

FoundationNews

The University of Mississippi Foundation



Women's Council for Philanthropy dedicates Rose Garden, sculpture

Page 14



Asbury Foundation Pledges \$1 million for Scholarships

Page 5



The University of Mississippi Foundation is a nonprofit corporation duly chartered by the state of Mississippi to operate exclusively for the benefit of The University of Mississippi. Its purpose is to receive, solicit, accept and hold, administer, invest, and disburse any and every kind of property for such educational, scientific, literary, research, and service activities. The goal of the Foundation is to provide The University of Mississippi with a margin of excellence by supplementing funds received from the state of Mississippi with private financial support.

P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677
www.umf.olemiss.edu
E-mail: umf@olemiss.edu
Telephone: (800) 340-9542
Facsimile: (662) 915-7880

The University 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. 1918F/9-02

Graphic design: Kelly Kornegay, Kris Zediker

Contributing writers: Tina Hahn, Patsy Brumfield, Deidra Jackson, Linda Herbst, Elaine Pugh, Janis Quinn, Barbara Lago, Tobie Baker, Angela Moore, and Carlie Kollath.

Contributing photographers: Kevin Bain, Harry Briscoe, Robert Jordan, and David Lyko.

Editorial Consultant: Sabrina Brown.
Editors: Sandra McGuire Guest, Linda Herbst.



8

Dawn Ellison Allen 7
Gift helps School of Pharmacy meet the challenges of change in training pharmacists.

Medical Center 8
Daniel W. Jones, M.D., named vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

Life is Grand! 16
Vice chancellor honored with Women's Council scholarship.

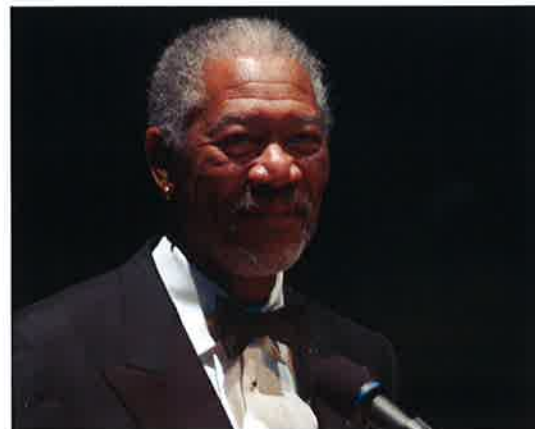
Janie Alexander 18
Friends honor Itawamba County educator through teacher's initiative.

Legacy of Giving 21
Cellular South continues a legacy of giving with five new scholarships.

Ford Center 27
Ford Center officially opens with glittering gala.



16



27

On the Cover:
Women's Council for Philanthropy dedicates Rose Garden, sculpture

Message from the Chancellor



Dear Alumni and Friends:

For the last several months, we have spoken repeatedly about the ongoing transformation that Ole Miss is experiencing, so if all this sounds familiar, forgive me. But these transformations are extremely important to the future of the University and its mission, so they bear repeating. Seven years ago we adopted a series of goals. First on the list was strengthening our academic programs. Among the other goals was enhancing the teaching and learning environment, which means improving classrooms, laboratories, libraries, computer labs, residence halls, and grounds. We are meeting those goals, and it is the members of the Foundation and donors like you who we thank for the University's renewal.

Even if you make regular visits to campus throughout the year, you can't help but be pleasantly surprised at the remarkable changes and the renewal of the campus from Guyton Hall to the new Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Last spring, we hosted a spectacular gala for the opening of the Ford Center and publicly strengthened our commitment to the performing arts with this new facility. The University Avenue entrance is now an impressive, glittering avenue that leads into the heart of the Ole Miss campus and to The Grove.

This year, UM Landscape Services received the Grand Award in the university category of the Green Star Awards given by the Professional Grounds Management Society. Our campus is among the most beautiful in the nation, and we continue to upgrade our facilities and equipment in every area from athletics to engineering.

Enrollment is at an all-time high. In the 2004 academic year, we expect a record number of freshman. More than 12,500 bright, diverse, energetic, and creative students will grace our campus. We also anticipate that a record number of National Merit Finalists will attend Ole Miss. Our special programs—the Honors College, the Croft Institute, and the Trent Lott Leadership Institute—offer abundant opportunities to the best and the brightest students in Mississippi and the South.

In addition to the physical transformations taking place, our way of thinking on campus is changing also. Now, instead of reacting to problems, we are creating challenges. Our community culture has become proactive. Despite the financial realities of limited state funding, our goal of maintaining world-class research and teaching requires that we stay competitive with our sister universities across the South in faculty and staff salary programs. To maintain an exceptional student body, we try to keep tuition increases to a manageable level and maintain our need-based scholarship programs.

This year, our endowment is \$333.1 million. We count on the endowment funds in good years and in bad ones. The opportunities for advancement that we pursue require a communitywide broad base of financial support and engagement.

The University of Mississippi Foundation is among the most successful and dynamic in the nation. By building and protecting our endowment, we can assure future generations of Mississippians an outstanding education.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Khayat". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Khayat
Chancellor

Philanthropy is way of life for couple from Booneville

When Booneville attorney Joseph Langston graduated from Ole Miss Law School in 1983, he joined The Langston Law Firm, the law firm founded by his father. He married the former Tracie Arnold (B.A. 1983), and together they built a life centered on family and hard work. With three boys, a family law firm, and Tracie's business, The Landmark Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, demanding their time, the Langstons had but a few football weekends to visit their alma mater.

"When Dr. Khayat took the reins, Tracie and I wanted to re-establish our friendship with Ole Miss," said Langston recently. "We have a very high degree of trust for Dr. Khayat—he taught me at the Law School—and we've always been friends. By becoming members of the Chancellor's Trust, we're doing just that—putting our trust in the chancellor and in the University of the future."

Over the years, the Langstons developed a public spirit second to none in their region of the state. Both Tracie and Joey have extraordinary leadership qualities in education and public life, placing them among the most innovative philanthropists in Mississippi.

"Tracie taught at the first state-sponsored kindergarten, and since that time, we've been dedicated to education as a means of economic reform in Mississippi," said Langston. "If you compare our state to a state like North Carolina, for instance, you will see that they have an entire class of people that doesn't exist in Mississippi—those who make between \$50,000 and \$80,000. We believe educational reform can help create potential employees to attract the type of industries that routinely pay



Tracie and Joseph Langston

'By becoming members of the Chancellor's Trust, we're doing just that—putting our trust in the chancellor and in the University of the future.'

these salaries."

Langston also believes that it is his social and moral obligation to participate in giving programs, and the Langstons have embarked on a life of giving. Joey and Tracie established The Langston Fund just over a year ago. This fund, created to address the needs of disadvantaged families in the Booneville area, provides food, clothing, and shelter to those in need. Joey also participates in the national Corporate Angel Program by using his corporate jet to fly cancer patients to treatment facilities around the country.

In 2001, Joey was named Prentice County's Outstanding Citizen of the

Year. The Langstons care deeply about children, education and the future of Mississippi. Their recent \$100,000 gift to the University will be used in part for the Chancellor's Trust fund, and the remaining \$70,000 will be used to create a scholarship fund for students from the Booneville area, including several scholarships exclusively for graduates of Northeast Community College.

"We are very proud of Joey and the Langston family and are grateful for their confidence in our commitment to making Ole Miss the premier university of the South," said Chancellor Khayat. "Their support will help us attain that goal." ■

Dean named to head Applied Sciences

Linda Chitwood, who began her career as a high school physical education teacher, heads the new School of Applied Sciences.

The school encompasses disciplines that emphasize service/scholarship, professional training, and human health sciences. It includes the departments of Communicative Disorders; Social Work; Health, Exercise Science, and Recreational Management; Family and Consumer Sciences; and Legal Studies.

Chitwood says being chosen to head the new school is "without a doubt, the greatest honor I have received in my academic career."

"For the past 11 years, The University of Mississippi has provided for me an environment of academic support and growth that has afforded many wonderful professional opportunities. As dean, I will strive to facilitate that same supportive environment for our faculty and students."

A member of the UM faculty since 1991, Chitwood became chair of the Department of Exercise Science and Leisure Management in 1997 (recently renamed the Department of Health, Exercise Science, and Recreational Management). This year she was named interim dean of applied sciences.

"We are excited about Dr. Chitwood's selection as dean of the School of Applied Sciences," said Provost Carolyn Staton. "She brings a combination of administrative experience, energy, and creativity to the deanship. As an advocate for her departments, she will serve them well as she guides the school."

Chitwood holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Oklahoma State University. Her doctorate in human science is from Florida State University. ■



Linda Chitwood

Asbury Foundation Pledges \$1 million for Scholarships

A Hattiesburg philanthropic organization, the Asbury Foundation, committed \$1 million for a new scholarship program at The University of Mississippi last fall.

The Asbury Foundation contributed \$250,000 to the University's scholarship fund. The gift is to be followed by three annual payments of equal amounts through the new Ole Miss First campaign.

"The thoughtful generosity of the trustees of the Asbury Foundation will enable Mississippi students to pursue degrees in higher education," said Chancellor Robert Khayat. "Ole Miss is profoundly grateful to be included among the beneficiaries. The Asbury Scholarship Endowment will ensure that more deserving students from south Mississippi can attend this university, ultimately to become leaders in our state, nation, and world."

The first scholarships from the endowment are expected to be available next fall.

Asbury Foundation Executive Director William K. Ray said the gift is part of \$35 million the foundation is spreading among several state universities and Millsaps College in Jackson.

"Most Mississippi college students now receive some type of financial aid," Ray said. "In light of the state's difficult budget situation, private support by foundations and other such organizations is more important than ever."

The Asbury Foundation of Hattiesburg Inc. was created in 1984 and supports educational, health, and quality of life programs in the Hattiesburg-centered region once served by Methodist Hospitals.

Eligible are UM students in any academic major from Covington, Forrest, Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Jones, Marion, and Perry counties. Scholarships will be awarded based on financial need, academic merit, and leadership.

For details, call Don Frugé Jr., director of UM's corporate and foundation relations, at (662) 915-6966. ■



Representatives of the Asbury Foundation present a symbolic \$1 million check for scholarships to Chancellor Robert Khayat (far left) and Vice Chancellor for University Relations Gloria Kellum.

Medical Center loses two pioneers

Dr. Arthur C. Guyton

Galileo, Einstein, Curie, and Pasteur are all familiar to high school students, but many people might suppose that such scientific icons don't come along anymore. Dr. Arthur C. Guyton, renowned educator and medical researcher, certainly disproved that notion.

Guyton, who died earlier this spring, was perhaps the preeminent cardiovascular physiologist of the 20th century. Chair of physiology and biophysics at the UM Medical Center for 41 years, his research challenged prevailing medical thought and shaped our understanding of cardiac function, hypertension, and congestive heart failure. He inspired generations of physicians, many of whom carry on his work across the country.

A graduate of UM and Harvard Medical School, Guyton began a surgical residency but turned to research and teaching after contracting polio in

1947. Suffering paralysis in his right leg and shoulder, he invented a leg brace, a lift for handicapped patients, and a motorized wheelchair.

His *Textbook of Medical Physiology*, first published in 1956, remains the best-selling medical textbook ever. Beginning as the doctor's lecture notes, it has been translated into 15 languages and is in its 10th edition.

