THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION
FOUNDATION NEWS
Volume 8 Number 1 • Summer 2006

Alumni Couple Announces $1 Million Gift

Sam and Mary Haskell pledge to fund scholarship, Ford Center endowments, future needs

During nearly three decades in Hollywood, Sam and Mary Haskell have always been quick to tell friends and business acquaintances about the quality academic programs and blossoming arts scene at the University of Mississippi.

Now the Ole Miss alums have taken an active role in building and maintaining the university's programs with gifts and pledges totaling $1 million. The money is divided among three areas: the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts, a Women's Council for Philanthropy scholarship and a fund that can be directed toward the institution's future needs and priorities.

"We both believe so strongly that when you are blessed, you have to share those blessings," Sam Haskell says. "There are so many programs where we hope to help make a difference. It is truly a pleasure for us to be able to support the great work going on at Ole Miss."

The Haskells met while in school at UM in the mid-'70s. After graduation, they married and moved to Los Angeles, where both built successful careers in the entertainment industry. Sam joined The William Morris Agency, working his way up to worldwide head of television for the firm. Mary became a successful actress, landing roles in several popular TV series, mini-series and movies, and recently released "Inspired: Standards—Good for the Soul," her first full-length CD.

"Sam and Mary Haskell have been friends of Ole Miss for a long time," Chancellor Robert Khayat says. "We have benefited from their good will and hard work for many years, and these new gifts will help us continue to offer the very best academic and cultural experiences to our students and to the entire community. We are grateful to them for their generosity and continued commitment to Ole Miss."

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

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Message from the Chancellor

Universities are in-perpetuity organizations that, if managed properly, will transcend generations of people, issues and ideas. In our 158th year, our university has a remarkable record of preparing students, conducting meaningful research and serving mankind.

As our enrollment continues to grow and become more diverse—in age, race, economic status, religious preference, etc.—we have greater opportunities to shape the future. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to providing an environment conducive to learning, thinking, maturation and personal responsibility.

Students arrive on this campus ready to encounter the mysteries of higher education. Many are living away from home for the first time and enjoy a level of independence previously unknown to them. We try to provide challenges and rewards that help our students grow intellectually, emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually. Most of our students are successful and graduate from the university prepared to pursue careers, graduate school or the professions.

Those of us who are privileged to live and work in the world of Ole Miss are committed to our mission. With the continued support and involvement of our alumni and friends, we can be comfortable in the knowledge that our graduates will say goodbye to college confident that they are prepared to meet the challenges of their lives.

Our students, along with our faculty and staff, join me in thanking you for supporting the university.

Warmest Regards,

Robert C. Khayat

Robert C. Khayat
Chancellor, University of Mississippi

Message from Don L. Frugé

When my wife Mary Ann and I enrolled at Ole Miss as freshmen, I sensed we were beginning a special journey. Little did we know the natural excitement we felt at the brink of our college careers would lead to a lifelong professional involvement with our beloved university. What later began as a one-year appointment to teach in the University of Mississippi School of Law resulted in more than three decades of service. The last 22 years have been devoted to attracting and managing private gifts, a commitment which culminated in my being selected as the first employed president and CEO of the University of Mississippi Foundation.

Along the way of being part of the university's growth and progress, Mary Ann and I also have been privileged to share in the lives of alumni and friends. Because of this, our lives have been enriched by deep friendships nurtured over the years. Recently, I was honored with a retirement reception, where the foundation board unveiled the Don and Mary Ann Frugé Endowment, created with more than $125,000 in gifts. Mary Ann and I are profoundly grateful for this perfect gift that will benefit our university for years to come and sincerely thank all those who made this endowment possible for their generosity, love, respect and appreciation.

The foundation continues to prosper, thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends. For the first nine months of fiscal year 2006, $33.3 million was given to the Oxford campus and $6.3 million to the UM Medical Center campus bringing the total private gifts to $39.6 million through March 31, 2006. The combined total foundation and university endowment stood at over $400 million as of March 31, 2006.

Funds managed by the Joint Committee on University Investments reported total rates of return of 13.4 percent, 15.6 percent, 6.4 percent, 5.4 percent and 8.2 percent for one, three, five, seven and ten years through March 31, 2006. We are pleased to see the ten-year return above eight percent in order for the foundation to continue its five percent spending rate policy of the three-year moving average for an endowment fund calculated as of December 31 each year.

I must admit this farewell is from someone who is not going very far away. Mary Ann and I will always call Oxford our home. I will continue to serve on the Joint Committee on Univesity Investments, teach one class at the Ole Miss School of Law and serve as president and board member of the newly reorganized UMAA Foundation (formerly the Loyalty Foundation). With all that said, I am reminded of Frank E. Everett Jr.'s, words about Ole Miss: "The university is respected, but Ole Miss is loved. The university gives a diploma and regretfully terminates tenure, but one never graduates from Ole Miss." I guess the same is true about retiring from Ole Miss.

The foundation board wisely selected Wendell Weakley, an Ole Miss alumnus, fellow board member and partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers, as the next president and CEO of the foundation. I am confident Wendell will be an outstanding president, and Mary Ann and I wish Wendell and Sue as much fulfillment and fun as we have experienced. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Chancellor Khayat; the foundation chairs and board members over the years; my colleagues and fellow university administrators; the wonderful foundation staff; the university's alumni and friends; the faculty, staff and students; and my family for sharing a meaningful journey—and to Mary Ann for sharing a glorious life.

Sincerely,

Don L. Frugé

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

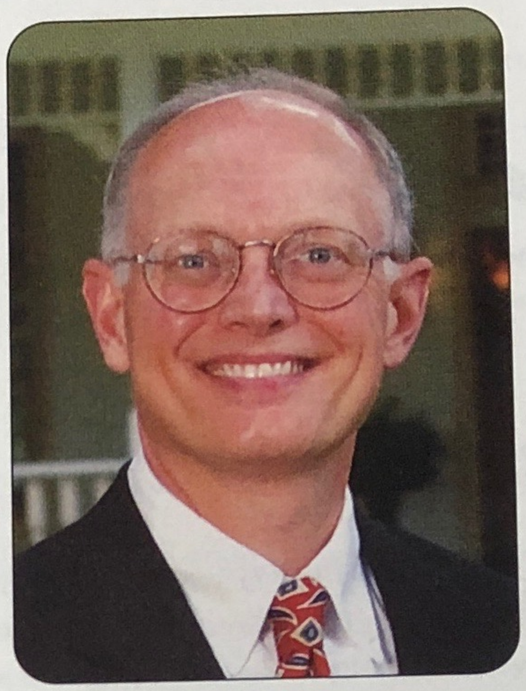
Why Give?

By Jamie Houston

This question comes up countless times during our lives in many contexts: Why should I give to this particular cause? In our case, the question is why should we give of our resources—our money and our time—to the University of Mississippi Foundation? In my mind, the answer is that by giving we both receive benefits and we provide benefits to others who need them.

We are about to undergo a significant change in senior management at the foundation. On July 1, our longtime president and friend, Don Frugé, officially retires. On that date, his title passes to Wendell Weakley. We are looking forward to Wendell's leading the foundation as its chief executive officer. He brings a wealth of knowledge from his career as a CPA at a Big Four, multinational accounting firm, and he offers a fresh perspective and insights that will help maintain the momentum at your foundation.

One might ask: Why would Wendell be willing to leave a lucrative career at the top of his profession to become president of the UM Foundation? Unquestionably, he has the desire to give back to his university through his work at the foundation. His work will benefit others; the students, faculty and staff at Ole Miss will enjoy the fruits of his efforts in many forms. It is also true that Wendell will receive some significant personal benefits—living in Oxford and working with a wonderful, professional staff at the foundation are among them.



Jamie Houston

When we give to the foundation we are enriching Ole Miss in many ways: Scholarships, enhancement of faculty salaries, library resources and facilities fill many needs. We also receive significant benefits—not just the charitable contribution deduction, which is very nice, but the more far-reaching benefits that accrue from attracting and retaining the best and brightest students from Mississippi, as well as top students from many other states and nations. It is the desire of our university family to provide them with excellent teaching by a highly qualified, properly compensated faculty with state-of-the-art equipment in maintained facilities, as well as rich social and cultural experiences. Can there be any doubt that as individuals and as a society we receive immeasurable benefits from producing educated graduates year after year who feel a strong connection and, in many cases, a strong commitment to Ole Miss? These are the individuals who will go into the world as our future leaders and difference makers in many disciplines. It is in our best interest to prepare them as well as we can.

By giving, we also receive the benefit of our involvement with the Ole Miss family. It makes us feel good to associate with the many generous and dedicated people who believe in the mission of the University of Mississippi. Talking to those who have given to Ole Miss out of love for the institution is a humbling experience, overshadowed only by interacting with those bright, enthusiastic students who are receiving a quality education at Ole Miss—an education that, in many cases, would not have been possible except for the generosity of others.

As we welcome Wendell, we also spread this message that we believe will give him a warm reception. If you have been active in foundation work, please stay involved. If you have not been, please consider developing a relationship with the foundation. If you are unsure about how to do this, please contact the foundation staff. Wendell, Sandra Guest and others will help you understand available options, and they can put you in contact with the appropriate contacts within the university development offices if you are interested in specific areas. Please know this:

Every gift is important, and staying involved is rewarding, both for Ole Miss and for each participant.

Wendell, the UM Foundation welcomes you. We look forward to your leadership as our new president.

Jamie Houston, chairman of the University of Mississippi Foundation, graduated from Ole Miss in 1974 and received his juris doctorate from the university in 1976. He has practiced since 1979 with the law firm of Watkins & Eager PLLC in Jackson, Miss.; he has been a member of the firm since 1983. While at Ole Miss, he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity and the honorary fraternities of Beta Alpha Psi, Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Delta Phi. Houston has served as a member of the University of Mississippi Foundation Board of Directors since 1997. His participation in community activities includes his service on the Goodwill Industries Board of Directors and as an Executive Board Member of the Andrew Jackson Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Weakley Accepts President/CEO Leadership Role of University Foundation

A partner in a Big Four multinational accounting firm with extensive experience as a University of Mississippi alumni leader is the second president/chief executive officer of the UM Foundation.

On July 1, Wendell Weakley, of the prestigious PricewaterhouseCoopers accounting firm, accepted the leadership baton from retiring president/CEO Don Frugé, along with the challenge of fueling the unprecedented momentum UM has experienced in private giving over the last decade. Alumni and friends give approximately $50 million annually in private support, and the university endowment stands at over $400 million.

"Identifying an exceptional leader to fill the foundation position was absolutely crucial considering higher education's constant need for private support to provide a margin of excellence," says UM Chancellor Robert Khayat. "We applaud the foundation's search committee led by Roger Friou for selecting this extraordinary man. Wendell Weakley possesses a remarkable track record in leadership and management with the diversified and respected PricewaterhouseCoopers firm, including an international tour of duty with global clients.

"For years we have called on our academic leaders to guide our foundation and develop private gifts, and their efforts have been phenomenally successful," the chancellor says. "Wendell now brings the added dimension of corporate-world experience to foundation activities, as well as a deep commitment and understanding of university needs from his longtime perspective and involvement as an active alumnus."

"When Don Frugé announced his retirement, I contacted Wendell immediately," says Roger Friou, search committee chairman, "and he expressed interest in joining the foundation as its CEO. I am very pleased that Wendell will be leading the foundation, and I look forward to working with him."

Weakley says the support and encouragement he received from the UM chancellor and foundation directors convinced him to "come home" to full-time university service.

"Ole Miss is where my heart is, and my wife and I have many close friends here," the new foundation president says. "In some ways I feel as though I never left, and the university fosters that connectivity. I've worked in many cities and with alumni from a large number of schools, and it's clear the attachment our alumni feel toward Ole Miss is very strong.... There is something positively different about the Ole Miss-Oxford experience, and that inspires the generous level of private giving from which the university benefits."

Throughout his 29-plus years with PricewaterhouseCoopers, Weakley has advised clients in the banking, manufacturing, distribution and retail industries. He also has served as a consumer and industrial products and services partner with a retail emphasis, and as a risk management partner.

His clients included the multinational Maybelline Inc., Mary Kay, Wolseley PLC, ExxonMobil, Outback Steakhouse Inc. and Catalina Marketing, and he was the engagement partner for Union Planters Corp., Hancock Fabrics Inc., Walter Industries Inc., CMC Inc., Fred's Inc. and Flowers Foods Inc.

"Accounting is a people business," Weakley says. "I've learned so much from building close professional relationships with my clients—particularly in regard to seeing different points of view. That experience certainly will impact my relationships with alumni and friend donors, as I work to understand their goals and objectives."

Frugé—a law professor who became the first president/CEO of the foundation and who devoted more than two decades to developing UM's private giving—says he feels confident leaving the foundation to Weakley.

"Wendell is the epitome of a highly accomplished individual who is at the top of his profession, and yet he has always made time for his alma mater," says Frugé. "Wendell is deepening his commitment to Ole Miss by accepting this leadership role. He brings a wealth of experience and networking to the table, and we will embrace his efforts to strengthen our university."

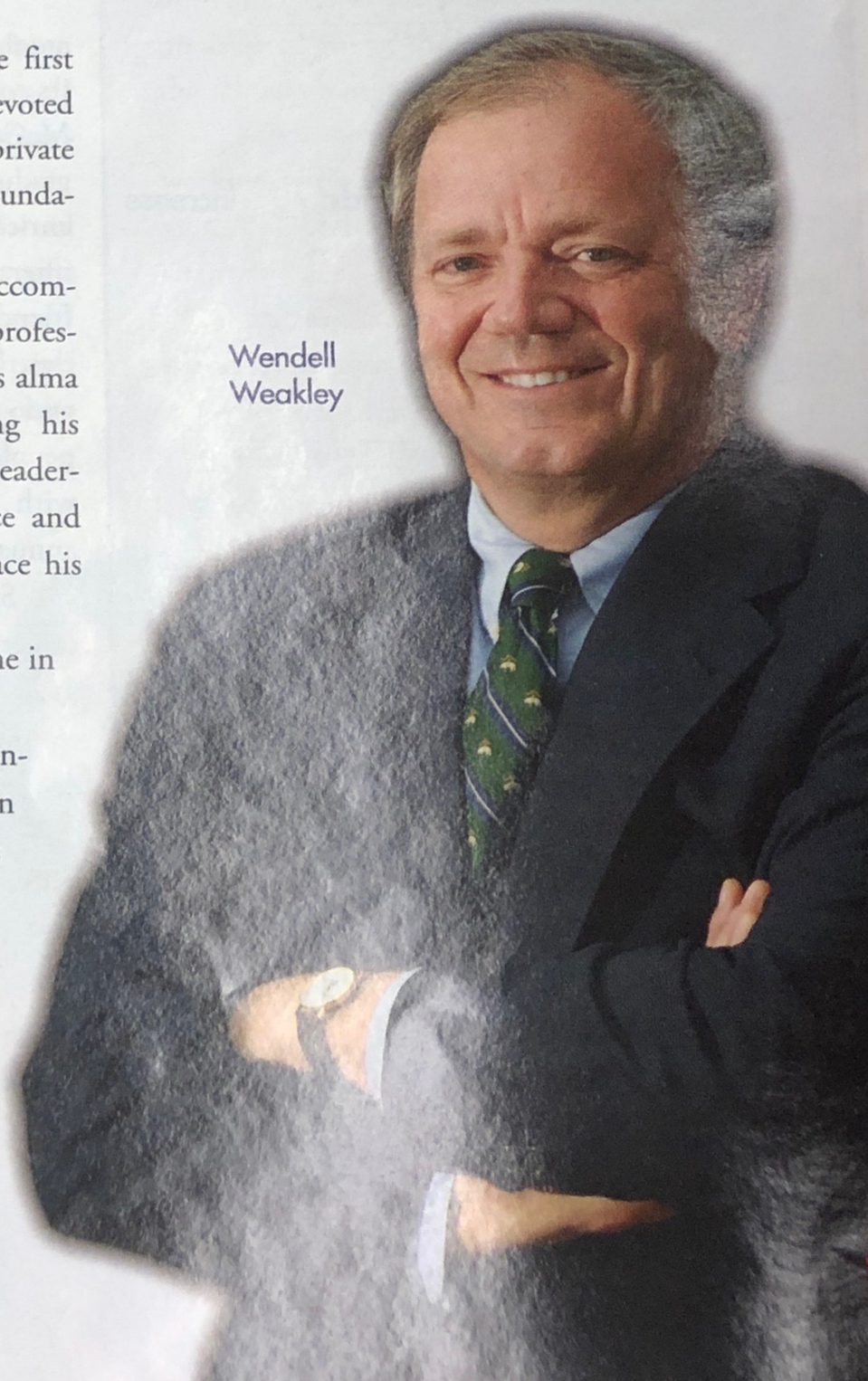
Weakley has been spending available time in the foundation offices since mid-March.

