



The University of Mississippi
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The University of Mississippi Foundation *Report on Philanthropy for the Year Ended June 30, 2009*

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BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION

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Report on Philanthropy for the Year Ended June 30, 2009

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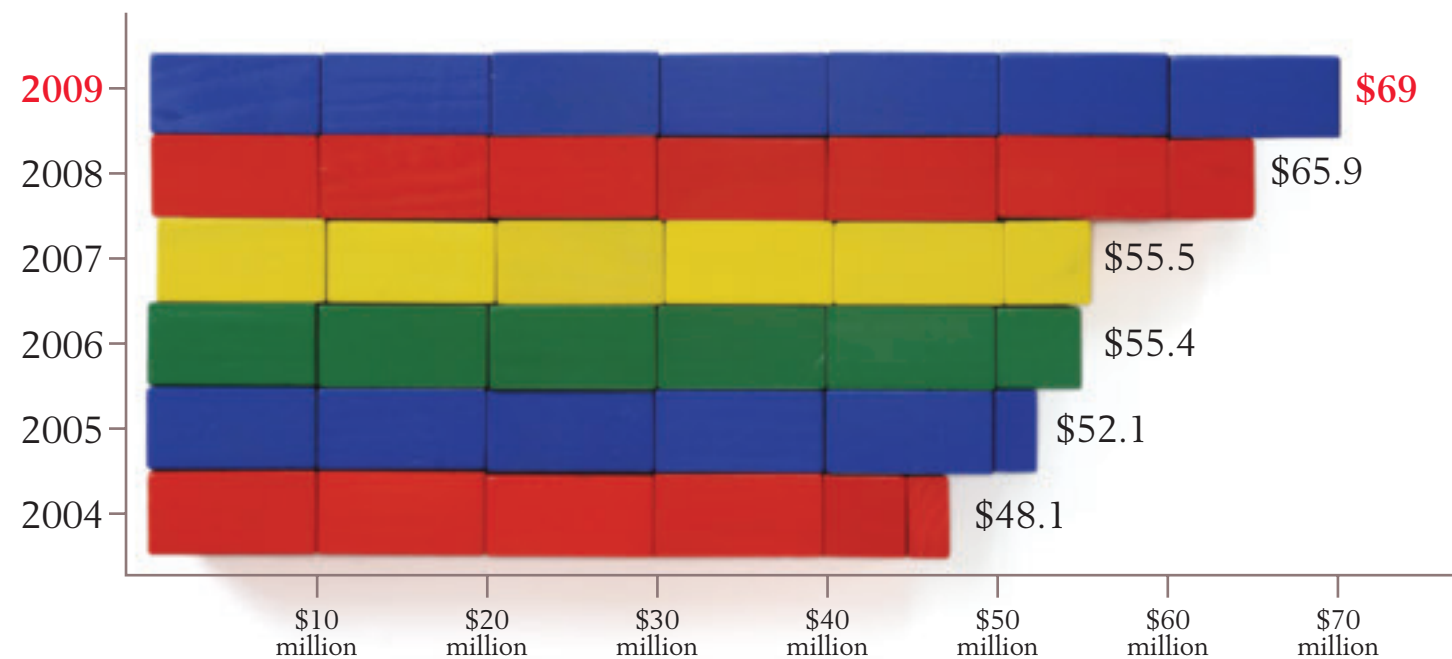
Total Endowment Benefiting The University of Mississippi



Total Endowment: \$369.9 Million

- 43.3 percent – Academic and program support
- 38.8 percent – Scholarship support
- 13.8 percent – Faculty support
- 4.1 percent – Library support

Recent Private Support



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION

BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

Report on Philanthropy for the Year Ended June 30, 2009

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Message from the Chancellor



During my first few months as your chancellor, it has been an enormous encouragement to know that The University of Mississippi is blessed with the loyal support of alumni and friends who are building on our strong foundation. This year's University of Mississippi Foundation Report on Philanthropy reflects the generosity of donors, as well as prudent management of our foundation resources.

Your gifts for this year exceed those of the previous year, and, given these difficult economic times, your generosity is quite remarkable. Because we are facing the financial reality of sharply declining state funding, our ability to continue to move forward and support our students and faculty will be largely dependent on private resources. You can be assured that the administration, along with the positive support of our faculty and staff, is maintaining a focused and disciplined approach to current economic challenges.

Even though this will be a challenging year for us, it is a great time to be at Ole Miss. For more than a decade, we have broken enrollment records, but the fall's 18,000-plus students, representing a 4.2 percent increase over last year, is a new high point. The Oxford campus welcomed more than 2,500 new freshmen, our largest class of honors students and our most diverse student body. We have 36 National Merit and Achievement finalists, and the average ACT score of all our students went up to 23.3. We have remained committed to achieving a high level of diversity on our campus and are pleased that 21.3 percent of UM's students this year are minorities.

Our faculty members continue to achieve national recognition in research, teaching and service. Ole Miss produced Rhodes, Truman, Gates and Marshall scholars last year and offered a wide array of diverse academic degree programs that appealed to top students. In addition, we make global education an integral part of the academic experience by offering study abroad programs in more than 65 countries. These achievements reflect a deeply committed and resourceful faculty, a supportive administration, and a generous, loyal group of alumni and friends.

I am very proud to be a part of the Ole Miss family, and I am grateful for the support of all our alumni and friends. We face some substantial challenges in the days ahead, but I believe this will be a happy, fulfilling and enlightening year for all of us.

DR. DANIEL W. JONES
Chancellor

Message from the Foundation Chair

Have you ever thought about what defines The University of Mississippi? When I attempt to characterize this great institution, people come to my mind—many visionary people who make significant investments that enhance all facets of the university.

A total of 21,597 alumni and friends provided financial support this year. We are profoundly grateful for each individual and every organization that made these contributions, which are absolutely crucial to our pursuit of excellence. People fiercely loyal to Ole Miss increased their gifts this fiscal year over the previous year, despite a daunting economy. Our donors—members of the Ole Miss family—are building on a strong foundation.

Students, faculty members, researchers, administrators and staff are performing at extraordinary levels that continuously advance our academic reputation and expand our service to Mississippians and society as a whole.

There are countless examples of stunning achievements and notable work; continuous progress and expansion; and innovative measures and sound, efficient management. These university community members are building on a strong foundation.

The University of Mississippi Foundation operates under the direction of a volunteer board of directors to ensure that gifts and endowments have the greatest impact and the best financial performance possible. Some of these board members serve on an Investment Committee, which devotes significant time and expertise to making decisions for the long-range health of your gifts and endowments. All of these board members are building on a strong foundation.

To achieve greatness and then maintain momentum, a university must have the right leadership. During the past year, we welcomed Dr. Daniel W. Jones as our 16th chancellor at the retirement of Dr. Robert C. Khayat. Chancellor Jones has already been a valued member of the Ole Miss family for many years, serving as vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. He is a highly respected academician, researcher, physician and administrator. Our new leader is building on a strong foundation.

For all these contributions and to all the dedicated people who make them, I extend my deepest thanks.

ROBERT R. BAILESS, CHAIR

The University of Mississippi Foundation Board of Directors



Message from the President and Vice President



Each day in the life of The University of Mississippi is filled with life-changing moments. Your generous financial support strengthens the work and experiences of students, faculty, researchers, administrators, staff, alumni and visitors, as well as enhances our libraries, outreach, institutes, centers, collections, facilities and grounds.

Your commitment has made The University of Mississippi what it is now—and what it can be in the future.

We are profoundly grateful for your gifts, which totaled \$69 million during the 2008-2009 fiscal year and represented a \$3 million increase over the previous year. This positive response is particularly notable due to the fact that during this same time period our nation's economy and our state's budget experienced great challenges and difficulties. Very simply stated, we remain inspired and humbled by your enduring commitment.

While the outlook is somewhat brighter on the economic front, we expect the residual effects on the university's budget to be felt for a couple of years. The need for private support will remain high, and we hope you will be a part of the continuous efforts to undergird our margin of excellence and our reputation as a nationally recognized university. The University of Mississippi Foundation remains absolutely committed to good stewardship of the gifts you have entrusted to us. Our endowment stands at \$369.9 million, and we are working diligently on the goal of building the endowment to \$500 million in the near term.

A highlight of the fiscal year, of course, was the spectacular conclusion of MomentUM: A Campaign for The University of Mississippi with \$240.7 million in gifts and pledges. We believe your amazing response reflects your devotion and vision, as well as the deeply held value you place on sharing educational opportunities with current and future students. Your gifts ensure that many more deserving individuals will benefit from the Ole Miss experience and that the university can make lasting contributions to humankind.

We are reminded of the thoughtful words of an educator spoken decades ago: "We must not only give what we have; we must also give what we are." We feel these words describe the contributions of the Ole Miss family and the remarkable work that occurs every day on the campuses of The University of Mississippi—work that reaches far beyond classrooms, laboratories, buildings and stadiums to make the world a better place.

Thank you for building on our strong foundation for today and tomorrow.

**WENDELL W.
WEAKLEY**
President and CEO
The University of Mississippi Foundation

**SANDRA M.
GUEST**
Vice President

Mission Statement

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.



Building on a Strong Foundation

It all began more than 163 years ago, when community members walked from the Oxford square “through the woods and up a slight incline to the site of the new state university” to place the cornerstone for the Lyceum. This symbolic act by these leaders and townspeople reflected a deep commitment to building an amazing university for Mississippi.

This powerful spirit of commitment thrives today, and a new generation is at work building on our strong foundation. That early scene, in fact, has been repeated thousands of times over, but in the place of symbolism now abides defining acts and contributions of visionary stakeholders to benefit The University of Mississippi.

AMAZING GENEROSITY

Consider fiscal year 2008-2009, when a faltering economy and volatile market shook the nation and caused concern among institutions that rely heavily on private support. Alumni and friends of The University of Mississippi responded by increasing their gifts over the previous year, from \$65.9 million to \$69 million. Seven of those gifts are highlighted here on the pages of The University of Mississippi Foundation Annual Report on Philanthropy.

Among other eminent gifts this year are those from foundations and individuals who have been longtime donors, such as the \$2.5 million pledge from the Joseph C. Bancroft Charitable and Educational

Fund of McComb to renovate the pediatric intensive care unit at Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children at The University of Mississippi Medical Center. The Bancroft Fund also created and provides resources for the Croft Center for

International Studies, a prominent academic program on the Oxford campus.

Jim and Donna Barksdale of Jackson continued their commitment with a \$2.09 million gift this year for the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, which merges intellectual rigor with public service. The Barksdale family provided the founding gift and has dedicated longtime support for the Honors College.

On a lengthy list of gifts from the Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation of Jackson is this year's \$1.7 million contribution, which championed the schools of Education and Applied Sciences, and the

William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, among other university initiatives.

Many more stories could be told about the exceptional contributions of alumni, friends, students, faculty, administrators and staff—contributions that create environments and opportunities for students, faculty and researchers to do their best work.

Consider, also, the response to MomentUM: A Campaign for The University of Mississippi. The ambitious campaign, which also concluded during the fiscal year, garnered an astounding \$240.7 million in gifts and pledges. First-time donors numbered 24,011 in that campaign, and 153 others stepped forward with first-time gifts at the \$100,000 level.

