He was selected to the United Press International third team during all three of his varsity seasons (1972-73-74) and made the All-SEC Freshman team in 1970-71.

Ball was inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 2008 and the Ole Miss Athletics Hall of Fame in 1991 and was a member of the SEC Basketball Legends Class of 2005. When



Coolidge Ball also was named to the Ole Miss Alumni Association Hall of Fame.

UM celebrated its "First 100 Years of Ole Miss Basketball" in 2009, Ball was selected to the All-Century Team.

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



Covert Supports Kitchen Renovation, Ole Miss Athletics

John Covert sees the renovation of the institutional kitchen at UM's South Oxford Campus as his "field of dreams."

The retired food service industry owner-manager made a \$300,000 gift to revitalize the kitchen for the Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management in the School of Applied Sciences. Once completed, the facility will open as a cafeteria and as a teaching and research resource.

"You know the saying, 'If you build it, they will come.' Let's put together the resources and the vision (School of Applied Sciences Dean) Peter Grandjean has for this facility to become a magnet for more students, faculty and community members," said Covert, a resident of Oxford, Mississippi.

"The School of Applied Sciences is really involved in shaping the future of hospitality management in the state and region — and hopefully in the nation. The vision, energy and enthusiasm of Dean Grandjean touched me, and the School of Applied Sciences is where my daughter, Lauren, earned an exercise science degree. There are so many opportunities in applied sciences; there's real diversity there that I really like."

Selected research topics addressed by Nutrition and Hospitality Management faculty and students include child nutrition, weight control, sports nutrition, nutrition epidemiology, food environment, food assistance programs, health and welfare, service management, hospitality finance, hospitality marketing and food tourism.

"My hope is this kitchen can be the foundation used to promote the mission of the school: 'We learn, lead and serve to improve the health and well-being of Mississippi, our nation and world,'" Covert said.

Covert, a sports fan, also gifted the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation with \$125,000 as part of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's ongoing \$350 million capital campaign.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Nikki Neely Davis, nineely@olemiss.edu or 662-915-6678.



Record Support Greets Harvest Supper's Return

The annual Harvest Supper, hosted by the Friends of the Museum, attracted some 600 attendees to the grounds of Rowan Oak and raised \$175,000 for the UM Museum and Historic Houses.

A Rich Gift

Graduate's parents support Counseling Center

David Rich arrived at his decision to support the University of Mississippi Counseling Center by natural progression.

The retired Episcopalian and later Anglican priest has a lifetime of counseling under his belt, beginning with lending a listening ear to his children's friends when they visited his home, serving as a confidant to his parishioners and then founding and operating a counseling center for pastors.

Rich and his wife, Lorry, who now have homes in Florida and Canada, recently made their second \$250,000 gift to Ole Miss — the first in 2015 to support the University Counseling Center, part of which funded the Transforming Lives Endowment, and the latest to establish the Counseling Center Training Program Fund.

Rich said their initial gift was awarded in response to the education their son, Brendan, received at Ole Miss. The 2013 graduate, who earned a bachelor's degree as a history major, lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

"We thought, 'Let's do something in the area that concerns us.' What's important to us is supporting Ole Miss students who are hurting," Rich said. "We want to support students who may have no ear to speak into, so they might find needed direction. That's who we are."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Brett Barefoot, bmbarefo@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2711.



Joining John Covert (back center) are Dean of the School of Applied Sciences Peter Grandjean (from left) Covert's partner T.J. Bell of Oxford, daughter and son-in-law Lauren and Scott Seale of Athens, Georgia, and grandsons, Jack and Merritt Seale.

Vasilyevs Establish Fund for Nutrition and Hospitality Management Department

Mention UM’s hospitality program to Scott and Joey Vasilyev and their faces visibly brighten.

The Oxford, Mississippi, brothers volley names of their favorite professors

as if in a match to determine who had the best experience at Ole Miss.

“The reason we light up so much is because the faculty was personally engaged with us. It was just a feeling of

family almost,” said Scott Vasilyev, a 2001 graduate of the Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management (NHM). “That’s what we continue to like about the program the most. That relationship persists even to this day.”

