

Foundation **News**

The University of Mississippi Foundation



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FedEx Gives \$2.5 Million for UM Academic Support Center, Renovations to Starnes

A \$2.5 million gift from FedEx Corp. to create an academic support center for University of Mississippi student-athletes provides an important link in the university's goal of competing at the highest level in every aspect of its intercollegiate programs.

Corporate officials visited the Oxford campus April 13 to announce the gift, which will be given over five years. The center is to provide advanced computer facilities and space for study halls and tutoring for men and women athletes, as well as additional classrooms for all students.

"FedEx has always been a strong supporter of educational initiatives at all levels," says Mike Glenn, executive vice president, marketing development and corporate communications. "This contribution to the University of Mississippi is an extension of our commitment to helping improve the academic resources available to students, and student-athletes in particular."

Glenn says FedEx and Ole Miss are committed to providing a strong academic foundation to enable students to reach their full potential.

The gift is to be used to renovate a portion of the Starnes Athletic Center – which formerly housed football locker rooms, a weight room and training facilities – next to Vaught-Hemingway Stadium on All-American Drive. When complete, the 22,500-square-foot building will house the Office of Student-Athlete Academic Support, including offices, conference rooms, 20 large- and small-group tutoring rooms, a large study area, a multimedia classroom,

computer lab and a high-tech auditorium with seating for 150. Renovation is expected to be completed in fall 2006.

"American public universities are the best in the world largely because of the generosity of American corporations," says UM Chancellor Robert Khayat. "FedEx sets the standard for philanthropy by which others are meas-



FedEx's Mike Glenn visits with Ole Miss student-athlete, Arminie Price, after the announcement.

ured. In this case, Ole Miss student-athletes are the primary beneficiaries but all our students will benefit and, as a result, our entire state benefits."

Athletics Director Pete Boone says the FedEx Academic Support Center will play a valuable role in preparing athletes for success after their collegiate playing days are concluded.

"In recruiting, we make a commitment to young men and women and their parents. We promise to provide a positive environment of support to help them achieve their maximum potential in their academic and athletic pursuits," Boone says. "The FedEx Academic Support Center enables Ole Miss to go beyond that promise. The

center's front-line technology and classroom environment provide our student-athletes one of the best learning environments in the country."

Last year 111 Ole Miss athletes were named to the SEC Honor Roll. The football team ranked in the top 10 nationally for the NCAA Academic Performance Rate, and the four-year graduation rate for Ole Miss student-athletes exceeds the rate for the general student population.

"Athletics takes so much of our time, but our coaches always stress to us that we're students first and athletes second," says Arminie Price of Blue Mountain, Miss., a basketball guard. "When you travel on a road trip, you have to take your laptop and your books, and the (FedEx Academic Support Center) will give us a place to get together and work on the academic side of things when we're not playing."

Football lineman David Traxler of Jackson, Miss., agrees: "Most people think we football players just concentrate on football and don't worry about academics. But the education is the most important part because very few people ever make it to play pro football. This academic center is going to be great because it will really help us to get the work done to graduate and be successful after we're done playing football."

In addition to its latest gift to the university, FedEx supports several endowed scholarship programs, the Whitten Chair in Law, Lott Leadership Institute, William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation and William Faulkner's historic home, Rowan Oak. ■

UM Named Truman Honor Institution

The University of Mississippi is one of three universities nationwide to be recognized by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation for excellence in training future leaders.

UM joins Brandeis University and the University of Rhode Island as winner of the 2004 Truman Foundation Honor Institution Award. The award recognizes colleges and universities that have admirable participation in the Truman Scholarship Program.

"This is an extraordinary honor, in part because it recognizes university-wide commitment and achievement," says Dr. Douglass Sullivan-Gonzalez, UM's Truman Award faculty representative. "Ole Miss didn't win this award just because we had a student win a Truman Scholarship or because we've had 11 Truman Scholars over the last 20 years. We were recognized as a university for our determination to bring future leaders to this campus and then to support their intellectual and professional growth."

The foundation bases its selection on the school's encouragement of young people to pursue careers in public service, success in helping students win Truman Scholarships and whether the school had a Truman Scholar in 2004.

The award also points to the level of academic excellence made possible by private gifts from the university's alumni and friends. Gifts in recent years have strengthened the academic environment through such programs as the Lott Leadership Institute, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, Croft Institute for International Studies, Center for the Study of Southern Culture and many more.

Joel Fyke of Jackson, Miss., is UM's latest Truman Scholar – one of 75 students nationwide and the only student from a Mississippi college or university. To assist students preparing for careers in public service, the award provides \$26,000 for the senior year and graduate study. ■

Message from the Chancellor



Dear Friends,

In 1984, then-Chancellor Gerald Turner asked me to serve as Vice Chancellor for Development at Ole Miss. My acceptance was based on two conditions: one, that we would always have two pilots for the airplane and two, that Don Frugé serve as Executive Director of the University Foundation. Those requests were granted, and Don assumed responsibility for management of the University Foundation.

During the 21 years that Don has led the University Foundation, the organization has experienced remarkable growth. The assets have increased; operations have been modernized; investments have yielded strong returns, and the reputation of the University Foundation has been enhanced. In his quiet way, Don has provided integrity-based professional leadership that has resulted in our foundation being recognized as a national model.

With lead gifts from Louis Brandt and generous donations by a number of others, Memory House was purchased and restored; later the Carriage House was added providing an attractive office complex and one of our most heavily utilized reception and dining facilities. Located at the entrance to our campus, Memory House offers a warm, beautiful welcome to Ole Miss.

As Don leaves us, we express our profound appreciation to him for a job well done. He can enter retirement knowing that he has made the University of Mississippi better, stronger and more beautiful.

We wish him and Mary Ann good health, much happiness and peace.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert C. Khayat". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robert C. Khayat
Chancellor
University of Mississippi

Message from Don L. Frugé



Dear Friends,

The University of Mississippi Foundation has experienced tremendous growth which allows it to support the university in ever-increasing ways. In 1984 when Robert Khayat and Gerald Turner first asked me to assume the leadership of the foundation, 2,000 donors gave about \$2 million a year. Foundation assets totaled \$7 million, with less than \$1,000 in “unrestricted” cash in the bank. The foundation’s offices were then housed in 11 rooms in the Alumni House Motel.

Last fiscal year – 21 years later – 18,659 donors generously gave \$48.1 million in gifts. A total of \$40.1 was transferred to the university for scholarships, library support, faculty and academic support, athletics, and physical improvements. The total foundation and university endowment grew to \$367.3 million, which ranks 134th in the nation among 3,500 colleges and universities and 32nd in endowment per student at public universities. For the first six months of this fiscal year, alumni and friends have generously given \$26.9 million in private support, and the total endowment has grown to approximately \$380 million.

The staff in our office is the best ever – experienced, dedicated to service and of utmost integrity. Furthermore, they are a joy to work with daily. The receipting, processing, thanking and management of assets continue efficiently each day. The accounting function is the strongest it has ever been, and the new computer system makes all of our jobs more efficient. Please visit our expanded and outstanding website www.umf.ole-miss.edu.

The nine-person Joint Committee on Investments wisely and prudently invests the permanent endowment funds for the foundation, university and University of Mississippi Medical Center combined endowments. The Fund Evaluation Group of Cincinnati, Ohio, is employed as an overlay manager, and we employ 14 sub-managers in a well-diversified asset allocation of stocks, bonds and alternative investments. Through December 31, 2004, the ten-year total return on investments was 9.2%, which includes those three down years in the market.

The relationship between the University of Mississippi Foundation, the University of Mississippi Alumni Association, the Loyalty Foundation and the university itself is the best in the country, and we all intend to keep it this way. By June 30, the realignment of activities for alumni, development and the foundation will be complete, and it will be a true “win-win” for all concerned. The foundation continues to process all gifts and to improve services for the Loyalty Foundation.

In essence, the University Foundation is in great shape. The wonderful staff is in place; the \$280 million of foundation assets is solid and growing; it has no debts; its annual audit by a national accounting firm has produced yearly a clean audit opinion; and the systems, processes and technologies are state-of-the-art. We enjoy working in the finest foundation headquarters anywhere – Brandt Memory House and the relatively new Carriage House addition.

Because I feel so good with where the foundation is today, I advised the Chancellor Khayat, Board Chair Jamie Houston and the University Foundation Board of Directors at our mid-year meeting that it was time for me to retire and for them to begin the search process for a new president/CEO of the foundation. It is important to me to complete the fiscal year and the audit process in the fall. Our annual foundation board meeting is Oct. 21, and if a successor could be selected by that date, it makes corporate sense to elect a new president at that time.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunities first given me by now Chancellor Khayat and former Chancellor Gerald Turner and am proud of the role the foundation has played and continues to play in making lives better for our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving the university and the foundation in this small way for 21 great years.

Sincerely,

Don L. Frugé

Don L. Frugé
President/CEO
University of Mississippi Foundation

Exploring Philanthropy

Art Department Seeks Private Support for Expanding Needs,

Jan and Lawrence Farrington did not pursue degrees in art when they were University of Mississippi students, but their adult lives are filled with art – both as collectors and philanthropists.

When the couple accompanied a visiting sculptor on a tour of the UM Department of Art, the Farringtons immediately recognized needs that could be met with private gifts. They made a \$15,000 gift and are now involved in a

today's high-tech age. The largest number of art majors concentrates on web/graphic design and spends much time in computer labs. Upon graduation, these UM students are to produce web sites, newsletters, advertising designs, magazines and much more.

However, students working with ceramics, painting, printmaking and sculpture take digital photographs of their art and learn to present their portfolios on the web and on CDs, so they

Wicker and the Farringtons is twofold: The art department has many points of pride – including its successful graduates – but its needs are great. Here's an inventory:

- **Scholarship Endowments:** Scholarships are essential to recruit talented students and keep them in Mississippi. The Visual Artists Program, Patricia Spearman Hopson Scholarship and the Roy Frank Finger Memorial Scholarship are examples of funds created by donors but many others are needed.

“To attract gifted undergraduate and graduate students to the study of art history and art studio, the department has to be in the position to offer scholarship funds to superior students,” Wicker says. “We also need scholarships to assist students with financial need to take the art history class ‘Art on Location’ in which students study at off-campus locations, such as New York, London and Japan. This popular offering is inaccessible to students who cannot afford it.”

- **The Art Endowment:** The endowment, which should yield almost \$1,000 in the 2005-06 academic year, helps cover cost of equipment, supplies, delivering student/faculty art to exhibitions and faculty/graduate student travel to conferences. The department alone spends about \$10,000 annually on instructional supplies and \$25,000 on computer and software upgrades.

- **Funds for New Equipment:** With a new faculty position in imaging arts, the department is adding instruction in digital photography, which requires a computer lab. Start-up funds are needed for computers, printers, digital cameras, imaging

grass-roots effort to encourage other art appreciators to do the same.

“Can you imagine a world without art? Jan Farrington of Jackson, Miss., asks. “Artists throughout the ages have not only given us great beauty but also have provided a visual history of people, places and events. Art is an essential component of any strong liberal arts program. As in other disciplines, Mississippi has an abundant share of talented artists. We need to provide programs that allow the opportunity for creative growth and success.”

Art education has expanded with

also spend many hours in computer labs. Art history majors who go on to work in museums and galleries have to be proficient with computers, too.

There are 275 UM students majoring in art or art history, but more than 1,300 non-majors expand their knowledge of art by taking classes. “Everyone needs to achieve visual literacy, so the courses we provide for non-art majors are extremely important in preparing all university graduates to fully participate in a visual world,” says Dr. Nancy Wicker, chair of art.

The message being spread by



Art Enthusiasts Farringtons Start Grass-roots Initiative

software and a photographic dark-room. The department is hiring a full-time sculptor for the reinstatement of undergraduate and graduate degrees in sculpture. Three-dimensional, computer-aided design software and hardware are essential for this area.

- **Digital Projection Systems:** Digital projection systems must be in art classrooms in order to meet accreditation codes and enhance the scholarly and creative endeavors of students and faculty.
- **Gallery Space:** When the department moved to Meek Hall, renovations included construction of a teaching gallery, which is as crucial as laboratory space to a science department, says Wicker. However, a gallery is needed to showcase exhibitions from outside the university to expose art students to a wealth of ideas.
- **Endowed Faculty Chairs/Lectureships:** Private funds are sought for endowed faculty chairs/lectureships to enable the department to hire prominent scholars and artists. Gifts also could help faculty members attend conferences that both raise their visibility within their disciplines and the university's visibility on the regional, national and international levels.

The efforts of Wicker, the Farringtons and others come at a time when the art department is working to increase awareness of its programs. A rotating sculpture exhibition is underway, with the first two pieces installed: "Alchemy" by alumnus Willie Ray Parish in front of Meek Hall and "The Quest" by alumnus Branko Medenica in front of Old Chemistry.

Artist Bill Dunlap, coordinator of

the exhibit, says it's beneficial to display sculptures in educational settings.

"Many campuses have permanent sculptures," says Dunlap, who holds a master of fine arts degree from UM. "In fact, one morning when Chancellor Khayat and I were walking the campus, we noted that the few sculptures we do have add beauty and excitement. The rotating sculpture exhibition came from that discussion."

In addition, the art department hosted its first Art Alumni Reunion in

late spring as a way of bringing alumni together to reconnect with faculty and friends, serve as role models to current students and begin to help the department bring visiting artists and scholars to campus.

Individuals or organizations interested in supporting the UM Department of Art can contact Perry Moulds, major gifts officer for the College of Liberal Arts, at (662) 915-5961 or e-mail pmoulds@olemiss.edu or Dr. Nancy Wicker at (662) 915-7193 or e-mail nwicker@olemiss.edu. ■



Why Give?

by Suzan Thames

While conducting research in 1985 on a Junior League of Jackson project to determine the need and feasibility of building a separate facility for children with cancer at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), I came face to face with a parent's most dreaded fear: Our very own eight-year-old daughter was plagued with seriously painful and frequently debilitating head pain for which we could find no diagnosis.

Pillow to post in the medical arena my family and I traveled to no avail. Very frustrated, I shared our daughter's problem with a physician in the very department through which I was doing my research. That doctor encouraged us to seek a medical opinion from the UMMC Department of Pediatric Neurology. After cutting-edge and incredibly thorough testing, a spinal tap was performed, a curable diagnosis was made, and soon the agonizing headaches began to dissipate.