AMAZING LIVES

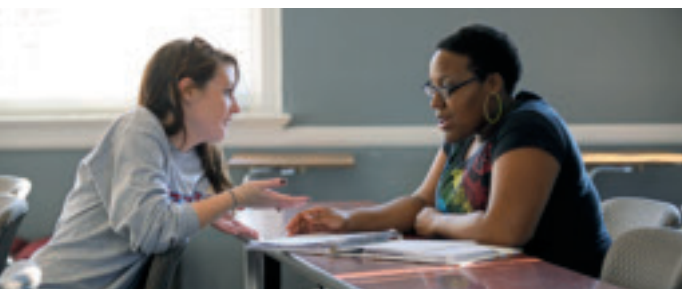
Gifts of every type and size have a far-reaching impact, and many alumni and friends are turning to planned giving to ensure the university's future. One notable example is the \$1.4 million gift for student scholarships from the estate of alumnus Clarence Thomas Hill Jr. In describing the physician, his family said Dr. Hill thought of his life as a continuous education project. His journey included fascinating work: flying as a pilot for Great Britain's Royal Air Force and earning his medical degree to pursue a career as a radiologist. The generous resources he provided for scholarships in liberal arts and medicine will enable many Ole Miss students to pursue their own dreams.

The late Charles E. Noyes helped build on our strong foundation for more than three decades by bringing literature alive for thousands of students in his English classes. The beloved teacher's greatest legacy may be in the value he passed on to the Ole Miss family: “The library is the absolute heart of a university.” Upon his retirement, he became an ardent volunteer, pursuing private gifts for the University Libraries for 16 years and witnessing the library holdings exceed 1 million volumes. Dr. Noyes gave more than \$266,000 over his lifetime to the university, and his estate provided \$128,000 to the library endowment bearing his name.

AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES

Some years ago, when former Mississippi governor William Winter talked about The University of Mississippi's place in the state, he said, “Great institutions can never be self-satisfied. ... We must not be afraid to reach for new goals, search for higher challenges and seek greater fields of service.”

Upholding that philosophy, generous alumni and friends invested in the future of The University of Mississippi with gifts to new initiatives. Construc-



tion is under way for the Center for Manufacturing Excellence, thanks to the Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation and the Mississippi Power Education Foundation. The 47,000-square-foot center is the first of its kind in the nation, and students in the program will earn engineering degrees with a manufacturing emphasis that include strong cross-disciplinary studies in business, management, accounting, leadership and human resources.

Also in pursuit of new goals, the university opened its inaugural Residential College—the first in the state—and will open the second in fall 2010. The second college will be named for the Luckyday Foundation, which has provided \$22 million for student scholarships in addition to the \$4 million gift for the new construction. Building on its commitment to ensure success for deserving students, Luckyday was drawn to the residential college concept of broadening learning experiences and building community.

AMAZING LEADERS

To keep momentum at its highest, a university must have effective leaders. Our foundation was strengthened by Chancellor Emeritus Robert C. Khayat, who led the university for 14 years before his retirement in June. During that time, he garnered more than \$827 million in private contributions, which allowed Ole Miss to achieve many wide-ranging goals.

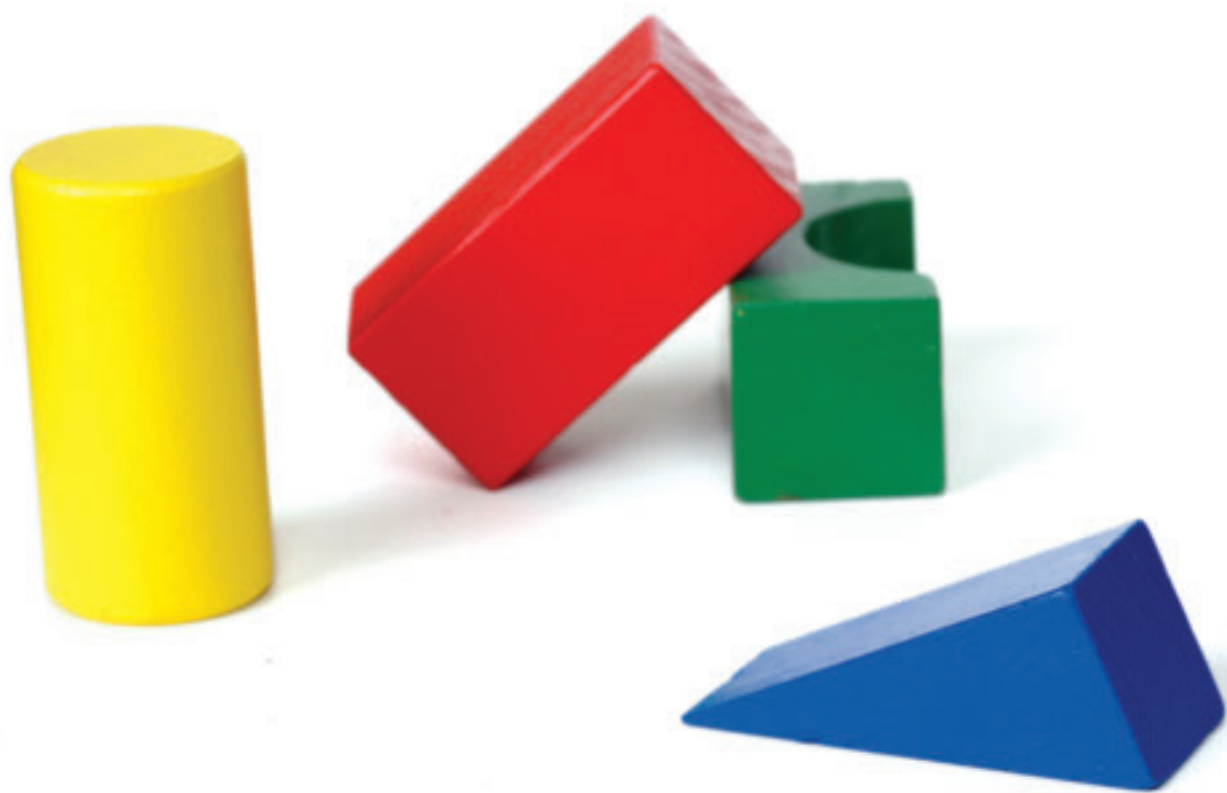
Another extraordinary leader has emerged—Dr. Daniel W. Jones. Before being named 16th chief executive officer of The University of Mississippi in July, this outstanding academician, researcher, physician and administrator served as the university's vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

During his tenure at The University of Mississippi Medical Center, he led a capital campaign that raised \$53 million, restructured the clinical enterprise, reinvigorated the research enterprise with the new Guyton Research Center and expanded the Medical Center's commitment to minority scholarships, rural medicine and the elimination of health disparities.

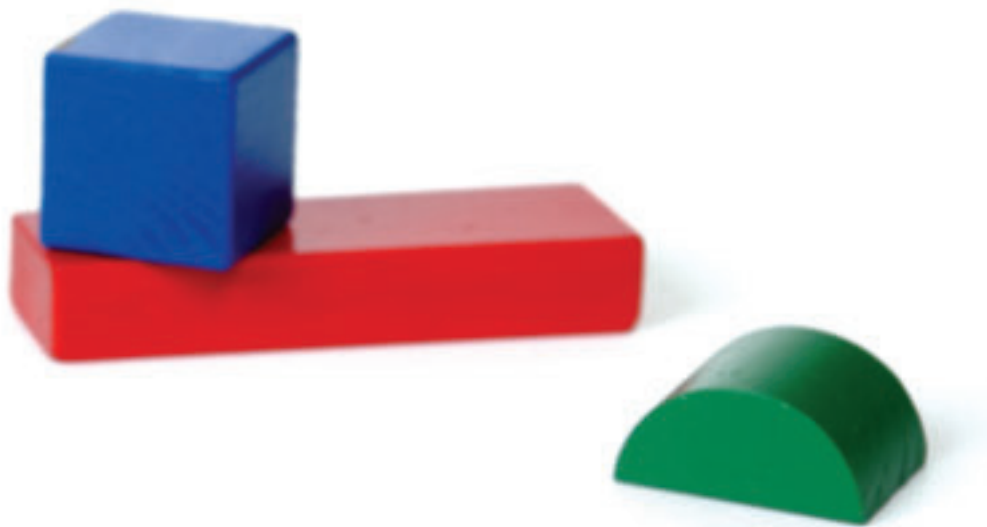
Chancellor Jones—who oversees the Oxford campus, Medical Center in Jackson and degree-granting centers in Tupelo, Southaven and Grenada—believes there is both an opportunity and responsibility for The University of Mississippi not only to transform students' lives but also to be a force for change in the state, nation and world.

Such work is possible because our alumni and friends continue building on a strong foundation. Your generosity is making a difference in thousands of lives.





Building on a Strong Foundation



Investing in Students

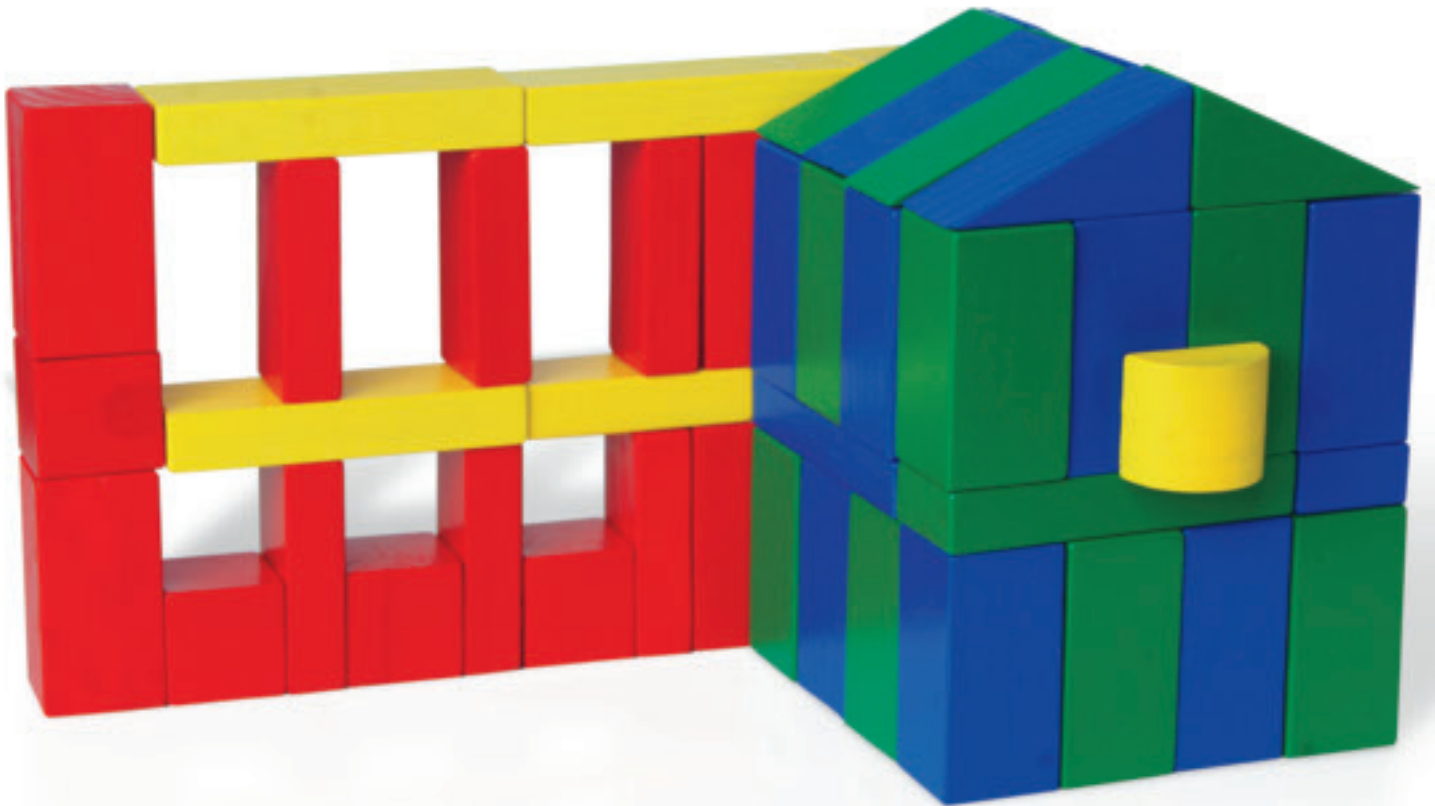
Luckyday Foundation supports
second residential college