Hoping to help future students develop similarly fond memories, the brothers and their sister,

Renee Sholtis of Fairhope, Alabama, established the Vasilyev Hospitality Management Fund.

“We’re very passionate about keeping our gift undesignated. If the department needs a new program, additional employees or an enhanced space, then they have the leeway to use these resources for those purposes,” said Joey Vasilyev.

The success of the family’s businesses — eight Taco Bells and a commercial real estate company — enables the family to give back.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Tyler McCraw, tlmccraw@olemiss.edu or 662-915-6386.



Applied Sciences Dean Peter Grandjean (left) greets the Vasilyev siblings.

Riser Family Supports Magee Center

Alumni Allyson and Paul Riser of Little Rock, Arkansas, established the Riser Family Wellness Fund with a gift immediately matched by their close friends, Becky and Ed Meek of Oxford, Mississippi.

The new fund supports the William Magee Center for Wellness Education and UM Counseling Center’s mission to address prevention, treatment and recovery efforts related to eating disorders.

The centers’ focus is important to the Risers who witnessed the devastating impact an eating disorder had on a loved one struggling with anorexia.

“We’re hopeful the Magee Center will provide a sense of community for these young people who struggle because they

really tend to isolate themselves,” Allyson Riser said.

The Risers initially found few options for treatment on campus.

“If there was somewhere they could go and just get direction, that’s what we wanted,” Paul Riser said. “So now, you have the center with a focus on eating disorders and — boom! — here’s some direction. And that’s an advantage.”

Over 800 donors contributed to building the Magee Center.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Brett Barefoot, bmbarefo@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2711.



Paul and Allyson Riser

Gift Reflects Graduate’s Love for Ole Miss School of Law

Established with a gift of \$150,000, the William N. Krucks and Family Law Scholarship Fund will help support selected students seeking juris doctor degrees.

“What I know he would want the most is that the gift would allow others who come behind him to feel the way he did and to become the man and attorney that

he was,” said Linda Krucks of Winnetka, Illinois, widow of the 1976 law alumnus.

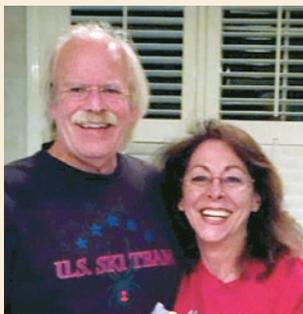
Krucks, who graduated first in his law class, served as editor of the Mississippi Law Journal and was a member of the Moot Court Board.

“William was very proud of his time on the Oxford campus,” his wife said. “It was the friendships he made

there and the feeling of camaraderie. It was the education he received; he especially loved his professors. It was the customs and gentility and everything about the school, the entire ambiance. There’s no school like Ole Miss.”

After graduating, he returned to his native Chicago to practice. In 1983, he co-founded a new firm, Freeborn & Peters LLP that now employs over 350 people.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Suzette Matthews, suzette@olemiss.edu or 601-937-1497.



William and Linda Krucks



Charitable Gift Annuity a ‘Win-Win’ for Donor Supporting UM Libraries

Alumnus Wayne Drinkwater is eager to see his alma mater attract the nation’s top educators to its faculty — a goal he believes begins with enhancing UM libraries.

“To attract faculty members and graduate students who are ambitious in their fields, we need to show them we have strong research support for their areas of interest,” said Drinkwater, an Oxford, Mississippi, resident and president-elect of the Friends of the Library — the University Libraries’ financial support society.

Drinkwater established a \$150,000 charitable gift annuity (CGA) which will ultimately provide support to the University Libraries’ areas of greatest need.

The now-retired trial lawyer’s gift honors his wife, Ouida Creekmore Drinkwater, who earned a master’s degree from Ole Miss in 1978.