His research proved in the 1950s that cardiac output was controlled by the body tissues' need for oxygen, not by the heart itself. A decade later, he developed an early computer model of the circulatory system, using it to demonstrate that the kidneys provide long-term control of blood pressure. His efforts paved the way for therapies that have saved countless lives.

Guyton's contributions will continue to bear fruit far into the future. UM scientists are using his computer model for a NASA study of how prolonged

weightlessness affects the body. When the first man steps onto Mars in the not-so-distant future, Guyton's legacy will have reached the stars.



Dr. Arthur C. Guyton

Guyton died in an April 3 automobile accident in Jackson, Mississippi. His wife, Ruth Weigle Guyton, died later that week also as a result of the accident. The family asks that donations be made to the Medical Center's Arthur C. Guyton Distinguished Lectureship Fund as a way of honoring their memory.

Donations may be mailed to the Division of Public Affairs, The University of Mississippi Medical Center, 2500 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39216-4505. ■

Dr. James D. Hardy

Dr. James D. Hardy, the first chair of the Department of Surgery at The University of Mississippi Medical Center, died February 19 at St. Catherine's Village in Madison. He was 84.

Hardy is best known for his pioneering contributions to transplant surgery. In 1963, he led a Medical Center team that performed the world's first human lung transplant. In 1964, the same team transplanted the heart of a chimpanzee into a human recipient, the first heart transplant in man. The two operations took transplant surgery from the theoretical to the practical and set the stage for all future organ transplantation.

Hardy grew up in Newala, Ala., and earned a B.A. at the University of Alaba-

ma. He went to medical school at the University of Pennsylvania and completed internship, general surgery residency, and thoracic surgery residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He studied surgery with the surgical giants of his time—Isidor Ravdin and Jonathan Rhoads.



Dr. James D. Hardy

After serving as a Senior Damon Runyon Fellow in Clinical Research at Pennsylvania, he went to the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis. He was on the surgery depart-

ment faculty there when he was recruited to Mississippi by Dr. David Pankratz, dean of the School of Medicine at the time.

At age 37, Hardy was one of the youngest surgery department chairs in the country, but he already had an impressive record of research accomplishments: two books and 64 papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Hardy also led every major surgical group in the world. He was president of the American College of Surgeons, the International Society of Surgery, the American Surgical Association, the Society of University Surgeons, the Society of Surgical Chairmen, the Southern Surgical Association, and the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract. ■

Scholarship honors memory of pharmacy student

Bridgett Hathcock Chisolm, a lifelong friend of Dawn Allen and fellow 1998 School of Pharmacy graduate, glows when she speaks of her confidant. "Dawn had such a unique way about her. She was an extremely intelligent individual who never left her work unfinished. While all of us were cramming information, Dawn was always ahead of the group. She always had time to enjoy the small things."

*Ole Miss
Women's
Council
for
Philanthropy*

Classmates of the late Dawn Ellison Allen have honored her memory with the establishment of an endowed Women's Council scholarship. The Dawn Ellison Allen Women's Council Scholarship in Pharmacy will be the first council scholarship designated specifically for the School of Pharmacy. As part of the Women's Council program, the recipient will participate in a Leadership-Mentorship Program and engage in a cutting-edge leadership cur-

'This scholarship in Pharmacy will be the first council scholarship designated specifically for the School of Pharmacy.'

riculum, demonstrate leadership in campus organizations, and work with a cluster group of adult mentors. Council Scholars will graduate from the University with educational enhancement to their portfolios that are not attained through traditional scholarship programs.

This scholarship will be awarded to a pharmacy student who is in his or her fifth or sixth year and who exemplifies



Dean Barbara Wells, (left) presents Dawn's parents Bonnie and John Rayford Ellison and her husband, Chad Allen with a plaque signifying Dawn's induction in to the Galen Order, the School of Pharmacy's elite alumni order.

the true spirit of Dawn Ellison Allen. The recipient will be selected on the basis of scholarship, leadership, and active participation in a variety of student-related activities. As Allen would

have wanted, first preference will be given to Holmes Community College transfer students.

"We [the family] are extremely pleased with the Dawn Ellison Allen Memorial Pharmacy Scholarship," said Allen's mother, Bonnie Ellison. "Dawn would surely be honored. Her classmates and faculty have ensured that Dawn's character will live on through this scholarship. We want to thank all

of the many generous contributors to this endowment."

Classmates Doug Paul and Bridgett Hathcock Chisolm are continuing to spearhead the scholarship drive, which has a goal of \$100,000. "We are more than students who happened to be in the same class," said Paul. "We are friends, and we care for one another. This scholarship is a small gesture to show our appreciation for Dawn's being part of our lives and profession."

The scholarship drive officially kicked off last September with a reception attended by classmates, family, friends, and faculty. During the reception, Allen's family accepted her induction into the Galen Order, the School of Pharmacy's elite alumni order. Morgan Parent, a P5 pharmacy student, was the first recipient of the Dawn Ellison Allen Memorial Pharmacy Scholarship. *Gifts to the Dawn Allen Scholarship may be mailed to: P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677. ■*

Medical Center names new vice chancellor

Dr. Daniel W. Jones became vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine at The University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson on July 1.

Jones, formerly associate vice chancellor for health affairs, Langford Professor of Medicine, and executive associate dean of the School of Medicine, succeeds Dr. Wallace Conerly, who retired June 30. Conerly had served as the Medical Center's chief executive officer since August 1994.

"Dan Jones enjoys the unqualified respect of the Medical Center community as well as national and international health scientists, scholars, and practitioners. His impeccable record as a practitioner, medical missionary,

future is bright," Khayat said.

Jones was appointed associate vice chancellor for health affairs in 2001.

After graduating from Mississippi College in 1971, he earned the M.D. and completed residency training at The University of Mississippi Medical Center. He was in private practice in Laurel from 1978 until he went to Korea as a medical missionary in 1985 to serve as director of the community health department and hypertension clinic at the Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital in Pusan. In 1992, he returned to the Medical Center as an assistant profes-



Dr. Dan Jones

and is designated as a specialist in clinical hypertension by the American Society of Hypertension Specialists. Named one of the Best Doctors in America in 1998 and 2002, he received the Department of Medicine's 1997 Teacher of the Year award. He also holds the Consortium of Southeastern Hypertension Center's 1997 Service Award and the consortium's Hoechst Marion Roussel Young Investigator Award.

He serves in a number of capacities for the American Heart Association and currently chairs the International Committee. He's also a member of the AHA's Council for High Blood Pressure Research; Council on Epidemiology and Prevention; and Council on Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Metabolism. He serves as the association's national spokesperson on high blood pressure and represents the AHA on the National Institute of Health's National High Blood Pressure Education Program Coordinating Committee.

Jones and his wife, Lydia Channell Jones, have two children, Jennifer and Jason. ■

'He will provide inspired, visionary leadership for The University Medical Center.'

researcher, and administrator assures that he will provide inspired, visionary leadership for The University of Mississippi Medical Center," Chancellor Robert Khayat.

"He and his wife, Lydia, will continue the wonderful tradition of dignified, ethical, and highly professional leadership of their predecessors, Norman and Annie Lee Nelson and Wally and Frances Conerly. Mississippi has much to celebrate regarding the international stature of our Medical Center, and all of us should find great comfort in knowing that, as the torch of leadership is passed, we can be confident that our

sor of medicine and director of clinical hypertension.

Prior to his appointment as associate vice chancellor in 2001, he served the Medical Center as director of the Division of Hypertension, vice chair for primary care in the Department of Medicine, and associate director of the Center for Excellence in Cardiovascular-Renal Research. He also was the first principal investigator for the Medical Center's participation in the landmark Jackson Heart Study.

A Fellow of the American College of Physicians, Jones is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine

Endowed professorship honoring C.B. 'Buddie' Newman established at UMMC

Betty Petrus Newman of Valley Park has established an endowed professorship at The University of Mississippi Medical Center in the name of her late husband, C.B. "Buddie" Newman, who served in the state Legislature for 40 years.

Dr. Wallace Conerly, former vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, said "a very substantial lead gift" from Mrs. Newman had initiated the endowment, which will be called the C.B. "Buddie" Newman Professorship in Hematology.

"We're honored that Mrs. Newman chose the Medical Center to remember her husband in such a meaningful way," Dr. Conerly said. "We hope others will join her in making this permanent memorial to him a reality. As a member of the Legislature for more than 40 years, Buddie contributed immensely to higher education in Mississippi—and especially to this Medical Center. He took great pride in having worked to pass the legislation establishing the insti-

tuition in 1950."

Newman was elected to the Mississippi Legislature in 1948, first as a member of the Senate for four years and then as a member of the House of Representatives for the next 36 years. He served as chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means from 1964-1975, then was elected speaker of the house of representatives in 1976, 1980, and 1984. He also served as a member of the State Commission of Budget and Accounting, on the Board of Economic Development, and as first chair of the Legislative Budget Committee.

In 1987, just prior to his retirement from the Legislature in 1988, the Legislature adopted a resolution commending him for his outstanding achievements, pointing out that the "exemplary record of this remarkable Mississippian and his long list of legislative accomplishments are unparalleled in modern state history."

Newman died on October 13, 2002, in Valley Park, where he was born and

lived all of his life. A wheat and soybean farmer, he also served as state manager of industrial and economic development for Southern National Gas Company for 44 years. He retired from that position in 1985. He and Mrs. Newman had one child, C. B. Newman, Jr., who died of cancer at age 9 in 1955.

Gifts totaling \$1 million are needed to endow the Newman Professorship in perpetuity, Conerly said. When fully funded, the scholarship will help the Medical Center recruit and retain superior faculty to assure excellence in medical education for generations to come.

Brochures on the endowment—which include information on ways to support the professorship—are available from The University of Mississippi Division of Public Affairs, 2500 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39216. Or call (601) 984-1100. ■



Miracle Home makes miracles

Friends of Children's Hospital and the Home Builders Association of Jackson (HBAJ) are proud to announce an agreement with Trustmark National Bank for sponsorship of their new "Win-A-MiracleHome" fund-raising event. Trustmark, as presenting sponsor of the event, has once again stepped forward to help the nearly 80,000 children treated annually in the Blair E. Baston Hospital for Children, the University of Mississippi Medical Center's pediatric emergency room and clinics, and the Mississippi Children's Cancer Clinic. As co-creator of the event, HBAJ stepped forward en masse to provide in-kind donations of materials and manpower

for the new home valued at \$220,000. Charles Porter, of Porter Construction, Inc. donated his services as builder. The MiracleHome media/promotional sponsors included The Clarion-Ledger, Lamar Outdoor Advertising, NewsChannel 12, Hederman's Printing, Mississippi Magazine and Communication Arts. (left to right): Working together to make the MiracleHome project a success are Harry Walker (left), president and COO of Trustmark's Commercial Services Division; Beth Threadgill, MiracleHome project chair; Dr. Wallace A. Conerly, UMMC's former vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine; Dr. Daniel W. Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine; Jerry Host, president and COO of Trustmark's Consumer Services Division; Suzan Thames, chair of Friends of Children's Hospital; and Bob McKay, executive vice president of the Home Builders Association of Jackson. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to Friends of the Children's Hospital, UMMC, 2500 North Street, Jackson MS 39216-4505.