This was my first encounter with the miracles that happen daily at the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. I hasten to add that the Thames family eagerly anticipates this same daughter's upcoming wedding in August.

I share this story because, as I mention to audiences in all of our fundraisers, the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children at UMMC does, indeed, offer the most advanced technology and equipment and the most innovative and cutting-edge treatment in its fight

against childhood disease and injury in our state. It takes an incredible amount of funding to keep this facility – the only children's hospital in our state – at this level of excellence.

Most of the hospital's treatment programs are available nowhere else in Mississippi. The state's only children's cancer and sickle-cell program, only comprehensive treatment program for cystic fibrosis, only Level III pediatric ICU, and only pediatric epilepsy center are found at Batson Hospital for Children. It is also the state center for the correction of life-threatening congenital

heart defects, and the neonatal intensive care unit is recognized nationwide as one of the best and largest in the country. Inpatient admissions average 9,000 children a year, and nearly 80,000 other youngsters from all 82 counties annually are treated there as outpatients.

The Friends of Children's Hospital organization was established in 1989 to

developing people who need special facilities of their own." Our goal was to build a new comprehensive, state-of-the-art children's hospital at UMMC, and we were ready to set the state on fire to help us realize this goal.

Never let it be said that the widow's mite or even the smallest donation doesn't overwhelmingly impact the completion of a project. Friends of Children's Hospital organized chapters throughout the state and distributed educational materials on the hospital and the need for a new facility. Friends volunteers then planned and orchestrated projects and fundraisers that netted hundreds of dollars from the Hoe-down Bar-b-que in Itta Bena to millions of dollars from a gala event in Jackson attended by dozens of Hollywood's most famous stars. It took every penny raised from all the pockets of Mississippians to reach our goal: opening the five-floor Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children in May 1997.

Friends of Children's Hospital and supporters throughout Mississippi continue educational and fund-raising efforts. The Friends organization hosts an annual statewide golf tournament in



Suzan Thames

“...there is no limit to what dedicated volunteers and the giving hearts of Mississippians can accomplish.”

support and publicize the existing Children's Hospital. We members took our marching orders from Dr. Blair E. Batson who said, “Children are not just miniature adults; they are growing and

Philadelphia, is building a third Miracle Home in Jackson which is given away in a public drawing, prints and sells statewide Christmas cards designed by pediatric patients, and participates in

the annual Radiothon and the Children's Miracle Network at UMMC.

Indeed, I have learned there is no limit to what dedicated volunteers and the giving hearts of Mississippians can accomplish. In October 2004, two new additional floors were opened at the Batson Children's Hospital: One floor designed entirely for pediatric surgery and the other devoted to pediatric subspecialty clinics.

I have described for you what the word "giving" has meant to me in relation to building and supporting a children's hospital. Were it not for the people of Mississippi opening their hearts and sharing their resources at grass-roots and ever-upward levels, we never could have built this children's hospital – a place made necessary by illness and injury – but at Batson, a place made sacred by the innocence and faith of the children it serves.

Editor's Note: Suzan Thames earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Mississippi and a master's degree from Tulane University and then received a fellowship to the University of Wisconsin to study behavioral disabilities. Her career as a diagnostic audiologist at the Jackson (Miss.) Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic spanned 33 years. Thames has been an active UMMC volunteer for 20 years, first serving on the Advisory Panel to attract funds for the Children's Cancer Clinic. She also was the inaugural chair of Project REACH, which works with children and families with cancer. Thames became the chairperson of the Board of Friends of Children's Hospital, which secured funds for the construction of the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children and is a member of the Board of Directors of the University Foundation. The esteemed children's advocate is married to Tommy Thames, and they are the parents of three daughters and one granddaughter. ■

UM Receives \$103,000 Donation from ExxonMobil

...Gift represents funds from UM alums matched 3-to-1 by company foundation

A \$103,000 check from the ExxonMobil Foundation is to strengthen academic offerings of the University of Mississippi because of a remarkable matching gifts program.

UM alumnus and Exxon Mobil Corp. financial analyst Mark Partin of Dallas presented the gift to Chancellor Robert Khayat in a recent special ceremony.

"The generous gift from the ExxonMobil Foundation will help us strengthen our academic programs," Khayat says. "With perhaps the most liberal matching gifts program we have encountered, the ExxonMobil Foundation enables our graduates who are employees of ExxonMobil to contribute significantly to the



Mark Partin presents gift to Chancellor Khayat.

well being of Ole Miss. We are profoundly grateful."

The gift was made possible by the foundation's Educational Matching Gift Program in which Exxon Mobil Corp. employees, retirees, surviving spouses and directors make individual contributions that are matched 3-to-1 by the foundation.

"There's probably no greater honor than to have been asked to represent the ExxonMobil

Foundation in supporting

the education opportunities for Ole Miss students who will someday possibly be fellow employees," says Partin, who received bachelor's and master's degrees in accountancy from the university in 1981 and 1982.

This year as a result of its 2004 program, ExxonMobil will donate more than \$26 million to 932 colleges and universities across the United States. The gift to UM was made possible by individual donations totaling about \$39,000 plus the matching funds. The money represents Ole Miss graduates from several areas of study, including accountancy and engineering, and goes into the university's general operating budget.

Initiated in 1962, the ExxonMobil Foundation's program matches gifts to higher education up to \$5,000 a year on a 3-to-1 basis. It has provided more than \$301 million to higher education in the United States. In response to the program's tremendous support and success, ExxonMobil has increased the amount per donor to \$7,500 starting with 2005 donations. ■

Family of Late W.P. 'Bill' Thomas Creates Endowment in His Memory to Help UM

William Preston "Bill" Thomas of Greenwood, Miss., was a lynchpin of the Mississippi Delta's farming, business, civic and social life for 25 years. His death in a car accident a year ago left a void in the lives of his family, friends and community.

His extraordinary life and influence will continue to have an impact, however, thanks to a new scholarship estab-

"Integrity, honesty and respect for others were among the qualities that made Bill Thomas such an extraordinary person. Students with those characteristics will be selected as recipients of the Bill Thomas scholarship."

The scholarship will be awarded to freshmen with an ACT score of 20-25 and a high school grade-point average of 2.5 or higher. Students will receive the scholarship for eight semesters if

also provided leadership on the board of the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission and such agricultural strongholds as Staple Cotton Cooperative Association and Staple Cotton Discount Corp., Delta Council, Cotton Inc. and Farmers Supply Co-op. His community involvement included leadership roles in Planters Bank and Trust Co., Pillow Academy, Episcopal Church of the Nativity and Greenwood Country Club.

Thomas' death hit people especially hard at Planters Bank, Staplcotn, Cotton Inc. and Pillow. Planters, Staplcotn, Cotton Inc. and others issued resolutions expressing their grief upon his death. Beginning this fall Pillow will help subsidize tuition for families wanting to provide their children with a quality Christian education in honor of Thomas' service on its endowment board.

"Bill came to us and expressed a need for a bank in Greenwood," says Henry Paris, retired Planters president and CEO. "He helped us with the research and feasibility work and served on the first board of directors of the Greenwood branch. He was serving at the time of his death."

"Bill Thomas was my friend as well as a member of the board that hired me," says Woods Eastland, Staplcotn president and CEO. "Besides the loss of a personal friend of several of us in management, Staplcotn lost a leader of intelligence, foresight and high personal values who embodied the traits required to govern this company."

Thomas' death also was felt at Ole Miss, where son Preston is a senior real estate major and daughter Carter is a junior marketing and merchandising major. His father, J.T. (Tol) Thomas III, his wife and two brothers, Sanford C.



UM Chancellor Robert Khayat, from left, Jane Carter Thomas, Ann Carter Thomas and William Preston Thomas Jr.

lished in his memory at the University of Mississippi by his widow, Jane Carter Thomas, and two children, William Preston Thomas Jr. and Ann Carter Thomas.

The W.P. "Bill" Thomas Scholarship Endowment is to provide scholarships to students from counties in the area he loved: Coahoma, Leflore, Quitman, Holmes, Sunflower and Tallahatchie.

"We are grateful to Jane Thomas and her family for creating a scholarship for deserving Ole Miss students," says Chancellor Robert Khayat.

they maintain a 2.5 GPA.

"This is one way we can honor Bill's memory and remember someone who believed in giving back," Jane Thomas says.

Thomas obtained his banking and finance degree from Ole Miss in 1975 and a law degree from Mississippi College in 1979. He operated Egypt Planting Co., a large farming operation in Leflore, Carroll, Holmes and Humphreys counties.

At his death, he had served 10 years as chairman of the Leflore County Soil and Water Conservation District. He

Scholarship Students

Thomas of Oxford and James T. Thomas IV of Jackson, also graduated from Ole Miss, so attending campus events was a family affair.

Thomas also was involved in building the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house because he was active in its house corporation.

"During rush this past year, a freshman from Pillow Academy who I hardly knew came up to me and told me how much my dad meant to him," Preston Thomas says. "He told me that my dad didn't have to talk to him or take the time to do so but he always went out of his way to ask about him and talk to him. He said it meant a lot to him that dad did that.

"My father, an average student, was able to earn his law degree and become a successful businessman and a great father. He worked during the day and went to law school at night. I don't know how he did it, but he's a perfect example of how a student can accomplish anything if they put their mind to it."

"My father never told my brother and me of the generous things he was doing in the community," Carter Thomas says. "He never wanted others to know what he did. He never thought of doing things for the praise or rewards he would get in return. He just did nice and generous things because he wanted to."

"Bill had found a deeper meaning for his life," Sanford Thomas says. "He had all eight cylinders running and was able to pull together his family life, social life, business life and ride heard on that huge, sophisticated network and give back to his neighbors ten-fold."

Individuals and organizations interested in supporting the Bill Thomas Memorial Scholarship Endowment can contact the University of Mississippi Foundation at (662) 915-5944 or 800-340-9542, or e-mail umf@olemiss.edu. ■

2005 Pharmacy Class Remembers Ewing Through License Plate Scholarship

As the UM 2005 doctor of pharmacy class members graduated and began their professional careers, they kept working to ensure the memory of one of their classmates will live on through future classes.

Students Su Bunniran, Beau Cox, Todd Dear and Kyle Null led the class in initiation of the Amie Ewing Memorial Scholarship Endowment Award to honor classmate Amie Ewing of Oxford, Miss., who was killed in September 2004 following the Ole Miss vs. Memphis football game.



"We thought a scholarship would be an appropriate way to honor Amie and pass her memory down from class to class, year after year," says Cox, a friend and class president.

Each spring a fourth-year student(s) is to be selected to

receive the scholarship. The selected student(s) must demonstrate those characteristics exemplified in Ewing, who also was a member of the Ole Miss Volleyball team from 1999-2002. The recipient(s) must exhibit determination, good citizenship, professionalism and maturity within School of Pharmacy activities and the greater community. Olivia Robinson, 2004 Pharmacy Student Body president, was the inaugural recipient.

Funding for the scholarship is to be primarily provided by the sale of State of Mississippi specialty vehicle tags. Mississippi natives Cox of Nettleton, Dear of Jackson, Null of Meridian and Bunniran of Raymond worked with state legislators to propose a pharmacy specialty automobile tag to promote the profession.

"The license plate was chosen because we noticed that other professions had a specialty license plate and pharmacy did not," Cox says. "A license plate would generate money, so we decided the money raised via tag sales should go to Amie's scholarship."

To design the license plate, the students held a contest throughout the pharmacy student body. The Ewing family selected the winning design by third-year student Clay Taylor. The design includes an image of the State of Mississippi with a mortar and pestle inside it and the RX to the left of the tag numbers, the initials A.E. on the right and the phrase "Ask Your Pharmacist" across the bottom.

The license plate is available to the general public (tag not limited to pharmacists) at an additional cost of \$31 per vehicle tag, with \$24 going towards the Amie Ewing Scholarship fund. Each year the tag is renewed, the scholarship will be credited with \$24.

To purchase a license plate you will follow the usual process with your local county tax collection and tag department and indicate you want the new Pharmacy specialty license plate. To make a contribution to the scholarship fund you may send your gifts to the University of Mississippi Foundation, Post Office Box 249, University, MS 38677 and indicate they are for the Amie Ewing Memorial Scholarship Endowment. ■

Gift of \$200,000 Creates Liberto-King Professorship at UM Business School

Endowed fund pays tribute to successful businessmen, longtime friends

V. A. Liberto and Julius W. King became friends as University of Mississippi students in 1942, served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and shared office headquarters – as well as life experiences – for decades.

The names of the Laurel, Miss., businessmen now grace a new professorship in the UM School of Business Administration, thanks to a combined \$200,000 gift from King and Liberto's widow, Dr. Maureen Liberto. Each gave \$100,000 in Liberto's memory to complete the university's goal of attracting \$500,000 in private funds for a second endowed professorship in the area of insurance and risk management.

Liberto, who died in 2003, owned the insurance firm of Liberto & Associates and was honored on many occasions by the insurance industry; King continues work in his firm J.W. King Oil Properties. The two friends, who graduated in 1943 with business degrees from UM, also were involved in investment opportunities together.

"V.A. was a successful businessman, but his business commitments came after his main priorities: his faith, family and friends," says Dr. Maureen Liberto, the assistant director of admissions and guidance at Jones County Junior College. "He was a devout Catholic who lived his life as a example of his faith. V.A. was patient, kind and bigger-than-life. His strong handshake and his genuine interest in other people created almost instant bonds.

"V.A. had been in business all his life, and he was a wonderful mentor to young insurance agents," says Liberto of her husband, who was recognized nationally as a top producer in the insurance field. "When we attended insurance conventions, he would sit patiently

and listen to young agents excitedly talk about their work. He was always so interested. I hope the insurance program at Ole Miss continues to grow and that this endowed position enables a professor to mentor many students."

King – a longtime university supporter who continues to attend cultural and athletics events on the Oxford campus – says his gift is meant to pay tribute to V.A. Liberto and their alma mater.

"V.A. and I felt the same about life and people and shared a lot of common friends," King says. "He was always outgoing, helpful and enjoyable to be around. I wanted to show appreciation for the warm, wonderful friendship V.A. and I shared for many years, as well as for the

outstanding job Ole Miss is doing. In the past few years, I have admired the great progress the university has made in attracting resources to further develop the magnificent (Oxford) campus, both aesthetically and academically. The leadership is outstanding."

Dr. Brian Reithel, dean of business administration, says the gifts to establish the professorship will play a pivotal role in the education of UM students who seek careers in the insurance industry.