"Don and I have a great working relationship, and we already have begun our transition activities." he says. "My long-term goals focus on continuous improvement in the foundation's ability to serve the needs of Ole Miss. That may sound simple, but I believe the university will advance rapidly for many years to come, and it is imperative the foundation facilitates that progress."

Through the years, Weakley has remained involved with his alma mater, serving as a member of the UM Foundation Board of Directors and as chair of the UM Accountancy Advisory Council. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants member is also a certified public accountant in Tennessee and Mississippi.

Weakley and his wife, Sue, also an Ole Miss grad, are settling into their new Oxford home. They are the parents of three daughters: Allison Weakley Sutherland of Memphis and Sloan Weakley Galloway of Atlanta, both UM graduates; and Elizabeth Weakley, a University of Colorado student.

"I am looking forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones as we settle into the Oxford and university communities. Moving back to Oxford and the university is truly a homecoming for the Weakley family," says Sue Weakley. "We bought a house with some acreage, and Wendell and I have been adjusting to the quiet of the country. Our urban lifestyle has been replaced with the talk of tractors and barn building. We are so happy to be home at last, and after years of living elsewhere, this is truly a place to settle down and dig those roots deeper."

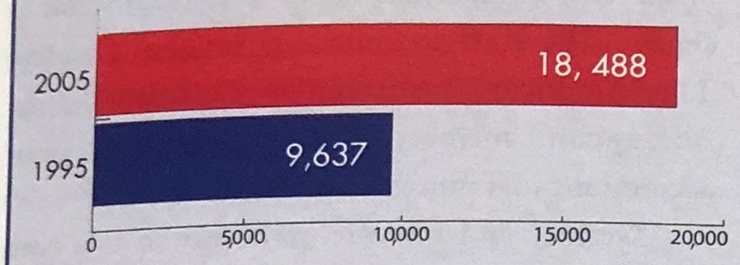


Wendell Weakley

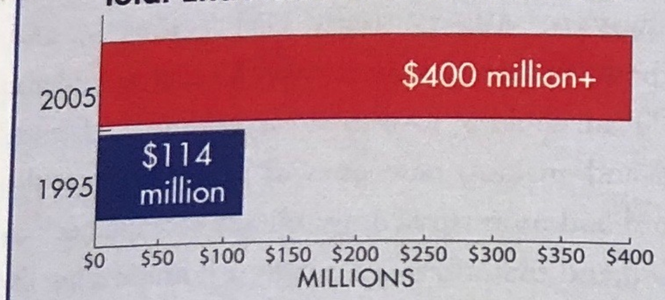
10 Years of Growth: 1995-2005

The University of Mississippi Foundation, established in 1973, provides the margin of excellence to the University of Mississippi.

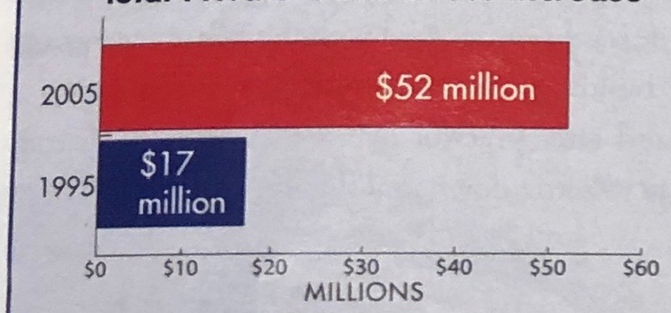
Total number of donors: 92% increase



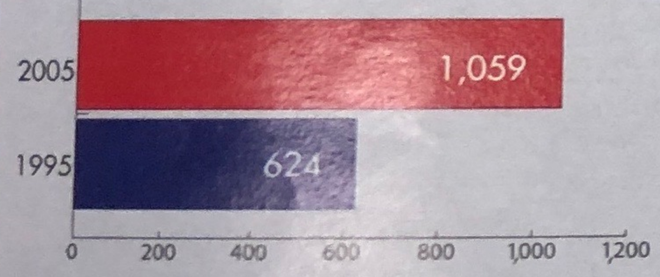
Total Endowment: 248% increase



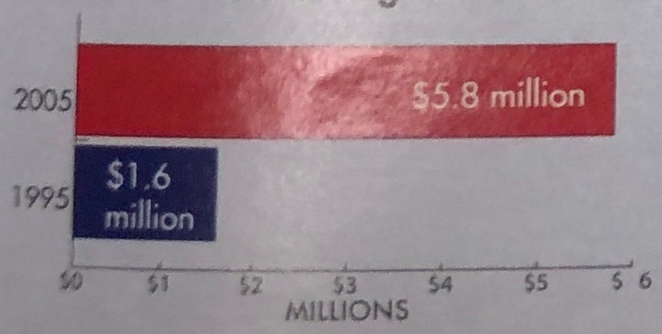
Total Private Gifts: 205% increase



Number of Endowment Funds: 70% increase



Total Annual Giving: 206% increase



$343 million has been transferred to the University for academic and athletic programs

Guest, Chow See Roles Expand in Foundation Work

Joining new UM Foundation President/Chief Executive Officer Wendell Weakley on a leadership team poised to take the organization to the next level are Sandra Guest and Lisa Chow.

Guest, formerly the director of advancement, becomes the foundation vice president, while Chow adds the role of foundation treasurer to her position of controller. Both serve on the Joint Committee for University Investments, which handles the investment of the university's endowment.

Sandra Guest

As vice president of the UM Foundation, Guest is responsible for the day-to-day foundation activities, which includes all tasks relating to the receiving, receipting, distributing and investing of gifts on behalf of the university. In addition, she directs the planned giving program, oversees all foundation publications and counsels alumni on all types of giving programs at the university, such as the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy, of which she was a founding member.

"I consider it a privilege and an honor to do anything I can to help the university and especially its students," says Guest, a McComb, Miss., native and UM graduate. "My life continues to be enriched by the opportunity to interact with so many alumni and friends through foundation activities. I never cease to be humbled and inspired by the generous people who support the university with now over $50 million in annual gifts."

Lisa Chow

Spanning 30 years, Guest's career with the foundation has focused on all its facets, and 22 of those years were spent working with Don Frugé, the retiring president/CEO.

"It has been a tremendous experience to work with Don, who built the foundation to the corporate level it enjoys today," Guest says. "We lived the dream at Ole Miss, witnessing the foundation's tremendous growth from a $2 million endowment to a present-day over $400 million that makes an incredible impact on a variety of programs, projects and student scholarship. I look forward to working with Wendell as the foundation reaches to achieve an even higher level of excellence."

Guest and her husband, Ron, have three children and four grandchildren.

As treasurer and controller of the UM Foundation, Chow is involved in all aspects of the foundation's fiduciary responsibilities and operations: financial reporting and management, the audit and accounting systems, short-term and long-term investment of foundation funds and financial consultation with donors. When she joined the foundation in fall 2003, one of her goals was to create a financial reporting program that generates monthly, quarterly and annual reports systematically. This strategically placed program now generates timely, concise reports that are geared toward specific users' needs.

"Wendell, Sandra and I bring diverse business experience and different perspectives to the table," Chow says. "I think we will complement each other as we serve the foundation and the university family. Our goal is to be trusted and competent stewards of resources provided by our donors, as well as effective leaders who help strengthen and expand the foundation. The university's ability to maintain its phenomenal momentum largely depends upon the private support that flows through the foundation."

A native of Clarksdale, Miss., Chow earned a degree in accountancy from UM's Patterson School of Accountancy. She joined the foundation from her position as a certified public accountant and tax manager for Deloitte & Touche in Memphis. Her career experience also includes a similar role with Arthur Andersen in Memphis and a position as an internal auditor for the National Bank of Commerce.

"As foundation treasurer, I am answering to my Ole Miss family, my friends and my colleagues," says Chow. "I have a personal vested interest in my alma mater. Ole Miss is an important part of my life."

Vaughn Named Executive Director of University Advancement

The new executive director of advancement at the University of Mississippi is Deborah Stafford Vaughn.

The West Point, Miss. native assists the vice chancellor for university relations and academic deans in their work to maximize private support for the university. She also provides leadership and supervision to advancement officers and special development initiatives, which include the Ole Miss First scholarship program and the Chancellor's Trust.

Gloria Kellum, vice chancellor for university relations, praises Vaughn's achievements.

"Debbie Vaughn has made a tremendous impact in her short tenure at Ole Miss and has hit the ground running," Kellum says. "Chancellor Khayat and I welcome her to this position and are proud to have her leading our advancement team."

Before joining the UM staff in March 2005, Vaughn served as associate dean of development and alumni relations for the College of Arts and Science and director of development for the School of Engineering at Vanderbilt University. She previously directed development for the College of Business and oversaw Patrons of Excellence at Mississippi State University.

Deborah Stafford Vaughn

Vaughn began her career in education as a publisher's representative at International Thomson Publishing Co. in Cincinnati and later was named national marketing services manager.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to secure private gifts for this institution in order that we may continue to attract renowned faculty and bright, deserving students in our home state and nationally," Vaughn says. "The University of Mississippi has an exceptional leadership team of vice chancellors, deans, faculty and advancement staff demonstrating a deep commitment of building upon the university's foundation of excellence and delivering extraordinary education."

Vaughn holds a bachelor's degree in business education from Mississippi State University and a master's degree in higher education administration with an emphasis in institutional advancement from Vanderbilt University.

She and her husband, Wade, live in the Pheba community with their two children, Alex and Abbie.

UM Welcomes New Members to Advancement Team

The University of Mississippi has added Jennifer Southall, Lauren Beyers, Jake Lemon and Elizabeth Paine to raise private support for the university's programs and scholarships.

"These four people are tremendous additions to our staff," says Deborah Vaughn, executive director of university advancement. "Their hard work and team spirit are making a real difference in our efforts, and their contributions will make this university a better place for generations of students to come."

Southall, a 1992 Ole Miss graduate from Vicksburg, Miss., worked in the UM Media and Public Relations office for two years before moving to fund raising.

"It is important work, with state funding being low," says Southall, an advancement associate for annual giving. "Tuition does not make up that gap, so there is such a need for private support."

Before joining the UM staff in 2003, Southall worked for Birmingham, Ala.-based Southern Progress Corp., where she was a copy editor for Cooking Light magazine. During her time in the university's Media and PR office, she helped publicize programs, accomplishments and events in the Division of Student Life and the departments of English and Southern Studies.

Beyers, a native of Houston, Texas, earned her bachelor's degree in managerial finance from Ole Miss in 2000. As a prospect research analyst, her job is to identify potential donors to UM and provide that information to advancement officers.

"I am an analyst by trade, so I've always been trying to find information about things," she says. "I search public records and determine a prospect's relationship to the university."

Lemon recruits donors for the School of Pharmacy. "My favorite part of being a major gifts officer for the School of Pharmacy is the travel," Lemon says. "I honestly enjoy each and every trip I take to visit with alumni of the school. I have gotten a warm reception from our alums, and I am confident that the trend will continue."

Lemon, who graduated from Ole Miss in 2004 with an MBA, says he wants to increase the number of major gifts to the pharmacy school, concentrate on deferred giving and eventually build a society for the school's major donors.

"I got involved with fund raising while working with a financial planning firm," Lemon says. "We did some estate planning dealing with charitable giving, and it fascinated me."

Realizing the importance of private funding for higher education, Paine says she felt compelled to apply for her present job.

A 2001 graduate of Baylor University, Paine is the advancement associate for Parents Programs. Her work includes organizing private support for the Ole Miss Parents Association and the Parents Leadership Council.

She says she especially enjoys meeting with the proud parents of Ole Miss students.

"I want to enhance the Ole Miss Parents Association," Paine says, "and to create an organization of dedicated, involved parents who give not only of their time but also help support the university with charitable giving."

Jake Lemon, Jennifer Southall, Lauren Beyers, and Elizabeth Paine

Couple Designates Part of Estate to Create First Unrestricted Endowment at Ole Miss

Two University of Mississippi supporters are making school history by establishing the first unrestricted endowment to provide resources that can help address the university's greatest needs in the future.

John and Alice Henderson of Jackson—who already have contributed more than $200,000 to strengthen various UM programs—have designated part of their estate to create the fund, and are charging UM leadership to direct its use. The two say their decision reflects their confidence in the leadership and direction of the university.

"We have strong trust in Chancellor Robert Khayat, Don Frugé and Wendell Weakley (the retiring and new UM Foundation president/CEO) and felt the administration of the university and foundation would be in a better position than us to identify areas of need that are not completely met by other resources," says John Henderson.

"We believe strongly in scholarships, of course, but we also realize there are many other needs at a university," Henderson says. "Our families have always put great emphasis on education. We have no children, but through the university, we can leave a mark—a legacy."

UM Chancellor Khayat says the Hendersons' decision to create the endowment is inspiring, and the fund is certain to impact many facets of the university.

"The Hendersons are entrusting the University of Mississippi not only with a gift but also with authority to use their gift as needed. Their act of faith serves to invigorate our continuous efforts to provide extraordinary educational opportunities in an extraordinary educational environment," says Khayat. "It should be deeply gratifying to Mr. and Mrs. Henderson to know the fruits of their labor will live on by strengthening a university community dedicated to producing effective leaders and productive citizens. We extend our deeply felt appreciation to them and pledge to be worthy stewards of these resources."

Mississippi native Wanda Alice McKee Henderson graduated from Ole Miss, and her Texas native husband earned his college degree at Trinity University. His alma mater also is to be a beneficiary in the couple's estate, as well as First Baptist Church of Jackson and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"The Hendersons have made outright gifts to the university, but by setting up this endowment, the university will be strengthened in perpetuity," says UM Foundation Vice President Sandra Guest, who has worked with the donors. "They have been building a legacy of thoughtful support for years, and this latest decision reflects their belief in Ole Miss and what it offers students and society at large."

Alice Henderson says of the couple's decision, "We both love Ole Miss and consider it one large family. We just want to help strengthen the university as much as we can."

John Henderson was an executive with Exxon Mobil Corp. for some 44 years in Texas and Louisiana, providing expertise in the areas of refinery, exploration and production. He also served in the U.S. Navy during World War II after being commissioned at the same time as former UM Chancellor Porter Fortune. The Hendersons met while both working in New Orleans, married in 1967 and retired in 1981 in her hometown of Jackson.

The couple became involved on a broader scale with UM after John Henderson served as the executor of the estate of their friend, Emma Katherine Faser Birchett, whose father was the first dean of the UM School of Pharmacy. The Hendersons worked closely with university leaders, as Birchett left the bulk of her estate to the pharmacy school.

Both UM and Trinity University have benefited from John Henderson utilizing ExxonMobil Foundation's Educational Matching Gifts Program. UM contributions from the couple have been directed to an Ole Miss First Scholarship, as well as the Chancellor's Trust, Ole Miss Associates, School of Education, Alumni House renovation, University Museums and the Walton-Young Historic House. Magen Bradley, the Antioch, Tenn., native who received the Hendersons' Ole Miss First Scholarship, begins school in the 2006 fall semester.

Sandra Guest, Vice President, UM Foundation (left), presents John and Alice Henderson with 1848 Society certificate.

Planned Gifts for the Future of Ole Miss

In addition to filling an important role in supporting your family and others, planned gifts can provide a way to make the University of Mississippi part of your long-range estate and financial plans. Each year the university receives numerous planned gifts from alumni and friends who thoughtfully provided a portion of their accumulated assets for the benefit of reinvesting in the future of Ole Miss.

These gifts take the form of a bequest included in one's will, a portion of the remainder of a living trust, or as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, IRA, or other retirement plan.

For more information on planned gifts, or to learn about other giving options, contact the University of Mississippi Foundation at (662) 915-5944 or 800-340-9542 or e-mail umf@olemiss.edu.

Alumna Gives Landmark Gift to Performing Arts Center

University of Mississippi alumna Nancye Bell Starnes has donated and pledged more than a half-million dollars to the university in support of the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

Ford Center Director Norm Easterbrook announced the $540,000 gift in conjunction with the center's quarterly board meeting in May. The money allows the university to plan a new performing arts series different from, and in addition to, its present offerings.

"With Ms. Starnes' generous donation, we'll be able to try new things, bring in different artists to help build audience attendance, as well as continue to bring in the quality performances our audience has grown to expect from us," Easterbrook says.

Nancye Bell Starnes

Starnes says she wants to see her gifts used strategically.

"I simply wanted to help catapult the Ford Center to a different level, to help it offer more to the community it serves," the 1970 Ole Miss graduate says.