Championing the Free Press

Overby Center works to show importance of
First Amendment rights to next generation



ERBY CENTER
FOR SOUTHERN JOURNALISM AND POLITICS
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

OVERBY CENTER
FOR SOUTHERN JOURNALISM AND POLITICS
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Expanding Access to Justice

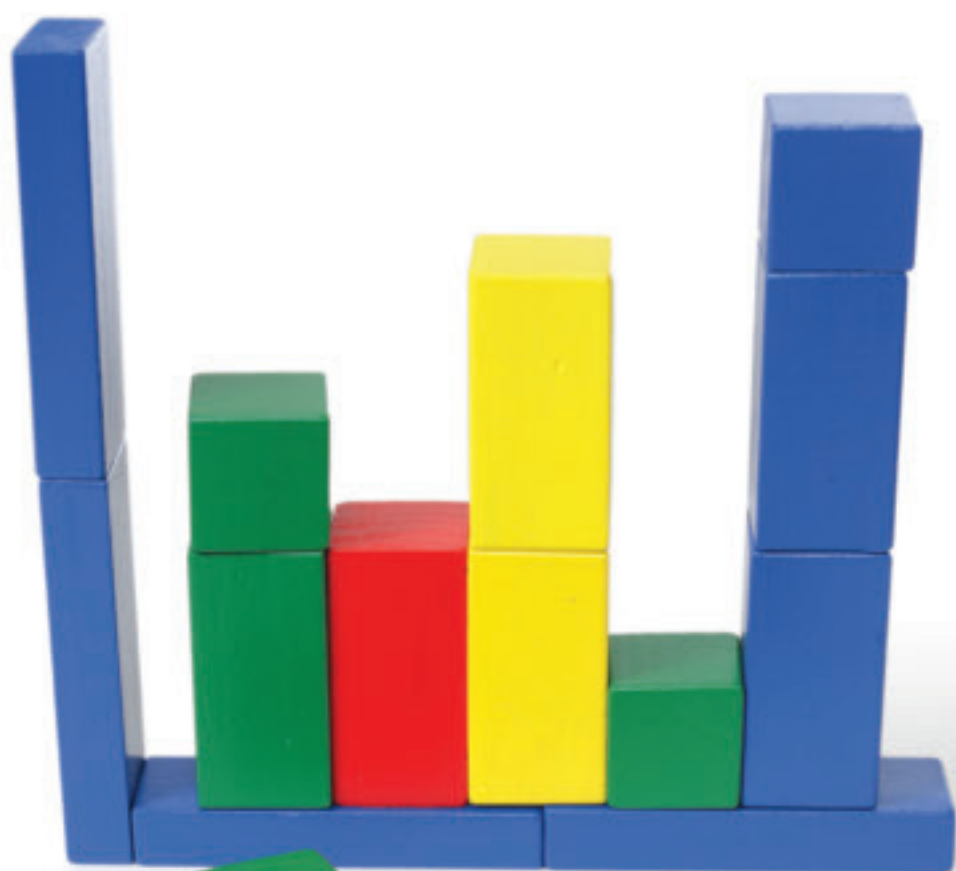
Law school programs touch lives
beyond Oxford campus





Supporting Great Teachers

Work of professors in Patterson
School of Accountancy applauded



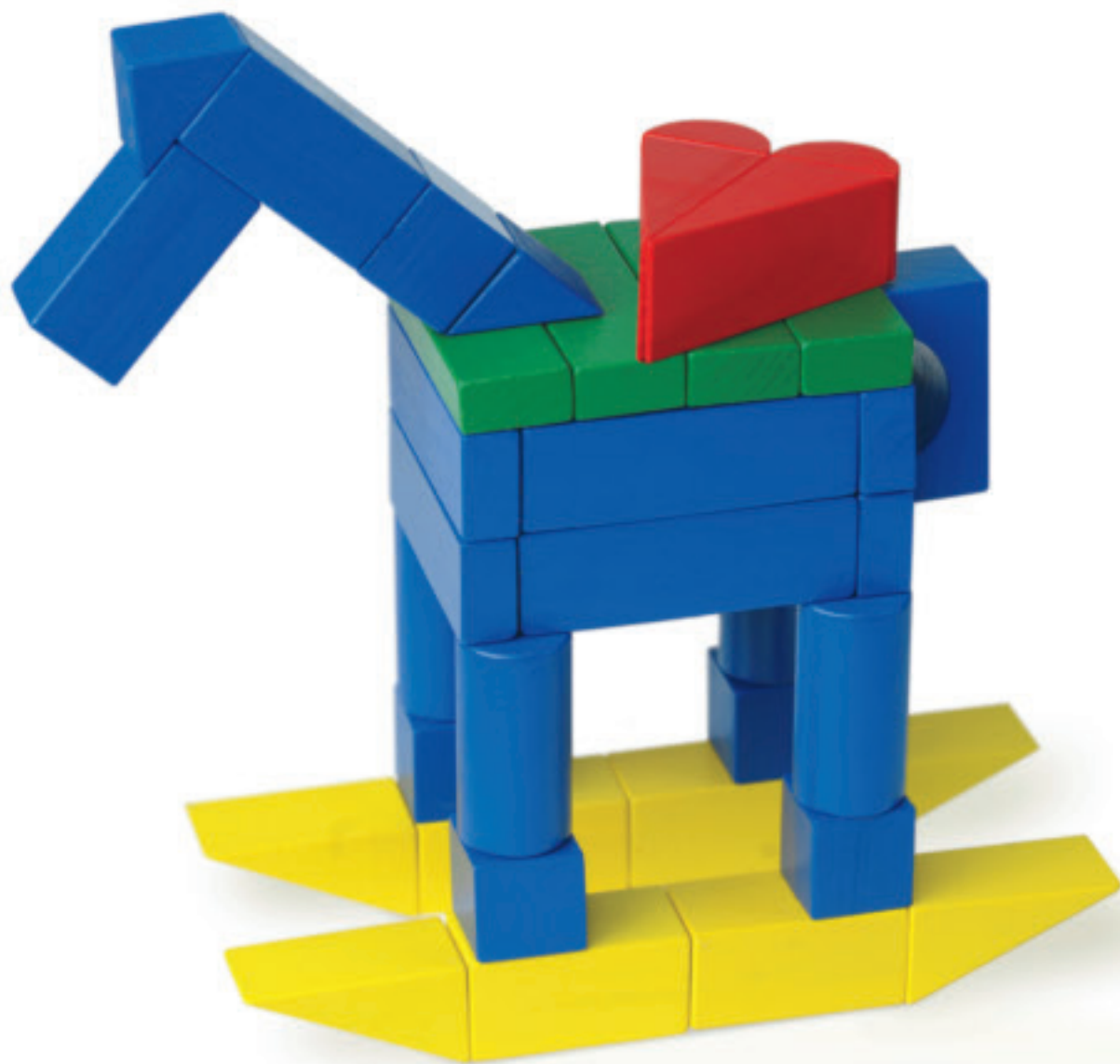
Cash	60M
Rec	200
PPE (net)	2600
GW	200
less: N/P	(2,700)
Net Assets	<u>360M</u>

① ...
 by value of division including
 Goodwill $\text{fmv} < \text{bv}$ then
 ② Calculate GW =
 fm of identifiable assets



Enhancing Care for Children

Chair in pediatrics, heart surgery program
help keep smallest citizens healthy





Playing to Win in Life

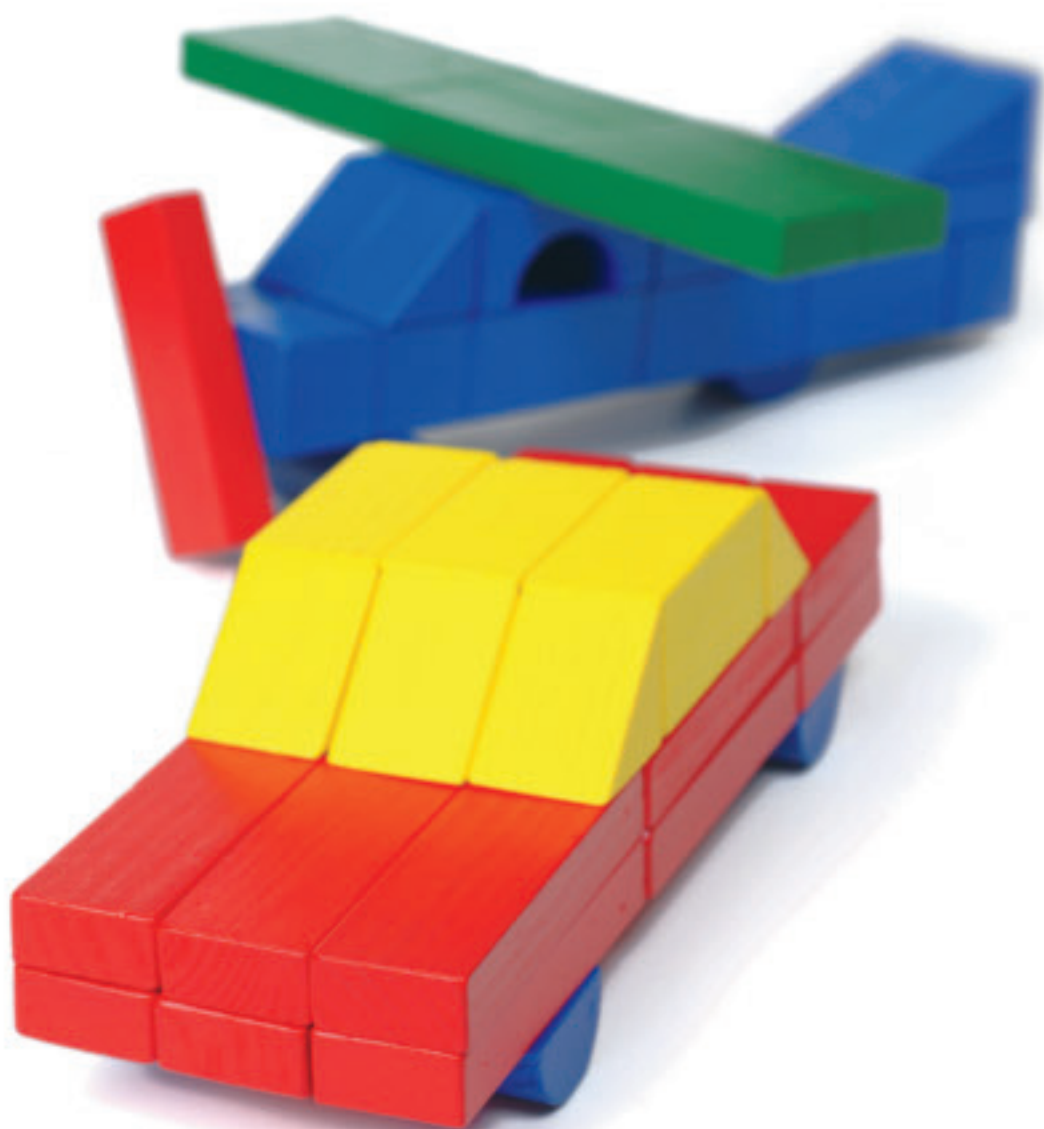
Athletics paves the way to education,
bright future