"The Liberto/King Professorship helps solidify the level of excellence we have with our insurance and risk management program, which has grown to be the fifth largest program of its kind in the nation (according to *Business Insurance* magazine)," Reithel says. "We are excited about building on past successes and continuing the insurance

program's rise in national prominence."

In the last decade, the insurance and risk management program has seen restructuring and has experienced dramatic growth in enrollment, says the dean. Today there are more than 130 students pursuing degrees in the dynamic program.

"The devoted faculty members, particularly Dr. Larry Cox, are in touch with the insurance industry. They provide a stability and consistency that is vital to the program's long-term success and the business school's ability to serve our many stakeholders' needs effectively," Reithel says.

"We are profoundly grateful to Dr. Liberto and Mr. King for recognizing and addressing a critical need," says Dr. Larry Cox, holder of

UM's Robertson Chair of Insurance and the academic lead professor for the program. "Strong faculty members beget strong graduates. Now we can take steps to firmly establish the UM insurance and risk management program as one of the truly elite in the United States."

The annual UM business school-hosted insurance symposium draws more than 350 professionals to campus to hear top speakers from across the country and to interact with faculty and students.

"Career paths in the commercial insurance world are highly attractive to students and result in well-satisfied alumni, who come back to campus to share their success stories," Cox says.

The business school is expected to name the holder of the Liberto/King Professorship later this year. ■



V.A. Liberto

Tutor Family Chooses to Strengthen Alma Mater with Gift Through Will

An everlasting gift to the University of Mississippi is assured through the will of two alumni who credit their college educations for financial success.

Jesse and Betty Tutor of Houston, Texas, have made provision for an estimated \$500,000 from their estate to be given to Ole Miss to fund the Jesse and Betty Tutor Scholarship in Accountancy.

"We are so grateful to the Tutors for their deferred gift to the Patterson School," says Dr. Morris Stocks, dean of the Patterson School of Accountancy. "Financial support from our alumni and friends is critical to our success."

In paying tribute to the School of Accountancy for his career success, Jesse Tutor says, "Professors Jimmy Davis and Gene Peery were my mentors, and they had a lot to do not only with making sure that I took all the right courses but they also saw to it that I got job interviews with the right people."

After receiving his bachelor's degree in accountancy in 1968 – and being a gold medal winner in the state of Mississippi for the CPA exam – Tutor went to work for Arthur Andersen and Andersen Consulting. He recently retired from Accenture, a \$12 billion, publicly held consulting firm that evolved from the company's consulting practice. He was partner at Accenture for the last 23 years of his career.

The Tutors established the UM scholarship in 1998 and make regular contributions toward funding it. When Tutor retired in 2002, the couple looked for a way to ensure its funding in perpetuity, and the deferred giving arrangement seemed to be the best alternative, he says.

"More and more alumni are choosing a deferred contribution as a means to make the gift of a lifetime," says Sandra Guest, director of University Advancement. "These thoughtful gifts will help ensure that a permanent source of funds are forever available for Ole Miss students."



Betty and Jesse Tutor

A native of Meridian, Tutor chose to attend Ole Miss because members of his family were graduates and the university offered "excellent programs in pharmacy and business, the two careers I was considering," he says.

"Professor Peery introduced me to the Big Eight firms and the associated opportunity. I did not want to be an auditor, but the consulting practice appealed to me."

Tutor's career path is impressive: He was the company's consulting managing partner of the Houston metropolitan area 1987-89, Southwest Region managing partner 1989-91, leader of strategic initiatives for the Americas

1991-93 and managing partner for Americas Business Integration 1994-96. After the company's global reorganization in 1997, he became managing partner for the Global Services Organization. Subsequently, he was responsible for the global information technology, human resources, business architecture and partner matters functions.

Looking back on his early career, Tutor says he feels he received a well-rounded education at UM, learning both in and out of the classroom. He served as president of Sigma Chi fraternity, was awarded a Taylor Medal and was elected to the UM Hall of Fame.

"I felt my education was comparable to the people I began working with," he says. "I had learned to deal with people, and I found that to be a very important skill in the business world."

The Tutors met while they were students on the Oxford campus. A native of Pope, she also graduated from Ole Miss, earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education and master's in specialized reading.

"Betty taught for a few years and then dedicated herself to raising our family and participating as a fund-raiser and special events planner for numerous arts organizations and charities," Tutor says. "We have two children, Brooks, 33, and Sherida, 31. Brooks and his wife, Kim, recently presented us with our first granddaughter, Layla."

Although retired, Tutor stays active in his community, including service on the board of directors of the Houston Grand Opera and Houston Symphony, and on the executive committee of the Houston Symphony. ■

Reithel Becomes Dean of Business School

Dr. Brian J. Reithel now leads the School of Business Administration as its dean.

A member of the faculty since 1991, Reithel, 42, professor of management information systems, has served as interim dean since July 2003, following service as associate vice chancellor for university relations, then head of the business school's MIS program. His appointment has been approved by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning.

"Dr. Reithel has a distinguished career in teaching, research and as an administrator," says Chancellor Robert Khayat. "He played a key role in the success of the *Commitment to Excellence Campaign* that included the construction of Holman Hall (home of the business school). He was a member of the team that planned the installation of state of the art information technology equipment for the business school. During his term as interim dean, he has provided strong leadership, and we are delighted that he has accepted our invitation to serve as dean."

Reithel becomes 10th dean of the school, which first opened its doors in 1917. It reached a record-high enrollment last fall of more than 3,000 stu-

dents on the Oxford campus. The school operates on an annual budget of about \$8 million with 52 full-time faculty members.

outstanding opportunities for our business students and offering valuable support through research and service to the business community."

During the 1990s, the school built a new complex and revamped its curriculum to integrate the latest computer and information technology into a contemporary program that emphasizes practical application. The new dean is credited with providing leadership that has helped make UM's management information systems program one of the best in the

Southeast. As an associate professor in 2002-03, he chaired the MIS and Productions/Operation Management Department as part of the business school's reorganization. He led that faculty group as the MIS/POM coordinator from 1998 until 2002.

Dr. Gloria Kellum, vice chancellor for university relations, says Reithel "will lead our School of Business Administration to even greater heights."



Dr. Brian J. Reithel

processes to achieve those goals in the most pragmatic way."

Reithel was the first head of UM's Lott Leadership Institute as its interim director. He was co-director of the uni-

versity's *Commitment to Excellence Campaign*, which attracted more than \$525.9 million in gifts and pledges and concluded in December 2000.

As associate vice chancellor for university relations, 2001-02, Reithel helped guide UM's comprehensive strategic planning effort and partnered with Kellum to oversee completion of

the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, a \$25 million, 90,000-square-foot facility. As co-chair of the university's Sesquicentennial Celebration, 1995-98, he was instrumental in advancing the goals of the effort through expansive community outreach.

His teaching honors at UM include the School of Business Outstanding Teacher Award, MBA Teacher of the Year Award and School of Business Favorite Teacher Award.

A native of New Mexico, Reithel received his doctoral and master's degrees from Texas Tech University and his bachelor's degree in business administration from Eastern New Mexico University. His teaching and research focus on MIS.

Reithel recently was named 2005 Mississippian of the Year by the Association of Information Technology Professionals. He is president of AITP, which was founded in 1951 as the National Machine Accountants Association, one of the oldest and largest associations for IT professionals in the country. ■

"He will lead our School of Business Administration to even greater heights."

— Vice Chancellor Gloria Kellum

dents on the Oxford campus. The school operates on an annual budget of about \$8 million with 52 full-time faculty members.

"I'm deeply honored to be part of the leadership team of this amazing business school," Reithel says. "With the support of our outstanding faculty, I'm confident that we will continue to move the school forward by providing

"Having worked closely with Brian for over 10 years, I know personally of his expertise, enthusiasm, loyalty and dedication to our university and to its students, faculty, staff and alumni," Kellum says. "Among Dean Reithel's many strengths is the ability to bring people and ideas together to form a consensus, then to take the ideas and goals and set forth and establish

Beloved Engineering Prof, Researcher Dies

... Building was named in his honor with sons giving \$200,000

Dr. Charles E. Smith, one of the University of Mississippi's most beloved professors and researchers, died suddenly May 12 at his home in Oxford. He was 70.

Two weeks before his death, Smith, professor emeritus and former chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering, was named an Engineer of Distinction, the School of Engineering's highest honor. He attracted millions in research funding and helped put the engineering school on the map for his work with electromagnetics, radar power and antennas.

A few months before his death, the building where he conducted most of his research was renamed the Charles

Smith Engineering Sciences Building from completing his doctorate at Auburn University. He brought with him his wife, Evelyn, and their young sons, Chuck and Steve. Gary was born in Oxford.

What began simply as the first job in a young professor's career became Smith's life work. Although he retired as chair of electrical engineering in 2002 after nearly 36 years as a professor and researcher, Smith still could be found in the Engineering Science Building on any given day, working on projects and inspiring his colleagues.

"Charles was one of our most loved and respected faculty members," Chancellor Robert Khayat says. "His students saw him as someone who cared

Dean Kai-Fong Lee, also an electrical engineer. "His devotion to students was total. It was my honor and privilege to have the opportunity to work with Charles as a colleague and friend. His loss to the School of Engineering is irreplaceable."

At the school's annual spring alumni banquet, Smith was surprised with the Engineer of Distinction honor. Only three other faculty members have received the award in 22 years.

Smith directed more than 55 research projects in his career and, in the last 10 years alone, he helped attract more than \$6 million in research funding. But his greatest legacy is the generations of UM engineering graduates scattered around the world who owe their success, at least in part, to him.

During the Smith building dedication, Chancellor Khayat read a letter from one of those students, Army Capt. Matt Dorsey, then serving in the war in Iraq, who donated to the Smith building fund while still overseas.

"When I hear the name Charles Smith," Dorsey wrote, "the first words that come to mind are inspiration, enthusiasm, devotion, dedication, brilliance, compassion and understanding. ... Dr. Smith sincerely cared for students."

During Smith's tenure at UM, he won the Outstanding Engineering Faculty Award five times, more than any other professor since the award was first given in 1966.

"All I ever wanted was to be happy and have a meaningful life," Smith said at the building dedication. He told the crowd that teaching made him happy and his research was meaningful, but that he was just one of a team of faculty. "We've done a great job. We, not me. It's been fun, I've been happy, and above all, it's been really meaningful." ■



UM Engineering Dean Kai-Fong Lee helps Evelyn Smith and the now late Charles Smith unveil a picture of the Engineering Sciences Building as it looks after its renaming in Smith's honor.

E. Smith Engineering Sciences Building. His sons – Charles "Chuck" Jr., Steve and Gary Smith, all alumni of UM electrical engineering – donated \$200,000 as a tribute to their father to the Campaign of Engineering, an effort aimed at renovating and expanding the engineering school's facilities and programs.

Charles Smith joined the UM School of Engineering in 1968, fresh

deeply for their well-being, and his colleagues admired him for the quality and depth of his research. He will be missed."

Many expressed sadness at his death.

"Despite his towering achievement of building the Electromagnetics Group at Ole Miss into one of national prominence, Charles was a modest man and a true gentleman," says engineering

Alumni Volunteer Heeds Call to Encourage Graduates, Friends to Fund Chancellor's Trust

Fund raising, a mission regarded as crucial by some and challenging by others, is considered a "labor of love" by University of Mississippi alumnus Roger Flynt Jr.

"Because I love the university, that made it easy for me to do," says Flynt as to why he agreed to help recruit members during a one-year campaign for the Chancellor's Trust. Flynt's efforts attracted almost \$300,000 to the Chancellor's Trust in pledges and gifts.

Established in 1975, the Chancellor's Trust accepts unrestricted gifts for academic purposes and allow the chancellor and provost to address the greatest needs that arise during an academic year. Some examples are scholarships, enrichment opportunities for faculty, and matching funds for gifts and grants.

There's no doubt that Flynt, a 2003 UM Alumni Hall of Fame

However, he also was encouraged to roll up his sleeves for UM at the request of one of his longtime friends and Phi Delta Theta fraternity brothers - UM Chancellor Robert Khayat -

for the University of Mississippi."

"After his retirement he volunteered to help the university in any way, and I asked him to assume leadership in the recruitment of Chancellor's Trust members," Khayat says.

"I've always tried to do what I could in giving back to the university for what it's given to me,"

— Roger Flynt Jr.

who asked him to head up the significant effort.

"I've always tried to do what I could in giving back to the university for what it's given to me," says Flynt, who chaired the University Foundation board and served on the Commitment to Excellence campaign steering committee. "I'm so fond and so proud

of the Chancellor's Trust members," Khayat says. "He enthusiastically accepted the request and has been remarkably successful in calling on Ole Miss friends and colleagues to join in the effort to strengthen Ole Miss through membership in the Chancellor's Trust."

Flynt also recruited a special trio of alumni - his three sons - as members of the Chancellor's Trust.

Benefaction from the them - R. Mayo Flynt, vice president of regulatory and external affairs at BellSouth Corp.'s Birmingham office; John Flynt, a Birmingham lawyer; and Russell Flynt, a staff member at the University of Florida Campus Crusade for Christ - as well as from other alumni and friends, enable the fund to entrust a measurable legacy to the university, its students and to society in general, Khayat says.

In addition to three sons, Roger Flynt Jr. and his wife, Gaye, have a

daughter, Mary Kathryn, who attends the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Flynt, a Meridian, Miss., native, and his wife moved to Oxford



Mayo Flynt, from left, Roger Flynt Jr., John Flynt, and Russell Flynt

inductee, volunteered his time and efforts to help boost the unique fund because he is devoted to his alma mater and deemed it a worthy cause.

of the chancellor."

Khayat returns the compliment by expressing his own admiration for Flynt and his "extraordinary affection

Other UM Fund

from Atlanta nearly three years ago.

Flynt, who practiced law in Jackson, Miss., was assistant attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi from 1966-69, and worked for Bell-South Corp. for more than 30 years. Upon retiring in 1999, he was executive vice president, responsible for all BellSouth political and regulatory matters in nine Southeastern states.

He also served as vice president and president-elect of the United States Telephone Association, representing all Bell and independent telephone companies on legal, legislative and regulatory matters.

Flynt was UM's Law Alumnus of the year in 1992 and established the South Central Bell Legal Department Scholarship in Law Endowment Fund in 1988.

Flynt was the sole alumni volunteer for promoting the Chancellor's Trust, Khayat says.