As a former student performer in plays and choirs, Starnes says she also wants to give the community an opportunity to broaden and enhance its performing arts experiences.

"Performing arts has been a huge part of my life since high school," she says. "As an adult, I've used the performing arts to lift me when things weren't going well, to spur me to make changes, to learn more about the world or to simply help me smile more. I truly believe that the performing arts are a strong catalyst for change and I want to offer that opportunity to others. That's what's exciting to me."

Easterbrook says he is humbled and pleased by Starnes' donation.

"Because of this gift, we are looking forward to building a strong partnership with the campus and Oxford community to develop our new series that will have a regional outlook," he says. "In addition, we can expect more educational opportunities for our students and more outreach activities for the community."

Starnes admits that her loyalty to Ole Miss and the Oxford community is part of her reason for giving.

"I feel a sense of loyalty to the campus and community," Starnes says. "The campus has developed rapidly since I was there, and I like what I've heard about the changes."

Although Starnes is a native of Wilmington, N.C., she says that her time at Ole Miss really made her a "Southern girl."

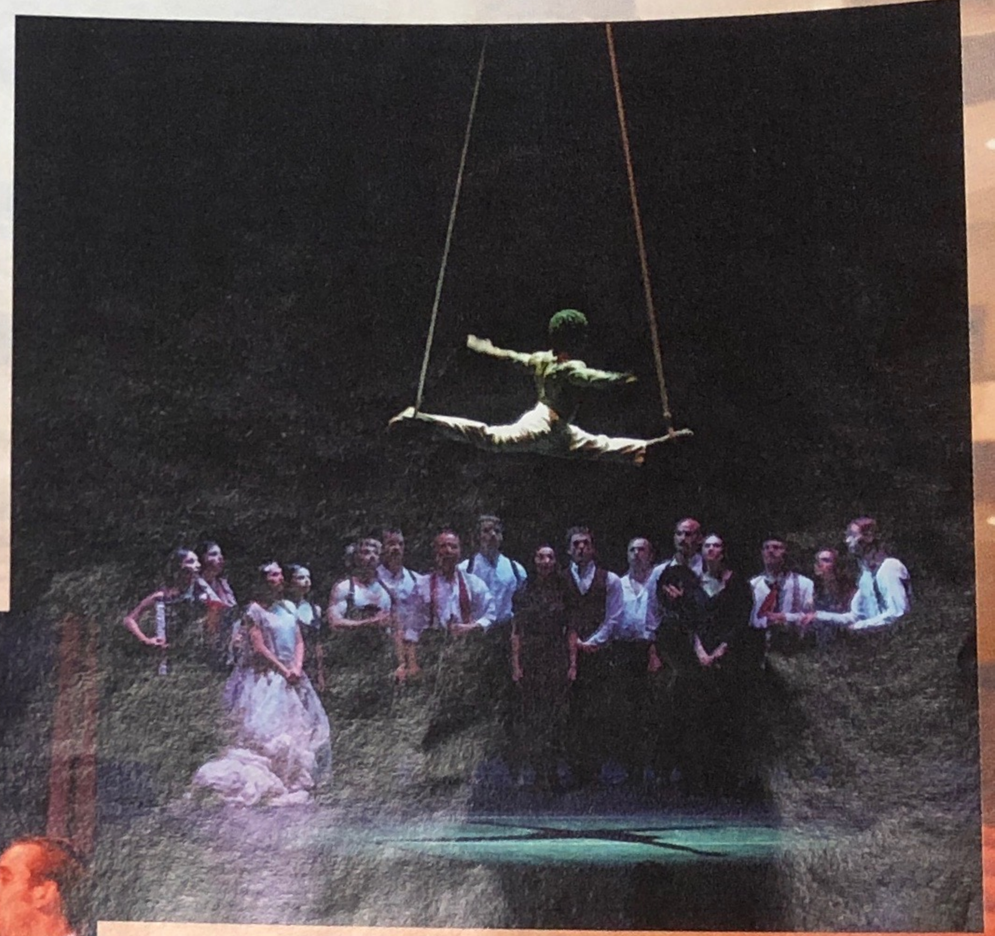
"My father was in the Air Force, so I grew up all over the world," Starnes says. "It was my mom's decision that I attend a college in the South. I wasn't happy or thrilled at her decision at that time."

But 36 years later, Starnes admits that her mom was right.

"The South has been good to me and for me," she says. "My mom was wise in her decision to send me here. In fact, when I thought of places I'd like to live, the South was my only choice. The South is very much a part of me."

Starnes, who lives in Charleston, S.C., has taught in California; Texas; Memphis, Tenn.; and Olive Branch, Miss. She is also a community volunteer and leader in Memphis, having served as president of both Les Passees Children's Services Inc. and the Mental Health Association of the Mid-South. Starnes is a co-founder of MS Carriers, a national trucking firm. Besides funding the Ford Center, her private foundation also supports the performing arts in South Carolina, Tennessee and Colorado. She also funds research to advance a cure for neurofibromatosis, a genetic disease.

Starnes is the mother of Mary Barker Baker and grandmother of Ethan, both of Santa Fe, N.M.



Ford Center performance of "Mame" and the acrobats of Cirque Eloize.

Endowment to Honor Frugés Exceeds $125,000

The University of Mississippi community recognized that a retirement tribute to UM Foundation President/CEO Don Frugé would have to be far from ordinary because of his remarkable contributions spanning more than two decades.

There also was a belief that the best way to honor someone who has worked tirelessly to attract private funds for the university and its students was to build an endowment in his name, and to include his wife in the tribute, to reflect her loyalty and efforts supporting her husband and strengthening Ole Miss.

Don and Mary Ann Frugé

The Don and Mary Ann Frugé Endowment, which was recently unveiled at Don Frugé's retirement reception, now totals more than $125,000. UM alumni and friends, as well as other members of the university community, continue to provide gifts to the endowment. The Frugés are studying how best to direct the fund.

"Mary Ann and I were absolutely overwhelmed by the tremendous love and appreciation we felt when the endowment was announced," says Don Frugé. "It truly has been a remarkable journey to be involved in the life and work of our beloved Ole Miss. The relationships we have made have blessed our lives beyond measure. We thank each and every person who helped build this wonderful endowment. It's both exciting and humbling to know opportunities like the ones we enjoyed as Ole Miss students and professionals are to be available to others because of generous gifts made in our names."

Under Frugé's watch, the foundation grew from 2,000 donors giving around $2 million annually to 18,659 donors giving more than $50 million annually. Chancellor Robert Khayat says the Frugé legacy includes how the foundation is viewed and trusted by alumni and friends.

"There is no question about the integrity of the University of Mississippi Foundation or about Don Frugé," says Chancellor Robert Khayat. "He is a man who is universally respected. Don and Mary Ann epitomize the best of what it means to be members of the Ole Miss family."

Vice Chancellor of University Affairs Gloria Kellum says, "It is an amazing time to see what impact private support has had on this university. It's truly the margin of excellence. To Don and Mary Ann for their leadership in building this margin of excellence, we are profoundly grateful."

Engineering Alumnus Steps Forward with $100,000 for Frugé Endowment, Ole Miss First Scholarships

A University of Mississippi engineering alumnus has donated $100,000 to his alma mater to be divided among an endowment and two Ole Miss First Scholarships.

Michael T. "Mike" McRee of Jackson, Miss., has pledged $50,000 to be paid over four years to support the scholarship fund bearing his name; he has designated another $50,000 for the Don and Mary Ann Frugé Endowment.

McRee is a director of EARNEST Partners, an investment management firm in Atlanta. He also chairs Investek Timber Management of Jackson and is a director of Cimarron Mortgage Company.

"Though I have participated in a number of other fund drives at Ole Miss, the current contribution arose out of a long friendship with Don and Mary Ann," McRee says. "The underlying motivation is simply the pride we all take in the incredible progress of the past 10 years under Chancellor Robert Khayat's leadership. I feel like we are truly becoming a great American university."

Expressing his appreciation, Khayat says, "Mike McRee is one of our most loved and respected graduates. His gift is one more demonstration of his long-standing generosity and support of the university and its many future students."

Don Frugé, retiring president of the University Foundation, says, "For over 20 years, Mike has chaired the Joint Committee on University Investments charged with managing the combined endowments of the university, the Medical Center and the UM Foundation.

Mike McRee

"In his quiet, professional way, Mike has led the endowment growth from meager beginnings to now over $400 million. Additionally, Mike has been a true personal friend, and Mary Ann and I are humbled and grateful for his generous gift to the surprise endowment in our honor."

The Michael T. McRee Ole Miss First Scholars Award provides two recipients with $4,500 per year for four years of study. The scholars must maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average as full-time students, in addition to meeting other requirements, including participation in a mentoring program.

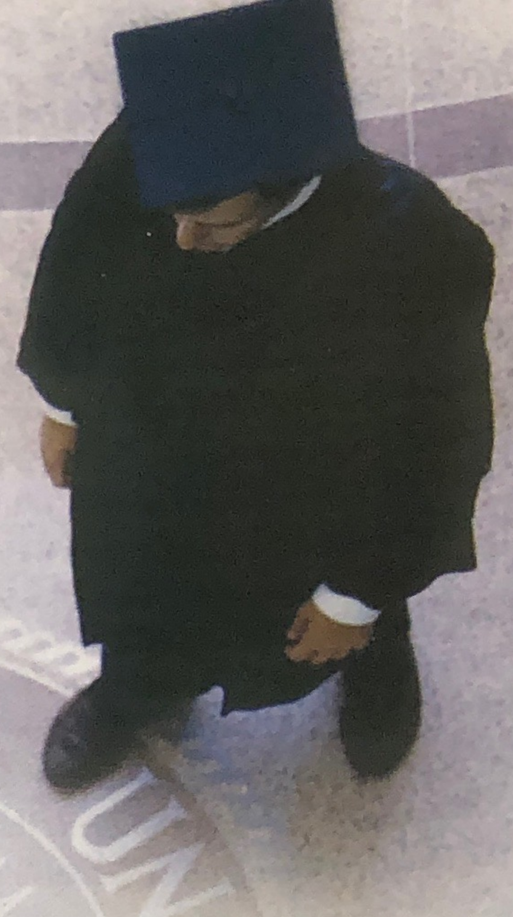
"Michael McRee believes in education as an instrument for improving the quality of one's life, so it's fitting that two Ole Miss First Scholarships bear his name and be awarded to future leaders in Mississippi," says Sandra Guest, vice president of the University Foundation.

McRee graduated from the Ole Miss engineering school in 1966 and completed an MBA at George Washington University in 1970. He chairs the Joint Committee on University Investments and is a past member of the University Foundation Board of Directors.

His career has included positions of leadership in Mississippi Power & Light Co., U.S. Army Signal Corps, Lamar Life Insurance Corp. and Bank of the South. Some of McRee's community involvements are Millsaps College, the Greater Development of Jackson, the Jackson YMCA and the Mississippi Craftsman's Guild.

McRee has three adult daughters.

Eighty-five Students Graduate with Thanks to Alum Frank Day



They've traveled the world, made lifelong friends, received an education and are on the way to fulfilling their dreams, thanks in part to one man's commitment.

They are the 85 University of Mississippi Luckyday Scholars who earned diplomas in May, their college experience enriched by a promise of the late Frank Day of Aberdeen, Miss. Day, who graduated from UM in 1953, established the Luckyday Opportunity Scholarship program in 1978 to help young Mississippians achieve their educational goals.

"We are so proud of our 2006 Luckyday graduates," says Barbara Day, widow of Frank Day, at a recent reception for the graduating class and Luckyday Foundation board members. "They have been successful both in their academic and personal achievements during their college years, and we wish them well. We hope they will spread the word about Luckyday Scholarships to other worthy students as they go forward in their careers."

The Jackson, Miss.-based Luckyday Foundation has provided annual scholarships to UM freshmen since 2001. Over the last five years, the foundation has awarded more than $9 million to more than 800 students.

"The University of Mississippi is honored to bestow these annual scholarships to young Mississippians," says Chancellor Robert Khayat. "Due to the generous nature of people like Frank Day, these graduates can now enter their careers free of financial burdens."

"This scholarship was a big deal," says electrical engineering senior Jordan Jackson, of Jackson. "I would have had a hard time affording school, so this scholarship allowed me to focus my energy on academics."

As the largest scholarship program offered at UM, Luckyday awards up to $28,000 per eligible student for four years of undergraduate study. The program aims to bridge the gap between individual student needs and assistance from other scholarships and grants.

"Mr. Day believed in investing in people," says Holmes Adams, Luckyday Foundation board chairman. "He would be especially pleased to know that these students have been good stewards of his investment in them."

Day received his bachelor's degree in business from Ole Miss, then completed the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University. He served as chairman of the board and CEO of Trustmark National Bank before his death in 1999.

The Luckyday Foundation has given over $9 Million to UM students since 2001 in the following areas:

- **Renewable Luckyday Opportunity Scholarships**
  Awarded to deserving freshmen from Mississippi that meet certain academic criteria. Awards range from $1000 to $7000 per year.
- **Luckyday Merit Scholarships**
  Awarded to National Merit/Achievement Finalists from Mississippi. These awards are valued at $3000 per year and are renewable.
- **Renewable Luckyday Loan/Scholarships**
  Awarded to junior transfers from Mississippi community colleges in the fields of Education, Social Work, and Communicative Disorders. Loans are forgiven in full for three years of work in Mississippi after graduation.

Parents Group Grants $15,000 to Upgrade Library Classroom

University of Mississippi students can expect major upgrades to a computer education classroom in the J.D. Williams Library thanks to a $15,000 grant from the Ole Miss Parents Association.

Serving some 6,500 students enrolled in more than 255 courses each year, the classroom lacks a sufficient number of computers to accommodate the average class size of around 20 students, says librarian Amy Mark.

"Because the library offers 50-minute workshops to classes at all levels and across the curriculum, librarians end up speaking to a tremendous number of students on how to use library resources," Mark says. "The ideal learning situation for students is to be able to work at a modern workstation with up-to-date computers in an interactive environment. The Ole Miss Parents Association grant enables us to meet those needs."

The grant will also provide enough funds to equip the classroom with new chairs to match the desks purchased last year through another OMPA grant.

Each year, the Parents Association sponsors a fund-raising campaign. Past campaigns have provided scholarships, computers and printers in residence halls, and new security stations on campus.

"With computers in the library (for instructional use), students can take better advantage of the technology on campus," says Rebecca Bertrand, UM 2005-06 student body president. "We're always appreciative of gifts from the Ole Miss Parents Association."

Lott Leadership Institute Names Executive Director

William Gottshall, Chief of Staff for U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, has been appointed the first executive director of the Trent Lott Leadership Institute, established at the University of Mississippi in 1999 to produce future leaders.

Gottshall's appointment was approved in August 2005 by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, and he took the helm of the Lott Leadership Institute last October.

Chancellor Robert Khayat says the university is fortunate to have Gottshall lead the institute. "Bill Gottshall is a wonderful man with superb qualifications," Khayat says. "We are confident that he will provide visionary and aggressive leadership for the institute."

"I have great respect for, and attribute much of my success to, Ole Miss," says Gottshall, who has been head of Sen. Lott's Washington office for the last seven years. "It's an honor to serve in the institute, named after one of the nation's great leaders, and I consider it a blessing to be able to return to Ole Miss."

After earning a bachelor's of business administration degree from UM, Gottshall served in the U.S. Army, first as a lieutenant in Germany, where he was in special weapons command, and later as a captain in Korea, where he was involved in the Hawk missile command.

Senator Trent Lott, Senator John McCain, Chancellor Robert Khayat, and Lott Institute Executive Director William Gottshall

Following military service, Gottshall returned to Oxford and worked for 25 years at First National Bank. He resigned as chief executive officer at the bank in 1998 to accept his position with Sen. Lott. He is ready for the challenge that lies ahead.

"Serving as the chief of staff to a United States senator is a collective education in management, conflict resolution, people skills and sensitivity training," Gottshall says.

Under the leadership of Khayat, Provost Carolyn Staton and interim Director Bob Haws, the Lott Leadership Institute has been built from the ground up. Gottshall says his goal for the institute is to continue that growth and ensure its mission. "The training of leaders for our country," he says, "couldn't be more important in this day and time."

The institute, which offers an undergraduate minor in leadership studies, operates various programs to promote the ideals of good leadership. They include a summer institute for high school leaders, an annual symposium for national and international business and government leaders, and professional seminars for contemporary leaders in education, law and nonprofit organizations.

When the institute was founded, Sen. Lott said, "Our founding fathers recognized that leadership is not an aristocratic birthright. It is an acquired quality, attainable by anyone with the patience, courage and conviction to meld the energies of many individuals into a single force for the pursuit of common goals."