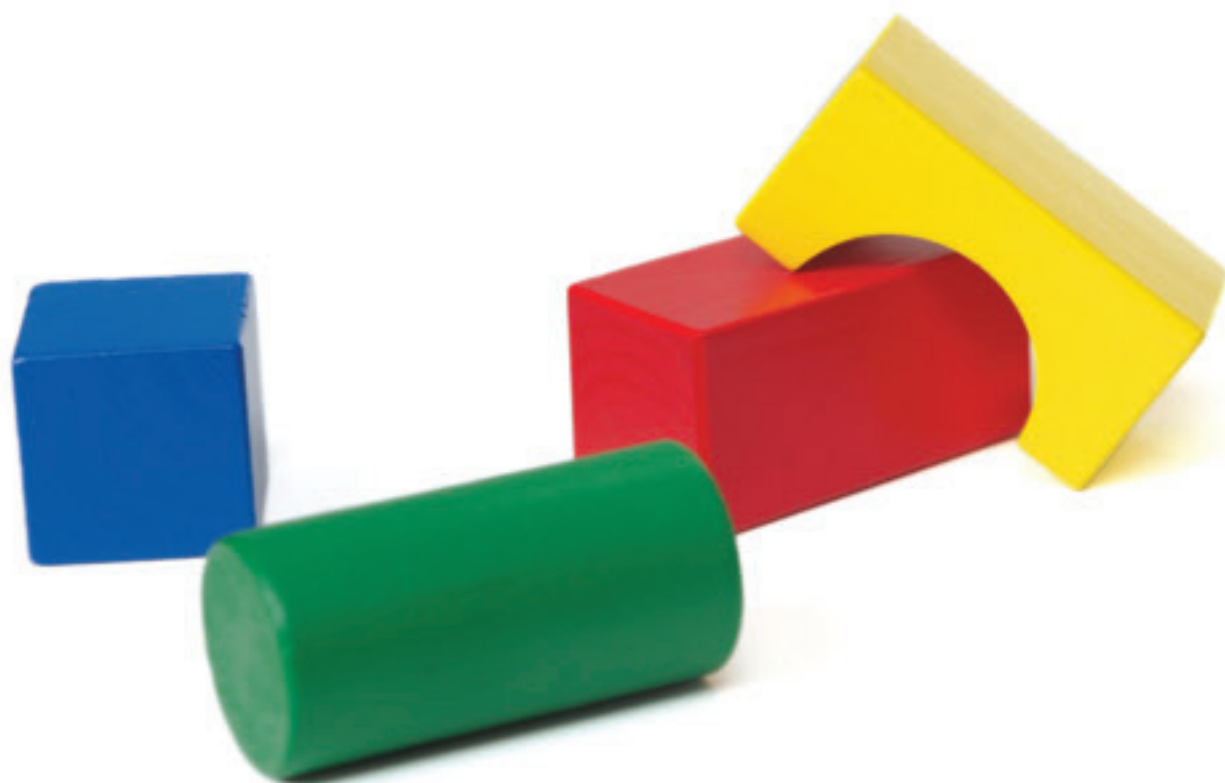




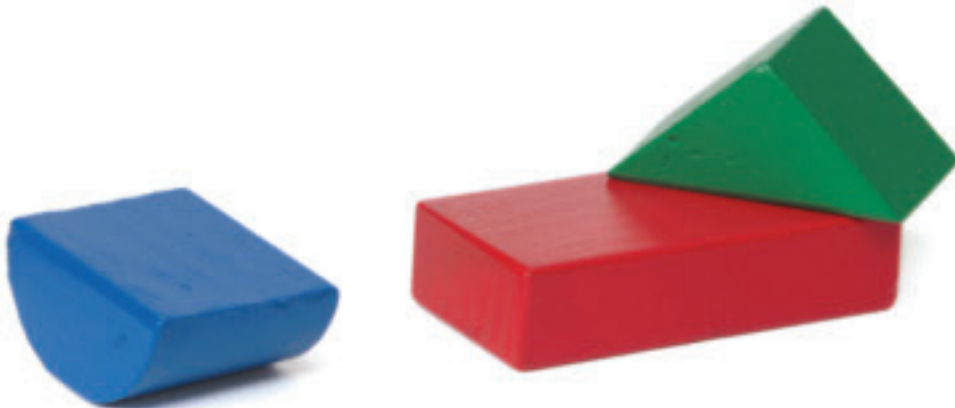
Studying the World in 3-D

Students, researchers get their hands
on latest technology





Shaping the Future through Support



Major Gifts of 2008-2009

Major gifts made in 2008-2009 are building on The University of Mississippi's strong foundation. Among these important contributions are

- \$4.6 million gift of GeoGenesis software from **IAVO Research and Scientific** of Durham, N.C., a universitywide gift with oversight by Waheed Uddin in the School of Engineering
- \$4 million gift from the **Luckyday Foundation** of Jackson for the second residential college, which will be named for the foundation when it opens in fall 2010
- \$2.5 million gift from an **anonymous donor** for the School of Law Campaign, which is providing funds for a new law school facility, student scholarships, and faculty and clinic support
- \$2.5 million pledge from **Joseph C. Bancroft Charitable and Educational Fund** of McComb for renovation of the pediatric intensive care unit at Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children at The University of Mississippi Medical Center
- \$2.09 million gift from **Jim and Donna Barksdale** of Jackson for continuing support of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College
- \$1.7 million gift from **Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation** of Jackson for the Center for Mathematics and Science Education, Center for Manufacturing Excellence, Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction, School of Education, School of Applied Sciences, William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation and the Presidential Debate
- \$1.6 million gift from **Roland and Sheryl Burns** of Frisco, Texas, for the Roland and Sheryl Burns Chair of Accountancy in the Patterson School of Accountancy and for athletics
- \$1.4 million gift from the **estate of Clarence Thomas Hill Jr., M.D.**, for the Dorothy Palmer Landrum and C. Thomas Hill Jr., M.D., Endowment, which will fund scholarships in the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Medicine
- \$1.3 million gift from the **Freedom Forum** of Washington, D.C., for the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
- \$1.09 million gift from the **E.H. Sumners Foundation** of Eupora to continue its long-term funding of general scholarships
- \$800,000 gift from the **Southern Baptist Foundation** of Tennessee for the Everett-Williams Memorial Endowment Fund, which provides scholarships
- \$500,000 gift from **Louis Brandt** of Houston, Texas, for first Residential College
- \$500,000 pledge from **John H. Thames Jr.** of Jackson for the Suzan Brown Thames Chair of Pediatrics at the Medical Center
- \$445,000 gift from the estate of **Sidney E. Patton Jr.** for the Dr. James L. Hughes Chair of Orthopedics at the Medical Center
- \$333,000 gift from the **Mississippi Power Educational Foundation** for the Barksdale Reading Institute
- \$305,000 gift from the **Donald S. Pichitino Educational Trust** for Pichitino Scholarships in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College
- \$300,000 gift from **Stephen E. Rowell** of Brandon for the William Paul Rowell Scholarship Endowment and the Stephen E. Rowell Athletics Scholarship Endowment
- \$285,000 gift from **Alwyn H. Luckey** of Ocean Springs to the Ole Miss Alumni Association for The Inn at Ole Miss
- \$250,000 gifts each from **Entergy Corp.** and **Chevron Texaco Products** for the Presidential Debate
- \$250,000 gift from **Donna Ruth Roberts** of Oxford for the Roberts Business Women's Excellence Endowment to support the School of Business Administration
- \$250,000 gift from the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation** of Battle Creek, Mich., for the Winter Institute
- \$250,000 pledge from **Hardy P. Graham** of Meridian and **R. Newell Graham** of Union City, Tenn., in memory of their father, Hardy M. Graham, for the School of Law Campaign
- \$200,000 gift from **Yates Companies Inc.** of Philadelphia for the Yates Endowment for support of academics and athletics
- \$150,000 pledge from **Larry H. Bryan** of Memphis for the Larry and Susan Bryan Faculty Endowment Fund to benefit the Patterson School of Accountancy and the Larry and Susan Bryan Athletics Fund
- \$150,000 pledge from **Michael L. Ducker** of Collierville, Tenn., to support a variety of university projects
- \$141,000 gift from the **Surdna Foundation Inc.** of New York for the Winter Institute
- \$135,000 gift from **Robert S. Murphree** of Jackson, **Thomas M. Murphree Jr.** of Summit and **Dennis H. Murphree** of San Antonio, Texas, for the

Thomas Martin Murphree Sr. Scholarship Endowment for the School of Business Administration

- \$130,000 pledge from **Cecil C. Brown Jr.** of Jackson for the Nancy H. Brown Teacher Corps Endowment
- \$128,000 gift from the **estate of Charles E. Noyes** for the Noyes Library Endowment
- \$125,000 pledge from **Hancock Bank** of Gulfport for the Hancock Bank Scholarship for Banking Excellence
- \$125,000 pledge from **Thomas H. Rhoden** of Jackson for the School of Law Campaign
- \$100,800 gift from **Danny E. Cupit** of Jackson for the School of Law Campaign
- \$100,000 gifts each from **Roy Anderson Holding Co., AT&T Mississippi, Trustmark National Bank** and **Wal-Mart Stores Inc.** for the Presidential Debate
- \$100,000 gift from the **Ashbury Foundation** of Hattiesburg for the Ashbury Scholarship Endowment funding general scholarships
- \$100,000 pledge from **John W. "Don" Barrett** of Lexington for the Harry Owens Library Fund
- \$100,000 gift from **John "Chip" Crunk** of Nashville for the Crunk Family Scholarship Endowment in the School of Business Administration
- \$100,000 pledge from **Feild Cooperative Association Inc.** of Jackson for the Suzan Brown Thames Chair of Pediatrics at the Medical Center
- \$100,000 gift from **Ann H. Gresham** of Indianola for the George P. Hopkins Engineering Scholarship Endowment
- \$100,000 gift from **Dr. Gerald M. Hollingsworth** of Niceville, Fla., for the Basketball Campaign, which includes a new basketball practice facility
- \$100,000 pledge from **Horne, LLP**, a Jackson accounting firm, for the Horne, LLP, Accountancy Excellence Endowment to provide general support for the Patterson School of Accountancy
- \$100,000 gift from **Houston and Diana Nutt** of Oxford for student-athletes' scholarships and Indoor Practice Field support
- \$100,000 gift from the **Phil Hardin Foundation** of Meridian for Mississippi Building Blocks, which is part of the Barksdale Reading Institute
- \$100,000 gift from **Frank and Joy Tindall** of Indianola for the Robert C. Khayat Legacy Fund and Chancellor's Trust

- \$100,000 gift from **Wirt Yerger III** of Jackson for the Yerger Excellence Endowed Fund in the School of Business Administration
- \$100,000 gift from an **anonymous faculty donor** for the J.D. Williams Library's Information Commons



The Widespread Impact of Private Giving

When considering the success of philanthropy at The University of Mississippi, the question really comes down to this: Did the generous resources provided by loyal donors continue building on a strong foundation for current students and future generations?

Many examples could be given to answer that question in the affirmative, but the proof is in the fact that private gifts directly enhance the total university environment: 38.8 percent of the university's endowment is committed to student scholarship support, 43.3 percent is dedicated to academic and program support, 13.8 percent provides faculty support, and 4.1 percent is focused on enhancing the University Libraries.