"We learned long ago that for us to be successful we would have to have the involvement of alumni volunteers in the private development efforts of the university," Khayat says. "The Commitment to Excellence campaign was a volunteer-led initiative and is among the most successful private gift campaigns in higher education history (\$529 million).

"At a time when state support of higher education is declining, we will have to depend upon our alumni and friends for greater involvement in the solicitation and donation of private gifts."

Chancellor's Trust membership is a one-time gift of \$25,000, which can be paid out over a five-year period, and members receive invitations to special events. Individuals and organizations can learn more about the fund through the University Foundation by calling (662) 915-5955 or 800-340-9542 or e-mailing unf@olemiss.edu. ■

Widow Provides Law Scholarship Resources As Way of Continuing Legacy of Husband, Senator

Former state senator, the late William Edward McIntyre Jr., planted the seeds of his legal and political careers at the UM School of Law. Decades after his death, McIntyre's influence lives on at the law school, thanks to a \$100,000 gift from his widow, Harriet Humphreys of Jackson, Miss.

The gift creates the William Edward McIntyre Jr. Memorial Scholarship, to be awarded to an outstanding entering UM law student once every three years.

"Scholarships constitute our greatest need as we continue to strive to attract the best students to the law school," says Dean of Law Samuel Davis. "I am deeply appreciative of Mrs. Humphreys' generosity in endowing this scholarship to memorialize her late husband, a great public servant and a great friend of the law school."

McIntyre, a 1948 graduate of UM's law school, served as a Mississippi state senator for Rankin and Smith counties. He practiced law with his father – also a UM law graduate – in Brandon, Miss., until his death in 1980.

Humphreys, who met her husband while she was a student at UM, says McIntyre cherished his time at the law school. He served as associate editor of the *Mississippi Law Journal*, vice president of Ole Miss Veterans and president of his junior class, and was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity.

"I hope this scholarship will help a deserving student and aspiring lawyer receive their law degree," Humphreys says. "I think that Ole Miss has a great law



William E. McIntyre, Jr.

school. My granddaughter recently graduated from Ole Miss and worked her whole way through law school. I think that there is a need for more scholarships for law students."

The endowment is expected to generate about \$5,000 a year, says Tim Walsh, associate director of alumni affairs and major gifts officer for the UM law school.

"I continue to be in awe of the generosity of our alumni and their families and their dedication to the law school," Walsh says. "This scholarship will help us continue to provide a quality legal education for our students." ■

Anonymous Gift from Student's Parents Establishes George Cochran Scholarship

UM law students love to share stories about professor George Cochran. They dread his constitutional law classes before they enroll. But by semester's end, they thank him for caring.

Parents of one of Cochran's former students were so impressed with the influence the professor had on their son's life, they endowed a scholarship in his honor.

"It was very unexpected," Cochran says. "I'm just doing what I'm supposed to do. I would hope that people would find this a worthy cause to put their money behind. I want to turn this into a viable scholarship to get money for my students."

The anonymous \$25,000 gift creates the George C. Cochran Scholarship in Law, which will be awarded once every three years to a full-time entering law student selected by a scholarship committee. The student will receive \$1,200 a year for three years.

"As I visit our alumni, George is someone they always ask about," says Samuel Davis, dean of law. "He has a profound impact on all who take his classes, and it is gratifying to see that the parents of one of those students

want to honor him in this special way."

Cochran, a faculty member since 1974, teaches constitutional law, Supreme Court practice and federal jurisdiction and procedure.

"Beyond his unique style of instructing and his encyclopedic knowledge of landmark jurisprudence, his spirit is what I remember most," says attorney Warren Martin, one of Cochran's former students. "As I visited his office a few times, he'd stop what he was doing, take off his glasses and proceed to clarify any misconceptions I had. And every time I left his office, he'd say, 'love ya man.'"

During his professional career, Cochran, a former Washington, D.C., attorney, has served as director of the Center on Law and Poverty at Duke University and as an attorney for the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. For the last 14 years, Cochran has been a visiting professor at Fordham University.

He also works with the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York.

"George Cochran serves as a perpetual reminder of the good which can radiate from the portals of the human spirit," Martin says.

Joyce Whittington, the law school's director of career services, befriended Cochran during his early years at UM.

"Because he's perceived as having this gruff demeanor in class, some students may be afraid of him," Whittington says. "But he's the kindest man I've ever known. I dread the day when he retires."

Cochran says retiring hasn't crossed his mind.

"Being a law professor is a very rewarding profession," he says.

Whittington said she admires Cochran's dedication to racial equality in the state and throughout the South.

"He believes that every one should be on an equal playing field," Whittington says. "He believes it and he lives it." ■



George Cochran

Father's Estate Memorializes Son with UM

A new scholarship promises to make attending the University of Mississippi School of Law more affordable for some out-of-state students.

The Lester Robert Dunham Jr. Memorial Scholarship in Law is the result of a \$450,000 gift from the estate of Lester Robert Dunham, who named

the scholarship for his son.

Dunham Jr. of Clifton, N.J., was a 1974 graduate of the law school. He practiced law in Clifton, N.J., where he also served in the prosecutor's office. He died Sept. 20, 1992, after a lengthy battle with cystic fibrosis.

"It was a miracle he lived as long

as he did," says his cousin Vernon Packard Jr., who was one of several family members who attended the younger Dunham's law school graduation. "It meant a lot to all of us just to see him graduate."

Packard says Dunham Jr. chose to attend the UM Law School because "he thought it was the best law school

Law Alumnus Leonard Melvin Continues Strong Tradition of Giving to Ole Miss

With a \$100,000 gift to the University of Mississippi School of Law, Laurel, Miss., attorney Leonard B. Melvin Jr. continues to give back to UM and the community where he found success.

"The University of Mississippi has been my life," Melvin says. "It has put me where I am today as a lawyer who has practiced for 56 years."

Melvin, a 1948 UM law school graduate, has previously endowed a law scholarship in his father's name, funded the construction of the law school's Leonard B. Melvin Moot Court Room, also named for his father, and funded a \$100,000 law lectureship.

"The law school has no greater need than that for scholarships to recruit the best and brightest students," says Dean of Law Samuel Davis. "I am deeply grateful to Leonard for his friendship and for his generosity."

This recent endowment creates the Leonard B. Melvin Jr. Scholarship in Law. Starting in the fall semester of 2006, the \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to an entering law student. The selection committee will give preference to students from Jones County, where Melvin lives and practices. The student will keep the

scholarship for three years, after which time a new recipient will be named.

The reasons for his generosity, Melvin says, are simple.

"I've had a good life. I want to do this while I'm alive and can see the benefits of it."

Melvin comes from a large family of Ole Miss graduates. All five of his siblings and both of his children graduated from the university. His father, brother, son and niece all graduated from the UM law school.

"The University of Mississippi is a good school," Melvin says. "It turns out a good product."

Melvin, who practices general law and is a past president of both the Mississippi Bar Association and the Mississippi Trial Lawyers Association, is respected among his peers locally and nationally.

"Leonard, in my judgment, has been one of the most dedicated, hard-working professionals I've seen in my life," says Cleveland attorney Ben Griffith, who graduated from the UM law school in 1975 and first met Melvin at a bar convention when he was a student. "He has been a consistent model of hard work and dedication for younger lawyers like me. (We) have

tried cases together in state court, and you learn very quickly that the bonding process between an older and younger lawyer can last a lifetime."

Griffith, a partner in the firm Griffith and Griffith, says he continues to be in awe of Melvin's work ethic — one honed serving in World War II. Melvin was a member of the Fifth Tank Battalion, Company B, 16th Armored Division.

"He is an inspiration to me," Griffith says.

Melvin and several of his classmates left the university to serve in the war but found their way back to the law school in 1946.

"We'd all been in the service and come back after the war," says Melvin, who recently returned from Prague, Czech Republic, where his tank battalion held its 60th anniversary reunion.

"His patriotism is very deep," Griffith says. "It is a highly motivating factor in his life."

Melvin said his devotion to law, the military and the university will continue as long as he lives. Right now, retirement is not in the picture, he says.

"I practice law eight days a week," Melvin says. "There's not a court around that I'm not a member of." ■

Law Scholarship Endowment

that he could go to."

According to official documents creating the scholarship, the purpose of the fund is "to honor in perpetuity Lester Robert Dunham Jr. and to assist deserving men and women who are pursuing a legal education at the University of Mississippi."

The Dunham estate is to continue

contributing to the permanent endowment.

The \$3,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to a full-time, non-resident law student selected by the Law School Scholarship Committee. It is to be awarded based on need and merit.

"This endowment will have a

tremendous impact on the quality of students we are able to recruit," says Stephen Snead, the law school's assistant to the dean for advancement. "It is also a shining example of what a legacy planned gifts can leave. The Dunham family will be remembered forever for their commitment to legal education." ■

Children of Late Sally McDonnell Barksdale with New Scholarship Endowment Through

The children of the late philanthropist Sally McDonnell Barksdale of Jackson, Miss., have created a scholarship at the University of Mississippi to follow her lesson: Give back to your community by choosing wisely where you will make the greatest impact.

Susan Barksdale Howorth, Betsy Barksdale Pokorny and David Barksdale chose education by endowing a \$100,000 scholarship fund through the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy. Sally McDonnell Barksdale, a Hazlehurst native and UM alumna, was a founding member of the council.

"We decided a Women's Council scholarship was the appropriate tribute to Mom because she had so enjoyed her work on the council and really felt like she was helping students," says Howorth of Oxford. "Mom and Dad had done so much together for the university, but Mom served on the council on her own. There were so many gifts contributed in her name to the Women's Council, and

we wanted to do something as siblings. It is comforting to know that for years to come there will be a Sally Barksdale Women's Council scholar because of a gift that my brother, sister and I gave together."

Barksdale was married for almost 40 years to Jim Barksdale, also a UM alumnus and one of the founders of Netscape. The couple provided millions of dollars in help to Mississippians, including the endowment for what is now called the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College on the UM-Oxford campus, a minority scholarship program for medical students at the UM Medical Center in Jackson, and \$100 million for a statewide Barksdale Reading Institute.

"They shared a strong bond with Mississippi," David Barksdale of New York says of his parents, who were Mississippi natives but had lived in Tennessee, California and Colorado before moving back to the state.

"Mom and Dad were so focused on

education, and Dad, of course, still is. They told us that education is a person's passport to realizing potential, and they believed if you could focus on education in Mississippi, you could improve the state's economic outlook.

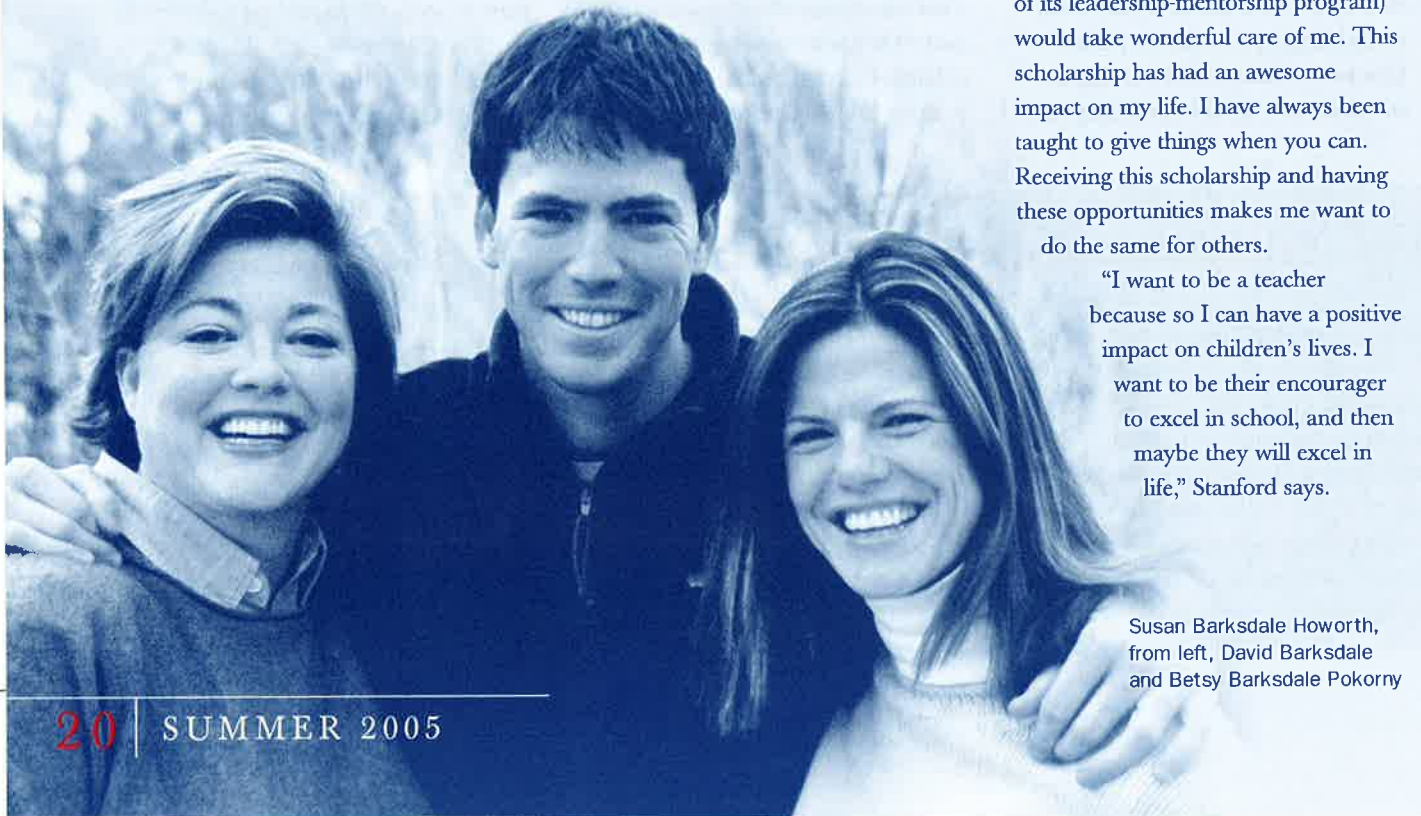
"Mom and Dad also thought the greatest impact came from focusing philanthropic efforts on one area," Barksdale says. "That's a good philanthropic strategy that I plan to follow."

The first recipient of the scholarship is Bridget Stanford of New Albany, a UM freshman majoring in elementary education. Stanford's selection was based on her academic achievements, leadership abilities and extracurricular activities. Her father, Billy, lost his battle with cancer not long after learning of his daughter's selection for the scholarship. Sally Barksdale also died of cancer.