With a simple agreement, individuals can transfer a minimum of \$50,000 cash or securities to the UM Foundation and a fixed income stream will be provided to one



Wayne and Ouida Drinkwater

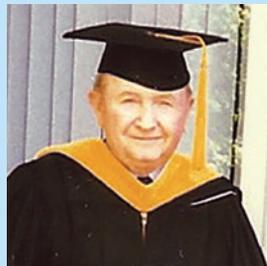
or two beneficiaries. The donor receives a charitable tax deduction at the time of the gift and in the future the gift will provide support to the donor’s area of choice at UM.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Charlotte Parks, cpparks@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1586.

Supporting Future Generations of Engineers

This year marks a decade since the School of Engineering mourned the passing of Damon Wall, a beloved faculty member and administrator, as well as a mentor to hundreds of engineering students.

Wall, however, is still assisting UM students and will help future engineering students for generations due to the scholarship his family established shortly before his death in 2012.



Damon Wall

The Damon Wall Scholarship Endowment was initially created with a \$25,000 pledge, yet Wall’s many friends and family members have continued to generously support the scholarship. The endowment has grown to more than \$300,000.

Three of Wall’s daughters – Patty Bowman, of Birmingham, Alabama; Beth Touchstone, of Meridian; and Cindy Rich,

of Madison, as well as her husband, Neal Rich – all earned degrees from the UM School of Engineering. They, along with Wall’s fourth daughter, Debbie Townsend of Alexandria, Virginia, and his son, Steven Wall, of Washington, D.C., – both also UM alumni – have made regular contributions to the scholarship since it was created.

Cindy and Neal Rich recently bolstered the scholarship with a \$150,000 gift.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Greg Carter, gjcarter@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3087.

Surgeon Credits UM for Success

Dr. Marc E. Walker, a plastic surgeon and Mississippi’s only pediatric and congenital hand surgeon, is the founder and clinical director of the Congenital Hand Clinic at Children’s of Mississippi.

After graduating from UM summa cum laude and Phi Kappa Phi in 2006, he earned MBA and MD degrees from Harvard. He then completed his residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

“If it weren’t for the generosity of donors before us, my college experience

would have been very different,” said Walker, a Carrier Scholar and Honors College graduate.

He and his wife, Dr. Caroline Aldridge Walker, have returned the favor by establishing the Walker Family Endowment with a \$150,000 gift to support Honors College scholars. The couple’s gift also honors former Dean Douglass Sullivan-González.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Brady Bramlett, bradyb@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3081.



Drs. Marc and Caroline Walker with daughter, Catherine.

Horne Boosts Accountancy School Support

With headquarters in Ridgeland, Mississippi, HORNE LLP, a national professional services firm with a CPA cornerstone, has a long history of supporting the Patterson School of Accountancy.

By delivering a top-tier education to its students, the school graduates exceptionally qualified accountants with a broad range of skills, which is why HORNE recruits at UM's accountancy school every year.



Joey Havens

"These students represent future leaders in our firm and provide us the ability to continue to help our clients accelerate in a dynamic business environment," said Joey D. Havens, a managing partner at the firm and School of Business Administration graduate.

"Great professors at the Patterson School of Accountancy attract great students and develop great professionals," he said. "Here at HORNE, we presently have 55 of these great Ole Miss alumni and we want more!"

HORNE recently committed \$540,000 to the school to establish the HORNE LLP Accountancy Professorship Endowment.

HORNE's latest gift enhances the firm's previous support of the accountancy school.

The firm established the HORNE LLP Accountancy Excellence Endowment with a gift of \$100,000 in 2008. It gave another \$150,000 to the school in 2012 to create the Horne LLP Accountancy Lectureship Endowment.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Jason McCormick, jason@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1757.



David Magee (left), representing the university and its William Magee Center for Wellness Education, accepts a check from the Peacock family. Paying tribute to the life of their son and brother are (from left) Ann Peacock, Virginia Peacock Douglas, Ann Christopher Trotter and Ed Peacock III.

Peacock Remembered with Recovery Support Fund

To help students overcome drug or alcohol addiction and to honor their son's memory, Ann and Ed Peacock III of Clarksdale, Mississippi, have established the Edward Peacock IV Student Addiction to Recovery Support Fund. The fund will assist students who need outpatient therapy but cannot afford it.