Memorial Scholarship Established in Honor of Educator

The Dr. Theopolis Pride Vinson Memorial Scholarship Endowment has been founded at the University of Mississippi to award scholarships in education to minority students.

Known to friends as "T. P." or "Thea," Vinson was a teacher and administrator in UM's School of Education from 1989 until his untimely death in 2003.

"Theopolis Vinson was a wonderful, dedicated faculty member," says Chancellor Robert Khayat. "This scholarship endowment is a great way to memorialize his commitment to the University of Mississippi."

T.P. and Jacqueline Vinson, Aleah, Alex, and J.T.

Vinson also served as pastor at Philadelphia M.B. Church in Lafayette County.

"Dr. Vinson was a genuine, caring person," says Deatrice Cox, former student and church member. "I'm thankful for the fortunate opportunity of getting to know him, and the personal challenge of trying to live my life as he preached in his sermons and exemplified in his daily walk."

To honor Vinson's legacy, an endowment was seeded at UM by his widow, Jacqueline Vinson, a project coordinator at the university. The endowment funds a scholarship to be awarded to a full-time junior or senior minority student admitted to the teacher education program. To receive the $500 annual scholarship, the student must demonstrate extraordinary leadership ability and community service.

Vinson says her husband would want the scholarship recipient to be someone who loves mankind and actively works to improve the community.

"Thea delighted himself in seeing young people setting and accomplishing worthwhile goals," she says.

Vinson was director of undergraduate advising and records, assistant dean and assistant professor of curriculum and instruction. He taught, advised and recruited students on the UM campuses in Oxford, Southaven and Tupelo.

The School of Education additionally established, in Vinson's name, an award given to outstanding faculty and staff at UM's satellite campuses. Carol Mahaltie, who advises business students, recently received the 2006 award.

Philadelphia M.B. Church member William Austin recalls how Vinson's compassion for others resulted in the growth of the congregation, which led to construction of a new sanctuary. He says Vinson's goal to build a family life center is still being planned and, when completed, will be named in his honor.

"Dr. Vinson's death created a void, both at the church and in the community," Austin says. "It's difficult to replace a man who touched so many lives."

Vinson is survived by his wife, daughter, Aleah, and twin sons, Alex and J.T.

Ole Miss Receives $1.5 Million Endowment for Scholarships to Benefit Alcorn County Students

Robert Palmer Scott may be a man of mystery, having died leaving no known living relatives, but there's no doubt about plans for the $1.56 million endowment he left to the University of Mississippi.

The Robert P. Scott Scholarship Endowment created by Scott's estate is designated to provide four-year $10,000 scholarships enabling graduates of Corinth High School and Alcorn County High School to attend Ole Miss. Recipients are to be chosen based on their scholastic ability, leadership potential and financial need.

"Robert didn't have any ties to Ole Miss," says his acquaintance Cliff Worsham of Corinth. "He simply wanted to leave his money somewhere so future generations could receive a quality education."

In addition, Scott left $100,000 of the endowment to the Corinth Public Library in memory of his former English teacher, Evelyn Bramlett, who taught at Corinth High.

Research into Scott's life, career and family reveals that he married a Corinth native, and the couple resided there for a number of years. They had no children, and he died in Sun City, Ariz., a Phoenix suburb.

"Mr. Scott had many friends that were Ole Miss graduates, and although he didn't attend Ole Miss himself, he must have believed the University of Mississippi was the best investment he could make in higher education," says Sandra Guest, vice president of the UM Foundation. "That investment and contribution will impact future students for generations."

For more information on giving programs at the University of Mississippi Foundation, call (662) 915-5944 or 800-340-9542, or e-mail umf@olemiss.edu.

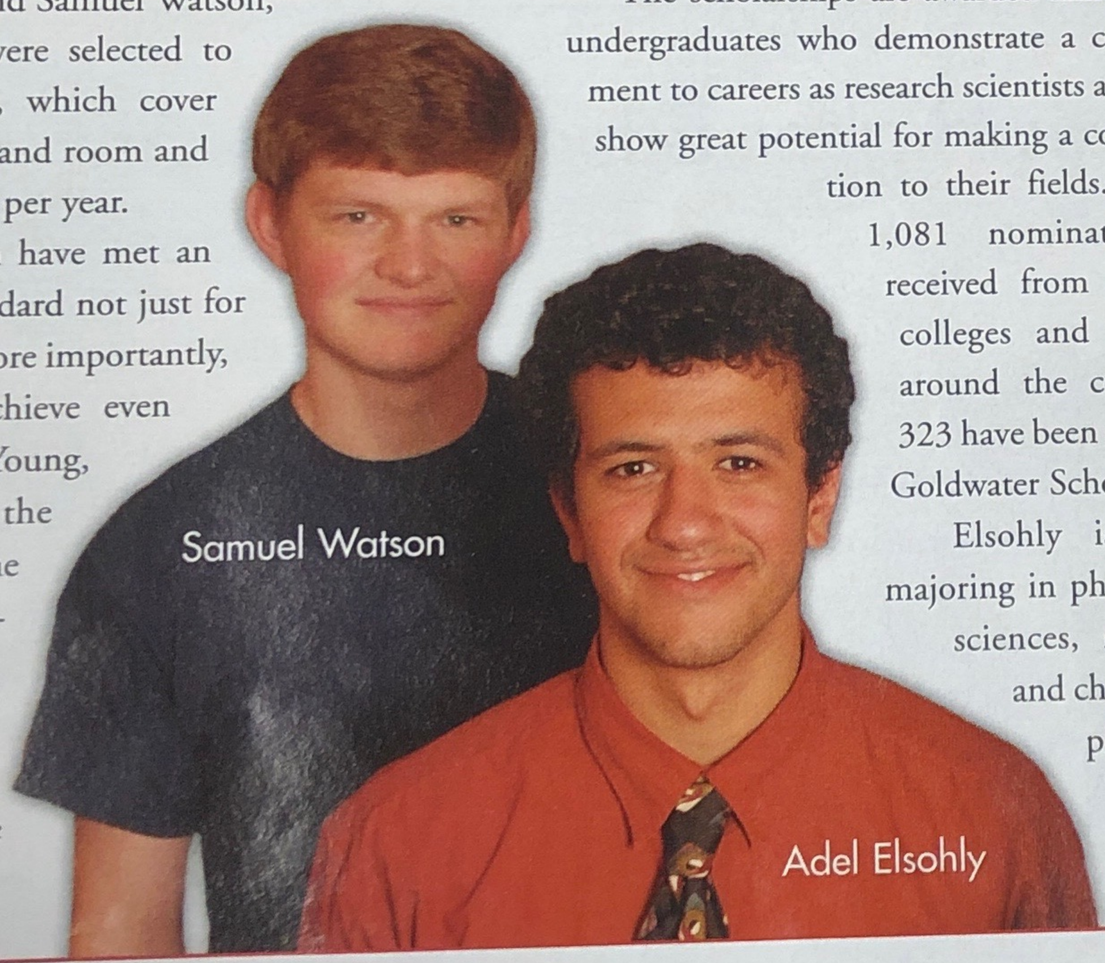
Coveted Goldwater Scholarships Go to Two Honors College Students

Criteria reflect student research opportunities

Two students in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi have won prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships.

Adel Elsohly and Samuel Watson, both of Oxford, were selected to receive the awards, which cover tuition, fees, books and room and board up to $7,500 per year.

"Adel and Sam have met an incredibly high standard not just for achievement but, more importantly, for potential to achieve even more," says Debra Young, assistant dean of the Honors College. "The Goldwater Scholarship looks way down the road and says: these students will help shape what we know and what we can do. To have two scholars this year is a fine validation of the way our science faculty engages and supports talented students."


Samuel Watson

Adel Elsohly

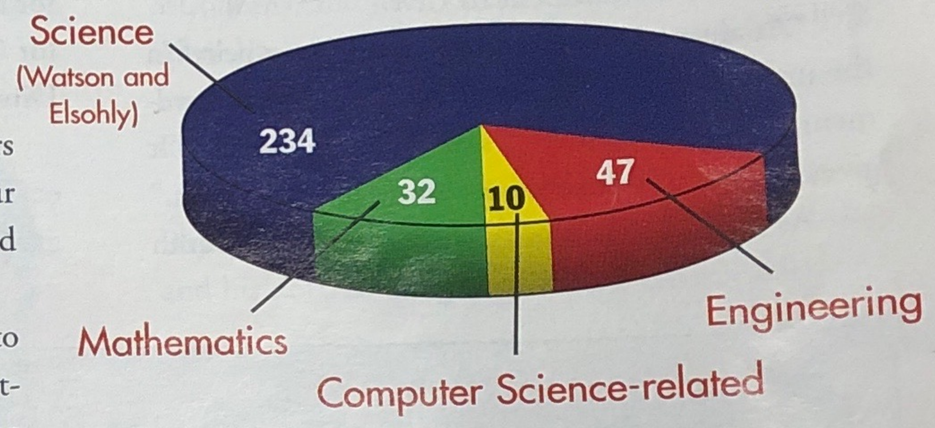
The scholarships are awarded annually to undergraduates who demonstrate a commitment to careers as research scientists and who show great potential for making a contribution to their fields. A total of 1,081 nominations were received from faculties of colleges and universities around the country, and 323 have been named 2006 Goldwater Scholars.

Elsohly is a junior majoring in pharmaceutical sciences, mathematics and chemistry, with plans for a career in medicinal chemistry. Watson, a sophomore physics, mathematics and classics major, eyes a mathematics professorship at a university and the opportunity to conduct research in algebra or combinatorics.

The premier undergraduate award of its type, the Goldwater Scholarship honors former U.S. Sen. Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona and was designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. The University has produced 10 Goldwater Scholars since 1989.

Elsohly is the son of Mahmoud and Hala Elsohly of Oxford; Watson is the son of Marvin and Jean Watson of Oxford.

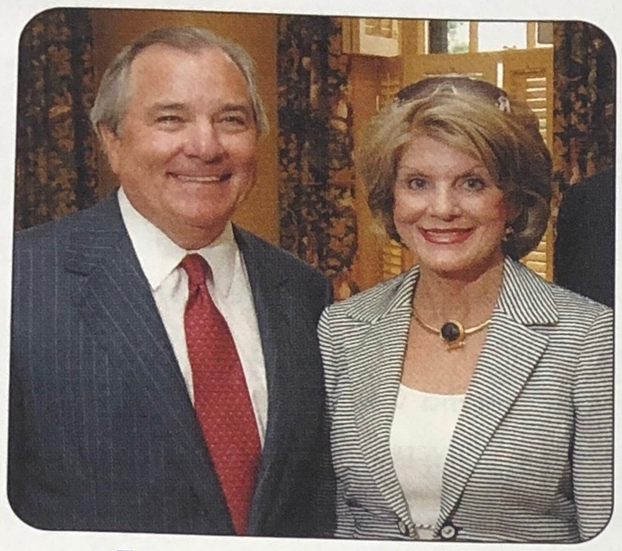
The **Goldwater Scholars** were selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,081 mathematics, science, and engineering students nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide.



Jackson Couple Honors Vice Chancellor Kellum

Almost 10 years ago, John H. "Tommy" Thames Jr. and his wife, Suzan, donated three parcels of prime property to the University of Mississippi Foundation. Over time, foundation officials sold the land, with proceeds totaling $262,518.

With the sale of the last parcel, which was near the Thames' beloved alma mater in Oxford, the foundation has established the Tommy and Suzan Thames Endowment for the School of Business Administration and the Department of Communicative Disorders. In turn, the couple has made the gift in honor of their longtime friend, Gloria D. Kellum, vice chancellor for university relations.



Tommy and Suzan Thames

"We are grateful for the Thames's many investments in the university," says Chancellor Robert Khayat. "Their support has provided the margin of excellence on the Oxford campus and in Jackson at the Medical Center."

The couple says their giving stems from their faith in and commitment to UM.

"As alumni, Suzan and I have a strong belief in the university, its faculty and the academic achievements being made there," says Tommy Thames. "It gives both of us great pleasure to support Ole Miss."

As a junior liberal arts/education major, Suzan Thames (formerly Brown) was enrolled in Kellum's first communicative disorders course at UM.

"I was absolutely mesmerized by her teaching ability, magnetism and passion for improving communications for people with speech or hearing disorders," Thames says. "The more she taught, the more I wanted to learn. She sparked a passion in me that lasted all 34 years of my professional career."

After earning her bachelor's degree, Thames received a master's degree from Tulane University and a fellowship to the University of Wisconsin, where she studied behavioral disabilities. Her work as a diagnostic audiologist at the Jackson Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic spanned her entire professional career.

An active UMMC volunteer for 20 years, Thames first served on the advisory panel to attract funds for the Children's Cancer Clinic. She later 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. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the University Foundation.

Tommy Thames earned his bachelor's degree in economics from UM in 1964. He completed postgraduate studies at the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and pilot training in the U.S. Air Force. He owns and operates real estate management and construction companies, and owns properties in eight states.

His business affiliations include the UM Business Advisory Council, AmSouth Bank (advisory board member), Appraisal Institute, the National Housing & Rehabilitation Association and the Jackson Board of Realtors. His civic pursuits involve the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority (chairman), Mississippi Baptist Health Systems (vice chairman) and Born Free of Mississippi (advisory board).

"We are deeply grateful for the visionary gift that Tommy and Suzan Thames have provided," says Brian Reithel, dean of the business school. "This gift will help the school address its most pressing needs, including faculty development and student support, over the years to come. Our ability to compete in the national market has been strengthened by their generosity."

"The school gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Tommy and Suzan Thames," says Linda Chitwood, dean of applied sciences. "This unrestricted endowment will help our Department of Communicative Disorders provide new and highly specialized communicative technology and support for our outstanding faculty."

Mr. and Mrs. Thames have three daughters and one granddaughter. They reside in Jackson and are members of Northminster Baptist Church.

Women in Higher Education–Mississippi Network

Kellum Receives Higher Education Award

Gloria Kellum, vice chancellor for university relations at the University of Mississippi, has been awarded the inaugural Women in Higher Education Mississippi Network Leadership Award.

The statewide organization established the award to recognize a woman who has demonstrated leadership and a commitment to promoting initiatives that identify, develop, encourage, mentor and advance women in higher education, says Myrtis Tabb, Women in Higher Education Mississippi Network coordinator and senior administrator at Delta State University.

Gloria Kellum

"Dr. Kellum was instrumental in the formation of WHEMN and she has also provided ongoing leadership and support," Tabb says.

WHEMN comprises institutional representatives from each of the state's junior and senior colleges and universities. The Leadership Award is presented annually at the group's spring leadership conference.

WHEMN resulted from a request to UM Chancellor Robert Khayat from the American Council on Education in 2002, asking him to help establish the statewide network. Khayat appealed to Kellum and Beverly Hogan, president of Tougaloo College, to lead the effort.

"The five female presidents of universities and colleges in Mississippi helped set the course, and then the representatives from each of the institutions have helped it grow," Kellum says. "The wonderful annual meeting provides learning opportunities on topics from living healthy, balanced lives to conflict management to strategic planning." She adds that the gatherings provide networking opportunities for faculty, financial officers, librarians, graduate students and other personnel in higher education.

Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee Briggs Hopson Jr. Honors Wife with Art Scholarship

An art scholarship has been endowed at the University of Mississippi by one of its most recent Alumni Hall of Fame inductees in honor of his spouse.

Briggs Hopson Jr. established the Patricia S. Hopson Scholarship in Art Endowment, an award designated for deserving students majoring in art. The recipient, to be chosen at the discretion of the department chair with the approval of the dean of the College of Liberal Arts, is obligated to participate in leadership development and a mentoring program in addition to academic pursuits.

Briggs and Patricia Hopson

"Dr. W. Briggs Hopson Jr. and his wife, Pat, are longtime supporters of the university and the state of Mississippi," says Perry Moulds, assistant director of University Advancement. "Their dedication of time and resources has benefited thousands of young people. This is just one more extension of their generosity."

Nancy Wicker, chair of the art department, praises the timing of Hopson's gift.

"The Department of Art is particularly grateful for this gift, as at this time, we don't have many endowed scholarships to offer prospective students," Wicker says. "Through this endowment, we will be made more competitive in our efforts to recruit, retain and nurture some of the nation's most artistic students."

Mrs. Hopson, some of whose swimsuit designs were licensed by Jantzen, says, "I just think art is so much fun—it's just so wonderful. There are so many ways that you can go with it. I wish to give other art students at the university a chance to further their career opportunities as well," she adds.