"Our academic programs continue to attract outstanding students and receive more national and international recognition for excellence," says UM Provost Morris H. Stocks. "The gains we've made in our ability to recruit strong students and offer them a world-class education from the best faculty would not be possible without the millions in private support from those who care about Ole Miss."

Highlights of support garnered by UM's schools, College of Liberal Arts and Medical Center include the following:

- The **E.H. Patterson School of Accountancy** secured \$1.22 million in gifts from 439 donors. The *Public Accounting Report* placed all three Patterson School of Accountancy programs in the top 20 in the nation, ranking the undergraduate program 18th and the graduate and doctoral programs 15th. This is the fourth consecutive year the programs have earned a place in the top 30 rankings.

One hundred percent of the students who graduated in May 2009 from the Master of Accountancy program had jobs. Professor of Accountancy Morris H. Stocks was named the university's provost. Two professors—Dale Flesher and Tonya Flesher—served as program co-chairs of the American Accounting Association's meeting in Anaheim, Calif. The AAA is the largest national/international organization of accounting academicians, and its Southeast Regional meeting was hosted at Ole Miss.

- The **School of Applied Sciences** garnered more than \$264,000 from 355 donors. Since its creation eight years ago, the school has more than doubled its enrollment and remains the most diverse school on campus with its six departments: Communication Sciences and Disorders; Center for Intelli-

gence and Security Studies; Family and Consumer Sciences; Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management; Legal Studies; and Social Work.

The new Center for Intelligence and Security Studies opened in the former athletics department building. The center is directed by Carl Jenkins, a former special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and offers an undergraduate minor. U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker said the center better positions the university to "continue graduating students with the skills our intelligence agencies need to keep our country secure."

- The **School of Business Administration** attracted \$852,000 from 762 donors. Ken Cyree, who holds the Frank R. Day/Mississippi Bankers Association Chair of Banking, was appointed dean of the school. Finance professors Bonnie Van Ness and Robert Van Ness were named managing editors of *Financial Review*, a leading publication in finance.

The business school has produced 38 elite publications (the top six in each department) since 2005, which places the school ahead of such SEC institutions as the University of Alabama and Louisiana State University. Students are benefiting from the group advising program, along with one-on-one advising and career coaching.

- The **School of Education** received \$826,000 in gifts from 480 donors. The school enrolled its inaugural class in the Mississippi Principal Corps, an innovative preparation program that addresses the statewide shortage of school principals in an effort to transform public education in the state. The program received funding from alumnus Jim Barksdale. Support for participants in the program includes a full-time internship and a \$10,000 signing bonus at completion of the program.

The \$3 million Guyton Hall annex construction project neared completion, with the 5,500-square-foot addition providing the School of Education needed classroom and office space.

- The **School of Engineering** secured almost \$5.4 million in contributions, which included a \$4.6 million software gift-in-kind from IAVO Research and Scientific of Durham, N.C.

After eight years of service, Kai-Fong Lee stepped down as dean to return to full-time teaching and research. During his tenure, the engineering school experienced a 90 percent increase in annual research expenditures, as well as a 90 percent increase in faculty publications. Research expenditures reached \$12 million for the first

time. Alexander H.D. Cheng, chair and professor of civil engineering, became the new dean.

To honor his outstanding research and national prominence, Sam Wang received the inaugural University of Mississippi Distinguished Research and Creative Achievement Award. Wang is the F.A.P. Barnard Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

- The **School of Law** was supported by more than \$4.5 million in gifts from 660 donors. More than 260 graduates made their first-ever gift to the School of Law during the fiscal year.

The new School of Law facility, to be named for Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat, will open in fall 2010. Alumni and friends are responding to a \$60 million campaign for the building, as well as scholarship, faculty, law library and clinic support.

One of the school's moot court teams finished as runner-up in the National First Amendment Appellate Competition, and another finished in the top eight in the country in the Religious Freedom Appellate Competition. A team finished in the top 14 of the National Trial Competition.

- The **College of Liberal Arts** received \$3.3 million in gifts from 1,853 donors. The mock trial program, an effort involving the Lott Leadership Institute, the Forensics Program and the Department of Political Science, achieved success at the national level for the third consecutive year.

The university and the College of Liberal Arts created the Center for Writing and Rhetoric to help improve the writing of all students regardless of major. This is being accomplished through first-year writing courses, tutoring services and support for the teaching of writing.

- The **School of Pharmacy** attracted \$431,000 from 354 donors. The school also launched Promises to Keep, a \$5 million capital campaign to elevate the school's standing among America's premier public pharmacy programs. Funds will help build a new pharmacy building at the Medical Center in Jackson and create endowments for student scholarships and faculty support.

The school received \$16 million in extramural funding for research, according to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, placing it fifth in the nation among pharmacy programs. The National Center for Natural Products Research, which is a part of the School of Pharmacy, earned a special citation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for its assistance with the FDA's

international study of the safety and authenticity of botanicals.

Ikhlas A. Khan, professor of pharmacognosy, was honored with the 2009 Norman Farnsworth Excellence in Botanical Research Award.

- The **Medical Center** was the beneficiary of \$15.3 million in gifts for the center's four hospitals and the schools of Dentistry, Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences, Medicine, Nursing and Health Related Professions.

The MomentUMC Campaign surpassed its \$50 million goal with \$61.4 million in pledges and gifts. Two outstanding outcomes of the campaign were the establishment of the Suzan Brown Thames Chair in the Department of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine and a gift of \$2.1 million from the Bancroft Charitable and Educational Fund to renovate the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children.



ADDITIONAL GIVING HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2008-2009

- More than \$6.3 million was provided to the university through **Annual Giving**, the program defined as all academic gifts less than \$25,000.
- The **Ole Miss First** scholarship program attracted \$433,000. This initiative, which addresses one of the university's greatest needs by seeking scholarships for every deserving student, has received approximately \$5.6 million since its inception.
- The **Ole Miss Parents Association** attracted more than \$400,000 to support a number of programs, including student scholarships, the Chancellor's Trust, Career Center, Counseling Center, Office of Health Promotion and the Office of International Programs.
- The **University Libraries** received \$371,000 from 509 donors. The accounting firm Deloitte & Touche awarded a \$150,000 grant to the University Libraries to digitize the firm's historical records as part of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Collection.
- The **Ole Miss Women's Council** secured almost \$104,000 to bring its endowment to \$6.6 million.

Building the Endowment



Building a \$500 million endowment in the near future for The University of Mississippi stands as the primary goal of The University of Mississippi Foundation Board of Directors and its Joint Committee on University Investments. Driving this effort is the fact that funding provided by the state of Mississippi continues to shrink.

State appropriations now constitute a small percentage of the university's total operating revenues. A dramatic decline in state funding is forecast through fiscal year 2012 due to the economy, says Larry Sparks, UM vice chancellor for administration and finance.

"As revenues collected by the Mississippi State Treasury continue to decrease and federal stimulus funding disappears, the cuts in higher education funding are projected to deepen in fiscal year 2011 and 2012," Sparks says. "Fiscal year 2013 may be the first we experience without a cut in state funding."

Although growing the endowment will require exceptional efforts on the part of alumni and friends, UM Foundation officials point out that one of the hallmarks of the Ole Miss family is its generosity.

"Our private support last year was truly overwhelming considering the fragile condition of the economy," says Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the UM Foundation. "For the first time in the history of the foundation, this fiscal year we asked many of our donors to supplement their endowment funds. We were humbled and gratified by the sheer number of donors who responded and by their willingness to provide funds needed to keep the university and its mission moving forward."

The endowment totaled \$369.9 million at the close of the fiscal year.

"A strong endowment would have a greater impact on the university and provide increased stability for our students during this period of declining state funding," Weakley says.

Despite a near market collapse, the UM endowment recorded the best performance this year of any public university in the Southeastern Conference, according to the Advancement of the Southeastern Conference organization. The fiscal 2009 income from the endowment provided more than \$40 million in support of university programs and activities. Weakley says this performance success was due in large part to the diligent efforts of the Joint Committee on University Investments members, who met monthly rather than quarterly during the height of the economic crisis.

Nine members of the UM Foundation Board of Directors and three university representatives appointed



by the chancellor—many of whom have decades of experience in investment portfolios—give of their time to serve on the Joint Committee on University Investments. The committee’s charge is to invest all endowment funds, deciding on the appropriate asset allocation for investments, establishing the endowment spending policy and selecting fund managers. The UM Foundation board employs the Fund Evaluation Group based in Cincinnati, Ohio, as an overlay manager to assist with the investment committee’s responsibilities.

“Most of the investment committee members spend a large amount of time in the investment world daily, and the time and expertise they devote to the foundation is absolutely invaluable,” Weakley says. “They have independent viewpoints, and that’s very healthy when we all come together to make decisions.”

Michael T. McRee of Jackson, who became chair of the investment committee in the mid-1980s, recalls a time when the UM endowment totaled only \$7 million. He’s witnessed the generosity of alumni and friends whose contributions strengthened the endowment to the level it is today.

“We continue to look at global funds and emerging markets to identify places that will provide good returns on our investments,” he says. “If we can realize a 7 to 8 percent return over the long haul, the income will meet most of our expectations.”

As they look ahead, UM Foundation officials share further about building the endowment:

Q: What is the UM Foundation’s plan for the future?

A: The UM Foundation remains committed to good stewardship of the gifts alumni and friends have entrusted to us. We continue to adjust our portfolio with the philosophy of investing these gifts in an

effort to maintain their value in real terms over time. The Joint Committee on University Investments follows four basic endowment management principles to guide future endowment funds:

- Provide sufficient current and future income to produce spendable income for the endowed purpose
- Focus on long-term performance
- Accept a reasonable and prudent level of risk while maximizing “total” return
- Diversify investments to reduce risk

Q: Have the endowment goals for the future changed?

A: No. While we have adjusted implementation tactics, we remain focused on our mission and goals, which include

- Continuing to build the endowment to \$500 million in the near term
- Increasing focus on strategic initiatives for endowment gifts
- Partnering with the state of Mississippi and others for matching grants for endowments

Q: Should we change the way we view endowments?

A: For many years, most mature university endowments have provided a 5 percent spend based on the endowment’s three-year market value. However, given the investment market returns over the last two years, endowment trustees across the country are beginning to question the traditional 5 percent spending rate. Your investment committee members have consciously decided not to overreact to recent market events but may need to adjust the rate in the future to provide for “intergenerational equity.”

Present and Future Needs

Involvement and commitment are hallmarks of University of Mississippi alumni, friends, students, faculty and staff. These UM constituencies embrace opportunities to contribute to the total Ole Miss experience, and the investment of financial resources, expertise and time produces extraordinary results. Recent achievements—which continue building a strong foundation—are a source of great pride, as they should be. Today, however, the invitation again is extended for alumni and friends to make a difference in the lives of our students and in the life of the university.

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

PATTERSON SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY
Contact Carol Anne Marion at 662-915-1758.

SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCES
Contact Debbie Vaughn at 662-915-1687.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
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SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
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GRADUATE SCHOOL
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SCHOOL OF LAW
School of Law Campaign/New Law School Facility
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COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
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SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
Promises to Keep Campaign
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OLE MISS PARENTS
Contact Josh Whelan at 662-915-6678.

**OLE MISS WOMEN'S COUNCIL
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Contact Denson Hollis at 662-915-5092.

CHANCELLOR'S TRUST INITIATIVE
Contact Debbie Vaughn at 662-915-1687.

**GERTRUDE C. FORD CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**
Contact Debbie Vaughn at 662-915-1687.



MISSISSIPPI PARTNERSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

This visionary initiative asks for state funding to match private gifts that endow faculty positions at all of the state's public universities.

Contact Sandra Guest at 662-915-5208.