The Peacocks made a \$150,000 gift, with an additional \$23,505 given in memorial gifts.

"We look forward to the day when a student or former student will knock on our door and tell us that this fund saved his or her life," Ed Peacock said. "We hope to hear of success stories of students becoming alcohol and drug free."

Edward Peacock, who died in 2021 from a seizure, was an Ole Miss and Tulane University Law School alumnus.



Edward Peacock

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Brett Barefoot at bmbarefo@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2711.

Combined Gift Memorializes UM Professor, Supports Special Education

Lady Lake, Florida, resident Luetta Ford, a 1967 alumna, established the Luetta W. Ford Scholarship for Special Education which pays tribute to the late James W. Mann, a professor in the School of Education who died in January 2020.

"All of my professors at Ole Miss were inspiring, but Dr. Mann helped cement me on my path into the special education field," said Ford, who taught overseas for the Department of Defense for 30 years.

She was stationed on bases in Italy, Germany, Turkey and Japan.

"He led me on an adventure and, I think, maybe it was a great service that I was able to do in teaching the kids I taught," Ford said.

The support from Ford is a blended gift, with \$30,000 establishing the scholarship and another \$133,000 committed through a planned estate gift that will supplement the endowment.



UM alumna Luetta Ford (second from the left) meets with the family of the late James Mann, including (from left), son Michael Mann; his widow, Kitty Mann; and daughter Mary Mann Austin.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Kelly Smith
Marion, ksmith13@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2007.



Gift Supports Accountancy Scholars

Edith Kelly-Green – the first African American woman to become a FedEx vice president – credits her education for much of her stellar success.

“I stumbled into the accountancy field as I knew nothing about the profession prior to my freshman year at Ole Miss,” said the 1973 graduate. “My education and experience have provided immeasurable opportunities and rewards.”

Now, with a \$120,000 gift, she hopes to help future generations of students enjoy similar career and life successes.

Kelly-Green’s gift increases the

endowment for the Christine Hickonbottom Scholarship in Accountancy, given in honor of the donor’s grandmother – a campus housekeeper who raised Kelly-Green.

“There was no money and had it not been for a combination of financial aid products, I would probably not have gone to college or would still be paying off my student loans,” Kelly-Green said. “Not having to worry about how to pay for college is big for those like me who grew up in poverty, with no immediate and obvious financial means.”

Thus, the accomplished alumna can empathize with students from similar



Hickonbottom scholar Alexandria Seals (left) chats with Kelly-Green at a Women’s Council reception.

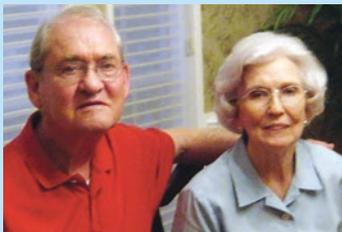
backgrounds and hopes her gifts to the university will help relieve their financial burdens.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Suzanne Helveston, shelveston@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2956.

Reagan Estate Gift Funds Assistance for UM Students

The late Jim and Norma Reagan held the university close in their hearts, and an estate gift ensures their legacies will live on through scholarships for chemical engineering students.

The couple established the Jimmy M. and Norma S. Reagan Engineering Scholarship Endowment in 2016, and a recent estate gift brought their total contributions to almost \$123,000.



Jim and Norma Reagan

The Reagans lived on the Oxford, Mississippi, campus, while Jim Reagan pursued his master’s degree, and then moved to Port Arthur, Texas, for his work as

a chemical engineer with Texaco. In 1977, they moved to Houston, where they remained for the next 42 years.

Daughter Sarah O’Dell of Asheville, North Carolina, said the university meant a great deal to her parents: “It was always dear in their hearts because it was one of the first places they lived early in their marriage. They had their first child there and made great friends. It was a special time for them.”

Jim Reagan grew up in Carthage, Mississippi, and graduated with an undergraduate degree in chemistry from Mississippi College. Norma Reagan, a native of Laurel, Mississippi, graduated from Blue Mountain College.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Greg Carter at gjcarter@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1849.

Supporting Legal-Minded Business Majors

One way to build a successful career in the legal profession is to start by laying a firm foundation based on business knowledge.