"My dad was so excited for me," Stanford says. "I think he was worried about me coming to college, but after I received the scholarship, he knew that Ms. Molly (Meisenheimer, a member of the Women's Council and director of its leadership-mentorship program) would take wonderful care of me. This scholarship has had an awesome impact on my life. I have always been taught to give things when you can. Receiving this scholarship and having these opportunities makes me want to do the same for others.

"I want to be a teacher because so I can have a positive impact on children's lives. I want to be their encourager to excel in school, and then maybe they will excel in life," Stanford says.

Susan Barksdale Howorth, from left, David Barksdale and Betsy Barksdale Pokorny



Embrace Her Priorities, Philosophy Ole Miss Women's Council



Susan Barksdale Howorth, from left, student Bridget Stanford, and Molly Meisenheimer

Pokorny of Florida says she thinks her mother – “a lifelong learner who seemed to grow more intellectually after her formal education was over” – would have been pleased with the scholarship.

“She read books, newspapers, magazines – anything and everything – all the time,” the daughter says. “She would advise these scholarship recipients to set lofty goals, continue to learn, challenge their intellectual comfort zones and give to others when they can – even if it is giving of their time. My mom knew the path she chose took her exactly where she wanted to go: a place where she had the ability to share her good fortune and help others.”

Growing up in Memphis, Pokorny says she witnessed her mother’s philanthropic spirit while accompanying her to deliver “Meals on Wheels” to the elderly and homebound.

“She always loved sitting with the recipients, talking forever and listening to their stories,” the daughter says. “I think she knew most of them wanted a good conversation more than a hot meal. She thought time was the most important gift you could give. Mom also knew the potential of what women

can accomplish both at home and in the workplace and wanted to be sure they would have the choice.”

Howorth agrees, saying she and her siblings learned the importance of philanthropy from their parents.

“Both of my parents taught us at

“We decided a Women’s Council scholarship was the appropriate tribute to Mom because she had so enjoyed her work on the council and really felt like she was helping students.”

— Susan Barksdale Howorth

early ages that giving starts in small steps,” she says. “If you learn early that philanthropy is really just the ability to give a part of your time, worth, energy and effort, then you realize how large or small your gift is doesn’t really matter – it’s the act of giving that is important. It’s the percentage of what you have that is given that determines the size of your gift.

“Mom loved the idea of encouraging women and philanthropy,” says

Howorth, who is serving in her mother’s place on the Ole Miss Women’s Council. “Mom liked the idea of women deciding what causes were worth their giving and supporting those causes with both time and influence, as well as financial capabilities. Mom would have loved the idea of her three children giving one gift in her honor. She always encouraged us to pick our causes and follow our interests individually but also to realize what we could do as family. This is a way for us to remember her in a way that she would have appreciated.”

Ole Miss Women’s Council scholars, both men and women, are assigned mentors from the university community to guide them along their career paths, and benefit from leadership training. After graduation, each scholar

is expected to pledge a modest amount to reseed the program.

David Barksdale says he looks forward to seeing scholarship recipients benefit from educational experiences and wants them to know his mother’s priorities.

“My mom had a strong commitment to her family,” he says. “She never lost touch with the important things in life – her family, her friends and her community.” ■

Ole Miss
Women's
Council
for Philanthropy

Carmichael's Parents Build Lasting Legacy to Pay Tribute to Son's Life, Help Others

Despite being physically challenged, Mike Carmichael lived a remarkable life, graduating from the University of Mississippi, then spending his remaining years helping others.

At the time of their son's death in 1990 due to a heart condition, Charles and Sally Carmichael of Jackson, Miss., established the Mike Carmichael Memorial Scholarship Endowment to provide academic scholarships for physically challenged students. The couple recently added \$200,000 to the endowment.

"Ole Miss played a significant role in Mike's life, says Charles Carmichael. "We are grateful to Ole Miss for providing him with an excellent education and for preparing him to take full advantage of his capabilities while at the university and in his later life. This support enabled Mike to achieve every goal he set for himself, though reaching some of these goals was not thought possible. Mike loved his four years at Ole Miss, and he was a very enthusiastic Rebel."

UM Chancellor Robert Khayat expresses his appreciation for the scholarship fund which will strengthen the university in its mission.

"We are grateful to Charles and Sally Carmichael for their generosity and commitment, which will help the University of Mississippi to follow through on our commitment to open doors of opportunity for all students. This scholarship points to the example

of their son, Mike, as an inspiration to others, and it exemplifies the vital connection between caring people and public education."

Active in campus activities, Mike Carmichael was elected an Associated Student Body senator in 1979. He was a member of the Rebel Club and Committee of 100, and he served as Kinnannon Hall representative and as a football assistant.

In appreciation for what Ole Miss and others did to help him, Carmichael devoted much of his later life to helping others, says his father. He was a volunteer with missions of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Youth for Christ, Goodwill Industries, Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and charity fundraising events.

George Everett, UM professor emeritus, fondly remembers Carmichael.

"Mike was one of the warmest kids I think I ever knew," he says. "He was a fighter and an inspiration to all who knew him. He wanted to be treated like everybody else with no extra breaks."

Charles Carmichael says, "Mike's devotion to Ole Miss makes this gift a perfect way for us to pay tribute to his life. We hope this

will encourage others to memorialize or honor an Ole Miss alumnus by helping disadvantaged students



Charles and Sally Carmichael with Sandra Guest



Mike Carmichael

receive the lifelong benefits of a university education."

The Carmichaels have funded the endowment through a Charitable Remainder Unitrust. In doing so, they become members of the University Foundation's 1848 Society, which provides lifetime recognition to those who participate in planned giving to the university.

"We are truly grateful Mr. and Mrs. Carmichael chose this unique vehicle for giving, which enabled them to provide such a tremendous level of support to the university in memory of their son, Mike," says Sandra Guest, director of University Advancement. "By providing the gift during their lifetimes, they are assured that the Mike Carmichael Endowment will impact young people forever at the university he loved so much." ■

Chi-O Mary Pat Langford's Life Remembered with Scholarship Fund to Help Students Reach Their Potential

Mary Patricia Langford personified enthusiasm.

"Mary Pat loved people and life," says her mom, Dr. Beverly Langford of Atlanta. "She was someone who was always reaching out to other people and enjoying new experiences."

Dr. Langford is paying tribute to her daughter's extraordinary spirit through a scholarship at the University of Mississippi. Mary Pat was one of the five Chi Omega sorority members who lost their lives in the tragic March 1987 car-truck accident that occurred during a charity walk-a-thon. Many other sorority members were injured.

"Any time you lose a child on the brink of adulthood, you can't help but think about the unfulfilled promise of a young person's life," Langford says. "This scholarship can help others fulfill their promise. That's important to me."

The scholarship was originally established at Mary Pat Langford's high school, Riverwood, in Sandy Springs, a suburb of Atlanta, where she was active in school musicals, on the drill team, and first runner-up to Miss Riverwood High School. Beverly Langford recently decided to redirect the scholarship to Ole Miss with plans to develop it into a significant fund.

"The goal of the scholarship is to assist students who are exceptional not just because of grades but also for their well-rounded activities and committed community involvement, says Langford, who is a Georgia State University faculty member and a business owner. Langford also is interested in helping students who have to overcome hardships to pursue their dreams of a college education.

Mary Pat's roots in Mississippi ran deep. Her grandfather, Dr. J.B. Young, provided leadership for three decades as president of Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, Miss., and Beverly and other family members graduated from Ole Miss. Mary Pat had been accepted at the University of Georgia and the University of Tennessee but decided to join her cousins and become part of the family's fourth generation on the Oxford campus.

"She loved Ole Miss," observes her mother. "Mary Pat thought going to Ole Miss was the greatest experience she had ever had."

Dr. Charles Wilkinson of Meridian, Miss., a family friend and Ole Miss alumnus, remembers Mary Pat from the time of her birth, to a little girl shaking pompoms at football games, to her life as a college student.

"She was a lovely person," the physician says. "Everyone liked her — everyone."

J.T. Tisdale, director of corporate relations for the UM School of Business Administration, supports the choice of a scholarship to remember the young woman.

"I have literally known the Langfords my entire life," he notes. "After the tragedy, the family could have turned away from Ole Miss and Oxford but instead have continued to

care for, and now financially support, the school in Mary Pat's memory. Helping other Ole Miss students get a great education is a wonderful way to carry on her legacy."

A stone memorial on Highway 6 between Oxford and

Batesville near the accident scene is a

reminder of the tragic

day that changed

many lives. Dr.

Gwynne Brunt of

Atlanta, a neighbor

to Beverly

Langford and an

Ole Miss alumnus,

passes the memorial often during his

frequent visits back to

campus and always says

a prayer for Mary Pat, Beverly, Mary Pat's sister

Leslie, and Ole Miss, asking

that something good come from this

tragedy.

"Mary Pat was an outstanding young woman in every respect who came from a wonderful Christian family," the physician says. "She loved Ole Miss as much as her mother does. Beverly is devoted to Ole Miss and Oxford, and she feels strongly about the school and its student body. This scholarship reflects her love for her daughter and her love for the University of Mississippi."

Individuals and organizations interested in supporting the Mary Patricia Langford Memorial Scholarship can contact the University of Mississippi Foundation by calling (662) 915-5944 or 800-340-9542 or e-mailing umf@olemiss.edu. ■



Mary Patricia Langford

Conerly Memorialized with Endowed Scholarship to Assist Future Athletes

Ole Miss football standout Charlie Conerly was an unassuming man – never one to blow his own horn. He rarely celebrated after scoring a touchdown. He would simply hand the ball to the referee and trot to the sideline.

“Charlie was a shy man,” says New York Giants teammate Frank Gifford. “He didn’t want to stand out. He didn’t even like trophies. He was very sensitive about receiving praise.”

Off the field, Conerly also remained reserved. Perian Conerly says her late husband wouldn’t understand why the Charlie Conerly



Charlie Conerly

Memorial Athletic Scholarship at the University of Mississippi was named in his honor, but he would be thrilled about the opportunity the scholarship provides.

“Charlie never would have gone to college without his football scholarship at Ole Miss,” she says. “That opportunity changed his life.”

One of the greatest football players ever to wear an Ole Miss uniform and a beloved alumnus, Conerly will be remembered for generations to come through the Charlie Conerly Memorial Athletic Scholarship. The \$100,000 endowment was set up by his wife for deserving student-athletes.

“The endowment is a widow’s mite when compared to other donations, but it’s a very important scholarship for future players,” she says.

A Clarksdale, Miss., native, Conerly passed away Feb. 13, 1996, after a lengthy illness. Affectionately known as Chunkin’ Charlie, the former quarterback thrilled Ole Miss fans as he led the Rebels to their first Southeastern Conference Championship in 1947 and a victory over Texas Christian University in the Delta Bowl.

Conerly earned three letters at Ole Miss, playing in 1942, ‘46 and ‘47, earning All-America honors his senior season and All-SEC accolades twice. He interrupted his undergraduate career to serve with the U.S. Marines in World War II.

After graduation, Conerly joined the NFL’s New York Giants, leading them to the 1956 NFL Championship. He was named 1948 NFL Rookie of the

Year and the League’s Most Valuable Player in 1959. Conerly ended his career in 1961 with 1,418 career completions, including 173 touchdown passes. His Giants number 42 was retired in 1962.

“Charlie had an incredible arm and a great feel for the game,” says Gifford. “He was a tremendous athlete, and by the end of his career, he was a sports hero for New York.”

Perian Conerly authored *Backseat Quarterback* (Doubleday 1963), detailing the couple’s experiences during his professional football years. After retiring, Conerly and his wife returned to Mississippi, and they often traveled to Oxford on football weekends.

Conerly’s honors include induction into the National College Football Hall of Fame, Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Ole Miss Alumni Hall of Fame, Ole Miss Athletic Hall of Fame and National Football Foundation’s Distinguished American Award. He was selected as a back on the Ole Miss Football Team of the Century. As a college player, Conerly also was named the Atlanta Touchdown Club’s Back of the Year and the *Nashville Banner* Player of the Year.

A prestigious award in his honor, the Charlie Conerly Trophy, is given annually to the state’s most outstanding collegiate football player. Designed to be the Mississippi equivalent of the Heisman Trophy, the award is open to all Mississippi players. The award’s original bronze sculpture is permanently housed in the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Jackson.

Individuals and organizations interested in supporting the Charlie Conerly Memorial Athletic Scholarship can contact the University of Mississippi Foundation at (662) 915-5944 or 800-340-9542, or e-mail unmf@olemiss.edu. ■

Fair Remembers Father's Contributions to Ole Miss Through Scholarship Fund

The late Davis Love Fair Sr. of Louisville, Miss., built an extraordinary legacy as he served his beloved University of Mississippi: He founded an organization to provide scholarships for needy students and served as national alumni president for two terms.

Fair even helped select the name "Rebels" for Ole Miss athletic teams and played on the 1901 football team that first began the in-state rivalry with the Mississippi State University (then Mississippi A&M) squad.

To pay tribute to his father's remarkable life and contributions to Ole Miss, Davis Fair Jr. has established the Davis Love Fair Sr. Memorial Scholarship fund to assist university football players.

"He loved Ole Miss," says Fair, a 1936 graduate and Louisville resident. "My dad loved to buy tickets to football games and give them to his employees and others in the community. He wanted to do whatever he could to bring people to Ole Miss."

The elder Fair, a native of French Camp, Miss., first attended Mississippi College. After transferring to Ole Miss in 1898, he was both player and a manager for the football team. According to historical records, a manager during that era had personnel responsibilities. Fair hired at least two assistant football coaches, and he also played on the baseball team.

Also active in other campus activities, Fair was a member of the *University of Mississippi Magazine* staff and Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Fair married Belle Sullivan of

Oxford, daughter of U.S. Sen. William Van Amberg Sullivan.

After graduation, he settled in Louisville, where he founded D.L. Fair Lumber Company – which was sold in 1965 to Georgia Pacific Corp. He became a charter member of the Mississippi Forestry Association and served on the board of directors of the Southern Pine Association.

The businessman turned his attention to providing leadership to his alma mater. In 1934 he organized the Ole Miss Loyalty Club – front-runner of the Loyalty Foundation – and was elected its president. The initial purpose of the Loyalty Club was to provide scholarships for deserving students who did not have the financial resources to attend Ole Miss. The Loyalty Foundation now attracts private funding for Ole Miss athletics in order to help student-

sports, I wanted to start a scholarship in my father's name," says Davis Fair Jr., 91, who has his own memories of Ole Miss football.