Briggs Hopson, a 1959 UM graduate, is medical director and vice president for medical affairs at River Region Medical Center in Vicksburg. He is a member of the American College of Surgeons, Southeastern Surgical Congress, American Association of Surgery of Trauma and the Mississippi State Medical Association, and is a delegate to the American Medical Association. He is credited with developing a statewide trauma network, helping develop and teaching the state's first advanced Trauma Life Support Course and chairing Gov. Kirk Fordice's committee on health care.

He was president of the Ole Miss Alumni Association for two years and has served as CEO and board chairman of the Miss Mississippi Pageant for 18 years.

Professor Emeritus Frank Anderson Endows Piano Scholarship as Tribute to Wife

A distinguished and beloved retired professor at the University of Mississippi has given $52,432 to the university to endow a piano scholarship in his wife's honor.

Frank Anderson, chair emeritus of engineering and professor emeritus of chemical engineering, established the Mary Courtney Anderson Scholarship Endowment, earmarked for music students majoring in piano performance.

"I can think of no other couple who have given more to the university, Oxford and the state of Mississippi than Frank and Mary Anderson," says Perry Moulds, assistant director of University Advancement, adding that the gift will enable the music department to attract the region's top music students.

Charlie Gates, chair of the Ole Miss music department, agrees.

"The purpose of the fund is to honor in perpetuity Mrs. Anderson in recognition of her love, steadfastness and devotion to her husband, children and grandchildren, and for her gift of music which she has shared with her family, associates and the public," Gates says.

Mrs. Anderson, a 1942 Ole Miss graduate, taught private lessons for several years and continues to play at Oxford-University United Methodist Church.

"I've been playing practically all of my life," she says. "As people who love and appreciate the gift of music, my husband and I wanted to give other piano students at the university opportunities to advance their careers in music."

Frank Anderson, 90, launched the university's Department of Chemical Engineering on a $200 budget in the 1940s. He served as acting chair for both the chemistry and chemical engineering departments in 1948. In 1970, the addition to the engineering building was named Anderson Hall in his honor. He was named the first Ole Miss Engineer of Distinction in 1983.

For the past five years, Anderson has served as volunteer science teacher at the First Baptist Church Weekday Education Center in Oxford. He uses everyday objects to teach concepts, such as using an open piano to help students see and understand how sounds are created. His wife frequently assists him in his presentations.

Dr. and Mrs. Frank Anderson volunteer at First Baptist Church's Weekday Education Center.

University Community Salutes School of Pharmacy Luminary

After 34 years of service to the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy, Dixie Davis retired in November. During her time at Ole Miss, "Miss Dixie" juggled schedules, facilitated registration and was a "mother away from home" for many students.

To commemorate her service and dedication to the School of Pharmacy, the Dixie Steele Davis Scholarship Endowment was created. The scholarship benefits professional pharmacy students, preferably from Mississippi, who demonstrate exceptional scholarship, leadership and need.

"We felt it was appropriate to establish a scholarship in her name," says associate dean for academic and student affairs Marvin C. Wilson. "She has positively touched the lives of thousands of pharmacy students during the years. I have been truly blessed to have Miss Dixie as a valuable member of my staff."

Many changes have occurred at the school since Davis joined in 1971. She ushered the desktop computer into the office, and saw the move to the Thad Cochran Research Center and the incorporation of the SAP campus management system. During that time, as many others retired, Davis smiled and adapted.

Jack Adams, Dixie Davis and Marvin Wilson celebrate the scholarship endowed in Davis's name.

"When I came here, I says I would treat the students as I would want my children treated, and that seems to have worked," Davis says. "I have loved my job, I have loved the students, and I have loved the people I have worked with. Thank you so much for everything."

"Miss Dixie is amazing," says pharmacy school student body president Erin Clark. "She has seen all emotions of the pharmacy students. She has seen us cry, she has seen us happy, but she is always a soothing presence for us."

When summing up Davis' career and impact on students, assistant dean emeritus Jack P. Adams says, "There just hasn't been a student who came through the school who Dixie didn't know personally. There are at least a thousand practicing pharmacists who hold Dixie Davis in the highest esteem."

"Shaky" Yates Award Recognizes Outstanding Young Teacher

A University of Mississippi doctoral student and graduate instructor in English has received an award that recognizes extraordinary teaching.

Ravyn L. Wilson of Little Rock, Ark., is the third recipient of the annual Lawrence "Shaky" Yates Award for Best Teacher of Freshman English. Wilson says she feels humbled to have been chosen to receive the award, and she admits that she devotes special attention to developing her teaching style.

Michael McCready, director of UM's writing and speech program, says Wilson's performance in the classroom mirrors the late professor's renowned teaching style.

"Ravyn has always impressed me as being very enthusiastic about her teaching," McCready says. "She is very student-oriented, creating exciting, challenging and motivational activities for them. She exudes professionalism and has outstanding student evaluations."

"I hope to provide my students with an energetic space that nurtures intellectual experimentation," Wilson says. "I believe that if I can get busy freshmen to slow down and approach their assignments with a concentrated and thoughtful effort, then they will reach their full potential as writers."

Yates, who taught English at the university from 1946 to 1953, was known to be tough on his students. The award bearing his name was established in 2004 by UM alumnus Carl Odom of Hattiesburg and his wife, Jeanine Sheats Odom.

Ravyn L. Wilson

Pointing to the value of his classroom experiences under the late professor, Odom says, "Professor Yates did more for me than any other teacher in my lifetime, and it's our desire to offer what we can to encourage the Shaky Yates of this world for all time."

Odom, a retired optometrist, and his wife were UM freshmen in 1949. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at the university in 1953; she graduated from the University of Memphis with a degree in English.

"The award makes me want to work even harder in the classroom," Wilson says. "I have deep respect for my colleagues in the English department, and I know how thoughtful, creative and energetic they are as teachers, so this award is meaningful to me."

Wilson holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Memphis and a master's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is slated to complete her doctorate at Ole Miss in May 2007.

The annual Yates Award provides a $600 prize.

Center for Study of Southern Culture Sets Goal at $2M

Gift From Law Alum Seeds Music of South Professorship

Ron Feder aims to continue the South's rich musical tradition through his $100,000 gift to help fund a Music of the South Professorship. With Feder's gift, UM is making headway toward obtaining the $2 million needed to endow the professorship in the Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

Ron Feder

Feder, an attorney in Ocean Springs, Miss. who earned his law degree from Ole Miss in 1981, says he believes that Southern music is rife with clues about ordinary people.

"The stories of the rich and powerful fill the history books, but where can the curious learn about the lives of the laborer, the mill worker, the small farmer, the sundry tradesmen and the petty criminals who populated the small towns and rural areas of the South?" he says. "The answer lies in the words and the tunes generated by hundreds of local musicians throughout the deep South.

"The center is a logical place to locate a Southern music professorship," he says, "because of the university's commitment to rigorous scholarship."

Charles Reagan Wilson, director of CSSC, says that despite Southern music's worldwide popularity, "no university has a professor dedicated to teaching, researching and organizing outreach activities that reflect the range of Southern music. The University of Mississippi can claim leadership in the study of Southern music with the establishment of a Professor of Southern Music."

Feder first learned of the center in 1985 during his military service in the Philippines. He curbed his homesickness by listening to Bill Ferris's (the former CSSC director) groundbreaking "Highway 61" blues program, aired by the military radio network.

Feder has recently been recalled to active duty in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley. "I'm hopeful that by the time I return to Mississippi," he says, "we'll have the Southern music professorship in place and beginning the important work that must be done to preserve this vital element in our lives and history."

Southern Studies Supporters Meet Hardin Foundation Challenge

The University of Mississippi has met the challenge offered by the Phil Hardin Foundation of Meridian, Miss. to attract $500,000 to establish the Endowment for the Future of the South.

"The Hardin Foundation challenge provided $250,000—with the University of Mississippi Foundation raising over $500,000 in matching funds—to meet the challenge," says Tom Waycaster, vice president for education programs and research at the Hardin Foundation.

The Endowment for the Future of the South is intended to be a catalyst within the university to encourage inquiry, discernment and conversation across campus about the topic. In addition, the endowment is to encourage conversations across the region, as the CSSC helps institutions, communities and individuals define their futures.

"The Center's Future of the South initiative positions the University of Mississippi as a meeting place to imagine the South's economic and social development," says Charles Reagan Wilson, director of CSSC. "Thanks to the grant from the Phil Hardin Foundation and to donors who support it, the center's resources on Southern culture will help illuminate discussion of public policy issues facing the South."

CSSC plans to select one topic each year as the theme for the endowment's work and explore the topic from the historical and cultural perspectives of the humanities. At the second annual Future of the South Conference, participants examined the South's post-Hurricane Katrina future.

Alumnus, Former Employee Honored with Gift to CSSC

Mike Edmonds, an Ole Miss alumnus and former assistant dean of students, was recently honored with a $10,000 gift in his name. Given by Matthew Burkley, a friend of Edmonds's from Cambridge, Mass., the gift will support the CSSC's Endowment for the Future of the South. Edmonds is also leaving a significant bequest of his own to benefit the CSSC.

Edmonds, who received a bachelor's degree in theater arts/speech communication as well as master's and doctoral degrees in higher education from Ole Miss, served the University as assistant professor of theater, director of student programming and Student Union programming director before being named assistant dean of students. In 1991, Edmonds left Ole Miss to take on the roles of dean of students and professor of drama at Colorado College. In August, 2006, he becomes Colorado College's vice president for student life/dean of students.

Mike Edmonds

During his career Edmonds has received numerous awards, including the State of Mississippi Joint House and Senate Commendatory Resolution and the American Cancer Society's St. George Medal.

continued from Front Cover

Alumni Couple Announces $1 Million Gift

Largest Portion of Endowment to Benefit the Ford Center

The largest portion of their endowment—gifts and pledges of $500,000—goes toward operation of the Ford Center.

"I have spent the last couple of years telling everyone I meet about the Gertrude Ford Center for the Performing Arts," says Sam Haskell, who produced the center's opening gala in 2003. "I tell them all that it's not only an incredible performing arts facility for a university, but it's an incredible facility for the southeastern part of the United States. I believe it is a beacon for anyone interested in the arts, whether it's a potential student who wants to study the arts or a retired couple living in Oxford who want to participate in the arts."

Ford Center opening gala in 2003.

The Haskells hope the endowment spurs the center's outreach efforts, helping to bring in artists who will educate as well as entertain, Sam says. The money also is for helping to cover operating expenses as the facility establishes itself as a regional leader, says Norm Easterbrook, Ford Center director.

"The Haskells' generous gift is a critical step toward our goal of establishing an endowment for the center," Easterbrook says. "This is a leadership gift and is vital for the operation of the theater."

The center is important as an entertainment source for area residents, Mary Haskell says.

"Some of my earliest performances were on the stage at Fulton Chapel, so I can really identify and appreciate what the Ford Center means to the campus and the city of Oxford," she says.

Another $100,000 goes to establish the Mary Donnelly Haskell Women's Council Scholarship Endowment. The initial scholarship should be awarded for fall 2006 to a student majoring in music, says Gloria Kellum, vice chancellor for university relations.

As part of the agreement, Mary serves as a mentor to the scholarship recipients.

"I just remember what it meant to me to have musical mentors when I was growing up," Mary says. "I hope that I will be able to be a voice of support and a source of a little bit of wisdom for someone. For a young, aspiring performer, to know that someone is thinking about them and caring about their dreams and hopes is really encouraging."

The final part of the Haskells' pledge can be directed to specific programs or needs later, Sam says, hinting at the couple's plans to relocate to Oxford.

"Mary and I wanted to make sure there was a part of this gift that could be stipulated to go to something else of importance, to us and to the university, that might come up over the next several years," he explains. "When you give money to one certain thing, it's locked in and done, but we know that after we move back to Oxford and the university gets involved in other philanthropic causes, there may be something we want to specify for portions of the remainder of the gift."

The Haskells, who have agreed to help lead the university's next capital campaign, have been active in various Mississippi projects for several years. Sam produces the biennial "Stars Over Mississippi" concert in Amory to continue the endowment of the Mary Kirkpatrick Haskell Scholarship Foundation, named for his beloved mother. The Haskell Foundation has attracted more than $4 million to send deserving Mississippi students to college.

More recently, he was executive producer of "Mississippi Rising" to benefit the Mississippi Hurricane Recovery Fund, and Mary was among the performers at the all-star benefit. Telecast live on MSNBC, the event raised more than $15 million.

The couple hopes to continue to contribute to the university's efforts for many years to come, Sam says.

"You're attracted to institutions for a lot of reasons, but ultimately the leadership at Ole Miss has acted as a magnet for Mary and me, and it has forged lifelong relationships for us on the campus, relationships that we truly cherish," he says. "We really hope to be able to help Ole Miss continue its work as an excellent educational institution that serves the entire state and nation."

Sam and Mary Haskell with Vice Chancellor Gloria Kellum and Chancellor Robert Khayat.

Couple Who Adopts State as 'Home' Will Leave Estate to University of Mississippi Medical Center

A husband and wife who only recently made Mississippi their home are leaving their estate to the University of Mississippi Medical Center to fund scholarships for future physicians.

John and Patrice Gage of Vicksburg, Miss. chose the medical center, which is the UM health sciences campus, after they explored ways to direct their estate toward a worthwhile benefactor.

"Since we have no children, we had to figure out what we could do that would benefit others," says John Gage, a native of California and a retired U.S. Air Force and commercial pilot. "We did quite a bit of soul searching to figure out what our options and desires were. Ultimately our attorney, Clyde E. Ellis of Vicksburg, put us in touch with the University of Mississippi Foundation. Since we now live in Mississippi, it seemed logical to pursue a local institution that could be made part of our will."

John and Patrice Gage

A native of New York and an administrative officer with the Mississippi Valley Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Patrice Gage says, "We both had parents who had medical problems and were helped by many different people in the medical field. We hope the young people who receive these scholarships will be able to help others and make a difference in the world."

Dr. Dan Jones, the university's vice chancellor of health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, says the Gages' gift will help increase the state's physician supply.

"Scholarships like these help us keep the best and brightest students in medical school in Mississippi," he says. "If students go to school here, they're much more likely to remain here and care for Mississippians. We deeply appreciate the Gages' wish to make this investment in our students and in healthcare delivery in the state."

UM Chancellor Robert Khayat says the Gages are leaving a legacy for the future.

"There is no better way to impact the lives of young people and the long-term welfare of our state than to provide resources for educational opportunities," Khayat says. "We are honored that the Gages turned to the University of Mississippi Foundation to be a good steward of their resources. Their generous gift provides much-needed assistance for young people pursuing careers in medicine, which will in turn strengthen the medical community for Mississippi and beyond. We are profoundly grateful for this gift and its far-reaching implications."

The John A. Gage II and Patrice K. Gage Scholarship Endowment is designed to provide academic scholarships for full-time medical students, and recipients who maintain a 3.5 grade-point average or higher can receive the scholarships until they earn their medical degrees.

With their commitment, the couple become members of the university's prestigious 1848 Society, a group whose name comes from the year UM opened its doors to the first students. Members are donors who support the university through planned and deferred giving.

The Gages moved to Mississippi in 2002, after traveling and living around the world, including having homes in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; Melbourne, Australia; and Anchorage, Alaska. After serving as a pilot in the Air Force, John Gage flew commercial and cargo planes for the Saudi Arabian, Presidential (northern Virginia), Ansett Australia and EVA (Taipei, Taiwan) airlines, as well as Gemini Air Cargo (Washington, D.C.).

Patrice Gage—who has spent the majority of her career with the U.S. Corps of Engineers—originally hoped to be a physician and says she is pleased the couple's gift will make that dream a possibility for others. She is president of the Corps Chapter of the Vicksburg/Warren County Chamber of Commerce, and John Gage is senior member of the Civil Air Patrol, James A. McKinney Composite Squadron, of Jackson.

As for advice they would pass on to recipients of the scholarships, Patrice Gage says, "One instructor told John that you can do what you want to do or live where you want to live, but very seldom can you do both at the same time. This has been our motto for many years. Don't spend your whole life trying to please family and friends. Do your own thing, and if that takes you far away, make the most of your new surroundings."

Medical Missionary Leaves Gift

Dr. William Robert "Bob" Orr Jr. never attended the University of Mississippi himself, but his generosity will enable students aspiring to careers in medicine to do so.

The Orr-Russwurm Memorial Scholarship provides financial support to any student enrolled in the schools of medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry or graduate studies in the health sciences at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Recipients must be planning a full- or part-time career in missionary work.

"We deeply appreciate Dr. Orr's wish to assist our health professionals in training with their educational expenses," says Dr. Daniel W. Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs. "More than 90 percent of our Medical Center students receive some sort of financial aid. The Orr-Russwurm Memorial Scholarship will give us one more way to help meet their needs. We're deeply grateful for Dr. Orr's benevolence."