This formula worked for Floyd Sulser Jr. during his higher education journey at UM in the late-1960s and early-1970s. A half-century later, he and his family believe this same educational path still works for today’s generation of UM students.

That’s why they created the Floyd Sulser Family Scholarship Endowment with a gift of \$30,000 in 2019 and recently enhanced this scholarship with another gift of nearly \$28,000. The endowment is designed to encourage and assist UM business majors who want to attend law school.

“Having a degree in business certainly helped me establish my law practice,” said Sulser, of Ridgeland. “My bachelor’s degree in business administration provided me with an understanding of business transactions, accounting and economics, which has proven to be invaluable during the many decades I’ve practiced law.”

The Sulser Family Scholarship provides financial assistance to full-time students in the School of Business Administration who



Floyd Sulser Jr. (left) and his daughters, Kristen Sulser Guinn (center) and Lauren Sulser Benner

plan to enroll in law school. With the Sulser family’s most recent gift to the endowment, this support will be even more generous.

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

UM Law Endowment Pays Tribute to Longtime Executive

Gaye Flynt of Oxford, Mississippi, established the Roger Flynt Memorial Law Endowment as a testament to her late husband’s life and love of Ole Miss.

“I just want Roger’s name to be in the law school’s annals, showing his recognition of the law school’s contribution to his success and that he gave back to his alma mater. And I believe there will be generations of students who will benefit from it,” she said. “However it’s used would make Roger very happy.”

Flynt, who died peacefully in Mentone, Alabama, in October 2020, served as president of the Law Alumni Association,

UM Foundation board, and numerous committees. He also was inducted into the Lamar Order and the Ole Miss Alumni Association Hall of Fame.

“Ole Miss was one of the great interests and joys of my father’s life,” said Mayo Flynt of Jackson, Mississippi.

After graduating, he joined the law firm Heidelberg & Woodliff in Jackson before returning to Oxford as Assistant U.S. Attorney. He later held top legal positions with South Central Bell, AT&T and BellSouth.

Gaye Flynt said, “Roger was a generous man and many observed that he was a true



Gaye Flynt (center) is surrounded on campus by her family (from left): daughter Mary Kathryn Flynt Wallace, son Russell Flynt, daughter-in-law Nell Coleman Flynt and her husband John Flynt, son Mayo Flynt and his wife Renee Nick Flynt.

southern gentleman and a class act.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Suzette Matthews, suzette@olemiss.edu or 601-937-1497.

Overstreet Champions Band

Helen Overstreet, a 1981 UM alumna and avid band fan, committed \$100,000 toward the proposed band practice field renovation, in addition to \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy’s new home – bringing her support of the university to more than \$1 million.

To honor her gift and memorialize her late husband, who played trumpet in the band as an Ole Miss student, the Helen and Mike Overstreet Observation Deck will be constructed at the north end of the practice area and will serve as a teaching lab for aspiring band directors as well as choreographers and musicians.

“There are many stories to be told about our life together and most center around Ole Miss – and many of them focus on music,” said Helen Overstreet, who shared in her husband’s



With Overstreet (center) are Randy Dale (left center), associate director of bands, Nancy Maria Balach (right center), chair of the Department of Music, and band members.

business interests and now oversees their companies. “Ole Miss made such an impact on our lives and supporting it is a way of acknowledging all our university has done for us.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Brady Bramlett at bradyb@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3081.

Gift to Law School Expands Family Legacy

For Helene Thompson of Jackson, Mississippi, and those close to her, the School of Law has become something of a familial rite of passage.

Thompson, a 1968 graduate of the school, established the Thompson Family Law Endowment, with a gift of \$100,000. Because she and her



Helene Thompson (center) stands with her children, Hays Thompson Haney (left) and Thad Lampton Thompson.

late husband, Luther Thompson, met in law school, the endowment honors their legacy and that of their family members who also attended Ole Miss Law.

Thompson was drawn to the law school on the advice of her grandfather, the late James McClure of Sardis, Mississippi, a 1917 graduate

of the program.