The first time he attended an Ole Miss football game, the year was 1926 and the opponent was the Mississippi State Bulldogs. Fair Jr. also served as a spotter in the press box at the first bowl game in which the Rebels appeared. The Ole Miss team lost by one point to Catholic University in that 1936 Orange Bowl, but Fair found the experience to be quite exciting.

Ever the loyal fan, Fair has followed Ole Miss football for decades and lists some of his favorite players as Bruiser Kinard, Buster Poole, Ned Peters, Doug Cunningham and David Wilson Sr.

"The Fair family has played an integral role in the life of the University of

Mississippi for many years and obviously has passed down a deep love for, and commitment to, Ole Miss through generations," says Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Pete Boone. "Families like the Fairs continue to strengthen our university and enhance our athletics programs – all for the benefit of young people. We are extremely grateful for Mr. Fair's generous gift of a scholarship fund."

Fair Jr. and his wife, Imogene, are the parents of three children – D. L. "Dave" Fair

III of Oxford, Madelon Fair Cotton of Atlanta and Mary Fair Graves of Lexington, Ky. The family also includes five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. ■



Davis Love Fair Sr.



Ole Miss Head Football Coach Ed Orgeron, from left, D.L. Fair Jr. of Louisville, University Foundation President Don Frugé and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Pete Boone discuss Fair's gift to establish a scholarship fund in memory of his father, D.L. Fair Sr.

athletes excel in academics and provide facilities for their athletic pursuits.

"Because my father was the first president of the Loyalty Club and because of his other involvement in

Businessman, Former Football Player ‘Gives Scholarship Endowment to Give Young People

Larry L. Johnson of Jackson, Miss., wants to help young men benefit from the same opportunity in life he received: a football scholarship to the University of Mississippi that enabled him to participate in the sport he loved while pursuing degrees for a successful career.

The retired BellSouth executive – whose football career at Forest High School in Scott County captured the attention of UM coaches – has established a scholarship endowment with more than \$100,000. The first in his family to attend college, Johnson received an athletics scholarship that allowed him to earn two business degrees and play wingback and outside linebacker on three championship football teams (1961, '62 and '63).

“It would be difficult to fully explain

the thrill of those times and those moments,” Johnson says. “Over the years I have tried to show the depth of my gratitude by supporting and participating in university programs and events. Creating this endowed scholarship is just one more way to repay Ole Miss. I hope it helps some individuals to benefit from the same exciting and fulfilling experiences that I have had – and continue to have – through my association with the university.”

UM Chancellor Robert Khayat says the new scholarship endowment is the latest in a long list of contributions of resources and time Johnson has shared with his alma mater.

“Larry Johnson embodies the idea of a loyal alumnus: He gives of his time and shares his personal resources to strengthen the University of Mississippi, as well as fre-

quently returns to campus to participate in events,” Khayat says. “The university is profoundly grateful for this new scholarship endowment that reflects Larry’s great affection for Ole Miss and appreciation for his experiences.

“Larry has given tirelessly over the years, supporting the School of Business Administration, Alumni Association and M Club alumni chapter. When we called on him to serve on the *Commitment to Excellence Campaign* to enhance our academic programs, he enthusiastically worked to help the university achieve that record-breaking effort,” the chancellor says.

UM Intercollegiate Athletics Director Pete Boone says Johnson is building an important legacy that will impact the lives of many students.

“Larry Johnson knows firsthand the



Director of Advancement Sandra Guest, from left, President of the University Foundation Board of Directors Jamie Houston, Larry L. Johnson of Jackson and University Foundation President Don Frugé gather to thank Johnson for his gift creating a scholarship fund.

Back' by Establishing Opportunities

benefits from playing a sport – benefits earned by learning the value of discipline, responsibility, leadership and teamwork,” Boone says. “We want our student-athletes to follow great role models such as Larry. He excelled in football and earned academic degrees that allowed him to pursue a fulfilling career and serve his community. We thank Larry for this generous endowment that will help many students to follow in his footsteps.”

Johnson – who stipulated in the scholarships agreement that preference should be given to Scott County football signees when possible – says what a person learns through football is much of the same lessons needed for life.

“You always recall things you learned on the practice field, mainly that preparation and discipline are absolutely necessary to play the game. This scholarship endowment is a way for me to contribute to an Ole Miss program and help young people. It came naturally to want to give back to those who helped me,” Johnson says.

Known to the Ole Miss family as “Larry Leo,” Johnson has been active in the M Club alumni chapter for athletes. He served on the M Club’s board of directors and organized and directed many reunions for the teams on which he played. As Student M Club president in 1963, Johnson helped establish the J.W. Davidson Scholarship fund to honor the legendary Ole Miss coach and has been a regular contributor since that time. He also is a Loyalty Foundation member.

Johnson, who holds an undergraduate and master’s degrees in business, is past chair of the Business Advisory Board at the UM School of Business Administration, worked to attract private gifts for the school’s recent expansion and is a major contrib-

utor to the Business Order. He also has guest lectured under the business school’s Otho Smith Fellows Program.

“I was thrilled to have an opportunity to work with my fellow alumni on the Business Advisory Board to bring some of the experience I gained working as public affairs vice president for BellSouth,” Johnson says. “My business school studies prepared me well to compete in the highly competitive telecommunications field, and I was happy to give input to help shape the business curriculum.”

In addition, the active alumni volunteer now is providing leadership as a member of the Inn at Ole Miss Campaign Steering Committee.

“It was a wonderful day when I decided to attend Ole Miss for it began a lifelong association for me and eventually my sons, both of whom graduated from Ole Miss. I am happy and proud that my family is part of the greater Ole Miss family, and we hope this scholarship endowment will help enable others to join the family with us.”

An active civic leader in Jackson, Johnson continues to give of his time and resources in the community. He serves as a deacon of First Baptist Church; president of the Mississippi Ballet International; and board member of the Andrew Jackson Council Boy Scouts of America, Friends of Mississippi Educational Broadcasting and Preservation of Sight.

The 33-year veteran BellSouth executive retired in 2000. He is the father of two sons, both of whom graduated from Ole Miss: Rick Johnson in business administration and Scott Johnson in engineering. Larry and his wife, Rita Parks Johnson, live in Madison, and they have a blended family of five. Johnson also is the grandfather of two: Rick Johnson’s children, Evie, 6, and Will, 3. ■

Hardin Grant Enables UM, Leaders to Study Issues

Leaders from academia, government, media, nonprofit organizations and business gathered on the UM-Oxford campus in late fall to address many public policy issues facing the South.

The American South, Then and Now: From the L.Q.C. Lamar Society to the Endowment for the Future of the South was the first activity of a new initiative of UM’s Center for the Study of Southern Culture. Created through a \$500,000 matching grant from the Meridian, Miss.-based Phil Hardin Foundation, the Endowment for the Future of the South initiative promotes examination of contemporary Southern social issues through such activities as the American South symposium.

Understanding policy issues is a key step in finding solutions to problems that have long plagued the South, such as poverty and race relations, says CSSC Director Charles Reagan Wilson.

“The Future of the South project is designed to feed ideas to groups like the Southern Growth Policies Board (the North Carolina-based non-partisan think tank whose goal is economic development) and the Southern Regional Council (the Atlanta-based group whose goal is to ‘promote racial justice, protect democratic rights and broaden civic participation’),” Wilson says. “We want to put forth the idea that Southern cultural context is important in understanding policy issues.”

A highlight of the symposium was the reunion of the L.Q.C. Lamar Society, which was founded 35 years ago by progressive Southerners hoping to positively shape the South’s future. ■

Black Funds Ole Miss First Scholarship to Send Student to College, Honor Rolfes

When Kathryn Brewer Black served on a UM search committee that brought Ellen Rolfes into the Ole Miss family, little did she know Rolfes would become a close friend and kindred spirit who shares her philanthropic values.

Black is honoring that friendship by funding a \$25,000 Ole Miss First Scholarship named for Rolfes, the university's major gifts officer and architect of the Ole Miss First initiative and the Ole

Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy.

"What a joy it has been for me to know Ellen

and to become her friend!" says Black of Collierville, Tenn., and formerly of Greenwood and Oxford, Miss. "The scholarship honors Ellen because she had the vision and was dedicated to the development of the Ole Miss First initiative. Funding the scholarship in her name was my privilege – I cannot imagine anyone more deserving. I enjoy her enthusiasm, her persistence in attaining goals, her wit and her intelligence."

The Ole Miss First Scholars program is designed for each \$25,000 gift to assist one student, and each donor is encouraged to mentor his or her scholarship recipient. Students receive \$4,500 annually for four years, with a portion of each gift going to the Ole Miss First endowment. Black's scholarship has been awarded to Kellie Denise McDonald of Germantown, Tenn.

"One of my strongest beliefs is that we must help others attain their goals as we have the ability to do so," Black says. "My dad was my example, for he helped many people in various ways."

Rolfes says she is both humbled and inspired by Black's gift.

"When I learned Kathryn Black wanted to give a scholarship in my name, I felt undeserving of such a special honor, but I am profoundly moved by her generosity," Rolfes says.

"Kathryn truly believes in the philosophy that we all need to help those who come after us. This gift is impacting a young person's life and is serving as constant encouragement as I continue to seek scholarship funding.

"A beautiful friendship like mine with Kathryn also serves as a constant reminder that Ole Miss brought us together to work on shared goals and

vides scholarships enhanced with leadership and mentorship components.

"The Women's Council has been an important part of my life since its inception," Black says. "I am proud to be a member and to have the opportunity to know the dynamic women who serve on the council. Our common cause has galvanized a group of women to accomplish a lot in a short time. The Women's Council scholars are the 'icing on the cake' for us."

Black committed time to the university's recent *Commitment to Excellence Campaign* and endowed a Women's Council scholarship for liberal arts in memory of her late parents, Kathryn H. and David



Ellen Rolfes, left, and Kathryn Brewer Black

values," says Rolfes. "Many alumni can commit to an Ole Miss First scholarship like Kathryn and become a student's mentor. It's a life-changing experience."

Black and Rolfes began collaborating as founding members of the Ole Miss Women's Council, which pro-

Brewer. Women's Council activities keep her coming back to campus to interact with students and council members.

"I prefer to stay involved with my alma mater for many reasons, but the main one is selfish – I love Ole Miss!" Black says. ■

Maker of Campus Management System Endows Scholarship to Honor UM Official

The company that provided the university's campus management system is funding a new scholarship at the school in honor of the UM official who helped implement the pioneering electronic application.

SAP Public Services Inc. is providing a \$50,000 to establish the Johnny M. Williams Scholarship Endowment at Ole Miss. Williams, vice chancellor for administration and finance, is credited with masterminding the streamlining of UM operations, helping the university function as efficiently as possible while raising the standards of education and service.

"SAP is proud to honor Johnny Williams' legacy at Ole Miss by contributing to the promise of education for all students," says Steve Peck, president of SAP Public Services Inc.

"Johnny has been instrumental in transforming educational opportunities at the university and has helped innovative academic and research programs flourish. We are committed to helping maintain the excellent educational programs established at one of America's great public universities."

The Johnny M. Williams Scholarship is designed for full-time accountability students chosen on the basis of academic achievement and leadership potential. The scholarship is to be awarded for one year and can be used to pay for tuition, room and board.

UM is the North American pilot for the SAP campus management system. University officials chose SAP in 1998 to replace outdated administrative computer systems, providing a unified network that handles student service and information, human resources, Physical Plant work orders, payroll and many other functions.

Other institutions using the system include the University of Newcastle in England, the University of Capetown in South Africa and Leuven Catholic University in Belgium. Additional U.S.

Hays University in Hays, Kan.

"I am absolutely honored by this generous scholarship gift," Williams says. "By partnering with SAP and being a model for higher education



Eric Stine, from left, Steve Peck and Bruce Levick present Johnny Williams with a check creating a scholarship in his name.

campus management sites include Purdue University, the University of Kentucky and more than 20 others.

"During his tenure as vice chancellor for finance and administration, Johnny Williams has managed the business of the university well," Chancellor Robert Khayat says. "Confronted with the significant challenge of implementing a campus-wide information technology system, he put together a team of talented volunteers who devoted extraordinary effort and time to the project. The commitment of those staff persons led by Johnny Williams enabled Ole Miss to implement an information technology system that is a national model."

Williams, a certified public accountant, joined UM administration in 1998. He previously was vice president for administration and finance at Fort

institutions in North America, the University of Mississippi has developed a global perspective on information technology that other universities do not have. It has been a wonderful experience for us."

In the spring, the university renamed its electrical power plant in honor of Williams, who was instrumental in identifying the economic opportunity in building the facility. The Johnny M. Williams Electrical Generation Plant allows the university to take advantage of lower electric rates from the Tennessee Valley Authority, saving nearly \$1 million annually in utility costs.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., SAP Public Services Inc. is a subsidiary of SAP America Inc., which is a subsidiary of SAP AG, the world's leading provider of business software solutions. ■

Senior Class Unveils Creed Monument as Constant Reminder of Commitment

Members of the UM 2005 senior class leave behind a gift to their alma mater that

tells of the university's commitment to the values of respect, civility, integrity and honesty.

nurturing excellence in intellectual inquiry and personal character in an open and diverse environment. As a voluntary member of this community:

I believe in respect for the dignity of each person.

I believe in fairness and civility.

I believe in personal and professional integrity.

I believe in academic honesty.

I believe in academic freedom.

I believe in good stewardship of our resources.

I pledge to uphold these values and encourage others to follow my example. ■



Participating in the ceremony dedicating a monument with the Ole Miss Creed are UM Foundation representatives Ted Smith and Jennifer Traylor, from left; 2005 Senior Class members Taylor McNeel, David Donaldson and Tyce Young; and Dean of Students Thomas J. Reardon.

Their gift, a monument for the front lawn of the Lyceum, displays the words of the school's creed adopted in 2003. Taylor McNeel, senior class president, along with class members David Donaldson and Tyce Young, recently unveiled the monument.

The creed reads: The University of Mississippi is a community of learning dedicated to

Pontotoc High School Graduate Captures Prestigious \$40,000 Newman Scholarship

Casey Nicole Wilson of Pontotoc, Miss., is the 2005 recipient of the \$40,000 W.R. Newman Scholarship, which is among the state's largest awards for undergraduates.