Orr established the scholarship fund at UM in 1993 through the W. R. Orr Jr. Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust. With a current value of $119,992, the bequest honors the deceased donor's parents, Dr. and Mrs. William Robert and Helene Mays Orr Sr.; his sister, Helene Pearsall Orr; his brother, Stuart Pearsall Orr; and his uncle and aunt, Dr. and Mrs. William Clark and Florence Russwurm.

Born in Helena, Ark. in 1918, Orr died June 24, 2005, in Tyler, Texas. He is remembered by longtime friends as having been passionately dedicated to both practicing medicine and serving humanity.

Orr attended Helena's public schools before earning his medical degree at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. Shortly thereafter, Orr served in World War II as a member of the military police. After the war, Orr became a medical missionary and traveled around the world to Iran, Pakistan, North Africa, Liberia and other countries before retiring in the 1960s.

Orr lived in Dallas, Helena, Denver, Albuquerque, Salt Lake City and Little Rock before settling in Tyler.

Meet UMMC's Development Team

For seven years, Trey Porter poured his heart into making the lives of some of Mississippi's sickest children a little better.

"I loved meeting patients and families," says the former assistant director for community relations in the Division of Public Affairs. "At the root of it, that's our existence."

It's because of that perspective that Porter has been selected as the Medical Center's interim director for the Office of Development.

"Trey has good leadership and communication skills," says Dr. Dan Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs. "Plus, his history of…fund raising through public affairs has made it possible to have key relationships on campus critical to the success of the development team."

Porter succeeds veteran fund-raiser Dr. Tom Pitt of Virginia. Pitt worked for the Medical Center on a contractual basis to establish the Office of Development and put together the staff.

Porter, a 1990 Millsaps College graduate, served as that college's sports information director, and as marketing and information coordinator for a sports program at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. He spent seven years in public affairs before leaving in August 2005 to become one of the Medical Center's new development officers.

Jones established the office last year to cultivate major and planned gifts for Mississippi's only academic health sciences center. Four other development officers complete Porter's team: Patrick Emanuel, Sheila Henderson, John Henry Jackson and Tekla Sanders.

Emanuel and Henderson have previous experience in fund raising. Jackson has extensive experience in marketing and international business, and is a former financial advisor. Sanders is a former hospital administration consultant.

Among the office's most immediate goals are to organize comprehensive annual and corporate giving plans, Porter says.

"A lot of your major gift donors come into the pipeline, so to speak, through an annual gift," Porter says. "They may respond to a letter or a phone call, become a regular giver and then realize down the road, and it may be five or six years down the road… they would really like to make a significant gift to the Medical Center."

The annual giving plan will target employees, physicians, businesses and former patients through direct mail, says Emanuel, former executive director of the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

"Every time you send a letter, you are not just asking for money. You are telling them something about the organization," says Emanuel, who was director of annual giving at a New Jersey hospital for two years. "You are giving them a testimonial…about a new program, something we have built here, something we have recently purchased, research that is being done. You are raising your level of knowledge about the institution so they (prospective donors) feel more involved."

Henderson is working on the corporate giving plan. She said that among the keys to the plan's success and the overall success of the office is cultivating relationships with prospective donors.

"I like to promote site visits," she says. "To get them here and give them a tour of the areas where we are pursuing funding needs. That tends to work very well. They can see, touch and feel it."

Tekla Sanders, John Henry Jackson, Patrick Emanuel, Trey Porter, Mary Hagaman and Sheila Henderson

AKA Sorority Endows Scholarship

The Theta Psi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. has created a scholarship endowment at the University of Mississippi to honor the memory of chapter member Candice O. Walker.

The Candice O. Walker Memorial Scholarship Endowment, established in November 2005, is to be given to a junior college transfer student majoring in communicative disorders in the School of Applied Sciences.

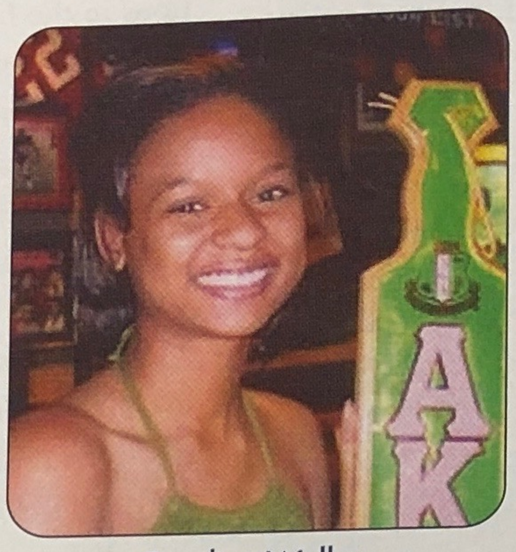
"You can never meet every great person who ever lived, but I know that I'm blessed to have met and loved such a person," says Walker's sister, Courtney, a junior English major from West Point, Miss. "Candice had a tremendous impact on everyone she met. She left us too soon, and that's why it was so important to have this endowment." Courtney spearheaded the endowment.

In November 2004, Candice, 21, died in a car accident returning home from a football game.

"Candice was truly unselfish and the type of person who would do anything for you," Courtney Walker says. To keep a part of Candice at Ole Miss, Courtney and her sorority sisters raised money to fund a scholarship.

Wanda Walker, the mother of Candice and Courtney, as well as 26-year-old Antoine and 17-year-old Constance ("C.J."), says she believes the endowment is also a way for Courtney to "be near her sister."

"Candice was the glue of the family," Wanda Walker says. "She was the one who kept us strong. She was the one who always tried to do the right thing."



Candice Walker

"It was Candice's dream to be a speech pathologist; it's why she decided to go to Ole Miss," says Walker, a teacher at West Point High School. "When Candice was younger, she had a speech impediment and she always remembered how her former teachers helped her overcome it. She wanted to do the same for someone else."

The opportunity to serve society was among the reasons the Walker sisters joined AKA in spring 2004.

"When we were in high school, a lot of people who influenced us in a positive way were AKAs. They were the ones who were always out there trying to help somebody do better," Courtney Walker says. "So when we came to Ole Miss, we knew we wanted to join and felt we would be able to contribute something to the organization."

Courtney and the members of Theta Psi held various fund-raisers, including hosting a now-annual basketball tournament with Lambda Pi, the UM chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

Student callers at the UM Foundation Calling Center also collected funds to contribute to the endowment.

The university's Department of Communicative Disorders helped raise money, and several alumna members of Theta Psi mailed donations. In August 2005, the Upsilon Iota Omega chapter of AKA hosted a gala to benefit the endowment. Deborah Harrison, immediate past president of the chapter, says she was happy to support such a worthy cause and Theta Psi.

"Theta Psi showed great initiative and determination in funding this memorial scholarship," Harrison says. "We hope the future scholarship recipients will strive to excel to the best of their ability, as did Candice Walker."

Scholarship Commemorates Life of ATO Fire Victim

A memorial scholarship honoring Howard Hillhouse Stone has been established at the University of Mississippi by his former classmates. Stone, of Martinsville, Va., was one of three students who died in the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house fire in August 2004.

Howard Stone

Members of Pi Sigma Alpha, student academic honorary in political science, have founded the Howard Stone Academic Achievement Scholarship to recognize Stone's academic excellence and to inspire others to follow his lead.

"Howard was a smart, promising young man," says political science professor Chuck Smith. "He made a tremendous impression on me. The scholarship is to inspire our new majors to aspire to a level of classroom achievement in their freshman year exemplary of the standard set by Howard."

Throughout his 11-year teaching career at Ole Miss, Smith had never taught a student who attained perfect scores on all assignments and exams in the Introduction to American Government course. That changed during the 2003-04 academic year, when Stone enrolled in Smith's class: "Howard made 100s on everything," Smith says.

Drew Lewis, Stone's classmate and president of Pi Sigma Alpha, says, "The scholarship not only serves as a reminder of just how fragile life is, but we also hope it will inspire others to seek out the standards that Howard exemplified during his freshman year."

Touched by the students' efforts, Stone's parents, Nancy and Charlie Stone, donated $2,500 to seed the endowment.

"Nothing could honor Howard more than this scholarship, which may enable others to excel in a subject that he was passionate about," says his father. "We are truly grateful to Dr. Smith, the university and Howard's contemporaries for their resolve to establish this scholarship."

Political science faculty members and Stone's ATO fraternity brothers also have contributed to the fund.

The first recipient of the Howard Stone Academic Achievement Scholarship is Benton York, a rising sophomore political science major from Jackson, Miss. York, a member of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, said that although he didn't know Howard, he is "truly humbled and excited" to help his legacy endure.

Two other students, sophomore accounting majors William Moore Townsend, 19, of Clarksdale, Miss., and Jordan Lowell Williams, 20, of Atlanta, also died in the fire.

Student Hurricane Aid Exceeds $250,000

Four hundred University of Mississippi students directly affected by Hurricane Katrina have received $200,000 in donations.

By late 2005, the UM Student Relief Fund had reached a total of $253,210, according to Ron Guest, director of development services. The fund's primary focus is to assist students displaced or otherwise affected by the storm. More than 4,100 Ole Miss students come from Gulf Coast counties designated as disaster areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and nearly 100 students have transferred to the Oxford campus from universities and colleges damaged in the storm.

"We received a total of 760 grant applications, and to date 400 students have been awarded grants of $500 each," says Larry Ridgeway, associate vice chancellor for student life, last November. Remaining funds, and any additional funds collected, have been awarded using the same criteria.

Currently enrolled UM students from the affected areas, as well as displaced transfer students, were eligible to apply for the grants based on financial need. Priority was given to students from the six southernmost counties in Mississippi and parishes in and around New Orleans.

The fund is administered by the University of Mississippi Foundation. A selection committee including representatives from the Ole Miss student body and the offices of Vice Chancellor for Student Life, Dean of Students and Financial Aid review all applications.

Donations to the fund include a $100,000 gift from Ole Miss alumnus Larry Martindale and his wife, Susan. "As the need became apparent, I thought how horrible it would be to be a student in that situation," says Larry Martindale, vice chairman of W.B. Johnson Properties LLC in Atlanta. "Knowing we had the resources, we were compelled to give."

The Martindales' donation is the largest single gift received for the fund, but generosity has been consistent from the start. A $50,000 gift came from NFL tackle Todd Wade, an Ole Miss alumnus playing for the Houston Texans. The Jackson, Miss. native said the donation was the least he could do.

"The hurricane was just so devastating, anything I could do to help, I wanted to do," Wade says. "When I contacted Chancellor (Robert) Khayat, he said a contribution to the relief fund was the way to go."

In mid-September, $52,633.22 was collected by UM students from fans attending the Ole Miss-Wyoming football game.

The fund was established shortly after the hurricane with a collection drive at the Ole Miss Student Union, which netted more than $12,500. At that time, donors also contributed two truckloads of bottled water, canned food and paper goods for relief efforts on the Gulf Coast.

93 students displaced by Hurricane Katrina transferred to UM. **400 students** received $500 each from the Student Relief Fund.

The funds are part of more than $500,000 received from various donors, including those who gave when students set up solicitation in front of the Student Union soon after the hurricane, those who responded to an appeal at the Ole Miss-Wyoming football game and also a few individuals who gave fairly large donations, says Larry Ridgeway, associate vice chancellor for student life.

A portion of the donations also has been used to assist current Ole Miss students who suffered severe losses from the disaster.

"We asked the chancellor if the $250,000 could be used to help new students, and he was agreeable," Ridgeway says.

Other financial assistance earmarked for hurricane-affected students includes Federal Disaster SLEAP grants. UM received $11.2 million under the SLEAP program and is awarding grants ranging from $1,000 to $5,000 per year.

DigitalGlobe image

'Katrina Kids' from Coast High Schools Get Helping Hand from UM

Janie Guice was a college-bound senior at Biloxi High School when Hurricane Camille hit the Gulf Coast in 1969, and the University of Mississippi came to her aid.

With heartfelt empathy, Guice has been able to administer similar support to "Katrina Kids" planning to enroll at UM this fall.

"Ole Miss stepped up and layered the grants, loans and scholarship money to make it possible for me to enroll there the year after Camille," says Guice, who personally suffered a great loss from both Camille and Katrina. Thanks to the financial aid, Guice graduated from UM in three years with highest honors, and for the last 23 years she has been the Ole Miss regional admissions counselor for the Gulf Coast.

The effect of Hurricane Katrina last year was "10 times greater" than Camille, Guice says.

"As a 'Camille kid,' I felt a commitment to offer them an extraordinary level of emotional and financial support so I'd never hear 'Janie, where were you when we needed help?' from parents or seniors."

Guice coordinated scholarship support with UM administrators, which resulted in $250,000—125 scholarships in the amount of $2,000 each—being made available to admitted seniors from coast high schools. Availability of the funds was announced in public meetings on the coast in January.

High school counselors helped identify the Ole Miss-bound students who were "deeply affected" by the storm. High schools that responded were Biloxi, Gautier, Gulfport, Hancock, Long Beach, Mercy Cross, Ocean Springs, Our Lady Academy, St. Stanislaus, Pascagoula, Resurrection, St. John and St. Martin.

Guice recently presented the students with award letters for the scholarships to be given in $1,000 increments at the beginning of the fall 2006 and spring 2007 semesters.

Call Center Taps Anderson as MVP

It wasn't a surprise to anyone associated with the Ole Miss Call Center that Jenny Anderson was named MVP at the center's awards banquet in December. After all, the senior broadcast journalism and theatre arts major secured more than $43,000 in pledges just last fall.

All totaled, Jenny has amassed more than $100,000 over the phone for Ole Miss programs and initiatives during her year and a half as a student caller. Not surprisingly, she leads Ole Miss callers in dollars raised and in the number of pledges received.

"I was really happy to be named MVP," says Anderson, who hails from Wiggins, Miss. "I've just tried to do a good job."

Anderson says her favorite thing about the job is talking with older alums. "They're so nice and often are happy to hear about what's happening on campus."

Honors College Grad Wins Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship

Marc Edward Walker, a 2006 UM graduate from Olive Branch, Miss., is among 60 individuals nationwide to be chosen for a Phi Kappa Phi national honor society fellowship and one of only six to receive the Walter and Adelheid Hohenstein Fellowship.

The $5,000 fellowship is to assist Walker in pursuing a medical degree at Harvard Medical School. Selection is based on a student's undergraduate academic performance, leadership and service on campus and in the community, evidence of potential success in graduate study, personal statement of educational objectives and letters of recommendation.

Walker had to complete a thesis for an undergraduate degree in UM's Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, and his research focused on miscarriage during pregnancy.

"Marc's research has far-reaching consequences because it may change the way women are treated," says Dr. Tamar Goulet, assistant professor of biology and Walker's thesis adviser. "His research showed that women shouldn't have to suffer through two miscarriages before receiving help to explain the losses."

Engineering Student Earns Eisenhower Graduate Award

A UM civil engineering doctoral student who has provided ideas for rebuilding areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina is one of only 64 recipients chosen for the Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Graduate Fellowship.

Bikila Wodajo of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, receives $6,500, including tuition at UM and expenses to attend the Transportation Research Board's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in January 2007.

The objective of the Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program, administered by the National Highway Institute in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, is to attract qualified students to the field of transportation and research, and advance transportation workforce development.

Titled "Assessment of Urbanization and Built Environment Impacts on Air Quality and Stormwater Runoff," Wodajo's research has far-reaching applications for both preparation for, and recovery from, catastrophic natural disasters.

Boren Honor Goes to Croft Scholar

Learning the proper strokes to write Chinese characters requires resilience, but speaking the tonal language can pose greater problems.

Megan Rogers, a UM sophomore, knows the challenges of both. But with one study-abroad trip last summer and another coming up this fall, as recipient of the David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship, the 20-year-old Brandon, Miss. native looks forward to mastering the difficult Mandarin language.

"I find incredible satisfaction in tackling one of the hardest languages in the world, and slowly, step by step, being able to understand it," Rogers says. "Although I have long planned to study abroad, there's no doubt that this scholarship will ease the financial burden and help create future career opportunities." Enrolled in UM's Croft Institute for International Studies, Rogers is the 12th Ole Miss student to receive the prestigious Boren Scholarship since 2000. Former U.S. Sen. David Boren, now president of the University of Oklahoma, was moved to fund the program out of concern over the small number of American students studying languages of national interest to the United States. Scholars agree to spend time working for the federal government following their studies.

Ashley Anderson Mattei, a 1997 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts (English and journalism), recently gave her first gift ever to Ole Miss—a $5,000 credit card contribution over our secure Web site at **www.olemiss.edu/annualgiving**.

Says Mattei, who designated the donation to the Ole Miss Fund, "Ole Miss has given me so much, and I wanted to give back."