After graduating, Thompson practiced law in Jackson at Brunini, Everett, Grantham and Quinn. Luther Thompson clerked for the Mississippi Supreme Court and then practiced with Heidelberg, Woodliff and Franks.

One of their children, Hays Thompson Haney, earned a juris doctor degree from Ole Miss in 1997.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Suzette Matthews, suzette@olemiss.edu or 601-937-1497.



Derrick Harriell (left), UM interim director of African American Studies, talks with Patrick Alexander, an associate professor of English and African American Studies.

Fannie Lou Hamer Scholarship Established in African American Studies

A generous gift from an anonymous donor will provide the UM African American Studies Program with an endowed scholarship that honors a Mississippi civil rights leader.

The \$100,000 gift establishes the Fannie Lou Hamer Scholarship Endowment to help students who are pursuing an education in African American Studies.

Hamer spoke at the 1964 Democratic National Convention, giving a speech that resonated with the donor.

“She worked so hard for the state of Mississippi and is a folk hero,” the donor said. “I hope she continues to be an inspiration to students and that this scholarship can provide the financial support to help them achieve their goals.”

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

Engineering the Future

With a \$100,000 gift to the School of Engineering, Stephen and Patty Foose want to provide scholarships to civil engineering students whose background, achievements and experience demonstrate a commitment to contributing to the advancement of women in civil engineering.

The couple established the Stephen and Patty Foose Civil Engineering Scholarship Endowment for sophomores and higher who are residents of Mississippi, Alabama or Texas.

Stephen Foose, a 1966 UM civil engineering graduate, owns Foose Engineering Co., which has been in operation since 1981. Now semi-retired, he remains active with the company he founded when not beekeeping or tending to his orchard at home near Tyler, Texas.

“Ole Miss gave me a good education that allowed me to have a successful career. I thought I should give back a little bit,” he said.

Additionally, “for the last 30 years, I’ve encouraged women to become engineers,” he said. “I thought our gift would give Ole Miss an opportunity to push that effort along.”

While the couple has two sons who “we could not convince to get into engineering,” they have always wanted to see more women become engineers.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Greg Carter, gjcarter@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3087.



Patty and Stephen Foose

Scholarship Created in School of Pharmacy

Gladys Garrett’s gift to the School of Pharmacy will not only change students’ lives but perhaps the future of the health and pharmaceutical industry as graduates enter the field.

Garrett’s gift of \$100,000 to the university establishes the Gladys & M. Lynn Garrett Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment, honoring her late husband, a 1949



Lynn and Gladys Garrett

UM graduate. In appreciation of Garrett’s gift, the pharmacy school will name a conference room in the couple’s honor.

Though Garrett did not attend the university herself, she said she has “wonderful memories” of being part of the Ole Miss community and living in Oxford while her husband completed his degree.

Garrett and her husband met in Chapel

Hill, Tennessee, where they were both raised. After graduation, the couple moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where he established Garrett Drugstores with his brothers, while she took care of their two sons at home. By the late 1960s, Lynn Garrett had his own drugstore, which he eventually sold to another Ole Miss graduate, Keith Shelly.

Garrett hopes the scholarship will “help a young person who would not be able to go to Ole Miss otherwise.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Susan Boyette, sboyette@olemiss.edu or 662-915-6625.

Morgan Family Gift Supports Faculty, Students



Shelly and Kirk Morgan

Kirk and Shelly Morgan of Lexington, South Carolina, celebrated Giving Day with a \$100,000 gift to help the College of Liberal Arts continue to recruit and retain top faculty.

Of course, the biggest beneficiaries of the Shelly and Kirk Morgan Fund for Faculty Excellence are students.

“We feel like we’re contributing to the quality education that Ole Miss students receive,” said alumnus Kirk Morgan. “So many people at the university and in the College of Liberal Arts are sincerely interested in strengthening academics, attracting a diverse student body and equipping students for success. We’re happy to contribute meaningfully to that effort.”