Brothers with a knack for business share the wealth with Ole Miss First

Fifteen years ago, when Eddie and James (Bob) Gatlin funded the Gatlin Center for Economics, their objective was to bring high school teachers of economics and their students to the Ole Miss campus for further study. Now, that fund—which has nearly tripled in amount—is being converted to fund scholarships in the business school.

“When Ed Wood, professor emeritus of economics and finance retired, we felt it would be nearly impossible to keep up the program,” said Bob Gatlin, of Tupelo, Miss. “My brother and I recently decided to redirect the endowment toward funding scholarships.”

“The Gatlin family members have supported Ole Miss in academics and athletics, and as involved alumni. Through their generosity, this scholar-

ship will add to the University’s commitment to attract and retain quality students,” said Dr. Ann L. Canty, associate dean for undergraduate programs.

Eddie graduated from Ole Miss in 1962, along with his wife, Linda Goodson Gatlin. Their first son, Todd, played football for the Rebels from 1980-1982. Tim, their second son, received his MBA from Ole Miss in 1986.

Eddie founded Igloo Products Corp. in 1965, and Bob joined the company in 1972. They sold Igloo in 1985. Since that time, Eddie, along with his two sons, has maintained a number of businesses in Memphis. Bob’s business, Gatlin Co. in Tupelo, is a facilitator for companies that sell and purchase other companies. The brothers attribute much of their business acumen to their education at the School of Business

Administration.

Bob and his wife, Kathryn Tinkoff Gatlin, have four sons: Robert, Ben, Kirk, and John. Robert, a member of Ole Miss Concert Singers, graduated in May 2003 with a degree in music. Ben is a junior at the University of Missouri at Columbia. Kirk is a senior at Tupelo High School, where he plays baseball, and their youngest, John, is a sixth-grader.

“In this day and age, I believe it is very important for people to share their resources,” said Bob. “Whether it is time, money, skills, or talent, a person has to give.”

In addition to the Gatlin Family Ole Miss First Scholarship Endowment, both sons and their wives are members of the Chancellor’s Trust and the Loyalty Foundation. ■

Sisters honor aunt with Ole Miss First Scholarship

Melanie Walker Dowell, her husband Mike, and Melanie’s sister, Melissa Walker Green, have become models of what Ole Miss First is all about, says director, Ellen Rolfes. By honoring their beloved aunt, Selma Korkmas of Tyler, Texas, with an Ole Miss First Scholarship, this close-knit family has assured that Aunt Selma’s insistence on the value of education be realized.

“Aunt Selma had to quit college to help support the family after her father became ill,” said Dowell, a senior executive with Smith Barney in Jackson and a 1980 Ole Miss graduate. “By establishing this scholarship, my husband, my sister, and I can honor Aunt Selma for that sacrifice.”

The story really begins more than 50 years ago, when Aunt Selma’s own

college career abruptly ended.

“My grandparents ran a small grocery store in Tyler, Texas, that was actually part of their house,” said Melanie. “When my grandfather became ill, Aunt Selma had to give up her own career aspirations and went home to help out. After my grandfather died in 1954, Aunt Selma continued to provide and care for my grandmother until her death in 1977. Aunt Selma was never bitter. She was always willing to do what was necessary, even though her real desire, I think, was to continue her education and her career.”

Several months ago, Aunt Selma was diagnosed with cancer. In the late 1980s, she had retired from her secretary’s job for which she seemingly “earned just enough to get by,” her niece said. On learning about her illness, how-



Aunt Selma Korkmas of Tyler, Texas

ever, Aunt Selma gave \$1,000 to each of her 12 nieces and nephews and told them to spend it on something frivolous.

“I just couldn’t spend mine. I knew how hard she had worked all her life, and that she would never have blown money,” said Dowell. Melanie and Mike are adding their own contribution to Aunt Selma’s money to seed a scholarship for a deserving student. ■

Remembering 'Aunt Jennie'

Zeta Tau Alpha alumnae endow council scholarship in memory of former house director

Jennie Mosby Cochran, a well-known figure on the Ole Miss campus and around Oxford during the 1940s and '50s, served as an unofficial mentor for many college students.

Her official title was house director for the Gamma Delta Chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity, but, to her "girls," she was lovingly known as "Aunt Jennie." Some of the many students who benefited from her firm, but affectionate attention, along with family members, have endowed a Women's Council scholarship in her name.

In the years immediately following World War II, the campus was severely

ly overcrowded, and the faculty and staff were doing well to schedule classes and find accommodations for students.

"There was little or no thought given to advisers or mentors, and groups that had a good house director were fortunate, indeed," said one of the Zetas of that era. "Aunt Jennie served admirably as a mentor during her years on campus."

Born in Love Station (near Coldwater), Aunt Jennie joined the Ole Miss family for the 1943-44 academic year. With her youngest daughter in college and her youngest son in military service, she was free to fill an unexpected vacancy in the house directors' ranks.

Although she was twice widowed,

she overcame the many obstacles in her life and saw to it that her children completed their college educations.

"Aunt Jennie knew the importance of a college degree," said June Cochran Overstreet of Oxford, referring to her grandmother by the name most people used. "A scholarship is a perfect way to honor her."

Contributions may be made in care of the University of Mississippi Foundation, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677. ■



Jennie Mosby Cochran

*Ole Miss
Women's
Council
for Philanthropy*

Veteran Library Dean Julia Rholes has nearly 30 years of experience

The new University of Mississippi dean of libraries, Julia Rholes, once studied biology and zoology.

After earning a bachelor's degree in biology at Mount Holyoke College and a master's degree in zoology from the University of Texas, Rholes planned to either teach science, work in the public health area, or work in a laboratory. Then she landed a job working in a corporate agricultural chemical library.

"I enjoyed working in the information area, and soon began taking night classes toward a master's in library science," Rholes said. "I never regretted choosing the library."

After earning a master's degree in

library science from Rutgers University, Rholes started her near 30-year career as a librarian in higher education. At Ole Miss, she hopes to

improve UM's library services, particularly information access: "We need to add more full-text electronic resources that our users can access in the libraries, both from the dorms and campus offices."

In addition, Rholes aspires to



Julia Rholes

increase funding in order to expand library resources and services, including additional staff.

In 1990, Rholes received the Whitney-Carnegie Award from the American Library Association for a library research project in the environmental area. She was also a 2002 Frye Institute Fellow, a creative leadership development program for higher education.

Rholes spent most of her career at Texas A&M University, where she started as a reference librarian in the '70s. She eventually directed the reference division before becoming assistant dean and later interim dean at the University of Kansas library in 2001. ■

Committed to education at all levels Barksdale family continues legacy of giving

At Ole Miss, the Barksdale name has come to be associated with a true commitment to improving life for all Mississippians through vision, dedication, hard work, and philanthropy. When Claiborne Barksdale accepted the position as CEO of the Barksdale Reading Institute, he, his wife, Marian Bourdeaux Barksdale, and their family moved back to Oxford and renewed their Ole Miss ties.

Claiborne and Marian are the latest members of the Barksdale family to become part of the Chancellor's Trust. Established in 1975, the Chancellor's Trust fund accepts unrestricted gifts to be used for the University's greatest needs.

"Marian and I think that this fund is the best vehicle for our gift," said Barksdale. "We trust Chancellor Khayat's judgment on where the funds are needed the most."

The youngest of six brothers—Jack III (deceased), Tom, Jim, Rees, and Bryan—Claiborne has deep roots in the Ole Miss tradition. All six attended the University, and Claiborne makes the fifth brother to join the Chancellor's Trust. He received his B.A. in 1971 and his J.D. in 1974. Both Claiborne's parents are graduates as well. His father, Jack Barksdale, Jr., served as president of the Alumni Association from 1964-65, and his brother, Bryan, chaired it in 1994.

Marian grew up in Meridian, Miss., and graduated from Vanderbilt University. Her father, Tom Bourdeaux, received both his undergraduate and law degrees from Ole Miss, and Marian's mother, Norma Bourdeaux, is currently working toward her master's in



Marion and Claiborne Barksdale are the latest members of the Barksdale family to join Chancellor's Trust.

art at Ole Miss.

Marian and Claiborne have three children, Jack, 12, and twins Norma and Mary Bryan, 10. Aside from the many duties that come with rearing three children, Marian dedicates her time and energy to promoting educational and charitable organizations, including the Oxford Elementary PTA and the Mississippi Arts Commission. She also continues her dance studies with The University of Mississippi Department of Theatre Arts.

"I feel so positive about the University and the strides the administration has made in promoting diversity, for instance," Marian said. "I have been very impressed by my instructors and

encouraged by the diversity of my classes. By making this gift, Claiborne and I want to do our part to keep the momentum going."

As head of the Barksdale Reading Institute, Claiborne spends a great deal of time traveling and promoting BRI's mission to improve the literacy skills in Mississippi's public schools by using the Mississippi Reading Reform as a model.

"I have the best job in Mississippi," said Claiborne. "The Reading Institute is a part of a larger movement in Mississippi, which includes our institutions of higher learning, to improve the lives of all Mississippians through education." ■

Papers related to 1962 integration donated as part of 'Open Doors'

Several documents related to The University of Mississippi's 1962 integration have been presented to the Ole Miss by children of the late George Street, who was a top administrator during that tumultuous and historic time.

Robin Street of Oxford and her brother, G. Martin Street of Jackson, say they hope their gift will spur others to search for and contribute more memorabilia as part of the University's "Open Doors" observance commemorating the 40th anniversary of opening public higher education to all.

"My brother and I are donating these papers now because we know how proud our father would be of the great strides Ole Miss and the people of Mississippi have made since those very dark days," Robin said.

Robin is a public relations instructor in UM's journalism department. Her brother is an attorney with the firm Page, Kruger, and Holland in Jackson. Both earned degrees at UM.



OPEN DOORS
*Forty Years
Of Opportunity*



Presenting documents that belonged to George Street, a top UM administrator in the 1960s, is his daughter, Robin Street, instructor in journalism. The papers help shed additional light on the integration of the University. With Street is Patricia Huggins, her father's secretary in 1962.

Woman's passion for journalism inspires friends to create scholarship

An aspiring journalist gets a nudge toward the news in 2004, thanks to a University of Mississippi scholarship established by friends of the late Sarah Pearson Peugh of Aberdeen.

The \$10,000 gift comes from Mississippi Media Professionals (MMP), a group affiliated with the National Federation of Press Women (NFPW). Peugh, who died last year at age 77, was a longtime member and immediate past president of the state organization.

Faye Moreland of Tupelo, a photographer/reporter for the *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal* in Tupelo and Peugh's former colleague, helped steer the gift as a journalism scholarship. "Sarah was involved with many other things, especially music, but journalism really was 'it,'" she said.

Moreland said Peugh's son, Bob, of Aberdeen directed her friends to designate the gift for UM. In a thank-you letter, her daughters, Sarah Ann Francks of Madison, Ala., and Mary Jo Ayres of Leland, wrote that they knew their mother would be pleased by the gift and that "her scholarship can go on and on and on."