OLE MISS FIRST SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE

Individuals, businesses and corporations can fund one student's education with a \$25,000 gift or establish a scholarship endowment.

Contact Denson Hollis at 662-915-5092.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN CULTURE

Including the Southern Foodways Alliance

Contact Michael Upton at 662-915-3027.

WILLIAM WINTER INSTITUTE FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION

Contact Dr. Susan Glisson at 662-915-6727.

BASKETBALL PRACTICE FACILITY

A 51,000-square-foot practice facility for the men's and women's teams is being constructed on Coliseum Drive.

Coaching offices and study areas are a part of the facility.

Contact Danny White at 662-915-7159.

INDOOR PRACTICE FACILITY

Ole Miss is now home to the most progressive multisport indoor complex in the South.

Contact Danny White at 662-915-7159.

THE INN AT OLE MISS/ TRIPLETT ALUMNI CENTER

A \$15 million expansion of the former Alumni House Hotel is meeting the needs of alumni, friends and visitors from all over the world. The new Inn at Ole Miss offers the convenience of a campus location plus the opportunity for guests to be immersed in campus life. Support also is needed for the Triplett Alumni Center's major renovation.

Contact Tim Walsh at 662-915-7375.



The Power of “We”

Several years ago, University of Mississippi leaders engaged our many stakeholders in a conversation about the pursuit of excellence in the 21st century. The consensus was that we wanted to sit at the table of great American universities.

The effort and resources needed to reach national preeminence were communicated. Loyal alumni and friends responded in an unprecedented manner that transformed the university over the last 14 years.

A vibrant economy also played an important role in fueling the transformation, as alumni and friends experienced an era of personal economic prosperity. Among our remarkable accomplishments and dramatic progress of this time were expanding student scholarships, enhancing academic opportunities, creating new programs, increasing faculty support, sheltering a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, growing the endowment, constructing and renovating campus buildings, improving technological resources and advancing campus beauty.

We are profoundly grateful for the exceptional private support and transformation.

However, this past fiscal year the economy and markets faltered, and many people and organizations were adversely affected. Yet alumni and friends continued to respond in an unprecedented manner.

We deeply appreciate this generous support, vision and trust.

There are challenging days ahead, and we have not witnessed the full impact of the economy's downturn. The continuing shortfall in state tax revenues translates into a decline in higher education funding. State support accounted for only 21 percent of The University of Mississippi's total operating revenues for fiscal year 2009, and our leaders are predicting dramatic cuts over the next three fiscal years.

“We are weathering the impact of this recession better than some,” says UM Chancellor Daniel W. Jones. “We’ve been fortunate to have a productive faculty, strong financial leadership, good planning by our entire leadership team, continued strong private support and increases in enrollment that enhance revenue.

“Historically, some state universities have allowed limited resources to lead to a limited mission to meet limited needs,” the chancellor says. “It would be my hope that, even in a very difficult economy, The University of Mississippi would work the other way: We would identify needs, particularly needs in our own state; those needs would shape priorities and our mission; and we would take the responsibility to identify the appropriate resources in order to meet

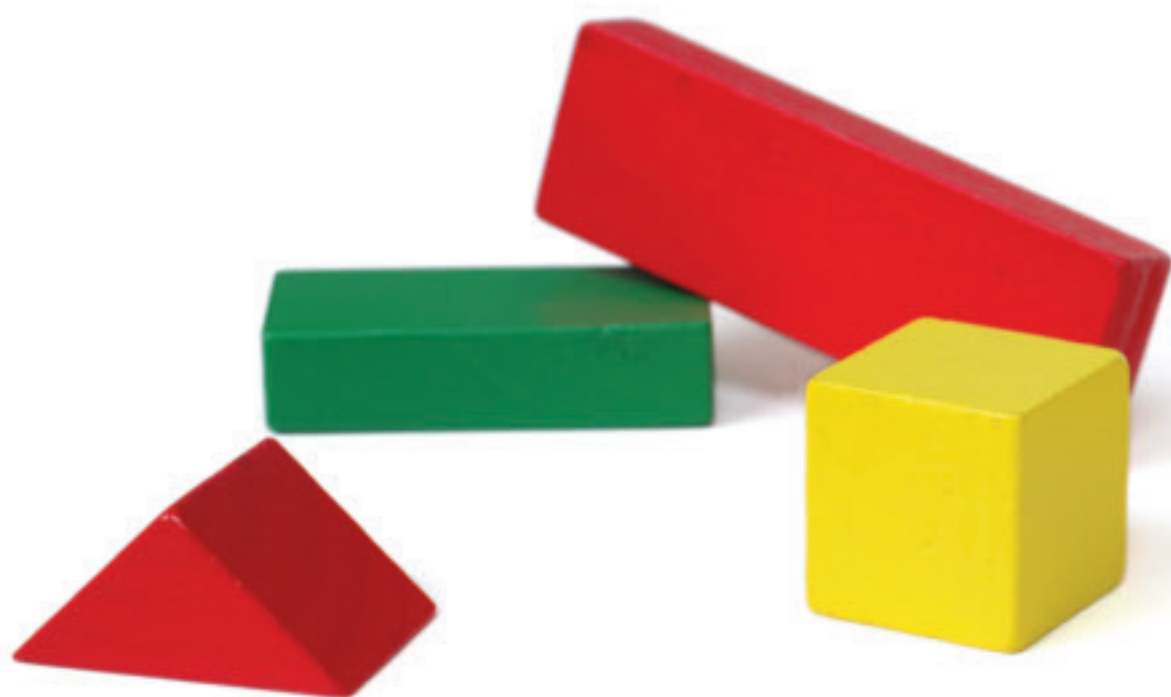
those priorities and fulfill that mission.”

The University of Mississippi thrives as a higher education environment. The University of Mississippi Foundation operates as a business environment that attracts, manages and invests private resources. The Ole Miss family provides extraordinary levels of support. All the committed stakeholders—alumni, friends, students, faculty, staff and administrators—compose a community to further important work.

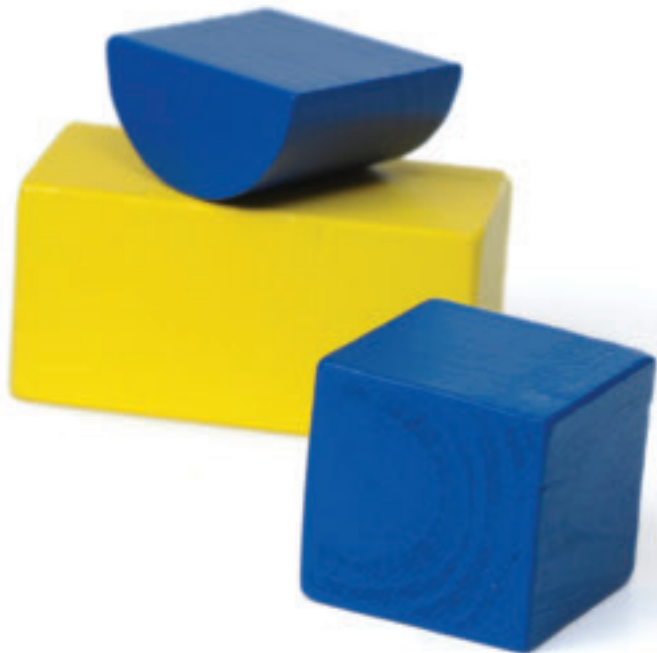
There's a great deal of power in “we.”

We are The University of Mississippi, and together we will continue building on a strong foundation.