The Morgan family’s connections to Ole Miss run deep. Kirk and Shelly met as UM undergraduates, and Shelly Stefoniak

Morgan graduated in 1981 with a degree in education. Their two sons, Sam and Eddie Morgan, earned degrees from Ole Miss in 2014 and 2007, respectively.

Lee Cohen, dean of the UM College of Liberal Arts, said the Shelly and Kirk Morgan Fund for Faculty Excellence is making a difference at UM.

“The Morgans’ generous gifts to the College of Liberal Arts help ensure that Ole Miss students continue to receive the very best higher education has to offer,” Cohen said.

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

Creating Opportunities in Taiwan

UM students in the Chinese Language Flagship Program learn about the local culture, business community and language while studying in Taiwan. Thanks to a gift from American First National Bank, future study-abroad trips to Taiwan will be more affordable for Ole Miss students.



UM Students Honored as First Recipients of Donald Cole Catalyst for Change Scholarship

A student activist, professor and longtime administrator, Don Cole (center) retired from the university but continues to impact the lives of students through a new scholarship endowment. Majestic Gay (left) and Frederick Williams — the inaugural recipients of the Donald Cole Catalyst for Change Scholarship — will expand Cole’s legacy beyond his more than 50-year relationship with the university. A host of alumni, colleagues, former students and family contributed to the scholarship endowment in his honor.



Grisham Fellows Program, Supported by Annette Ware Fund, Brings Students to Campus

Students from South Delta High School in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, visit campus as part of the Grisham Fellows program, which offers students from rural and underserved communities an introduction to the university. Grisham Fellows is a passion project of Bruce and Rhondalynne Ware of Dallas, Texas, who founded it in honor of Vaughn Grisham, professor emeritus of sociology and Ware's longtime mentor and friend. The program is funded by the Annette Ware Fund, established by the Wares, to honor the legacy of Bruce Ware's mother who believed hard work and big dreams always outweigh less than favorable odds.

Family Leadership Council Exceeds \$1M in Support

Support from the Ole Miss Family Leadership Council now exceeds \$1 million with new allocations made for UM student services at the spring meeting.

For the past eight years, the Family Leadership Council has heard requests from UM's 15 Student Affairs departments for help in funding special projects, a process that allows council members to learn more about the services offered to their students. The parents then determine which needs to support from their membership dues.

This year's allocations totaled \$175,000 to 15 areas. One request for \$25,000 was filled to support the Student Health Center with a Medical Emergency Fund. Another \$22,000 was approved for the University Counseling Center for Protocall, 24/7 crisis phone support. Among other approved funds was \$18,557 to Student Disability Services.

Additionally, four requests from the William Magee Center for Alcohol and Other Drugs and Wellness Education were granted, including \$12,500 to develop a peer education program.

■ **JOIN THE COUNCIL:** Brett Barefoot, bmbarefo@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2711.



Ole Miss Family Leadership Council members (from left) John Edge and Felicia Fruia-Edge from Olmito, Texas, and Willie and Aliza Cantu from San Antonio, Texas, visit during the spring meeting.

Dolly Parton Wows Ole Miss, Oxford

C Spire Foundation, OMWC each make gift to literacy councils

Legendary performer and philanthropist Dolly Parton captured the hearts of two audiences during her April visit to accept the Legacy Award from the Ole Miss Women’s Council for Philanthropy (OMWC).

Storytime with Dolly, sponsored by Regions Bank, featured the guest talking about literacy to a packed audience.

Then, Parton was honored at the Legacy Award dinner and surprised the audience by singing. C Spire Foundation was the presenting sponsor.

The Legacy Award recognizes individuals who epitomize the OMWC’s goals of philanthropy, leadership and mentorship.

“Dolly Parton could have truly been anywhere in the world, and she chose to spend a full weekend with us. That speaks to the relationship and respect she has for Mary and Sam Haskell and her support of the Ole Miss Women’s Council,” said Liz Randall, chair of the OMWC.

Parton and the Haskells are friends and business associates.

Both UM alumni, Mary Haskell is an OMWC member and former chair; Sam Haskell is executive producer of Parton’s movies and specials and won a 2021 Emmy Award.