A life member of the NFPW, Peugh was selected the state organization's Woman of the Millennium 2000 and wrote the MMP's collect. As a member of the Mississippi Federated Women's Clubs (MFWC), she edited its magazine for six years, established three scholarships, and organized clubs in her area. In 1985, she was selected MFWC Club Woman. The city of Aberdeen named one of its parks in her honor. ■



Liberal Arts Advancement Associate Brandi Tolbert (center) accepts a \$10,000 check from Lola Autry of Hickory Flat (left) and Faye Moreland of Tupelo to establish an endowment for the Sarah Pearson Peugh journalism scholarship. Moreland and Autry are longtime members of Mississippi Media Professionals, the organization making the donation.

Roses are Ole Miss Red

Dedication of Women's Council garden, sculpture underlines commitment to nurturing students

"The men and women join hands and then their voices in shouts of praise and affirmation. Divine powers send blessings through a glittering sapphire sky, dancing brilliant sunbeams and soft whispering breezes. The expanded garden, one that is able to nurture more roses, is dedicated, and the world smiles."

—from "The Rose Garden,"
an adult teaching tale
written by Tina Hahn and read by
Patty Lewis at the dedication

Shovels turned in the rich soil, and red roses—a metaphor for both students and the vision of the Ole Miss Women's

*Ole Miss
Women's
Council
for Philanthropy*

Council for Philanthropy—
were planted at the March
28 dedication of the Rose
Garden outside the
Gertrude C. Ford Center
for the Performing Arts.

Each of the 28 rosebushes represents a scholarship endowment of \$100,000 or more—a recognized accomplishment of the Women's Council, founded in early 2000. The garden's rose blossoms will continually symbolize Ole Miss students who, like roses, can be challenging to raise and require much attention. But once developed and cut away from the bush, the carefully tended rosebuds can transform the world.

Unveiled at the center of the garden



was "The Mentor"—a sculpture created by Jane DeDecker and presented to the Rose Garden by Sally Barksdale of Jackson. The sculpture depicts a mentor and two young people, reflecting the nurturing energy that has become the hallmark of the Women's Council program of scholarships, leadership training, and individualized mentoring.

"About three years ago a group of women met, and we decided working together we could make a little magic of our own," said Jan Farrington, a founding Women's Council member who provided the leadership to make the garden a reality. "It began as a simple concept to involve women more directly in philanthropic endeavors for the University. That concept budded into the idea of providing scholarships for deserving young men and women and that these scholarships would be named by donors in honor or memory of special women in their lives.

"Then the idea blossomed into a

'It began as a simple concept to involve women more directly in philanthropic endeavors for the University...the idea blossomed....'

mission that not only would we provide the scholarships, but we also would create a mentoring program to nourish and to assist, to enable and to prepare our young scholars," Farrington said. "In the context of what's happening in the world today, what better thing could we be doing?"

Farrington—who described the dedication as "yet another magical day on this campus"—said the Rose Garden

with its sculpture is a special place of beauty that will be a visual reminder of the University community's mission to mentor young people.

Among those recognized during the dedication were Kathryn Black, Bill Roberson, Meredith Creekmore, and Farrington, who with the University provided resources for the garden; Ellen Rolfes, the University's major gifts officer who planted the seed for the Women's Council; and Molly Mesisenheimer and Sue Hodge, who direct the mentoring of Council Scholars.

"Just as these roses that have been planted will come into bloom, this university is coming into bloom, as well," said Chancellor Robert Khayat in addressing the transformation that has taken place across the Oxford campus—a theme that ran throughout the dedication.

"In the world of higher education, philanthropy plays a crucial role. It pro-

vides resources to promote social change, to monitor change, and—most importantly—to effect change," the chancellor said.

"Today we celebrate the vision of the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy. Since its inception, this council has shown its leadership by implementing the vision that transformation requires," Khayat said. "On the cutting edge of women's philanthropy,



Elizabeth Brevard (left) is assisted by her son David (second from left) and husband, Henry in planting a rosebush in the Women's Council Rose Garden. Vicki Sneed, (right), also joined in the planting for the Oxford Business Women's Initiative.

the council has become a national model for philanthropy by establishing a caring and emotional connection with its mentoring program."

Rachel McPherson of New York, current chair of the Women's Council, and Edith Kelly-Green of Memphis, inaugural chair, presented the roll call of scholarships, donors, honorees, and scholars. Those recognized were invited to plant rosebushes in the garden.

"Unlike any other species on earth, human beings can transform the circumstances of our lives in a profound and meaningful way by what we choose to think and by what we choose to do,"

McPherson said. "I would like to congratulate the Women's Council, the donors and the scholars. I also would like to congratulate Ole Miss for letting in the light and letting in the voice."

An average of five to seven Women's Council scholarships are awarded annually to students entering the freshman class. Sophomores who exhibit leadership potential also are eligible. Scholarships are \$5,000 per year for four years.

For more information about the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy, contact Ellen Rolfes at the University Foundation at (662) 915-5944. ■

The roll call of scholarships (which includes deferred gifts), honorees, and donors

- Sarah Meisenheimer Council Scholarship
Endowed by the Meisenheimer Family
- Christine Hickonbottom Council Scholarship
Endowed by Edith Kelly-Green
- Celia Carter Muths Council Scholarship
Endowed by Celia Carter Muths
- Shirley Wagner Crawford Council Scholarship
Endowed by Susan Martindale
- Mary Jane and Edward R. Wilson Council Scholarship
Endowed by Meredith Wilson Creekmore
- Lynda Mead Shea Council Scholarship
Endowed by Lynda and John Shea
- Mildred H. Center Council Scholarship
Endowed by the R.H. and Mildred Center Foundation
- Gertrude Hudson Turner Council Scholarships
Endowed by Dr. Wilson Hudson Turner
- Rachel McPherson Council Scholarship
Endowed by Rachel McPherson
- Exie Guyton Gafford Council Scholarship
Endowed by Dr. Lanelle Guyton Gafford
- Lannie E. Gafford Council Scholarship
Endowed by Dr. Lanelle Guyton Gafford
- Jennie Mosby Cochran Council Scholarship
- Gloria Clark Cox Council Scholarship
Endowed by Pamela Cox Tims and Arthur A. Cox Jr.
- Donna Ruth Else Roberts Council Scholarship
Endowed by Donna Ruth Else Roberts
- Elizabeth Brevard Council Scholarship
Endowed by Henry Brevard, David Brevard, and Elise Brevard Smith
- Oxford Business Women's Council Scholarship
Endowed by Oxford Business Owners
- Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation Council Scholarship
Endowed by the Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation
- Gloria Dodwell Kellum Council Scholarship
Endowed by her friends and family
- Kathryn H. and David J. Brewer Council Scholarship
Endowed by Kathryn Brewer Black
- Lena Mitchell Marquette Council Scholarship
Endowed by Dr. Clare L. Marquette
- Emma Stroud Griffin Council Scholarship
Endowed by Jan Griffin Farrington
- Dorothy Graham Brown Council Scholarship
Endowed by Susan Keith
- Sue Hodge Council Scholarship
Endowed by Scott J. Walker
- Celia and John O. Emmerich Jr. Council Scholarship
Endowed by Celia Emmerich
- Becky Jones West Council Scholarship
Endowed by Becky Jones West
- Lena Byrd Jones and Ted Thamas Pendley Council Scholarship
Endowed by Gail Pittman
- Rosa Healy Hester and William E. Hester Jr. Council Scholarship
Endowed by Kathryn Healy Hester
- Kathryn Healy Hester Council Scholarship
Endowed by Kathryn Healy Hester

Life is Grand!

Vice chancellor honored with Women's Council scholarship

Dr. Gloria Dodwell Kellum's indomitable spirit is synonymous with the renaissance occurring at The University of Mississippi.

In countless planning sessions with different student, faculty, staff, and alumni groups in conjunction with the University's recent Sesquicentennial and the *Commitment to Excellence Campaign*, and now in other forums, Kellum asks people not just to dream—but to dream big. Imaginations soar as she helps lead groups to determine what Ole Miss needs to achieve greatness in the 21st century and beyond. And when dreams are shared, Kellum fuels them by helping find essential resources.

Family and friends have established a Women's Council scholarship to honor Kellum for her leadership and commitment.

"Gloria Kellum is a leader who inspires students with her zest for life and her dedication to student life," said Buzzy Hederman Hussey of Memphis, a Women's Council founding member and a scholarship donor. "She has helped make Ole Miss a great university with her inner strength and her will to succeed."

The vice chancellor for University Relations, Kellum joined the Ole Miss family in 1966 as a faculty member in the Department of Communicative Disorders. Her work in that field received national recognition, and she authored more than 70 publications and garnered more than \$1 million in scientific research grants and service contracts. She also served that department as acting chair and as director of clinical services. As vice chancellor, she coordinates with the Alumni Associa-



Women's Council founding members Vice Chancellor Gloria Dodwell Kellum and the Honorable Patricia D. Wise plant a rosebush in the Women's Council Rose Garden. Dr. Kellum was recently honored by friends and family with a council scholarship.

tion and The University of Mississippi Foundation. She oversees the departments of Public Relations and Marketing, Publications and Imaging Services, Printing Services, University Advancement and Development Services, the Special Events and Protocol, William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, and the Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

Kellum received the University's campuswide Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teaching Award, Mortar Board's Outstanding Woman Faculty Award, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Clinical Achievement Award, and International Association of Myology's Research Award.

Her leadership in the *Commitment to Excellence Campaign* helped attract \$525.9 million in gifts for academics, and during the past five years, the University's endowment has doubled. Both accomplishments are enabling Ole Miss to deliver new academic programs and years of growth.

For more than 30 years, Kellum has lived in Oxford, where she and her

husband, Jerry, raised their two daughters, Kate and Kelly. Along with raising children, the Kellums raise Tennessee walking horses. She is a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, and has dedicated her time as a Vestry member, church school teacher, Sesquicentennial Celebration co-chair, and as a member of the state-level Christian Education Committee. In addition to her church commitments, Kellum has chaired the University United Way campaign and serves on that organization's board of directors.

Gloria Kellum shares her love for, and pride in, her community and Ole Miss every day in some tangible way. Whether counseling a student about a career choice, helping her church plan its 150th celebration, welcoming Special Olympics to campus, or shaping educational plans for our schoolchildren, she is a remarkable ambassador for Oxford and Ole Miss.

Kellum's contagious optimism is reflected in her trademark greeting: "Life is grand!" ■

Legacy of education lives on in scholarships honoring parents who were teachers

Exie and Lannie Gafford began their careers as teachers, so it came as no surprise that their only child was encouraged to read at an early age and eventually chose an academic career for herself.

Dr. Lanelle Gafford—a microbiologist who retired as professor of microbiology at the UM School of Medicine in

Union County before joining the Mississippi Industrial Training School in Columbia. Meanwhile, he had married Exie Guyton, also a Union County native and an elementary school teacher.

In 1936, the Gafford family moved to Gallaway, Tenn., and became proprietors of a general mercantile store. Dur-

“Although my father lived in Tennessee for many years, he was still a Mississippian at heart,” said his daughter. “He loved Mississippi politics and sports, especially USM and Ole Miss football. In later years, he rarely missed a USM Homecoming game, and one of his proudest moments came when he was inducted into the USM Sports Hall of Fame.”

If scholarships to Ole Miss had been available when her parents were young, Dr. Gafford said she believes both would have attended Ole Miss.

“I think they would be pleased that these new scholarships will help young people get a quality education and realize their full potential,” she said. “They both recognized the importance of a college education.” ■



‘I think they would be pleased that these new scholarships will help young people realize their full potential.’