Recognizing Those Who Serve, Give



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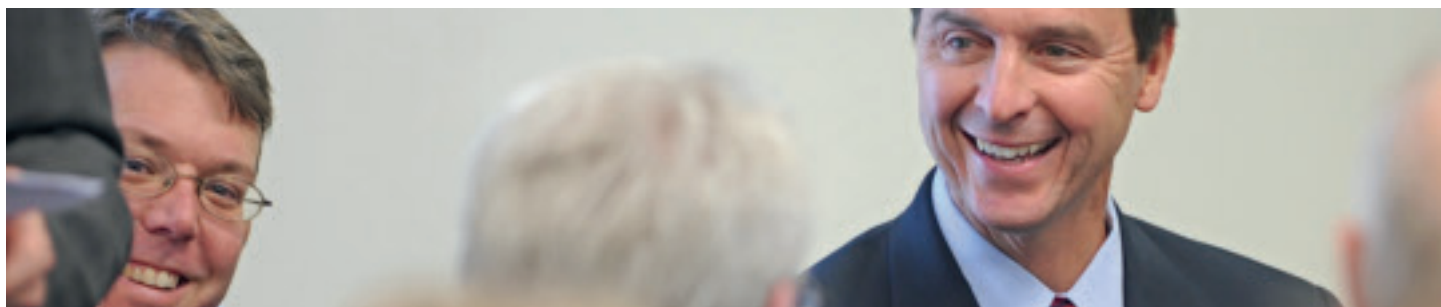
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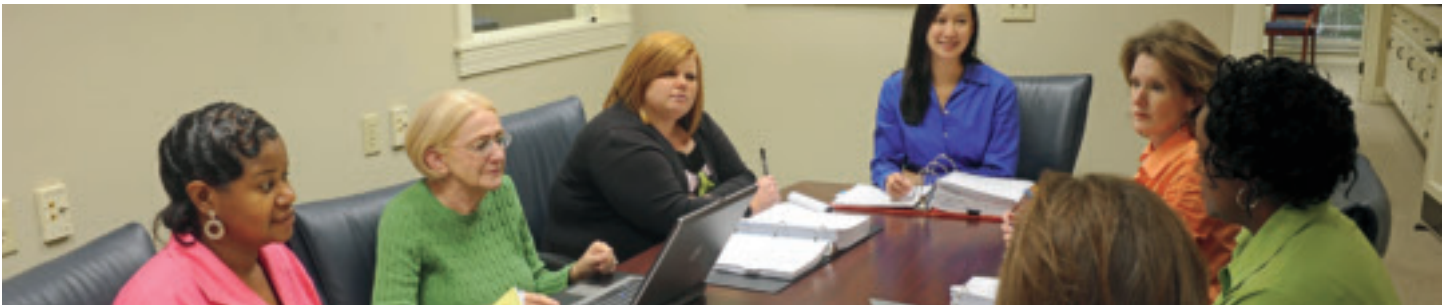
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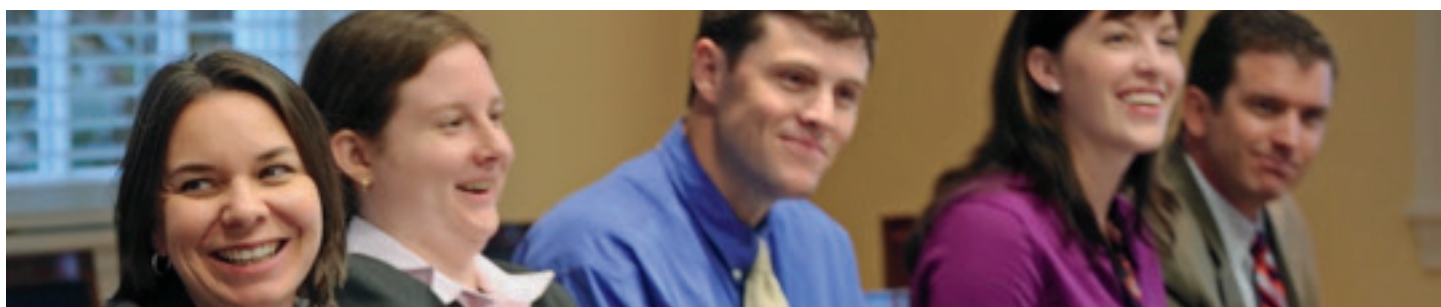
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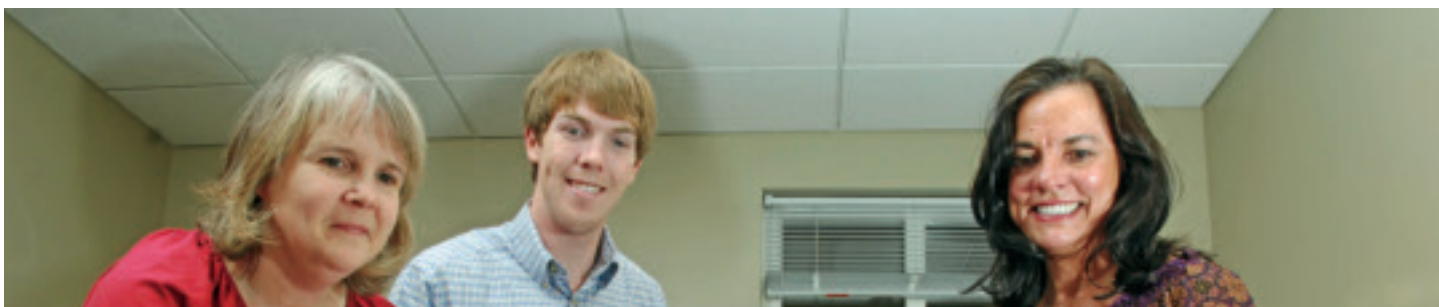
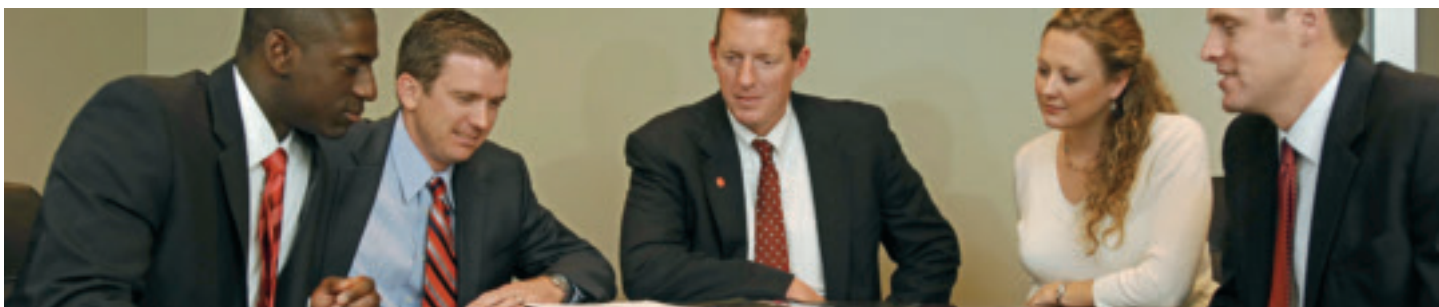
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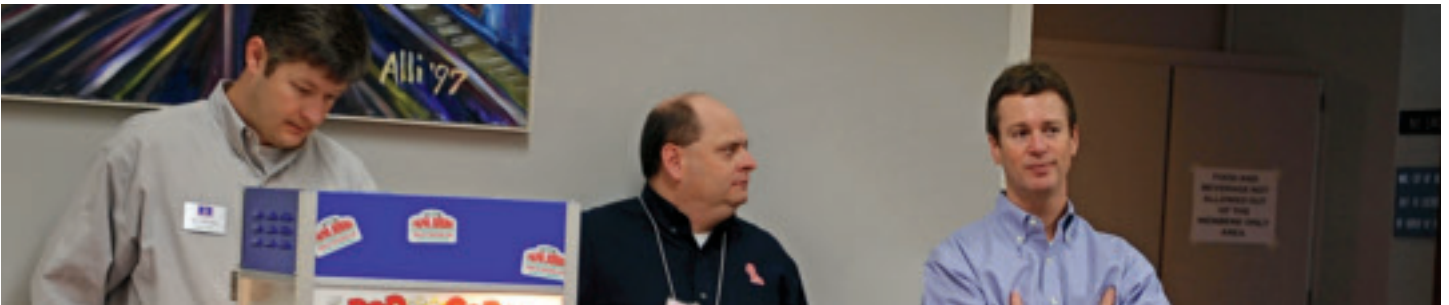
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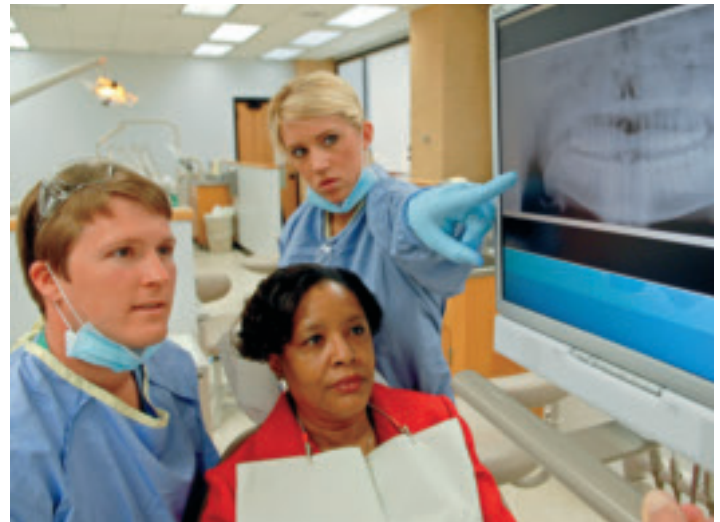
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 Lawrence W. Mahalak, Jr.
 Charles R. McCollum, Jr.
 Henry Allen McCrory
 Bobby E. McKee

George K. McMullan, Jr.
 Brenda Denson Melohn
 Ellis M. Moffitt
 John Ellis Moffitt
 Robert Dulaney Moreton
 Francis S. Morrison
 William H. Mosby
 Harriet Ann Murphy
 Elizabeth Petrus Newman
 William Earl Noblin III
 Edward Pennington
 Kenneth P. Pittman
 Glen Omar Pugh
 Zeno Gavin Riley
 Ernest S. Roberts
 Richard Angus Roberts
 Henry J. Sanders III
 Phil C. Schreider
 Spencer L. Schreiter
 Richard Eric Schuster
 Jack Milton Senter
 Michael E. Shaheen
 Margaret W. Shands
 Robert Eugene Shands
 Thomas R. Shaw, Sr.
 Robert E. Smith
 David R. Steckler
 James Otis Stephens
 Edsel Ford Stewart
 Joseph G. Stribling
 John Curran Sullivan
 Nancy O'Neal Tatum
 P. K. Thomas, Jr.
 Elizabeth Thompson
 James Grant Thompson
 William L. Thornton
 Robert C. Tibbs II
 Luther Dwight Turner
 Wilson Hudson Turner
 E. G. Tutor
 W. Michael Vise
 Frank Colvin Wade
 James Chapman Waite
 James Dale Wakham
 W. W. Walley
 Stennis Davis Wax
 Henry Harold Webb
 Ray Lamar Wesson
 Charles Hughston Whitaker
 William B. Wiener
 Kenneth Ott Williams
 Winfred L. Wiser
 Carolyn Harpole Wood

GRADUATE STUDIES

Darrell Nolon Blaylock
 Dudley S. Burwell, Jr.
 Lisa Bennett Chandler
 Frances M. Coleman
 Donald Newson Downer
 Robert Fortier-Bensen
 Joey Paul Granger
 Thomas S. Guyton
 David Herman Irwin, Jr.
 Carl Grady Nichols, Jr.
 Richard J. O'Callaghan
 Robin William Rockhold
 Indira Kota Veerisetty
 Wei Yu

In Memoriam

Cathy S. Hughes

The late Frank Rogers Day invested 40 years of his life to further the growth of Trustmark National Bank and its predecessor, First National Bank of Jackson, where he worked his way through the ranks to become chairman of the board and chief executive officer.

In 1978, he envisioned a different kind of investment when he established the Luckyday Foundation. Through his private foundation, Mississippi students are provided with extraordinary educational opportunities at The University of Mississippi, his alma mater, and elsewhere in his home state.

and broaden the scope of learning. A faculty fellow and his family lives at the college, and 30 other faculty fellows interact with student residents.

"Frank Day had a noble vision about investing in young people and their education," says Holmes S. Adams, chairman of the Luckyday Foundation board of managers. "The foundation strongly believes that



"The foundation strongly believes that Luckyday Scholars will benefit significantly from living together in a smaller community near the Grove."

— Holmes S. Adams
Chairman of the
Luckyday Foundation

Gifts from the Luckyday Foundation to the university, totaling more than \$22 million, have benefited Ole Miss students in profound ways. Hundreds of students have received Luckyday Scholarships and participated in the Luckyday Success Program. The foundation joined with the Mississippi Bankers Association in 2001 to honor Day's legacy in banking by endowing the Frank R. Day/Mississippi Bankers Association Chair of Banking at Ole Miss. The foundation also provided funds in tribute to Day's parents to create the Christine and Clarence Day Scholarship in the School of Business Administration, the largest business scholarship in the state.

A new gift of \$4 million from the Luckyday Foundation supports the second residential college at the university. Bearing the name of the foundation established by Day, the Luckyday Residential College is scheduled to open in fall 2010 and will provide housing primarily for Luckyday Scholars.

The goal of the residential colleges is to nurture

Luckyday Scholars will benefit significantly from living together in a smaller community near the Grove. We want to do whatever is necessary to achieve our ultimate goal of academic success and a college diploma for each of our scholarship recipients."

Carol Ann Yates of Ripley, a senior accounting major and Luckyday Scholar, says, "Mr. Day's story shows us that wherever we come from, we can become whatever we want as long as we apply ourselves and give our all. I love Mississippi and plan to do as Mr. Day and stay here."

Frank Day's legacy shines brighter each year, as his scholars gain high-quality educational experiences, earn degrees and strengthen Mississippi and the larger world with their contributions.

Charles Overby sees the United States as possibly being one generation away from losing the First Amendment and a free press. He is supported by First Amendment studies that show most Americans are unable to name their basic freedoms and would consider some government limits on them.

"It's a sober reality—not a doomsday prediction," says Overby, chairman and CEO of the Freedom Forum and Diversity Institute and CEO of the Newseum in Washington, D.C. "Each generation must pass on to the next generation the value of a free press in

integration of Ole Miss.

"The Freedom Forum's initial gift for the Overby Center was the first multimillion gift for journalism at Ole Miss, and the total contribution provided matching funds for a wonderful facility that plays a pivotal role in the pursuit of excellence in journalism and journalism education," says Will Norton,



"The Freedom Forum's initial gift for the Overby Center [helped provide] funds for a wonderful facility that plays a pivotal role in the pursuit of excellence in journalism and journalism education."

— Will Norton
Dean of the Meek School of
Journalism and New Media

order for that freedom to survive."

The Freedom Forum, a nonpartisan foundation dedicated to educating people about the importance of a free press and the First Amendment, provided a \$1.3 million gift to UM's Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics, bringing the foundation's total support for the center to \$5.4 million. The center is named for Overby, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and Ole Miss alumnus.

Overby Center programs, multimedia displays and writings examine the media and politics—past, present and future—both as independent entities and as they are interrelated. The center also features work from the Freedom Forum's Newseum, the world's most interactive museum.

Recent Overby Center programs focused on the economic threat to newspapers, Shepard Smith's perspective on his high-profile career with FOX News, the role of newspaper editorials in the resignation of two city mayors and a new book chronicling the 1962

founding dean of the Meek School of Journalism and New Media. "The Overby Center offers a forum for discussion of major issues affecting the region, the nation and the world."