Dolly Parton (second from right) is honored with the Legacy Award from the Ole Miss Women’s Council for Philanthropy. Presenting her with the award are (from left) Liz Randall, outgoing OMWC chair; Mary Haskell, former chair; and Suzan Thames, incoming chair.

One focus of Parton’s philanthropy is her Imagination Library which mails free, high-quality books around the world to children.

To honor Parton, the OMWC made a \$25,000 gift to the Lafayette County Literacy Council’s Imagination Library program. C Spire Foundation announced a \$25,000 gift to North Panola County’s program.

In addition to C Spire Foundation, Platinum Sponsors

were Sanderson Farms, Cooper Communities Inc. and Regions Bank. Gold Sponsors were FedEx Corp. and mTrade. Silver and Bronze Sponsors can be seen online at <https://omwc.olemiss.edu/awards/legacy-award/>.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Suzanne Helveston at shelveston@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2956

Opportunity for a Lifetime

Changes to financial aid program increase benefits for Mississippi students

Among recent changes to a UM financial assistance program is a benefit that enables Ole Miss to help more deserving students attend college.

Ole Miss Opportunity (OMO) guarantees that eligible Mississippi residents receive financial support to cover the average cost of tuition, housing and meals. Since 2017, the benefit was available only for students whose family income was \$32,500 or below.

Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, family income can be as much as \$40,000, meaning the university can offer financial aid to a greater number of potential students.

“We actually were given three different Ole Miss Opportunity changes in one fell swoop which was wonderful,” said Laura Diven-Brown, director of Financial Aid.

In addition to the increased financial assistance threshold, OMO can now cover the extra housing cost for students who want to join the FASTrack program and live in its special “Living Learning Community,” instead of a traditional residence hall. Available to all new OMO students, FASTrack is a retention

program that promotes academic success and helps first-year students transition to college.

A third change to the program eliminates the income threshold for students who want to keep OMO benefits as upperclassmen, meaning they can renew each year even if their family income increases. As long as they remain Pell Grant eligible, an indicator of high financial need, and meet enrollment requirements, they can stay in OMO.

“This change will significantly improve our ability to retain students. Small income changes should not mean that students can no longer qualify,” Diven-Brown said. “They were depending on the substantial support that OMO provides, and we want to make sure they have the chance to go all the way to graduation.”

For more information about Ole Miss Opportunity benefits, eligibility and application requirements, visit <https://finaid.olemiss.edu/omo>, email finaid@olemiss.edu or call (800) 891-4596.

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



Celebrating the \$2.5 million goal-breaking donation are (from left) Dr. LouAnn Woodward; Joe and Kathy Sanderson; Stephen Sims, Ford Foundation director; Cheryl Sims, Ford Foundation president; John Lewis, Ford Foundation vice president and treasurer; Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair and professor of pediatrics; and Children's CEO Guy Giesecke.

Campaign for Children's of Mississippi Surpasses \$100M Goal

The philanthropic drive to help pay for a multi-story expansion of the state's only children's hospital surpassed its \$100 million goal thanks in large part to a \$2.5 million gift from the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation. The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi has now raised \$101.5 million.

At the Medical Center, the Ford Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of numerous programs and projects including the MIND Center research clinic that bears its name.

The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi was launched in 2016 by Sanderson Farms board chairman and CEO Joe Sanderson and his wife, Kathy, with a \$10 million personal donation.

"We are in this incredible new children's hospital tower because of the love for children and families that the

Sandersons share with Mississippians from all walks of life," said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs.

Inside the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower, a dozen surgical suites accommodate procedures from rare to routine. Two floors of outpatient clinics make follow-up care more convenient, and the Sanderson Tower has a dedicated parking garage and covered walkway. This walkway and pavilion are named for the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation in recognition of its generosity.

Since the Sanderson Tower's opening on Nov. 2, 2020, over 13,090 surgeries have been performed. Inside the 88 private neonatal intensive care rooms, more than 1,511 babies started their lives, and over 1,604 children received critical care. More than 63,635 specialty clinic visits have kept patients healthy, and over 100,893 X-rays, CT scans, ultrasounds and MRIs were performed.