Jackson—has paid tribute to her parents by endowing two Women’s Council scholarships in their honor.

Lannie E. Gafford, a native of Union County, received his degree from Mississippi Normal College (now the University of Southern Mississippi), where he was a four-year letterman in football and team captain. His teaching career began in Tippah County AHS, where he taught math and science and coached football and basketball. He later moved into administration, serving as a superintendent in

ing World War II, Exie Gafford was appointed U.S. postmaster at Gallaway and served in that capacity for more than 30 years. Lannie Gafford was serving as vice mayor of the town at the time of his death.



Friends honor Itawamba County educator through Education Order Teacher's Initiative

Janie Alexander of Fulton is not the kind of person who chooses to be in the spotlight.

For more than 35 years, she has quietly and efficiently served the schools of Itawamba County without much fanfare, which was the way she liked it. Her friends would have none of it, though. They placed Alexander directly in the spotlight when they gathered on August 14, 2002, at a special ceremony in her honor.

Alexander was honored by her friends and associates as part of the Education Order Teacher's Initiative. The Teacher's Initiative was created to provide communities with a tangible way to recognize deserving teachers who are graduates of Ole Miss and have made a difference in the lives of their children. Under the leadership of Dr. David Cole of Fulton and Rubye Del Harden of Tupelo, individuals and businesses from the Itawamba County area raised more than \$5,000 to honor Alexander with a membership in the Education Order.

"Janie Alexander has dedicated her life to the education of children in Itawamba County," said Cole, who is an Education Order member himself. "It is so appropriate to honor her at the University through membership in the

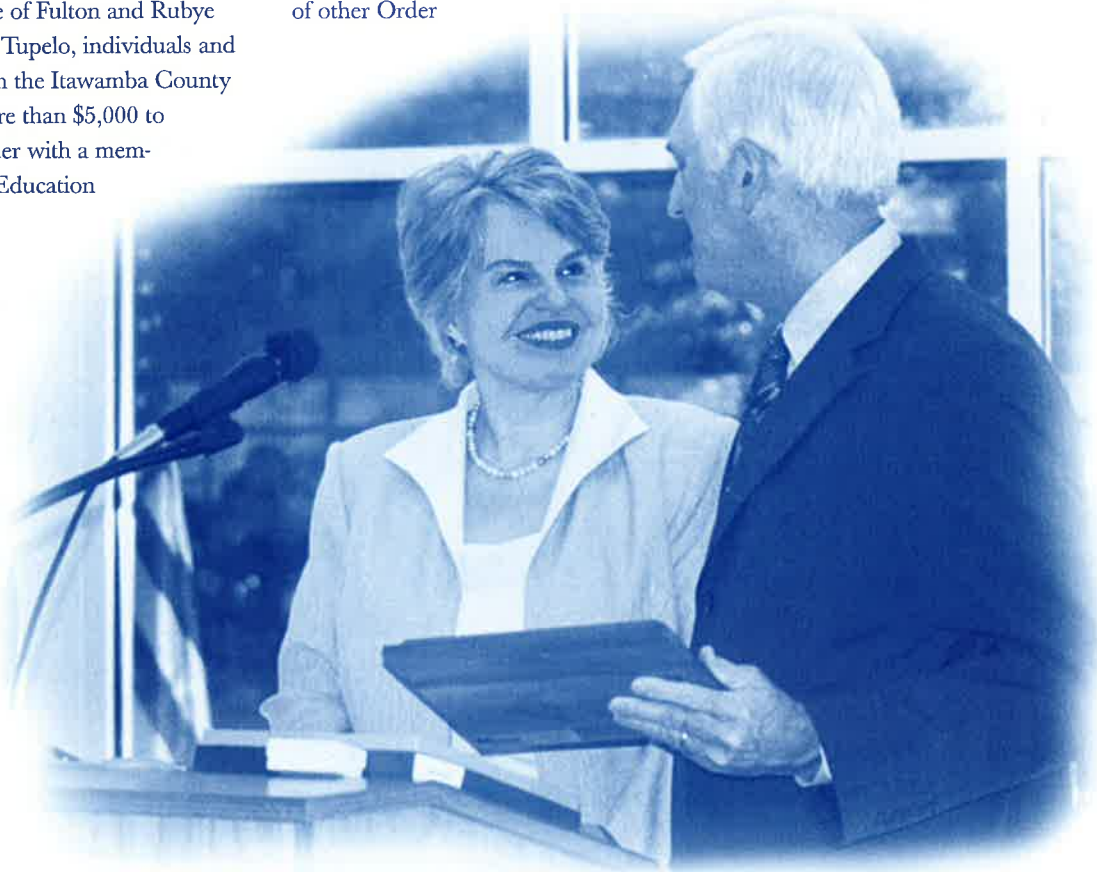
members in the Gallery of Distinction of the School of Education. She will be forever recognized for her contributions to her community, her schools, and her alma mater. As her lifelong friend Del Harden aptly stated, "No

'Janie Alexander has dedicated her life to the education of children in Itawamba County.'

Education Order. This contribution helps ensure education for future teachers and establishes a continuing legacy in her name."

As a member of the Order, a stainless steel portrait of Alexander is now displayed with those of other Order

other single individual in Itawamba County has done more for education than Janie." ■



Family Creates Ole Miss First Scholarship

Jim Bennett met Faye Evans at church in the early 1940s. She offered to fix him up with a blind date, but he took her out instead, and they later married.

Today, she is being remembered with a University of Mississippi scholarship by him, his second wife, and two daughters.

"Helping other people is part of the rent we pay on our lives," said Bennett, a Calhoun County native.

Through their \$11,250 gift to the Ole Miss First program, the Faye Evans Bennett scholarship is available to help deserving students attend UM. Bennett, who lives in Pearl, said he heard about Ole Miss First through a phone call from a University Foundation student fund-raiser.

"The University has meant a lot to us," he said.

During their courtship, Bennett was stationed with the Naval Air Corps in Brunswick, Ga. After he was transferred to a facility near the nation's cap-



Faye Evans Bennett

ital, they became engaged and then married. When World War II ended, she wanted to live in Georgia, but he wanted to finish his degree, which he had begun at then-East Mississippi Junior College.

They enrolled at Ole Miss, where she earned her bachelor's and he completed his master's, both aiming at careers as teachers.

His education career took the family from Amory to Pontotoc to Jackson.

But in 1961, after 17 years of marriage, Faye became sick and died, leaving him with two young daughters to rear.

Bennett later met and married Mary Margaret Coman, and they went about their work of teaching and rearing the daughters, now UM grads, Beverly Bennett Lee of Dallas, Texas, and Jeanne Bennett Brinson of Brandon.

The tradition continues with granddaughters Martha and Elizabeth Lee, UM graduates, and their sister Rebecca, who is a UM junior.

Beverly and Jeanne have joined Jim and Mary Margaret in establishing the scholarship.

"When Mary Margaret and I started talking about gifts to Ole Miss, we decided we wanted to establish a scholarship," Bennett said. "I appreciate her willingness to be part of it."

Applicants for the scholarship will be considered based on academic excellence, leadership, and need. ■



Insurance and Risk Management Program receives funds

Members of the Insurance and Risk Management Society Memphis Chapter visited The University of Mississippi campus and gave a \$39,000 gift plus a matching pledge of up to \$25,000 to the Insurance and Risk Management Program. Pictured (left to right) are Larry Cox, Robertson Chair of Insurance; Karen Epermanis, assistant professor of insurance; Faye Gilbert, associate dean, School of Business Administration; Phil Williams, FedEx; Debbie Burd, Harrah's Entertainment; Terry Varner, Perkins Restaurant; Gary Langsdale, International Paper; and Millie Workman, Mueller Industries.

After a lifetime in Oxford former UM accounting director invests in future of Ole Miss

When Ricky Douglas looked out his third-floor office window of Martindale Student Services Center, he viewed a campus that has seen many changes since 1978. That's the year he graduated from Ole Miss and began his career in accounting.

For 25 years, he worked as an accountant for The University of Mississippi, and then, as director of accounting, he has joined the 1848 Society by making a deferred gift to the Ole Miss First Scholarship fund in Chancellor Khayat's name.

"This campus is radically different from what it was when I was in school here," said Douglas. "And most of the



Chancellor Khayat and Ricky Douglas

to support this school. I like the idea of making a contribution that will last forever, and I want to give back to a place that not only educated me, but also gave me a career and provided a home for me."

"Ricky is a good colleague and a

'I want to give back to a place that not only educated me, but also gave me a career and provided a home for me.'

progress has been made since Dr. Khayat has been chancellor. It occurred to me—after reading about Mickey Smith's deferred gift to Ole Miss—that I could contribute to the ongoing progress by making a similar gift."

Aside from attending Ole Miss and receiving both his B.A. and M.A. here, Douglas grew up in Oxford and attended its public schools. "We used to ride our bikes up to campus and hang out right here [in Martindale] when it was the Old Gym. In fact, I shot baskets with my friends on the court that used to be just two floors down from where my office used to be," Douglas said.

"When I read the story about Mike Starnes making a gift to Ole Miss First, I realized that was exactly how I wanted

quiet leader who served Ole Miss well," said Johnny Williams, vice chancellor for administration and finance. "His intelligence, dedication, competence, and experience are unsurpassed."

Douglas, an avid sports fan, could see both the Tad Smith Coliseum and Vaught-Hemingway Stadium from his former office in Martindale, and like many Oxonians, his social life encompasses the myriad sporting events Ole Miss offers.

"There's something about Ole Miss that is really exciting and enjoyable, and I feel so good about all that is happening here now," he said. "I'm very glad that I've had the opportunity to live, work, and raise my children in the Oxford-University community." ■

New Foundation Researcher brings wealth of experience to advancement team

Lesley Urgo came to Oxford in the summer 2000 with her husband, Dr. Joseph Urgo, when he accepted the position as chair of the Ole Miss Department of English.



Lesley Urgo

An experienced nonprofit administrator and grant writer, Lesley Urgo currently handles research requests for the Foundation, enhancing the advancement team's abilities to work with alumni and meet the funding needs of the larger University community. When she and her husband came to Oxford, she left a successful 10-year tenure as the director of the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP) in Providence, R.I. This award-winning urban reforestation program enlists city residents as plant day volunteers to work alongside city parks personnel to install city street trees in Rhode Island's capital city.

During Urgo's stewardship, the PNPP's endowment grew to \$1.7 million, with all funds generated dedicated to the perpetual greening of Providence streets.

Urgo graduated from the College of Wooster in Ohio with a bachelor's degree in history and completed a master's degree in American civilization at Brown University.

"Getting back to my research 'roots' has been a change for me, one that I've enjoyed since joining the truly exceptional group of people working in University Advancement and Development Services," she said. "It's a pleasure to do what I can to help Ole Miss grow and better serve current and future students. Oxford is a welcoming place, and we're glad to be here."

Cellular South continues legacy of giving with 5 new business school scholarships

Keeping the best and the brightest of the next generation of business leaders in Mississippi is at the heart of Cellular South's most recent contribution to higher education in Mississippi. The five new scholarships for the School of Business Administration set up by the Jackson-based wireless company are part of a \$500,000 commitment to Mississippi's eight universities over the next five years.