The Overby Center's work goes hand in hand with the innovative journalism school, which received a lead \$5.4 million gift from alumni Ed and Becky Meek of Oxford. The vision is an academic program that stays ahead of the career curve, looks into the future and incorporates an interdisciplinary approach in the curriculum.

Charles Overby knows that our democratic society thrives only when the fragile freedom of the press and other First Amendment rights are protected and become a vibrant, integral part of the next generation.

The ripple effect of a large gift to The University of Mississippi School of Law not only has an immediate and lasting impact on those studying and teaching law but also on thousands of other people. This year a \$2.5 million gift completed a \$10 million anonymous commitment to the law school.

"The anonymous gift will be dedicated to construction of the law library at our new law school building," says Samuel M. Davis, law school dean. "The library is the heart of any law school, and it is heavily used by students and faculty, as well as patrons from the legal community. We deeply appreciate the generosity of the

from author and UM law alumnus John Grisham of Charlottesville, Va., and attorney Wilbur Colom of Columbus. MIP includes a clinical program for students and is investigating more than 80 cases of state prisoners serving significant periods of incarceration who have cognizable claims of wrongful conviction.

In its first case, the MIP helped secure the



"Private giving enriches students' experiences and increases the margin between a good law school and a great law school."

—Samuel M. Davis
Dean of the School of Law

donors in supporting our campaign and in helping prepare the next generations of lawyers for careers in private practice and public service."

The School of Law Campaign is nearing its \$60 million goal, which includes \$50 million for the new construction, \$3 million for scholarships, \$4 million for library support, \$2 million for faculty support and \$1 million for clinic support.

"We could not provide the level of educational opportunities we offer with state support alone," Davis says. "Private giving enriches students' experiences and increases the margin between a good law school and a great law school, sending teams to compete in more and more moot court competitions, providing clinical opportunities for additional students, and enabling our faculty to travel to conferences and workshops where we gain greater visibility."

Private contributions also impact the law school's outreach. Take, for example, the Mississippi Innocence Project, which was created with funding

freedom of Levon Brooks of Noxubee County, who was wrongfully imprisoned for 18 years at Parchman Penitentiary. Brooks was freed after DNA evidence proved he was innocent of the capital rape and murder of a child. MIP work is directed by faculty members, and students read applications, investigate cases, travel and visit clients in prison. The project also seeks to identify systemic problems in the state's justice system and develop initiatives designed to raise public and political awareness of the prevalence, causes and societal costs of wrongful conviction.

Private gifts to the law school helped give Brooks back his precious freedom even though he was 74 miles away from the Oxford campus.

Roland Burns defines great teachers as those who mark their own accomplishments by their students' successes. "Many of the professors in the Patterson School of Accountancy have this trait," says Burns, a University of Mississippi alumnus. "The key contribution to my success, in fact, was the quality of the professors. Their whole lives revolve around students, and they take a great interest in their students' careers and personal development."

The professors inspired Burns and his wife, Sheryl, to provide a \$1.5 million gift to

is obviously a point of pride," says Mark Wilder, dean of accountancy. "We give the credit for national rankings to our exceptional faculty, our outstanding students, and the tremendous support of loyal and generous accountancy alumni and friends, such as Roland and Sheryl Burns."

After eight years with Arthur Andersen, LLP, in



"Given the impact professors have had on my business career, I am confident that establishing a chair is a wise choice and will impact future accounting majors."

—Roland Burns
UM Alumnus and Donor

seed an endowed chair of accountancy in their names.

"If Sheryl and I can help the school by adding another great professor, our gift will reap dividends for years in the future," Burns says. "We believe we have an obligation to give back to the community because we have been very blessed. With our financial backgrounds, our goal is to find the best place to direct contributions to generate the maximum benefit."

That place is the Patterson School of Accountancy, where teaching is key to all three programs' being nationally ranked in the top 30 or higher each year for the past four years. The most recent rankings have the undergraduate program at 18th nationally, and the graduate and doctoral programs each at 15th nationally. Ole Miss is third among the Southeastern Conference schools in undergraduate rankings and second in graduate/doctoral rankings.

"While our main focus is ensuring that our students are well-prepared to pursue rewarding careers, having all three programs nationally ranked

Dallas, Burns joined Comstock Resources, a publicly held oil and natural gas company, where he serves as senior vice president, CFO and treasurer. His career has flourished with Comstock's growth, and he also helped establish and take public an exploration company that Comstock sold in 2008 for \$1.8 billion.

"Given the impact professors have had on my business career, I am confident that establishing a chair is a wise choice and will impact future accounting majors—including my son—who will go on to become business leaders," says Burns, who provides internships for Ole Miss students and also has helped establish the Legacy Christian Academy in Frisco, Texas.

Burns feels the way to impact education and the next generation is through support for facilities, scholarships and teachers—particularly support for teachers.

Suzan Thames feels the health and welfare of a child—any child—should be the No. 1 priority of our society. Throughout Mississippi, her name is associated with children, their health needs and philanthropy.

The consummate volunteer has attracted more than \$20 million in charitable contributions for the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children—the state’s only hospital for children—which opened in 1997 at The University of Mississippi Medical Center. She also serves as chair of the board of Friends of Children’s Hospital, the support group for Batson Hospital for Children.

a comprehensive pediatric heart surgery program. It is estimated that about 250 Mississippi children annually need heart surgery.

“Partnering with Children’s National expedites the process of making Batson Hospital a regional center for open-heart surgery and enables our children to receive state-of-the-art care in Missis-

“Were it not for the people of Mississippi opening their hearts and sharing their resources at grass-roots and ever-upward levels, we would not have this hospital.”

—Suzan Thames
Chair of the Board of
Friends of the Children’s Hospital



Her contributions have been recognized with the newly endowed Suzan Brown Thames Chair in Pediatrics at the teaching and research hospital. Many friends and colleagues provided \$1.5 million to endow the chair, with efforts continuing to complete a \$2 million endowment. John H. “Tommy” Thames Jr., her husband, and Friends of Children’s Hospital provided the lead gifts.

Private support to Batson Hospital each year assists thousands of children with specialized pediatric care needs. Take for instance Laney Chance of Brandon, who was born in 2008 without a coronary artery. Her little body was unable to get the oxygen it needed, bringing her to Batson Hospital’s neonatal intensive care unit, which is recognized nationally as one of the nation’s best and largest.

Laney’s open-heart surgery at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., marked the beginning of a partnership between Children’s National and Batson Hospital, which is developing

Mississippi,” says Dr. Owen B. Evans, chair of pediatrics at the Medical Center.

Thames, an Ole Miss alumna who also serves on the UM Foundation board of directors, applauds those who helped build and continue to support Batson Hospital. The hospital’s new clinics are being supported by New York Giants quarterback and Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning, an Ole Miss alumnus.

“Were it not for the people of Mississippi opening their hearts and sharing their resources at grass-roots and ever-upward levels, we would not have this hospital,” she says. “We must continue this important work with fervent educational and fundraising efforts.”

Thames firmly believes that each and every child deserves the very best quality health care to ensure a future of happy, healthy children in our state.

Eniel Polynice plays every basketball game as though it were his last. “I don’t want to have any regrets in my life. When I go out on the court, I give it everything I’ve got, and I work hard in my classes,” he says.

Polynice’s name not only appears in Ole Miss sports coverage but also on the Dean’s List for academic achievement.

The Sarasota, Fla., native is the oldest of Saintana Polynice’s nine children and the first person in his family to pursue a college education. He tries to encourage two siblings who are also now in college, as well as his younger teammates.

“Private gifts help us offer our student-athletes opportunities that dramatically impact their lives and expand their options for the future,” Kennedy says. “We attempt to offer our student-athletes the very best experience possible, with our ultimate goal being the pursuit of excellence both on and off the basketball court.”

“We attempt to offer our student-athletes the very best experience possible, with our ultimate goal being the pursuit of excellence both on and off the basketball court.”

—Andy Kennedy
Head Men’s Basketball Coach



When Polynice graduates, he hopes to play basketball professionally in the NBA or overseas. A more immediate goal is to complete his Ole Miss career with journalism and criminal justice degrees in hand.

His desire to get an education was an overarching factor in his decision to come to The University of Mississippi—a place Polynice says is defined by people helping people.

“I love the people at Ole Miss and the way they help. I love my team and my coaches. I trusted the coaches when they recruited me. They said I would leave here with a great education, and they would help me stay on the right path. This university is about good folks who love their students,” says the guard, whom coaches describe as a team leader and a versatile player.

There are many student-athletes like Polynice who benefit from programs strengthened by private support, says Head Men’s Basketball Coach Andy Kennedy.

In addition to tickets and priority seating for sports events, alumni and friends provided some \$2.8 million this year for scholarships and facilities supporting Polynice and other student-athletes who help shine the national spotlight on Ole Miss.

Many dedicated alumni and friends have contributed to the ongoing \$12 million Basketball Campaign, which is funding the new practice facility on Coliseum Drive. The 51,000-square-foot building includes practice courts, locker and meeting spaces, film rooms, player lounges, weight and training rooms, and coaches’ offices for men’s and women’s basketball teams.

Polynice appreciates the Ole Miss family’s paving the way for him and offers this message: “One day I hope to give back.”





att Heric thrives on innovation. As CEO of a successful multidiscipline software-development company, he is acutely aware of the scope of forward-looking preparation and technological resources needed to ready college students for 21st-century careers.

His company—IAVO Research and Scientific of Durham, N.C.—provided a \$4.6 million gift of GeoGenesis software to The University of Mississippi. The gift is helping advance students in an array of disciplines through the cutting-edge tech-

Waheed Uddin—professor of civil engineering, director of the School of Engineering’s Center for Advanced Infrastructure Technology Transportation Modeling and Visualization Laboratory, and manager of the IAVO gift—is known for strengthening students’ real-world experiences. His Ole Miss engineering students have placed sensors on emergency



“The software applications of GeoGenesis are endless, and we have been impressed with Waheed Uddin’s ideas for involving disciplines across the Oxford and Medical Center campuses.”

— Matt Heric
CEO of IAVO
Research and Scientific

nology of 3-D visualization and remote sensing—technologies the U.S. Department of Labor has identified as high-growth industries of the future.

The software enables Ole Miss students, as well as the university’s research community, to fully realize the value and impact of 3-D visualization and remote sensing on earth sciences, environmental concerns, engineering, societal issues, business, education, archaeology, history, geo-politics and more. School of Medicine professors plan to explore the software’s applications on medical imaging analysis.

“Mastering these tools provides great marketability for all students,” says Heric. “In fact, understanding GIS—or geographic information systems—has become tantamount to what it means to be literate. The software applications of GeoGenesis are endless, and we have been impressed with Waheed Uddin’s ideas for involving disciplines across the Oxford and Medical Center campuses in what we consider to be a universitywide gift.”

vehicles to study traffic flow and have walked major airport runways to examine construction materials as part of national and international research projects.

“The University of Mississippi in general and its School of Engineering in particular seem to be such positive forces of energy and innovation,” Heric says. “If we are asking students to study, grow and succeed, they must have adequate resources. IAVO is pleased to provide opportunities for students through this gift.”

In addition to benefiting students and researchers, the IAVO gift will be utilized in UM’s outreach to the state in effective emergency preparedness and responses. Three-dimensional visuals of buildings, critical lifeline infrastructure assets, terrain, highways and vehicles provide those studying potential and actual disasters a more in-depth look at the impact of such crises.

Heric and IAVO have given leading technological tools to students and researchers, who now can push the technology forward.