Mattei explains she was prompted to give by various letters she received from Ole Miss, which she put on her computer as a reminder. Most important, the Charlotte-based broadcast journalist says she plans to continue giving.

Two Ole Miss First Scholarships Come from George P. Hewes Estate Gift

George P. Hewes III lived unselfishly, sharing his time and money to help others. The late Jackson, Miss. attorney placed great value on education and throughout his long career gave generously to Ole Miss, where he received degrees in business and law.

George P. Hewes III

Following his death in 2004 at age 74, Hewes' final gift to the university came from his estate in the amount of $50,000.

Chancellor Robert Khayat has designated that the funds be used to establish two scholarships to continue his friend's legacy in perpetuity through the lives of many future Ole Miss students.

"It is not an exaggeration to acknowledge that George Hewes was one of our most loved and respected graduates," Khayat says. "A leader in every aspect of his life, including his profession, church and community, George made lasting contributions to our society. Continuing his legacy through the scholarships bearing his name is perhaps the most appropriate expression of our lasting admiration and affection for him."

The awards are part of the Ole Miss First Scholars Program, which provides recipients with $4,500 per year for four years of study. Scholars must maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average as full-time students, in addition to meeting other requirements, including participation in a mentoring program.

Ellen Rolfes, director of Ole Miss First, praises Hewes: "George Hewes believed in education as an instrument for improving the quality of one's life, so it's fitting that two Ole Miss First Scholarships will bear his name and be awarded to future leaders in Mississippi."

Hewes graduated from the Ole Miss business school in 1950. After two years in the U.S. Marine Corps, he returned to the campus and graduated from the law school in 1954. He retired from the Jackson law firm Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes in 1999. He was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and a regent in that organization. For 12 years, he was a Mississippi Commissioner to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

Hewes accepted Khayat's call in 1999 to co-chair the university's Commitment to Excellence Campaign's National Steering Committee, with a fund-raising goal of $200 million. Two years later when the campaign ended, $525.9 million had been received in contributions. His service to Ole Miss also included terms as president of the Ole Miss Alumni Association, Law Alumni Chapter and the University Foundation.

After his retirement, Hewes accepted the post of executive director for Stewpot Community Services in Jackson, a ministry to the poor and downtrodden. He served on the board of directors of Trustmark National Bank and over the years provided leadership as president of civic and community boards and as chancellor of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi.

In the Ole Miss First flexible giving model, donors give $25,000 to assist one student for four years, and are encouraged to mentor the scholarship recipient.

Ole Miss First Scholarship Created in Honor of Moss Point Couple

Brittany Jones of Moss Point, Miss. is the recipient of the inaugural Gregory and Mary Alice Wood Ole Miss First Scholarship at the University of Mississippi. She was recognized in May at her high school's awards day activities.

David Wood, who grew up in Moss Point, established the scholarship to honor his parents, Eugene Gregory Wood and Mary Alice Avera Wood. The scholarship is reserved for graduates of Moss Point High School, where Wood graduated in 1968.

"I wanted to honor my mom and dad, their 71 years of married life together, and their 90-plus years spent in Moss Point," Wood says. "I wanted to carry on their legacy of helping people who seek to make a difference in the lives of others."

Darlene Jones, Brittany Jones, David and Elizabeth Wood and Harry Jones

A devout Presbyterian who owned and operated Wood's Department Store, the elder Wood was once named Jackson County's Outstanding Citizen of the Year. The couple raised five children, all of whom attended college.

"I wanted to maintain a connection to my hometown," Wood says. "Hopefully this will enable young men and women to seek excellence, so they in turn can assist others."

Designed to assist deserving men and women from Moss Point High School, the academic scholarship gives first preference to minority students. Recipients must be full-time freshmen, and selection is based on merit or need.

"We want to maintain a connection to Ole Miss at the student level," Wood says. "This scholarship will help us do that by supporting and encouraging motivated and bright young scholars attending our great university."

Both Wood and his wife, Elizabeth, are Ole Miss alumni. He graduated in 1972 with a business degree, and she graduated the following year in elementary education. The couple has lived in Nashville since 1974.

San Antonio Alumni Start Ole Miss First Scholarship

"It's 87 dollars a month on our credit card!" shouts Nancy Stumberg. She's describing the transaction beneath a $25,000 gift that she, her husband, and a group of their friends, all of whom live in San Antonio, Texas, recently committed to Ole Miss First, and she sounds as if she's discovered a hundred-dollar bill in a forgotten pair of jeans. "It's just so easy," she says. "Probably less than a month of Starbucks, if you're a coffee drinker. We were talking one night and decided that we could just charge it to our credit card and never notice it."

Ole Miss First
A Scholarship for Every Deserving Student

This sort of imaginative giving characterizes Ole Miss First. "Nancy has a passion for Ole Miss, and a creative ability to develop new venues of giving such as the San Antonio Ole Miss First Scholarship," Ellen Rolfes, director of Ole Miss First, writes in an e-mail. "Every community, large and small, could follow her incredible leadership."

Stumberg and her husband, Herb, along with Ole Miss alums David Rogers, Dr. Tommy Cribbs, and Phil Salemi, and their wives Deborah, Sally, and Barbara, have pledged $1,000-$2,000 a year for the next five years, for a $25,000 scholarship to benefit promising students from the San Antonio area. "My goal was for five couples," says Stumberg. "My hope is to get ten couples and have a boy and a girl, eventually, and give them the dream of a college experience, which I think is what Ole Miss is."

Nancy Stumberg

A longtime contributor to Ole Miss causes as diverse as an endowed law school scholarship and the video room at the Indoor Practice Facility, Stumberg appreciates the simplicity of becoming an Ole Miss First donor: "It's such an easy thing to do," she says. "It's such an easy baby step into philanthropy."

In addition to helping lucky San Antonio students attend Ole Miss, Stumberg also says that the gift from her group of friends is a vehicle to promote the University of Mississippi properly, and to expand its growing reputation. "Ole Miss hasn't received recognition for the accolades afforded it," she says, mentioning the recent recognition of the Honors College, and the many Truman and Rhodes scholars who have graduated from Ole Miss.

A third reason: "If you ever show anybody the joy of philanthropy," she says, "they realize that you're not giving anything to anyone but yourself. Every hotty toddy is a gift to me."

Alum Sees Second Son Through College, Establishes Scholarship to Help Others

Continuing a long record of giving back to the university in both time and financial support, Larry Bryan, president and CEO of Diversified Trust Company in Memphis, and his wife, Susan, recently pledged $25,000 to establish an Ole Miss First Scholarship.

"It's a great thing to take advantage of opportunities and to benefit from all the people who came before you, but it would not be right to fail to carry on that legacy when your time comes," Bryan says. "We need to ensure a standard of excellence for future generations to attend Ole Miss."

Chancellor Robert Khayat says, "Larry Bryan is among a new generation of Ole Miss alumni who are now in a position to carry on the renewed momentum at this university and who are willing to step forward."

As a community volunteer, Bryan came face to face with children who, he says, were "bright and showed great promise but lacked the same privileges" that he was able to provide his two sons.

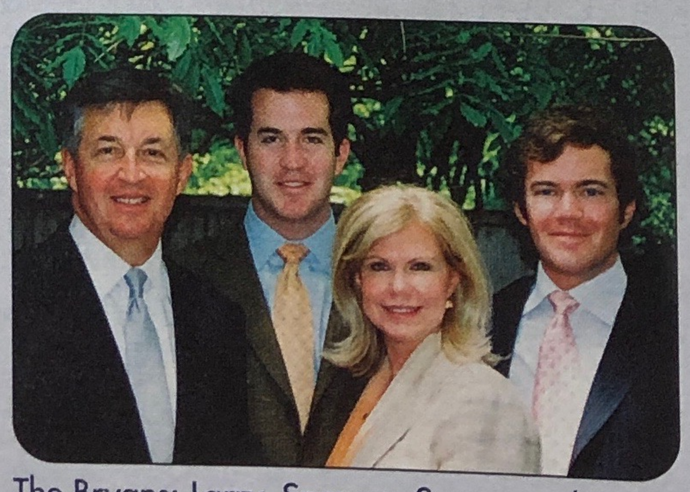
"These are kids whose families can't afford to send them to the best schools, and some may not even be in a stable home environment, and they're still able to make a fairly high score on the ACT," Bryan says.

The Bryans were moved to make a commitment and the Ole Miss First giving program, unique in that donors participate in a mentor program with recipients, seemed to be an appropriate choice.

"With Ole Miss First, you're not just giving money; you're given the opportunity to get to know a young person and try to help positively influence his or her life," Bryan says. "I think that's special. I look forward to doing more than providing financial assistance."

A native of Winona, Miss., Bryan graduated from UM in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He spent 13 years as treasurer and CFO of LeBonheur Health System and its related entities. In 1994, he started Diversified Trust, a Memphis-based private trust company with offices in Atlanta and Nashville.

Active in community service, Bryan serves on the boards of the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Chickasaw Council Boy Scouts of America, LeBonheur Foundation, Southern College of Optometry, Medical Ministries Clinic of Oxford and the Memphis Rotary Foundation. He is an elder and trustee at Idlewild Presbyterian Church.


The Bryans: Larry, Spencer, Susan, and Austin

Bryan is married to the former Susan Marsh. Their children are Austin, a graduate of Washington and Lee University who is working in Washington, D.C., and Spencer, who received a degree in international business at Ole Miss commencement in May, and plans to work in New York.

Robert Gage Honors Family Traditions with Ole Miss First Scholarship

Two traditions run deep in the family of Robert Gage IV: banking and attending the University of Mississippi.

Gage's love for his alma mater and his desire to share the rewards of a successful career in banking have inspired him to pledge $25,000 to establish a scholarship in the Ole Miss First Scholars program.

The Robert Gage III Scholarship honors Gage's late father, who was also a banker.

"Our family has been in the banking business for almost 100 years, and it feels nice to have the scholarship in his honor," says Gage, who holds bachelor's and law degrees from UM.

Robert Gage IV

Although this is the first scholarship to bear the Gage name, the family is not new in pledging support to Ole Miss. Gage, CEO of Riverhills Bank in Port Gibson, is a member of the Lamar Order, part of the Law Alumni Chapter of the UM Alumni Association and the highest level of giving among law alumni.

Ellen Rolfes, director of the Ole Miss First Scholars program, says that alumni such as Gage are essential to the university.

"What a pleasure to have met Robert on a summer's day in Port Gibson, Miss., to learn of his family's fourth generation in banking, his deep love for Ole Miss and, most of all, his strong belief in education," Rolfes says. "He is the essence of Ole Miss First—a family matter."

The Ole Miss First Scholarships allow each donor to participate in a mentor program with recipients. This added support was part of the reason Gage decided to join the program.

"This is a great program that Chancellor Khayat has put together," Gage says. "By combining the mentorship in with the financial support, it's giving the students a huge advantage. Now they can have someone in the business world to help guide them through their classes and into a future career."

This guidance can be the difference between success and failure, Gage says.

"It would have meant a lot to me to have someone there like this program provides," Gage says. "Students don't have the maturity level yet to face the business world; they just aren't as prepared. But this scholarship allows them to have someone to shelter them through and show them the way."

Gage graduated from the Ole Miss business school in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in banking and finance. He obtained his law degree in 1978. His wife, Jacquelyn, holds a liberal arts degree from Ole Miss, as does their daughter, Virginia, who works in Washington, D.C.

"Our son Robert is only 13, but he also loves Ole Miss, so we'll likely have another graduate from the university," Gage says.

Force Behind FedEx Donation Gives Personal Gift to UM

Last year, Mike Glenn, executive vice president, market development and CEO, FedEx Services, announced that FedEx Corp. had pledged $2.5 million toward creating the Office of Student-Athlete Academic Support. Glenn didn't stop with shepherding that gift.

He and his wife, Donna, recently pledged $25,000 to Ole Miss First for a student scholarship. "Even if the company hadn't made the gift they did," says Glenn, "it wouldn't have affected our decision to make a personal gift. I love Ole Miss, and I visit the university often."

Glenn went on to iterate the many close ties that FedEx has with Ole Miss, with many key executives at the company coming from his alma mater. "The fact of the matter is that all of us tailgate together," he says. "We recruit heavily from the university, and FedEx tends to support those universities we work closely with."

Glenn, a Memphis, Tenn. native, transferred to Ole Miss from Northwest Miss. Junior College, and graduated in 1977; he took his MBA from the University of Memphis in 1981. He has never drifted far from his local roots.

Mike Glenn

"I had a lot of great years at Ole Miss and am very involved today," he says, mentioning that he still lectures to classes from time to time. "I've networked with the business school over the years, and it's all because of a deep love of Ole Miss that I continue to stay very active."

"Mike Glenn's vast involvement inspires me every day," says Ellen Rolfes, Director of Ole Miss First. "To orchestrate such enormous and impacting gifts like the Office of Student-Athlete Academic Support, as well as everything else Mike does for his alma mater, and then, on top of that, to fund this scholarship! Generosity like that speaks volumes about the high regard our alums hold for Ole Miss and its future."

Glenn concurs: "I've been very blessed in my career," he says, "and Ole Miss has played a large part in that."

For more information about Ole Miss First Scholarships, visit www.umf.olemiss.edu, contact the Foundation at 800-340-9542 or e-mail umf@olemiss.edu.

Siblings Endow UM Scholarship to Honor Parents

Four children of a University of Mississippi alumnus have endowed a scholarship at their mother's alma mater in her memory.

The Catherine "Kitty" Bryan Dill Memorial Scholarship was established with a $100,000 gift to the university through the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy. The donation also honors their father, the Honorable Kenneth Dean "Kenny" Dill, the West Point, Miss. mayor for 32 years until he retired in 2005.

The Catherine "Kitty" Bryan Dill Scholarship is designated for students in the School of Business Administration who demonstrate exceptional academic ability and leadership potential.

Mr. and Mrs. Dill received their bachelor's degrees in business administration and education, respectively, from Ole Miss in 1964. She later earned a master's degree in education from the university in 1970. Kitty Dill started and taught in the first weekday nursery and kindergarten at First United Methodist Church in West Point until 1978, and also helped start that city's United Way. She passed in 1990 after a long bout with cancer.

Ken Dill, Sarah Riley, Mary Margaret Case and Caroline Billups

"Our mother was a great influence on all of our lives," Mary Margaret Case, the couple's eldest child, says. "She was also the ultimate educator who believed anyone desiring to further their education should be able to do so. We know that she would be proud to be remembered with this scholarship which will allow deserving students to attend here."

Case's siblings are Ken Dill of West Point, Sarah Catherine Reily of Greenville, Miss. and Caroline Billups of Memphis, Tenn.

"We are deeply grateful for the generosity the Dill children have shown in making such a special gift in memory of their mother," says Jan Farrington, OMWC chair. "We promise to be good stewards of this special scholarship and pledge that those receiving it will be mentored and given every opportunity to reach their potential."

Of the four Dill siblings, Mary Margaret Case and Sarah Catherine Riley attended Ole Miss; Ken Dill and Caroline Billups graduated from Delta State University and Millsaps College.

In addition to her husband, children and grandchildren, Kitty Dill is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, John and Neville Bryan of Chicago; sister and brother-in-law, Caroline and Robert Harrell of West Point; and brother and sister-in-law, George and Marcia Bryan of Memphis.

Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy

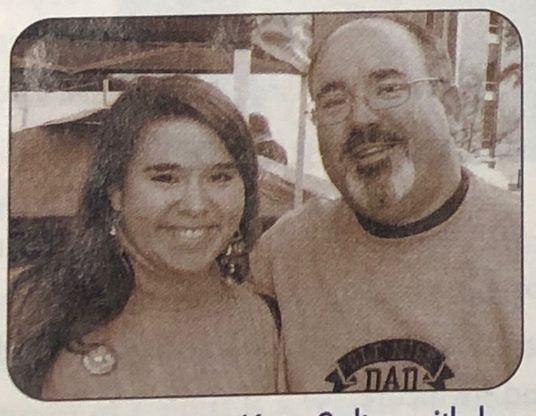
Scholarship Founded in Memory of Business Alum

Friends of Paula Jones Salter fund scholarship in her name

Oliver and Carolyn Triplett lost a dear friend and neighbor in 2005 when Paula Salter lost a long battle with multiple sclerosis.

To ensure a lasting tribute, the Tripletts have endowed the Paula Jones Salter Memorial Scholarship with a $100,000 gift to Salter's alma mater.

"Paula and Sid Salter were our neighbors for years; they lived across the street, and we bonded with them and became close personal friends," Oliver Triplett says.


Ole Miss junior Kate Salter with her father, *Clarion-Ledger* columnist Sid Salter, at the 2005 UM-LSU game.