"It is our hope that these scholarships will help the Ole Miss School of Business attract and retain the best business students Mississippi has to offer," said Hu Meena, president of Cellular South. "We are looking forward to developing relationships with our scholarship recipients, working out internships with the business school, and generally supporting Chancellor Khayat's vision of building a great public university in Mississippi."

"The business school is extremely grateful to Cellular South for providing scholarships to these exceptional students," said Dr. Ann L. Canty, associate dean for undergraduate programs. "It is important that we have scholarship assistance to recruit the best possible business students who will, in turn, be future business leaders."

Cellular South is a leading regional telecommunications company that provides state-of-the-art digital wireless coverage and a range of innovative calling plans. It has more than 85 retail locations and is licensed to provide wireless service in Alabama, Arkansas, the Florida panhandle, southwest Tennessee, and Mississippi—an area with a population of more than 5 million.

When the family of Wade Creekmore, Sr., (Ole Miss class of 1923) entered the telephone business more

than 40 years ago, telephone service was limited by fixed lines and cables. It would have been hard for them to envision that one of their companies would grow to be one of the largest privately held wireless companies in the U.S. In the early 1960s, their business consisted primarily of rural telephone exchanges in several Mississippi counties—a fact that would ultimately prove crucial in establishing a business presence that would give the company access to lotteries for cellular licenses.

Less than five years after the FCC began awarding initial licenses in the wireless industry, Cellular South was positioned to implement the new technology. The company launched wireless service in its first market, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, on February 4, 1988, with Ole Miss football legend Archie Manning making the inaugural call to then U.S. Representative Trent Lott in Washington.

Brothers Wade Creekmore, Jr., and Jimmy Creekmore, with Wade Jr.'s son-in-law, Meena, steered the company through the unprecedented wireless growth of the late '90s, operating under the original vision of ensuring absolute customer satisfaction above all. Though it has grown along with the industry, Cellular South has gone against the key trends of many wireless carriers toward mergers and acquisitions by national or international companies and brand name changes. Its stability and continuity of operations can,



Jimmy Creekmore (Director/Vice President, Telapex, Inc.), Ole Miss Chancellor Robert Khayat, Hu Meena (President, Cellular South) and Wade Creekmore (Director/President, Telapex, Inc.) take time out for a photo at the announcement of the Cellular South Scholarships for the University of Mississippi.

in part, be attributed to its love for Mississippi and its investment in her infrastructure and people.

In 1996, Cellular South contributed \$250,000 to the renovation of Conner Hall, part of the business/accountancy complex. Both Wade, Jr., and Jimmy Creekmore are graduates of the UM business and law schools. Jimmy's wife, Meredith Wilson Creekmore, is also an Ole Miss graduate and a founding member of the Ole Miss Women's Council. The Creekmores' love of the Ole Miss campus, their dedication to academic integrity, and their enthusiasm about athletics is evidenced by their contributions to everything from the band to the stadium expansion to the Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

Both Hu Meena and his wife, Ashley Creekmore Meena, are graduates of Ole Miss, and members of the Chancellor's Trust. Ashley's sisters, Beth Creekmore Byrd and Sydney Creekmore Crews, are alumni. Meena's

Continued on Page 28

Chair of Investment Committee excited about UM's momentum

For a number of years, I've seen so many exciting developments at Ole Miss, it's difficult to know where to start with the praise," said Mike McRee, chair of the UM Foundation's Investment Committee. McRee, a partner in Earnest Partners, Ltd., a fixed-income investment management company, and president of Investek Timber Management Company, a company specializing in institutional timberland investments, recently became a member of the Chancellor's Trust with his \$25,000 gift.

"I've been involved with the Foundation for at least 15 years, and I'm convinced that success breeds success," said McRee of Jackson. "Robert Khayat has done an incredible job of defining and articulating the vision for the future of Ole Miss. Under his leadership, we've seen the endowment grow dramatically. We've seen our academic programs expand and our research dollars reach a new level."

McRee, a Greenville, Miss., native, graduated from Ole Miss with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1966. He continued his education at George Washington University and received his MBA from there in 1970. Soon after, McRee joined

the Mississippi Power and Light Company, working in Jackson and Marks, Miss. In 1973, he joined Lamar Life Insurance Company as an investment analyst and served as president of Lamar Life Corporation from 1982 until the company was sold in 1988.

Since that time, McRee has used his considerable investment acumen in a number of areas: with Investek and Earnest Partners, as chairman of the Bank of the South in Crystal Springs, Miss., and as director of Cimarron Mortgage Company.

"Through the years, Mike McRee has quietly served the University by chairing the Joint Committee on Investments. His leadership has resulted in our endowment's out-performing most national and international foundations," said Chancellor Khayat.

"I wanted to contribute to the intense momentum of the University and the Foundation," said McRee. "I firmly believe that the University's strides in racial reconciliation, its sense of integrity and discipline, the McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, and the Phi Beta Kappa honorary are indeed defining Ole Miss as 'a great American public university' by keeping the best and the brightest in Mississippi." ■



UM Foundation Board Officers, Don L. Fruge (left), Sandra McGuire Guest, and William G. Yates, Jr. Present long-time Investment Committee Chairman Mike McRee (second from left) with a certificate for joining the Chancellor's Trust.

Advancement associate brings innovation to Ole Miss First

When John Marc Sharpe enters a room, a wave of excitement follows him. Armed with some of the most innovative and exciting ideas in marketing and advancement, Sharpe's enthusiasm for his new job is evident.

In 1998, as a recent graduate of Ole Miss with a degree in marketing, Sharpe moved to New York City to work for CMG Communications. There he immersed himself in the recruiting, advertising, and media planning aspects of business.

Now he brings that experience and savvy to the Ole Miss First campaign.

"John Marc Sharpe is truly one of the most talented, committed young men I have ever met. I feel privileged to be building the Ole Miss First dream with him," said Ellen Rolfes, the University's major gifts officer. Since joining the Foundation as advancement associate in 2002, Sharpe has begun to implement many of his innovative marketing ideas. His dedication both to Ole Miss and to raising money for scholarships is evident.

Sharpe's interest in marketing and advertising was sparked when he was a student at Ole Miss. As a marketing major, he was active in the advertising club, in student government, and as an ASB senator. He also was instrumental in forming the first Ole Miss chapter of the American Advertising Club.

"Our university is in the best position it has ever been in to attract first-rate students. Anyone who drives through campus can witness the enormous progress that has occurred in our physical surroundings. These improvements reflect strides made in all the academic programs and in the quality of our faculty and research institutes. Ole Miss is a very exciting place to work. I feel fortunate."



John Marc Sharpe

New staff member's gift for numbers is just one of her many talents

Tiffany Owens is one of those rare people whose brain works equally well on both sides. She graduated from The University of Mississippi in 1994 with a B.A. in art. Last fall, Owens joined the development team as senior accounting clerk and has proven she has a talent for numbers as well.

Shortly after graduation, Owens and her husband, Christopher, moved to Jeffersonville, Ind., where she worked as a billing and payroll clerk at a large trucking company. That experience propelled her into the world of numbers, and she hasn't looked back since.

"We feel lucky to have Tiffany. She is doing a good job learning the processes of the office, and it is always



Tiffany Owens

good to have one of our alumni come back and start their career here," said Ron Guest, director of development services.

Owens considers herself a native

Oxonian, having grown up in nearby Abbeville. She went to Lafayette High School, where she played basketball all four years, so add "athlete" to her list of talents. An excellent ball player, Owens chose not to follow in the footsteps of her famous cousins, Peggy and Jennifer Gillom, and pursued her interest in painting instead.

"I've had some wonderful role models in my life," said Owens. "My extended family, my cousins, my art professors, and now my co-workers.

"The greatest challenge of my life is staying focused—both at home and at work. I take pride in being accurate and responsible," said the mother of two small children. "I really love my job. It's an exciting place to work, and I'm fortunate to be here." ■

Accounting assistant puts experience to work for UM

Although it was always a dream of hers to one day live and work in the United States, Theresa Hasse never imagined that it would actually happen.

After obtaining a B.S. degree in accounting from the University of Mindanao in the Philippines, she met Roger D. Hasse. She immigrated to the U.S. in 1997, settling in Los Alamos, N.M., where she and Roger were married.

They relocated to Ithaca, N.Y., in late 1997, and she went to work at Cornell University in the Department of Alumni Affairs and Development, where her education in accounting was put to good use. Another move



Theresa Hasse

brought them to Oxford when her husband accepted a research engineering position at the National Center for

Physical Acoustics.

Theresa also worked at the NCPA during her first year at Ole Miss, but it didn't take long for her and the University Foundation to make a connection. With her previous experience at Cornell and her outstanding academic background, Theresa was a natural for the job.

"Theresa has been a great addition to the Development Staff," said Ron Guest, director of development services. "Her experience in development work at Cornell University allowed her to be productive here from her first day." ■

Pharmacy advancement associate welcomes challenge

Baseball, art, politics, travel—engage Lance Tolbert in a conversation, and most likely, you'll cover all these topics and more. As a new member of the Foundation's advancement team, Tolbert adds the School of Pharmacy to his list of passions. Increasing scholarship endowments, improving facilities, establishing endowed professorships, and building unrestricted support for the pharmacy school are among his goals.

"Our challenge is to keep the best students in the country coming to the Ole Miss School of Pharmacy, said Tolbert."

One of Tolbert's goals is to increase the membership base of the Galen Order—to double it, in fact. As a former baseball player, Tolbert understands that setting a goal slightly out of reach improves your averages.

"The Galen Order's significance



Lance Tolbert

cannot truly be quantified," he says. "It creates a sense of confidence and community. People like to be a part of something larger than their gift—to

assist in a larger, long-term goal."

Tolbert graduated from Northwest Rankin High School, where he was a star baseball player and an excellent student. He then played baseball one year for the Auburn Tigers, where he was a member of Auburn's 1994 College World Series team. He left after his first year, went to University of Alabama in Birmingham for one season, then returned home to Mississippi to finish his career at Ole Miss.

"We are very fortunate to have been successful in recruiting an individ-

ual of Lance's caliber for this position," says Dr. Barbara Wells, dean of the School of Pharmacy, professor, and executive director of the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

"His background and experience are right on target, and it is clear that he loves Ole Miss and loves his work. He's a natural."

"I've learned that if you practice poorly, you will play poorly. I try very hard to make every conversation and every relationship count when I'm talking about the pharmacy school," says Tolbert. "Alumni relations is one of the most important aspects of my job. As the Galen Order increases and funds are made available for facilities, instruction, recognition, scholarships and research, our abilities in the School of Pharmacy will increase also." ■

School of Engineering gets new advancement associate

When Stephen Snead was an undergraduate at Virginia Tech, he worked as a student volunteer for the capital campaign. "Basically, I drove around a lot of VIPs when they came to campus," said Snead, the University Foundation's new advancement associate for engineering.

"Being around fund raising during that time was actually the beginning of my ambition to be a part of university advancement. I saw how much of an impact the \$330 million raised in Virginia Tech's capital campaign had on that school," said the Weston, West Virginia, native.

Snead decided to pursue a career in university advancement by first attending Vanderbilt University's Higher Education Administration Program. After receiving his M.Ed. in institutional

advancement in December 2002, Snead came to Ole Miss to work as an intern for Dr. Gloria Kellum, vice chancellor for University Relations.