"I've always wanted to come to Ole Miss, and I found out I won the scholarship on a campus visit," says the Pontotoc High School valedictorian. "I'm excited about being at Ole Miss this fall, and I'm honored to have won the Newman Scholarship."

The scholarship was created in 1983 and endowed by the W.R. Newman family in memory of UM alumnus W.R. "Buck" Newman Jr. to help his alma mater recruit Mississippi's most outstanding young men and women. A UM committee selects one scholar each year solely on the basis of merit.

"Casey is the type of exceptional student the Newman family had in mind when they created the scholarship, and we're pleased she'll be with us for her undergraduate career," says UM Chancellor Robert Khayat. "She's proven herself to be one of the brightest students not just in Mississippi but also in the nation, and we know she'll continue to do well at Ole Miss."

Wilson's list of high school honors is long. A National Merit Finalist and Presidential Scholar nominee, she received awards for the highest average in 15 different courses at PHS and won the school's Senior Award for Excellence.

Additionally, Wilson placed in the top 20 percent in physics and won second place in mathematics at the 2004 Mississippi College Math and Science

Tournament. She was named Best Overall Individual Player at Itawamba Community College's 2004 Scholar's Bowl and was Team Champion at both the 2003 and 2004 bowls. Wilson is also the recipient of the Woodmen of the World U.S. History Award.

She has excelled outside the classroom as well, serving as captain of her varsity soccer team and president of PHS Student Council, among other posts. She has also volunteered for a number of organizations, including Special Olympics and Pontotoc Nursing Home, and she is active in her church.

The daughter of Michael and Christine Wilson, Casey Wilson plans to study engineering at UM, where she will be a member of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and the Chancellor's Leadership Class. ■

Winter Institute Welcomes Major Gift of \$50,000 from Namesake's Law Firm

...Donation from venerable Jackson-based firm seeds endowment, honors esteemed partner

Long before the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation at the University of Mississippi began its ambitious work of fostering racial progress through civic renewal projects, the institute's namesake had garnered a universal reputation for his work to promote racial equality.

Founded in 1999 and renamed in 2003 for illustrious statesman William F. Winter, the institute picks up momentum for its grass-roots work thanks to a \$50,000 gift in Winter's honor from members of his Jackson law firm, Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis, P.A. The gift creates an endowment to help ensure that the institute can accomplish its mission in perpetuity. Winter, who holds both bachelor's and law degrees from Ole Miss, served as governor from 1980 until 1984.

"Our gift to the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation Endowment is in honor of William's lifelong service to the firm, community and racial reconciliation," says Tommy Shepherd, the firm's chief executive officer and a UM alumnus. "We wish to help the institute in its activities, while focusing on the life and service of William Winter."

Chancellor Robert Khayat says the gift is consistent with the firm's legacy of community involvement.

"By providing leadership and committing time and energy through its own thoughtful community outreach initiatives, Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis has demonstrated an enthusiastic commitment to bringing people together for a common good," he says. "The embracing of such activities honors William Winter, one of Mississippi's great leaders, and helps further the admirable goals of the Institute for Racial Reconciliation."

Institute Director Susan Glisson says the gift is a fitting tribute.

"We have long hoped to create perpetual support for the institute, and it is appropriate that William Winter's law firm would take the lead in honoring Winter this way so his legacy can continue. We thank...members of the firm for their generous support and commitment to the institute's work in addressing meaningful racial reconciliation," she says.

Since its founding, the institute has operated on private funds, working in some 17 communities to promote better communication and understanding among people of all races, while spurring community development across the state. The law firm's gift, as well as additional substantial grants from the Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation of Jackson and the Walton Foundation of Bentonville, Ark., will enable the institute to expand its outreach.

"We're going through a strategic planning process to identify ways we need to grow," Glisson says. "We want to be focused, thoughtful and effective. This endowment will help us attain our goals as we continue to grow our services to communities."

The Jackson law firm, which celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding this year, has a rich history in community involvement. The firm employs more than 80 lawyers, who are licensed in 10 states, and is one of the largest and best-established full-service law firms in Mississippi, with

offices in Jackson, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the Memphis metropolitan area and New Orleans.

Before serving as the state's 58th governor, Winter was state treasurer and lieutenant governor. Since then, he has devoted his energies to the issues of racial reconciliation in the South and nation. Passage of the groundbreaking Education Reform Act of 1982 is widely recognized as one of his administration's most significant achievements, and his long-held belief in racial equity has been a leading factor in accomplish-

ments throughout his personal and public life. After leaving office, Winter assumed an extraordinary role as a progressive "conscience of the South," traveling widely in the region to inspire leaders to speak to the persistent need for closing racial and economic gaps, and to continue making the case for educational progress.

He has chaired numerous boards, including the Commission on the Future of the South, Southern Regional Education Board and the Southern Growth Policies Board, and was a member of President Clinton's National Advisory Board on Race.

Winter, who has been called the "First Citizen of the South," is married to the former Elise Varner, and they have three daughters and five grandchildren.

For more information about the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation Endowment or the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, contact Glisson at (662) 915-6734 or glisson@olemiss.edu. ■



William F. Winter

Michael Knight Joins English Faculty as 13th Grisham Writer

UM writer-in-residence Barry Hannah describes Michael Knight as “more than a master of the short story” and says Knight “knows the true pace of life and does not cheat it, all the while offering whopping entertainment.”

As the university’s 2005-06 John and Renée Grisham Emerging Southern Writer, Knight will pass on to UM students some of what he’s learned in becoming a master of fiction, while he also continues work on a new novel.

Knight, who directs the creative writing program at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, earned a bache-

lor’s degree at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia, a master’s degree in contemporary fiction from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master of fine arts in creative writing from the University of Virginia. His works include two short story collections, *Dogfight and Other Stories* and *Goodnight Nobody*, as well as the novel *Divining Rod*.

He is the recipient of several awards, including the Dictionary of Literary Biography’s 1999 Best First Novel Award, the Fellowship of Southern Writers’ 1999 New Writing Award and a 1999 Special Citation in Fiction from the PEN/Hemingway Foundation.

Knight is set to teach fiction workshops for Ole Miss students in the fall and spring semesters. He receives a stipend and housing from an endowment funded by the Grishams.

Although Knight is unequivocally a Southerner – he hails from Alabama – UM visiting writer-in-residence Tom Franklin calls Knight “the rare ‘non-Southern’ Southern writer.”

“That is, he’s someone who can get at the mysteries of human nature without using trailers, shotguns, rotgut or dead mules,” Franklin says. “His stories are clear and beautiful, funny and moving, and his novel *Divining Rod* is a gem. We’re lucky to have him in Oxford.” ■

Honors Student Loses Battle with Cancer, Scholarship Established in Her Memory

Rose Bui, a vivacious and popular Ole Miss student, lost her battle with cancer June 8,

but the university community is working to remember her through a memorial scholarship.

The 22-year-old Biloxi, Miss., student was too ill to attend her May graduation. Two years ago when studying in China, Bui became sick and was later diagnosed. Her university friends and classmates remained almost constantly at her side through lengthy hospital stays and convalescence.



Rose Bui

Friends say she would be pleased that a scholarship has been established in her memory.

“She would love that,” says JoAnn Edwards, who, as director of forensics at UM’s Lott Leadership Institute, got to know Bui during her freshman year. “She’d be telling everyone, ‘I have a scholarship with my name on it at Ole Miss.’”

At UM, Bui was a Carrier Scholar and Croft Institute for International Studies Scholar. She was a member of the Sally McDonnell

Barksdale Honors College, as well as Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies, among others. A member of the inaugural (2000) class of the Lott Leadership Institute, she participated on the Ole Miss Forensics Team.

The international studies major made three separate trips to China while at Ole Miss and was one of only 35 college sophomores selected nationally in 2003 to receive a fellowship with the Institute for International Public Policy. She was vice president of the Croft Student Senate and was inducted into the UM Hall of Fame.

Individuals and organizations interested in supporting the Rose Bui Memorial Scholarship can contact the University of Mississippi Foundation at (662) 915-5944 or 800-340-9542 or e-mail umf@olemiss.edu. ■

University Development's Coyle Joins Prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Chapter

Becky Coyle thought the invitation she received in the mail asking her to join the university's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa was a mistake.

After all, Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest and most prestigious collegiate honor society, and Coyle, who has spent 12 years off-and-on



Kathryn McKee, from left, Becky Coyle, and Ted Ownby

working toward a bachelor's degree, says she thought membership in the organization was limited to more traditional students. The executive secretary for University Development with three grown children, Coyle doesn't quite fit into the traditional student mold.

"I have so much respect for Becky," says Coyle's academic adviser Kathryn McKee, UM's McMullan Associate Professor of Southern Studies and associate professor of English. "She's very resilient and very creative, and she's steadily hammered away at getting her degree, though working full time, taking care of children and taking care of aging parents."

Indeed Coyle's oldest child, Brad,

a physician, was just 2 years old when she decided to take advantage of UM's policy allowing staff members to take tuition-free classes. She is to graduate in August with a degree in Southern studies.

Coyle is effusively complimentary about her English, history and Southern studies professors, but says that

she "loved every class I've taken at Ole Miss."

McKee says one reason Coyle was chosen for the honor society, beyond her grade-point average, is the combination of the "breadth and depth" of her coursework.

"What's most amazing about Becky is that she's

not satisfied with just getting credit," McKee says. "She's really challenged herself with the courses she's chosen, and she always does her best work. I've taught her in small seminar rooms and big lecture halls, and in both settings she stood out as a serious student willing to be challenged."

Arlen Coyle, Becky's husband and a UM law graduate, says, "Becky has worked all her life putting others first and helping them realize their goals, but she never lost sight of getting a college degree. Her determination, her time-management skills, her balancing being a wife, mother, daughter, employee and students – and excelling at each – are deeply inspirational to all of us." ■

Parents Assoc. Helps Turner Center Offer Indoor Cycling

Exercise cycling is available for University of Mississippi students, faculty and staff at the Turner Center, thanks in part to the Ole Miss Parents Association.

The new program features 21 state-of-the-art Tomahawk stationary cycles, allowing 20 participants in an instructor-led group. The OMPA provided more than \$8,000 for the \$31,000 program.

"The Parents Association made it possible for us to certify 13 students as group indoor cycling instructors," says Kimberly Mallard, campus recreation fitness coordinator.

The group concept offers supervised, basic-level endurance training. Each exercise session is developed by the individual instructors, allowing different riding techniques, rhythm and pace.

Plans are to hold two classes daily beginning this fall.

"Indoor cycling is a bona fide group exercise activity," says Whitman Smith, OMPA university liaison. "The Parents Association is thrilled to help make this a reality here at Ole Miss."

The group indoor cycling classes are free and available to full-time students and Turner Center members on a first-come, first-served basis. ■

NMMC, Baptist Help Expand Nursing Education with Oxford Campus Classes

North Mississippi Medical Center and Baptist Memorial Health Care are providing joint funding for two new nursing programs at the UM-Oxford campus.

The programs are designed to recruit more students to the nursing profession and to make it possible to earn a bachelor of science degree in nursing at the Oxford campus. Previ-

ously, nursing students had to complete their studies at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

ously, nursing students had to complete their studies at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. The program is designed to provide an accelerated master of science in nursing program for students who do not have a baccalaureate degree in nursing. During the past several years, the two health care systems have partnered to provide funding for nursing faculty positions at Mis-

issippi University for Women, Itawamba Community College and Northeast Mississippi Community College.

“Our hospitals want to employ educated and highly skilled nurses, so these programs are very important to us,” says Jim Ainsworth, vice president at Baptist Memorial and responsible for operations in the health care sys-

classes and receive clinical training in Oxford rather than Jackson says Kaye Bender, dean of the UMMC School of Nursing.

“The need for nurses is one of the most important issues facing the health-care industry,” says Gerald Wages, executive vice president at NMMC. “The availability of baccalaureate- and master’s-level nursing graduates through the new programs on the Oxford campus will provide a tremendous resource for hospitals and health-care providers throughout north Mississippi and for the patients they serve.”

The university has allotted 20 of the current 100 nursing admission slots to the Oxford freshman early entry students. Around 70 students have expressed interest in this option over the past three years, Bender says. Those who complete the program will be eligible to graduate with a bachelor of science degree in nursing and take the N-CLEX national licensure

exam to practice as registered nurses.

The other program, which focuses on preparing clinical nurse leaders, offers an accelerated master of science degree in nursing option for students who hold a baccalaureate degree in another field and are interested in obtaining a master’s degree in nursing and be able to take the N-CLEX national licensure exam to practice as a registered nurse. ■



UM Provost Carolyn Staton, from left, Jim Ainsworth of BMHC, Gerald Wages of NMMC and Kaye Bender of UMMC display their institutional logos at a press conference announcing plans for new nursing programs.

tem’s Mississippi market. “We’re happy to partner with North Mississippi Medical center on such a needed and worthy endeavor.”

This program allows the Oxford campus to enroll participants as freshmen early entry students and move them through the entire undergraduate program in the Oxford area. Students on the Oxford campus have frequently expressed a desire to attend

Changing Lives

Student Learns about Life, Servant Leadership

April Taylor remembers the evening she broke down sobbing to her mother. Her high school graduation was nearing, the family could not afford to send her to college, and anticipated scholarships were not materializing. April had lost all hope.

The next morning, April found a package from the University of Mississippi that the postman apparently left on the family's car the day before.

In poignant moments, April read the enclosed letter and reclaimed her belief that her future would hold great promise.

The Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy offered her a scholarship and the opportunity to be mentored by university alumnae. Not only could April now benefit from a college education but she also was given an instant community of supportive people.

"The scholarship was such a blessing. I didn't know how I was going to make it," April says. "The women who make up and participate in the Women's Council are awesome. They have become my role models."

Coming from the small community of Smithdale in southwest Mississippi, April says, "College has been an eye-opening experience. I've learned just as much about life as I have academics."

An English and journalism major, April also is a student in the university's Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, which funded her summer 2004 internship with the Institute for Philanthropy and Voluntary Service through the Fund for American Studies in Washington, D.C. All Women's Council scholars at Ole Miss are encouraged to impact society following

graduation, and through this internship, April worked as a camp counselor and learned how to develop a non-profit organization.

April hopes to make a difference through her chosen career of teaching.

"I had some great high school teachers who taught me to be a servant leader," April says. "I am a behind-the-scenes-type person – always deeply involved in organizations but never the president. My teachers showed me that my chosen role was important and that my contributions could make an important impact."