Sid Salter, Perspective editor of the Jackson *Clarion-Ledger*, says the Tripletts were an integral part of their lives, especially during his daughter's childhood. "Oliver and Carolyn were among the most faithful of friends who came to visit during Paula's illness. They were there in the hard times and are very special."

Paula Jones Salter, remembered by many for her kindness, love and positive nature, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1981 and MBA in 1982. Before retiring in 1989 for health reasons, she was deputy director of economic development for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

"Paula was proud all of her life of her association with Ole Miss," says Sid Salter. "She would be so proud of this endowment, as are all of us in her family."

The Salters' only child, Kate, is a sophomore at Ole Miss majoring in business administration.

The Paula Jones Salter Scholarship will be awarded, beginning this fall, to students selected from the School of Business Administration.

Oliver Triplett earned a juris doctorate and Carolyn a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from UM, both in 1963.

Paula Jones Salter in 1988 outside her Forest home with her daughter, Kate, then age 2.

Referring to the Tripletts' other acts of generosity, Salter says, "This is not the first higher education philanthropy for the Tripletts, and it is quite characteristic of the family. They've done wonderful things."

In addition to her husband and daughter, Paula Salter is survived by her mother, Merle Dent Jones of Macon, Miss., and her brother, A.R. "Gus" Jones of Aberdeen, Miss.

Scholarship Pays Tribute to Life of Carson

During a recent ceremony in the Rose Garden, the Ole Miss Women's Council announced the creation of the Lillian Graham Carson Memorial Council Scholarship. This scholarship endowment has been given by Jane Carter Thomas, a close friend of the Carson Family, to honor the memory of Graham Carson, an Ole Miss freshman who lost her life in a car accident in December 2005.

"I wanted to do something to honor who Graham was," says Thomas. "When I heard about the Ole Miss Women's Council and what it is about, I knew it was the perfect opportunity."

"The very best of mankind is being reflected in this gift," says Chancellor Robert Khayat during the ceremony. "Jane Thomas's generous gift has brought something beautiful from a great tragedy."

Graham Carson's parents, Sally and Bob Carson, agree. "Graham would love the idea of this scholarship," they say. "She was a tremendous leader, and this scholarship will give other students the chance to become good leaders as well through the Women's Council."

Well-known as a talented and accomplished athlete, a dedicated teammate and devoted friend, Graham Carson was a student leader of the highest caliber and an inspiration to others. Grace Self, a friend of the Carson family, wrote of Graham: "She was a lasting example of the same tools we need to function in the real world—teamwork, personal excellence, discipline, dedication, focus, and leadership. And what a leader she was. Graham didn't have to tell you she was in charge; she just led by being herself."

Chancellor Khayat with Jane Carter Thomas and Sally and Bob Carson

Ole Miss Women's Council Scholars receive leadership training and personal mentoring throughout their tenure at the university. Ellen Rolfes, principal architect of the Ole Miss Women's Council, says of the program, "We're doing far more than offering scholarships to deserving students. This is a commitment to nurture young men and women."

The first of these student leaders to receive the scholarship is Whitney White of Hattiesburg, Miss., who will begin classes this fall, and plans to study marketing and Spanish. Appropriately, White is connected to the Carsons through old family friendships. Sally Carson, a native of Hattiesburg, has known the White family since childhood.

"We had no idea who was to be chosen for the scholarship," says Carson. "When we were told it was Whitney, we were shocked that we knew her family, and we were extremely pleased."

White, too, was surprised to hear she had received a scholarship in Graham Carson's honor. "I was terribly excited when I was told about the scholarship," she says. "I knew it was such a blessing. …When I heard it was for Graham it became even more meaningful to me. It is a special honor."

Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy

Estate Funds Scholarships for NE Miss. Students

While she was living her life and making plans to help young people, Dr. Lanelle Guyton Gafford avoided the spotlight when it came to her generous gifts to establish University of Mississippi scholarships.

Gifts from the retired professor of microbiology to endow scholarships during her lifetime, and now through her estate, total more than $1 million.

Lanelle Guyton Gafford

"Lanelle was not a lady who wanted credit," says Martha Sheffield of Jackson, Miss., who was Gafford's best friend for a half century and executor of her estate. "She wanted to move things along because she believed in them."

Gafford funded scholarships through the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy to memorialize her parents, Lannie E. Gafford and Exie Guyton Gafford. In addition, she led the initiative to fund, and personally contributed to, a scholarship memorializing Jennie Mosby Cochran, the house mother of Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity. The new scholarships created by her estate are designated for young people from northeast Mississippi counties who attend UM.

In an interview before her August 2005 death at age 75, Dr. Gafford said of her parents, who had been educators, "I think they would be pleased that these new scholarships will help young people get a quality education and realize their full potential. They both recognized the importance of a college education."

Sheffield says that Gafford, a family friend, moved to Jackson with the UM School of Medicine in 1955, into an apartment across the street from her own. She observed Gafford working 40-hour weeks in the Department of Microbiology, teaching, earning her doctorate—and achieving grades worthy of Phi Kappa Phi membership.

"It would be trite to say she was a brilliant person," says Sheffield, who added that Gafford led a well-rounded life, including following Ole Miss football and other sports, gardening and genealogy. "What I would like scholarship recipients to know, however, is that she was a warm and loyal friend with a wonderful sense of humor."

Sandra Guest, vice president of the UM Foundation, worked with Gafford on creation of the scholarships.

"Dr. Gafford wanted to memorialize those who had a tremendous impact on her life by setting up these scholarships," Guest says. "When scholarship recipients think of the opportunities they enjoy, I hope they think of this selfless woman who believed that above all else, young people should have the resources to pursue higher education. Dr. Gafford's legacy will be the lives she impacts with her generosity."

Established in 1975, the UM fund is used for the university's greatest academic needs and requires a minimum gift of $25,000.

Second-Generation Alumni Family Continues Support

Recently, Robert S. Murphree and his wife, Melissa, joined the Chancellor's Trust in tribute to his former law professor, Chancellor Robert Khayat.

"I'm very grateful that Ole Miss not only provided me with a good education but also gave me the opportunity to meet people who became my friends and have meant so much to me over the years," Murphree says. "So I've tried to give back just a little bit of what I brought away."

Murphree, of Jackson, Miss., parlayed a bachelor's degree in accountancy and a law degree, completed in 1974 and 1976, into a successful career as a lawyer.

Murphree's giving to Ole Miss includes support of scholarships, endowed faculty chairs, museums, athletics and building renovations.

"We are grateful to Robert and Melissa Murphree for being among our faithful supporters who truly believe in what we're doing to make this university the best that it can be," Khayat says. "It's encouraging to see young families recognize the value of education and step forward to help ensure that Ole Miss continues to provide opportunities for generations to come."

The two first met when Khayat taught Murphree in law school. "He was the best professor I had," Murphree says. "And he was as personable and just as much a leader 31 years ago as he is today. Early on, I formed the opinion that if he was for something, I would be for it too."

Also, Murphree says that he and his family "are committed to Mississippi, and part of that is making our schools better."

"Education is the key to a productive life and the capacity to give back to society," he says.

Murphree's family roots at UM go back to his father, Thomas Martin Murphree. The senior Murphree graduated from the business school in 1938, becoming the first in his family to attend college, "although the Murphrees had been in Calhoun County, just down the road from Ole Miss, since the 1830s," Murphree says.

Chancellor Khayat with Melissa and Robert Murphree

Also following in their father's footsteps, Murphree's brother Dennis obtained a medical degree from Ole Miss and his brother Tom received a law degree.

Murphree is married to the former Melissa Russell of Columbus. Their children are Caroline, 22, and Catherine, 16. Caroline, a senior accountancy major at Ole Miss, is a member of Chi Omega and was the state's Miss Hospitality. Catherine is a 10th-grade honors student at Jackson Academy, where she participates in four varsity sports.

In addition to his law practice, Murphree has timberland and farming interests in the state. While he is active in a number of historical and conservation organizations, he says his duties as a board member of Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis's home in Biloxi, have increased dramatically since the recent damage to the property caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Melissa Murphree is a member of the Junior League of Jackson and the Symphony League, and they both devote time to their church and various charities.

The Chancellor's Trust

Jackson Real Estate Leader Thanks Ole Miss

For real estate entrepreneur Larry Johnson, college is more than academics; it's also about lasting friendships.

That's why Johnson, owner of Landmark Companies in Jackson, has joined the Chancellor's Trust.

"I truly enjoyed my time at Ole Miss," Johnson says. "Looking back now, I met people who are still my friends today. The university gave a lot to me in the way of an education, but most importantly it gave me lifelong friends."

Established in 1975, the Chancellor's Trust fund is used for the university's greatest needs and requires a minimum gift of $25,000. A longtime supporter of his alma mater, Johnson's other gifts have been to the schools of law and accountancy and to athletics. He received a bachelor's degree in business in 1960 and a law degree in 1962.

Johnson says his latest gift also signifies his support for Chancellor Khayat.

"I think Chancellor Khayat is an outstanding leader and he's brought the university into a whole new era. I'm grateful that he's doing his best to make Ole Miss the best that it can be."

Expressing his appreciation, Khayat points to Johnson's "extraordinary affection for Ole Miss."

"Larry Johnson is a great friend of Ole Miss," Khayat says. "He was a very good student and quite involved in the life of the university. His generous gift will serve to enrich the experience of the current generation of students."

The idea of helping enrich the lives of UM students appeals to Johnson. "Great academics, coupled with great times—that's really important," he says. "If they enjoy themselves (while they're in school), later in life, they'll want to give back."

Besides having forged lasting friendships with his fellow students, Johnson also considers many of his former professors among his friends, some of them now deceased, including Robert Farley, dean of the law school.

"Dean Farley was very kind to me and a true gentleman," Johnson says. "He was one of the most gracious persons I've ever known, and I'm proud to have known him."

Johnson's son, Michael Johnson, CEO of Landmark Companies, heard his dad relate his Ole Miss experiences and that was enough to convince him to follow in his footsteps.

"Ole Miss was a big part of my dad's life," says Michael Johnson, who received a bachelor's degree in business administration from UM in 1996. "For him and for me, the experience has lasted more than just four years. It's special because you're always a part of it—it always plays a part of where you are going."

Attorneys Express Support Via Corporate Membership

Two business partners have honored Chancellor Robert Khayat with a gift to the university.

Attorneys Cal Mayo and Pope Mallette have established a Chancellor's Trust corporate membership in the name of their Oxford law firm, Mayo Mallette, PLLC. Mayo also serves on the UM Foundation's Board of Directors.

"Chancellor Khayat is a man of incredible vision and boundless energy who has a deep and abiding love and devotion to the university," Mayo says. "He inspires all of us to think beyond the ordinary and to believe that positive transformation is not just possible but is expected. We wanted to do something to show our support and recognize his extraordinary leadership."

Mallette, who graduated from UM law school when Khayat was a professor, agrees with Mayo. "(Khayat) followed my progress through law school and gave me great counsel about clerking after law school, and about work after I completed my clerkships.

"His leadership on campus and in the Oxford community, and his friendship at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, were among the reasons my wife and I chose Oxford as a place to live and raise our children."

Khayat says, "I feel both humbled and honored by the admiration of these two outstanding young professionals. I am grateful to them for choosing to support the university and higher education at this critical time in the history of our state. Cal and Pope are the kind of young leaders who can influence others to follow and make a difference in society."

Chancellor Khayat presents certificate to Pope Mallette and Cal Mayo.

As a new member of the UM Foundation Board of Directors, Mayo is following the lead of Roger Flynt in joining the Chancellor's Trust, said Sandra Guest, director of University Advancement. Flynt is charged with increasing membership in the trust.

Mallette and Mayo first met when Mayo's Jackson law firm sent him on a recruiting trip to the Ole Miss law school during the time Mallette was a student.

Mallette earned a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University, then served six years in the U.S. Navy. He graduated from the Ole Miss law school in 1994 and served clerkships under E. Grady Jolly, circuit judge with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and William H. Barbour, Jr., district judge with the Southern District of Mississippi. He practiced law in Oxford for four years before forming the partnership with Mayo. Originally from Birmingham, Ala., Mallette is married to the former Liza Dolby of Augusta, Ark., and they are the parents of three children.

A 1989 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, Mayo holds a bachelor's degree in accountancy from Ole Miss. After practicing law in Jackson for six years, he served three years as UM's associate university attorney before forming the partnership. A native of Louisville, Mayo is married to the former Caroline Connell Salmon of Clarksdale, Miss. They have four children.

The Chancellor's Trust

Coca-Cola Bottling Exec Aids Academics, Athletics

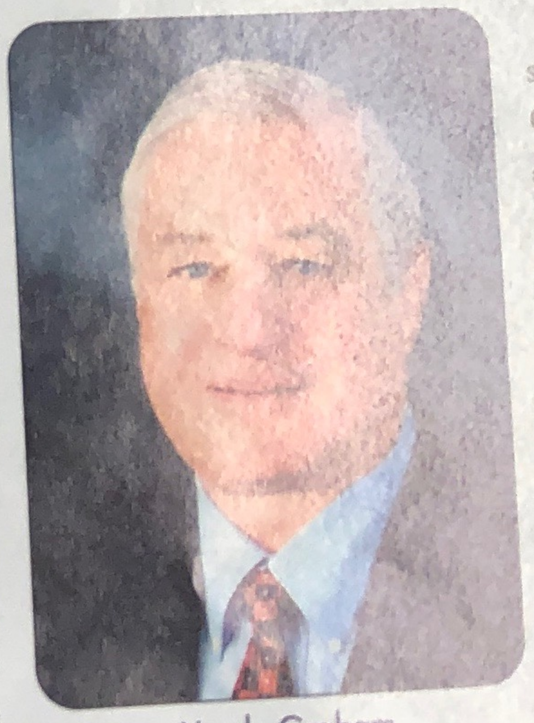
Hardy P. Graham, Sr. has created a Chancellor's Trust corporate membership in the name of his business, the Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Graham is the company's president and chairman of the board, and has been a longtime supporter of the university with memberships in several giving levels.

"Giving in support of higher education has been a long-standing tradition in our family," says Graham. "Current economic conditions are decreasing government support and require increased financial support from alumni. As one who enjoyed my experience as a student, I am very happy to support Chancellor Khayat and Ole Miss in any manner that I can."

Expressing his appreciation, Khayat says, "Hardy Graham is one of our outstanding graduates who has continued his interest in Ole Miss with his generous support. As a student, he was a member of our basketball team, earned a Taylor Medal and received his B.A. and M.A. from the university."

A longtime leader, Graham serves on the University Foundation Board of Directors.

In addition to his membership in the Chancellor's Trust, Graham gave $100,000 toward the construction of the university's Indoor Practice Facility, which is used by the Ole Miss football team and other intercollegiate sports. The donation was made in honor of his father, Hardy Moore Graham, who graduated from Ole Miss in 1934. The father resided in Union City, Tenn., where for many years he operated Union City Coca-Cola. He was also an attorney.



Hardy Graham

"We appreciate the generous support Mr. Graham has given the Ole Miss athletics department," says Pete Boone, director of Intercollegiate Athletics. "It is always a great feeling when alums give back to their university."

A 1964 Ole Miss graduate, Graham also earned his juris doctorate from Georgetown Law Center in Washington, D.C. He began his business career with Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Co., in 1970 as a sales manager, and became president of the company in 1979. Born in Meridian, Graham was raised in Union City. He is the father of a son, Hardy P. Graham Jr., and daughter, Lee Ann Graham Morphis.

Seniors Attract Funds to Create Memorial to Classmates

Since fall 2002, when they arrived on campus, 36 members of the Class of 2006 have lost their lives to tragedy or illness.

As a way to honor those students, along with all other students who died while enrolled at the university, the 2006 senior class plans to build the Ole Miss Memory Garden.

"Perhaps more than any group of students in the last several decades, these seniors have faced the cruel reality of losing loved ones," said Dean of Students Thomas J. "Sparky" Reardon. "They wanted to honor their classmates who've passed away and found that the annual senior class project was a good way to do that. This project is unique, though, in that it will be a permanent memorial to all students of all generations who passed away while enrolled."

The Ole Miss Memory Garden is to be located on the lawn of Paris-Yates Chapel, which has become a popular gathering place on campus. Plans for the Memory Garden include benches, a brick walkway and an eternal flame.

"Currently there's no special site on campus honoring our students who've passed away while they were here," Chancellor Robert Khayat says.

The 2006 Senior Class is hoping to raise $35,000 for the project, which they expect to be completed during the 2006-07 academic year.

"This is a big challenge for us, but we're strongly committed to creating the Memory Garden," says Maureen Shorter, secretary and treasurer of this year's senior class. "It's important to us that there's a place here at Ole Miss dedicated to our friends who won't be graduating with us."

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