"We are very pleased that Stephen has joined the advancement team," said Kellum. "He brings a wealth of academic background in alumni advancement work."

"One of my duties as advancement associate for the School of Engineering is to urge alumni to get involved with the Woods Order. This is a great way for our graduates to remain close to the school and to be part of the momentum that the Campaign for Engineering is generating," said Snead, who works alongside Tom Black, the assistant to the dean for advancement for the School of Engineering.

The School of Engineering's alumni



Stephen Snead

roster reads like a who's who in the field, said Snead, producing some of the nation's foremost leaders in engineering. "The School of Engineering has an

amazing ability to teach students how to translate their rigorous academic program into real world skills," said Snead. "Dean Lee's leadership is critical to our future. He brings an outside perspective, as well as a real vision to the school."

The \$25 million Campaign for Engineering seeks to capitalize on the University's high quality engineering environment to ensure that its historic strengths continue to impact the state and the nation. ■

Women's Council scholarships spring from lessons about education

Dinner conversations at the home of Rosa Healy Hester and William E. "Slew" Hester, Jr., of Jackson were monopolized by lively discussions on current events. Education and knowledge were not only to be admired but also to be attained.

Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy

"Mother and Daddy emphasized excelling in school," said attorney and Ole Miss graduate Kathryn Healy Hester, the couple's daughter. "Studying hard and



William E. "Slew" Hester

good grades were essential in the Hester household. Although my dad was best-known outside of the family as a oil man, tennis player, and president of the U.S. Tennis Association, around our home he was known as a task master when it came to his three children's earning good grades."

Rosa Hester, a native of Natchez, earned her degree from Ole Miss. Slew Hester, a native of Hazlehurst, was a Millsaps College graduate and a "fierce" Ole Miss supporter.

Because of the values her parents passed on to her and because of the positive experiences she enjoyed at Ole Miss, Kathryn Hester has established two Women's Council scholarships.

"Both of my parents believed that I could do anything that I wanted to do—that there were no barriers so great that they could not be hurdled with hard work," Hester said. "They gave me the foundation for 'hurdling' by insisting that I obtain a good education."

One of the two Hester scholarships is designated for liberal arts students. "Liberal arts is most helpful in creating



Kathryn Healy Hester

'I hope that the Women's Council scholarships will enable other students to have as broadening—and indeed exhilarating—an experience as I had.'

the whole person—someone who can think outside the box or in many different boxes, and someone who can capitalize on versatility, change with the times," said Hester, who credits her liberal arts background to allowing her to be "many things in life: a French

teacher, computer specialist, and fiscal analyst."

Hester, who returned to Ole Miss for a law degree, is a shareholder in the law firm of Watkins Ludlam Winter and Stennis in Jackson.

"I was fortunate to have several scholarships during law school, and I hope that the Women's Council scholarships will enable other students to have as broadening—and indeed exhilarating—an experience as I had as a student and as I continue to have as an alumna of this great university." ■



Rosa Healy Hester

Institute for Racial Reconciliation named for former Gov. William Winter

Former Gov. William Winter was honored when The University of Mississippi renamed its Institute for Racial Reconciliation for him.

Announcement of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation came at a public reception in the state's historic Old Capitol Building during a day of events marking Winter's 80th birthday.

"Early in his career, William Winter recognized that issues related to race are among America's greatest challenges," said Chancellor Robert Khayat at the announcement. "He stepped forward and has firmly maintained a position of respect for the dignity of all people. In so doing, he became a role model for all."

Earlier in the day, Winter's life and public service were honored by the Mississippi Legislature. During the afternoon, a panel of prominent business, political, and journalism leaders headlined a symposium titled "The Future of Race in America."

'Mississippi has been blessed by his leadership and service.'

The forum and reception were sponsored by the University and the Winter Institute. Hundreds of public officials and other colleagues and friends joined Winter and his family for Khayat's announcement.

A UM alumnus in private law practice in Jackson, Winter was the state's chief executive from 1980-1984. Passage of the groundbreaking Education



from left: Former Mississippi First Lady Elise Winter, Don L. Fruge, Former Governor William Winter, Gov. Winter's grandson, Win Williams with Chancellor Khayat at the inaugural ceremony for the Institute for Racial Reconciliation.

Reform Act of 1982 is widely recognized as one of his administration's most significant achievements, but his long-held belief in racial equity has been a leading factor in accomplishments throughout his personal and public life.

"William Winter's life of public service and commitment to racial equality and reconciliation exhibits the spirit that infuses the institute's work," said Susan Glisson, the institute's director. "His model of reaching out to all has provided a guide for us and will continue to inspire and challenge us."

Khayat created the institute in 1999 as a result of suggestions from Winter

and others after UM hosted a public forum for President Clinton's "One America: The President's Initiative on Race." Glisson said presidential staff hailed the campus event the year's most successful.

Speaking in the Old Capitol rotunda, Khayat described Winter as one of America's great statesmen. "Mississippi has been blessed by his leadership and service," he said. "Throughout his career, Governor Winter has taken the moral high ground and has been willing to confront difficult issues."

The celebration also raised funds for the institute, on whose board of directors Winter serves. After the reception, major donors and the Winter family were dinner guests at the Governor's Mansion.

Donations may be made c/o The University of Mississippi Foundation, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677. ■

Ford Center officially opens with glittering gala featuring students, stars with Ole Miss ties



Mammoth klieg lights criss-crossed bright beams into the night sky March 28 as a star-studded gala officially opened the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

More than 1,200 theatergoers celebrated in the new state-of-the-art theatrical complex on campus.

Hollywood actor Morgan Freeman, a Mississippi native, hosted the sold-out affair showcasing spirited and diverse talents of UM students, faculty, alumni, and friends.

For actor Gerald McRaney, best known for lead roles in television's "Simon and Simon," "Major Dad," and "Promised Land," performing on the Oxford campus was emotional. He appeared in six major theatrical productions while a UM student in the late 1960s.

At the gala, McRaney joined actresses Patricia Povall Lewis and Jessica Bartz in a memorable scene from Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie." Among other participants

were country music stars Marty Stuart and his wife, Connie Smith; "Phantom of the Opera" star Laurie Gayle Stephenson; UM's first Miss America, Mary Ann Mobley, and her actor husband, Gary Collins; and "Lawrence Welk Show" alumnus Guy Hovis of Jackson.

UM administrators said they were elated with the evening: "The performances by more than 300 of our students, faculty, friends, and alumni were amazing," said Gloria Kellum, vice chancellor for university relations.

"The incredibly generous patronage of the new Ford Center for the Performing Arts speaks volumes about the tremendous respect for Gertrude C. Ford and reflects the amazing support and loyalty that The University of Mississippi receives from alumni and friends."

Under the direction of music professors Donald Trott and Debra Spurgeon, University combined choirs and Hovis opened the gala with a spectacular arrangement of "The Star-Spangled Banner." The entire cast presented a moving finale of "America the Beautiful," led by Ronald Vernon, University Orchestra conductor, and Bill Walker, longtime Nashville conductor and arranger.

Actress/singer Mary Donnelly Haskell, The University of Mississippi Gospel Choir, and the University Orchestra performed the soul-stirring "New Day Medley." In one of the evening's memorable performances, U.S. Sen. Trott Lott and his Ole Miss Alumni Quartet entertained. The group of Sigma Nu fraternity brothers also featured Hovis, U.S. District Court Judge W. Allen Pepper, Jr., of Cleveland, and Gaylen Roberts of Norcross, Ga.

Executive producer for the gala was

Amory native and Ole Miss alum Sam Haskell III, executive vice president for the William Morris Agency in Los Angeles. Michael B. Seligman, who has Academy Awards and Kennedy Center honors to his credit, was producer.

The Ford Center is named for Gertrude Castellow Ford, a strong supporter of the arts, who died in 1996. She played the flute, violin, and piano, and spoke fluent French, Latin, and Spanish. A 1933 graduate of Andrew College in Cuthbert, Ga., she was the wife of Ackerman attorney and U.S. Rep. Aaron Lane Ford of Mississippi's then-4th District.



Seated left to right are Ford Center board members, Cheryle Sims, Tom Papa, and Leon Lewis.

A 1998 gift of \$20 million by the Jackson-based Gertrude C. Ford Foundation helped begin the first phase of center construction in May 2000. The Mississippi Legislature played a part, first appropriating \$500,000 for planning and then \$10 million for the 88,000-square-foot facility. Generous private funding also was received to assure a state-of-the-art facility. ■

Publisher helps drive business-based scholarship push

Scott Coopwood of Cleveland is helping The University of Mississippi work with businesses to raise money for scholarships.

Appointed by Chancellor Robert Khayat, the 1984 UM grad is volunteer co-chair of the new business-based giving initiative for the Ole Miss First scholarship program, which seeks to provide finances to support a UM education for every deserving student.

Khayat said Coopwood "is one of Mississippi's brightest young entrepreneurs and will be a tremendous asset" to the campaign.

"We are so pleased that Scott has joined the University in this important initiative," Khayat said.

Coopwood is owner and publisher of *The Delta Business Journal*. He also owns Coopwood Communications, an advertising, marketing, and public relations firm, as well as Cypress Web Design, an Internet design and site-hosting company. All the businesses are based in Cleveland.

"It's an honor for me to be called

upon to give back to the University in such a unique way. Lending my time and experience is the least that I can do," he said.

The business-based campaign also involves the UM School of Business Administration.

Vice Chancellor Gloria Kellum described the Ole Miss First scholarship program as "a form of economic development."

"By providing deserving students with a strong scholarship package, we keep them in Mississippi and ensure a more prosperous future for Mississippi," Kellum said.

As *DBJ* publisher, Coopwood has an obvious interest in the economic future of the Mississippi Delta, Kellum said. "He has his finger on the pulse of the Mississippi business community, and that allows us to tailor our new business-based initiative efforts to local



Scott Coopwood

business owners."

Ole Miss First scholarship applicants will be considered based on academic excellence, leadership, and need. Khayat launched the program to support one of the University's most critical needs—scholarships.

The scholarship drive officially kicked off last September with a reception attended by classmates, family, friends, and faculty. ■

Cellular South

Continued from Page 21

brother, Dicky Meena of Collierville, Tenn., and sister, Mary Martha Meena Bobo of Clarksdale, are graduates as well.

"We have very deep ties and affection for Ole Miss in our family. There are many fine universities around, but there is only one Ole Miss," said Meena. "It's a special place, and Ashley and I are pleased to see how it has grown and flourished under the servant leadership of Chancellor Khayat. Higher education has always been a priority of the Creekmore family, and these scholarships are

a reflection of that."

The Cellular South scholarships are already in place. All five have been awarded for the 2003-04 academic year. Each student will receive \$3,000 for each academic year for four years. They must be entering freshmen men or women, from Mississippi and with a 28 ACT score or better, or a 3.0 GPA.

"The Cellular South scholars are all well-rounded students who have excelled in the classroom, in school leadership positions, and in community service projects," said Canty. "It's gratifying

to see that all the students share an excitement about pursuing a business degree and a belief that Ole Miss can offer them the skills they will need to be successful in the global environment."