As a scholarship recipient, April recognizes those who provide resources to students.

"Very simply, I would not be attending college if it weren't for a

scholarship. The support is allowing me to reach goals and form larger goals, which not only focus on personal dreams but also on things I can do to improve my community and the world."

Ellen Rolfes, architect of the Women's Council and the university's major gifts officer, says, "April Taylor Broussard is the essence of the vision of the Ole Miss Women's Council because her life's work will help to create a more caring and ethical society."

The scholar is now April Taylor Broussard, after choosing a life partner who also wants to make contributions to society. Husband John Broussard is a senior majoring in biochemistry and plans to enter the U.S. Army Medical Corps. ■



April Taylor Broussard, left, with Ellen Rolfes

Faulkner Bibles Returned at Rowan Oak Dedication

William Faulkner's Bible is back at home at Rowan Oak more than 40 years after his death.

Attending recent ceremonies to commemorate a \$1.3 million restoration of the Nobel Prize-winning author's home, daughter Jill Faulkner Summers made the surprise announcement that she was returning both her father's Bible and another family Bible.

"I felt this is where the Bibles belong," she says. "I took them when I moved, and I wanted to give them back."

The items on display inside Rowan Oak, including Faulkner's typewriter, represent 80 percent of the items left in the home following Faulkner's death in 1962.

The dedication marked the completion of a three-year restoration of the



Jill Faulkner Summers, from left, and husband Paul Summers, join actor Morgan Freeman, back left, Chancellor Robert Khayat, and author John Grisham at ceremonies commemorating the restoration of Rowan Oak.

house and grounds, owned and maintained by the University of Mississippi. Offering the keynote address, author John Grisham said Faulkner would be proud of the restoration efforts: "If Faulkner were here today, he'd stroll the grounds and feel at home."

The three-phase restoration was

made possible by private gifts and grants from the State of Mississippi; U.S. Department of Interior, Parks Service; and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. ■

Magazine Calls Barksdale Honors College Nation's 'Best' Experience

Students of UM's Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College are no doubt pleased that *Reader's Digest* has named the SMBHC one of the three best honors colleges in the country in its May 2005 issue, but they aren't surprised.

"All the opportunities available to students outside the classroom definitely give (SMBHC) an advantage over other honors colleges," says Dru Ashoo, an international studies major who decided to attend Ole Miss after being accepted to Harvard University and the University of Texas-Austin, among other schools.

"There's great financial backing and the honors college offers all the support in the world for students to learn about the greater community through travel and to pursue independent projects to better themselves," says Ashoo, a New Mexico native.

Reader's Digest editors selected SMBHC as one of the best (with honors college at Pennsylvania State University and Arizona State University) because it "offers an education similar

to that at prestigious private liberal arts schools, but at a far lower price," according to the magazine's web site <http://www.rd.com>. The site also notes small classes and a committed faculty that make SMBHC "unlike any other place in the country."

UM's honors college was founded



in 1997 through a gift from UM alumni Jim Barksdale and his wife, the late Sally Barksdale. ■

Knight Gives \$500,000 to Help Journalists Understand Nonprofits

The only national training program to help American journalists better understand how the nonprofit community operates is to continue and expand at UM.

A new \$500,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation funds the program through 2007. Under the grant, the university is to continue hosting five-day workshops for journalists on its Oxford campus, as well as conduct conferences with non-profit themes in Washington, D.C., and other cities.

"This program has made great strides in helping America's journalists – and by extension, their readers, viewers and listeners – understand the scope, depth and importance of the nonprofit sector," says Hodding Carter III, president and CEO of the Knight Foundation.

The Fourth Estate and the Third Sector was created in 2001 with a Knight Foundation grant of \$338,000. Burnis R. Morris, a UM associate professor of journalism and

Samuel S. Talbert Lecturer, directs the program, which has been completed by 70 journalists. The training features in-depth sessions on philanthropy, charities, trends, tax returns and financial analyses. ■

Inaugural Luckyday Scholars Graduate, Gain Opportunities

One man's commitment to help young Mississippians achieve educational goals and fulfill their dreams is producing results.

UM's first 93 Luckyday Opportunity Scholars – whose scholarships were made possible by the late Frank Rogers Day of Aberdeen, Miss., through his Luckyday Foundation – graduated in May. “We feel like we have all these children who are graduating from college,” says Barbara Day, widow of Frank Day. “We are just so proud of all of them.”

Since the Jackson-based foundation started the scholarship program in 2001, almost \$6 million in scholarships has been awarded in need- and merit-based scholarships. Day, an Ole Miss alumnus and master's graduate of the school of banking at Louisiana State University, served as chairman of the board and CEO of Trustmark National Bank. He died in 1999.

“Mr. Day had what separated the mediocre from the magnificent: passion and energy,” says Luckday scholar Shirlaurence Fair of Clarksdale, Miss. ■

UM Scholar Hagood Delivers First McCool Lecture

Taylor Hagood of Ripley, Miss., focused on William Faulkner's use of the marble faun in his literary works

during the inaugural Frances Bell McCool Lecture at UM.

Sponsored by the Department of English, Hagood's speech was titled “Negotiating the Marble Bonds of Whiteness: Hybridity and Imperial Impulse in Faulkner.” Hagood's lecture and dissertation examined the intersections of space and imperialism in Faulkner's fictional world.

Dr. Joseph Urgo, chair of English, describes Hagood, who held the first McCool Fellowship, as “brilliant.”

“His thorough knowledge of Faulkner, American literature and contemporary literary theory has impressed the faculty tremendously. We salute him now at the start of what we foresee as a very fine career in literary studies,” Urgo says.

This fall Hagood begins teaching at Florida Atlantic University.

The McCool Lecture series is funded by an endowment that offers the nation's only doctoral scholarship for students studying the life and work of Nobel laureate William Faulkner. A gift last year from UM alumnus Campbell McCool of Oxford, Miss., and his wife, Leighton, created the Frances Bell McCool Endowment for Faulkner Dissertation Fellowship. The fund honors Campbell McCool's mother, a 1959 UM alumna and longtime high school mathematics teacher. ■

Institute, Foundations Establish Reading Chair to Help Teachers Meet Certification

A new reading chair at the UM School of Education stands to strengthen reading education across the state and region.

The Mississippi Board of Education has toughened teacher certification requirements for early elementary

school teachers. Instead of obtaining a mere six hours of training in reading instruction, teachers must acquire 15 hours of reading coursework beginning next fall. The new Chair of Reading at UM should help teachers meet these new certification standards.

“We want to create the strongest possible reading instruction for pre-service and in-service teachers,” says Claiborne Barksdale, CEO of the Barksdale Reading Institute. “The children in Mississippi's schools need to receive the most effective reading instruction possible.”

A nationwide search is under way for a renowned reading expert to fill the new position. The Barksdale Reading Institute, Walker Foundation and Robert M. Hearin Foundation have teamed with a five-year commitment to fund the endowment with an annual budget of \$300,000.

“The new Chair of Reading is the best way to bring about change in reading instruction,” Barksdale says. “To improve reading instruction in the state, we must improve our reading teachers.”

UM Dean of Education Tom Burnham says, “The Chair of Reading will support the School of Education's mission of leadership in improving reading education. The focus of responsibility will be teaching, modeling of quality teaching and outreach to the university service area and to the State of Mississippi. The chair also will provide leadership and direction in the development of curricula and evaluating reading instruction and programs.”

The School of Education is a NCATE-accredited institution with an enrollment of more than 1,000 students.

“My goal for the project is twofold,” says Barksdale. “I hope other Mississippi universities follow our lead with this endeavor, and I'm hoping a peripheral benefit will be to attract stronger students to education.” ■

Renovation Plans, Initial Gifts Aim to Bring Standards, Offering Home Away from Home

With a new name, new slogan and plans to turn the Triplett Alumni Center Hotel at the University of Mississippi into an architectural masterpiece, there will definitely be more room at the inn, The Inn at Ole Miss, that is.

exhibits this standard and is comparable to the other buildings on campus. We felt we needed a hotel that is reflective of our university, one that will help strengthen our relationship with everyone who uses The Inn at Ole Miss."

Based on advice of consultants and

home for many people, not just alumni."

"That's true," says Dr. W. Briggs Hopson Jr. of Vicksburg, Miss.

"The average person thinks that you have to be an alumnus to stay at the hotel," says Hopson, Alumni Association and Ole Miss Foundation board

member. "That's not correct. When in the Oxford area, we want to encourage people to come stay at The Inn. It's a different look. You get to see the ambiance and beauty of the campus. It will help people realize that Ole Miss is truly a great university."

The name change also reflects the association's desire to have more visitors and friends stay at The Inn, says 2003-03 Alumni Association president Mary Sharp Rayner of Oxford.

"We've been feeling that the message, 'Come home to Ole Miss,' needs to get out to the public," she says. "The hotel, overlooking the Grove, gives the feeling of coming home. With our new name, we want to reflect that Ole Miss is not just home for alumni, but for everyone who loves and cherishes Oxford and this university."

With the recent influx of notable VIPs to Ole Miss, including Prince Edward and James Earl Jones, and the renovation and construction of several campus landmarks, the dream to have a state-of-the-art hotel with bigger suites and more conference rooms has become a necessity as well. The project includes 48 suites to accommodate conferences, weddings and reunions.



The \$15.2 million campaign to renovate the Alumni Center Hotel, renamed The Inn at Ole Miss in 2004, was not undertaken lightly, Associate Director of Alumni Affairs Tim Walsh says.

"It's been the dream of the Alumni Association and our volunteers for many years to renovate the hotel to further enhance our beautiful campus," says Walsh, campaign coordinator.

Campaign Chair David Brevard of Tupelo, Miss., agrees.

"Ole Miss's reputation as a great American public university is spreading," says Brevard, 1999-2000 Alumni Association president. "Excellence is spreading in every aspect of the campus. We felt that we needed a hotel that

a 2003 feasibility study, renovation of the hotel was validated. Built in 1951 as the Alumni House, The Inn at Ole Miss had additions in 1954 and 1968 and was renovated in 1996.

"The executive committee of the Alumni Association embraced the goal of having a hotel that meets the standards of a great university, and deemed the dream to renovate the hotel worthy," Brevard says.

However, the dream goes beyond campus beautification, Walsh says.

"The Alumni Association wants to make it possible for everyone to call Ole Miss home, if only for a few days," he explains. "A place to always call home' isn't just our slogan; it's based on our belief that Ole Miss is home away from

Inn at Ole Miss Up to Campus to Countless Alumni, Visitors

"To have a larger hotel is not just a dream, but a need," says Warner Alford, executive director of Alumni Affairs. "A bigger hotel means more conference rooms to host the increasing number of academic functions and conferences held at Ole Miss. It is important for us to keep up with the university's role as a top research institution in the South."

In addition to conferences, The Inn attracts growing numbers of parents of prospective students, professionals on business trips, performing artists, government figures and others, Brevard says.

"The increase in enrollment over the past years also contributed to bringing many first-time visitors to The Inn," he says. "The success of our athletics and our continuing education programs means a bigger hotel is vital."

Renovation plans focus on more guest

rooms, four conference meeting rooms, an eight-story tower, ballroom, great room/lobby, café, gallery, fitness center, boardroom, pool and pavilion, business center and a pedestrian bridge to the Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

The university will benefit from having meeting space that can accommodate up to 400 people, says Hopson, who is also looking forward to completion of the tower.

"The tower will be impressive," he says. "The new addition will have all the characteristics of our university and will enable us to extend the warm hospitality that is Ole Miss to everyone."

Brevard says he gets excited when thinking about the proposed great room/lobby.

"I envision lifelong friends, new friends exchanging ideas and laughter in the great room," he says. "On foot-

ball weekends, I believe the great room will have the same kind of spirit and energy that people enjoy in hotels like the Peabody in Memphis."

Although the campaign is still in the "quiet phase," early contributors including Brevard, Hopson, Rayner and her husband, Dr. James Rayner, all believe the dream is worthy and within reach. Sponsorship and naming opportunities remain open, Brevard says.

"With the help of alumni and friends we can do this. And the finished product will be something to be proud of," he says. "It will be something that every alumnus, friend and first-time visitor will be proud to call their home away from home."

Individuals or organizations can learn more about donor naming opportunities at The Inn by calling Tim Walsh, campaign coordinator at (662) 915-7375 or e-mailing tim@olemiss.edu. ■



WR.PULLEN 04 02

Foundation President Announces Retirement

The head of the private foundation that annually manages nearly \$50 million in donations to the University of Mississippi is stepping down after 21 years.

Dr. Don Frugé retires in October as president and chief executive officer of the University of Mississippi Foundation. When he took the job in 1984, 2,000 donors gave about \$2 million a year to the university. Last year, 18,659 donors gave more than \$48 million.

The university's \$367.3 million endowment ranks 24th in the nation in endowment per student for a public university.

"The foundation's assets have grown from \$7 million to \$280 million; the experienced, dedicated staff is the best ever; and the relationship with the UM Alumni Association and the athlet-

ics Loyalty Foundation is the best in the country," Frugé says. "In essence, the foundation is in great shape. Because I feel so good about where it is today, I have advised Chancellor Robert Khayat



Don L. Frugé

and Jamie Houston, the chair of the foundation board of directors, that it is time for me to retire."

Houston calls Frugé's leadership an inspiration to all.

"He is a gentleman in the classic sense of the word – a man of charm, dignity, honesty, faith and intelligence," Houston says.

Khayat praises Frugé's integrity and says his dedication and long service to the university is incalculable.

"His contributions to Ole Miss as a law professor, the vice chancellor for university advancement and through the foundation are enormous," Khayat says. "Don and Mary Ann epitomize

the best of what it means to be a member of the Ole Miss family."

Frugé earned a business degree from UM in 1967 and a law degree in 1970. He received a master of laws degree in taxation from New York University and joined the law faculty in 1971. He served the university in a number of capacities throughout the years, including professor of law, executive director of development, vice chancellor for university affairs, vice chancellor for university advancement and head golf coach.

He is a past president of the Oxford-Lafayette County Economic Development Foundation and the Old Waverly Foundation. Frugé is a member of the Mississippi State Bar and American Bar Association, a fellow of the Mississippi State Bar Foundation and past chairman of the Estate and Trust Section. He and his wife, Mary Ann, reside in Oxford have one son and two grandchildren.

Frugé plans to continue his work until a successor is named at the board's fall meeting. ■

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The University of Mississippi Foundation



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