"It's fairly simple: Ole Miss helps prepare you for whatever opportunity in life that presents itself because of the caliber of the people who teach and learn there," said Meena. "It should be possible for every deserving student in the state to go to Ole Miss if they want to. We hope these scholarships help make that happen." ■

Indoor Practice Facility construction begins

The growth of the Ole Miss football program has been very evident over the last few years, and the latest development might be the biggest yet.

Vaught-Hemingway Stadium/Hollingsworth Field featured a new

indoor practice facility.”

The \$17 million project is the culmination of three years of intense planning. Collaborating with numerous Ole Miss administrators, coaches, and other athletics personnel, Ferguson & Associates Architects in Jackson produced a design

lounge area, which includes a game room, computer/study lab, refreshment bar, and small theater room. The state-of-the-art training quarters feature specific areas for taping, treatment, rehab, and hydrotherapy, including in-ground pools with submersible treadmills and video monitoring equipment.

The staff office area provides an audio/video “strategy room” with four digital projection screens as well as a special suite for editing. In addition to a large team meeting room, the facility offers a banquet hall that accommodates 300 people.

While the Ole Miss assistant coaches each enjoy private offices adjacent to their corresponding position meeting room, Head Coach David Cutcliffe will be upstairs in a nearly 2,000-square-foot suite. The semi private quarters supply views of the indoor playing field, the existing outdoor practice fields, and the south end zone of the stadium.

On game days, Cutcliffe will be leading his troops to battle through a secure underground tunnel. Within minutes, the team can travel from the new locker room into Vaught-Hemingway through a portal in the southwest corner of the stadium.

“We are right at the doorstep of a great opportunity that we certainly intend to take advantage of,” Cutcliffe said. “What this is all about is putting our quality athletes, quality young people, in the very best facilities to help them to be the best they can be. That is what we are 100 percent committed to. They deserve the best.

“We want to also thank all of the athletes, the former athletes who may not use this facility right now, but have created this tradition at Ole Miss and meant so much to Ole Miss through the years. Everybody has a piece in this.”

Donations may be mailed to the Loyalty Foundation, P.O. Box 355, University, MS 38677. ■



‘What this is all about is putting our quality athletes, quality young people, in the very best facilities to help them to be the best they can be.’

bowled-in south end zone last season, and a new indoor practice facility will soon be erected beside it.

In an April 15 press conference, the Rebel Athletics Department announced plans for the 150,000-square-foot facility, which will be nestled between Vaught-Hemingway and the new Ole Miss track complex.

“This is an exciting day for Ole Miss, one we have been looking forward to for a while,” said Chancellor Robert Khayat of the April 15 announcement. “The press conference was located in the south end zone, which is an example of the kind of enhancement that has taken place with the facilities at Ole Miss over the last few years. We are excited about the beginning of construction at the

for one of the most advanced college practice facilities in the nation.

“We are trying to do what is in the best interest of our overall athletics department, and we are also trying to be fiscally sound. This is just one step,” said Ole Miss Director of Athletics Pete Boone. “I think it is something the Ole Miss faithful will step up to the plate on. We have a lot of wonderful things happening here.”

The structure stands 79 feet high and houses a full 100-yard practice field. It comprises a steel frame, metal roof, brick and metal panel exterior walls with dimensional stone base/water table, and stone wall caps.

The Rebel players will be fitted with a new locker room, weight room, and

Alum leaves trust to Ole Miss First out of love for University

Anyone associated with the University can easily understand the sense of community that exists among the Ole Miss family. Even after students have moved on, the bonds made on campus and a shared love for Ole Miss connect friends for a lifetime.

Such is the case of Harry Young III and George Griesbeck. These fraterni-

the beneficiary of a trust.

"Mississippi is one of the most promising states in the South. The scholarships that this trust will create can go toward the University's goal of keeping the best and the brightest students in the region."

In addition to the trust, Young has donated a rare portrait by Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723), a German-born

'I told Harry this was going to change Ole Miss and the state of Mississippi, and that he needed to be a part of it.'

ty brothers have been friends for more than 40 years, so when Griesbeck was approached about the Ole Miss First Philanthropy Advisory Council, he shared the news of the program with Young.

"I told Harry this was going to change Ole Miss and the state of Mississippi, and that he needed to be a part of it," said Griesbeck. "We owe it to Ole Miss to ensure its future, and I knew Harry would want to be a part of that."

Young was immediately taken with the message of Ole Miss First. He was so taken with it, in fact, that he became a founding member of the Philanthropy Advisory Council.

"My days at Ole Miss were the best years of my life," he said. "I was homesick for the South. I needed to get back to my roots. I decided not only to participate, but to leave my trust to Ole Miss for scholarships, so that I might repay the University for all it has done for me and for Mississippi."

Early in 2003, Young made the RCK Endowment for Ole Miss First

painter who became the leading portraitist in England in the late 17th century. Ultimately knighted and created a baronet, Kneller established himself as the dominant court and society painter of the era. The painting, a portrait of three sisters, was recently appraised by Christie's for more than \$100,000.

Young, a 1974 graduate who lives in St. Louis, is a senior financial consultant for R.T. Jones Capital Equities, Inc. He is an avid outdoorsman, a tournament-level fly fisherman, and a member of the Ladue Hunting and Fishing Club of St. Louis. Despite his active schedule in St. Louis, Young remains connected to the Ole Miss family through campus visits and friends like Griesbeck.

"The bottom line is this: If you end up a financial success in life, it's important to give back to those who helped you get where you are," said Young.

"But of course, my leaving this trust to the University is evidence of a far deeper story about my love for Ole Miss and for the friends I made there." ■

School of Business Administration names interim dean

Brian Reithel, new interim dean of the Ole Miss School of Business Administration, expects his faculty and their collective dreams for excellence to continue shaping the business program into one of America's finest.



Brian Reithel

"Our faculty are engaged in important research, which is appearing in the best professional journals," said Reithel, 40, who was appointed as interim dean in July. "Ultimately those articles appear in the best textbooks, which impacts students around the world. "Nearly all the modern innovations in business that we see today had their roots in this kind of research."

A New Mexico native, Reithel came to UM in the fall of 1991 as assistant professor of management information systems. He became that department's chair in 2002.

He also has served the university as associate vice chancellor for University Relations, first interim director of the Lott Leadership Institute and co-chair of the Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Specifically, he expressed appreciation to the Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation, which has helped augment salaries and provide stipends so that faculty can conduct their research. The Hearin grant also supports faculty development through workshops and travel, which "directly impacts our students," Reithel said. "Thanks to the state and our alumni and friends, we have a Business, Accountancy and Economics complex as fine as any in the nation," he said. "Our focus will be on quality learning outcomes."

Reithel received his doctorate and master's from Texas Tech University and his bachelor of business administration degree from Eastern Mexico University. He and his wife, Vicki, have three children, April, Ruby and Dylan.

He replaces Michael Harvey, who will remain within the school as a faculty member. Provost Carolyn Staton said she expects Reithel to remain interim dean for at least a year.

Message from Don L. Frugé



Dear Alumni and Friends:

It is my belief that enormous hope and vision goes into creating a solid foundation. The University of Mississippi Foundation reflects our hopes and our vision for The University of Mississippi. It is a reflection of the solid foundation upon which Ole Miss is built—our mission of establishing a firm legacy of fiscal stability. Many years ago a core group of dedicated alumni along with then Chancellor Porter L. Fortune embarked on the establishment of The University of Mississippi Foundation to further the educational goals of Ole Miss. Now some 30 years later, the Foundation remains constant in its mission of providing critical private support to The University of Mississippi, which creates the margin of excellence necessary for it to remain one of America's great public universities.

The loyal commitment of our alumni and friends remain ever constant. Thus, this issue of Foundation News features stories on the Ole Miss Women's Council Rose Garden, the Asbury Foundation gift, the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts opening gala, new members of the Chancellor's Trust, and various individuals, corporations, and foundations participating at all levels in the Ole Miss First Scholarship Program. *Thanks to these generous donors and to all 18,409 donors who made gifts last year totaling \$52 million private support.*

Last year's total University and Foundation endowment ranked Ole Miss 119th in the nation among all colleges and universities and 22nd in the nation in endowment per student at public universities. *As of June 30, 2003, the University endowment fund totaled \$333.1 million.* The Joint Committee on University Investments continues to focus on the long-term management of the endowment, employing the Fund Evaluation Group as an overlay manager plus 13 individual managers. The target asset allocation is 65% in stocks, 30% in bonds, and 5% in alternative investments. While the last three years have been challenging, we are encouraged by the last quarter returns and hope this positive trend continues in the future. *Our total return on investments for one, three, five, and seven years ending June 30, 2003, has been 3% for one year, -3.4% for three years, 2.2% for five years, and 6.6% for seven years, respectively.*

You may be following federal and state legislative activities related to the "no call lists" in the media. Although Ole Miss is exempt from current legislation limiting calls, we will continue to respect the wishes of our alumni and friends who do not wish to be called. It is our belief, however, that with 65,000 completed calls by our student callers last year that you enjoyed those conversation opportunities. Why? You generously gave more than \$1 million through these calls.

Much has been written about the new corporate governing regulation and, while the Sarbanes-Oxley Act does not apply to nonprofit organizations, your Foundation officers have adopted the spirit of the act into its operations. Chair Bill Yates appointed an Audit Committee chaired by Roger Friou with Jamie Houston, Charles Cannada, and Johnny Williams as members. The Audit Committee has employed KPMG to conduct the 2002-03 audit of the Foundation, and the Foundation Board has also authorized a new controller position.

Thank you for the continued support of Ole Miss. Your gifts do make a difference.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Don L. Frugé".

Don L. Frugé
President/ CEO
The University of Mississippi Foundation

Ole Miss Parents Association urges parents to get involved

The Ole Miss Parents Association—sponsored jointly by the Office of Orientation and the Alumni Association—invites all parents of UM students to get off the sidelines this fall and get involved with Ole Miss. Organized by a group of dedicated parents, the OMPA is designed to keep parents involved through regular communication with the University and the biannual Ole Miss Family Weekend.

“The Ole Miss Parents Association is an enthusiastic group of Ole Miss supporters who value the experiences their children are having and work to provide those same opportunities for other young people,” said Dr. Gloria Kellum, vice chancellor for university relations.

More than \$50,000 has been given to the University by parents of Ole Miss students. The money has gone to support scholarships, technology,

health care, cross-cultural awareness, and facility renovations.

Each year, the departments within the Division of Student Life are given the opportunity to write proposals to receive funding for programming. These funds come from the money raised from parents through the annual phone-a-thon. The projects, equipment, and programs supported by the fund-raiser directly benefit current students enrolled at Ole Miss. Last year, the Ole Miss First scholarship program received a \$5,000 gift from the OMPA.

“The main goal of OMPA is to meet the needs of Ole Miss,” said OMPA President Ed Peacock. “A major need is providing funds for every deserving student. By funding an Ole Miss First Scholarship, we feel like we are doing our part.”



The OMPA board of directors has created an endowment that will help fully support the Division of Student Life.

Members pay a one-time fee of \$50, which keeps their membership current during their students' undergraduate tenure. To join, contact Whitman Smith at (662) 915-1185, or visit www.olemiss.edu/parents/ompa to download the membership form. ■

www.umf.olemiss.edu

The University of Mississippi Foundation



P.O. Box 249
University, MS 38677-0249

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 6
University, MS