



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION NEWS

Spring 2008



MomentUM Campaign Builds

Gift enriches opportunities for Honors College students

Jim Barksdale, former president and CEO of Netscape Communications Corp., and his wife, Donna, are giving \$12.8 million to the University of Mississippi to support and enrich educational opportunities in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College (SMBHC).

"The generosity and commitment of the Barksdale family have ensured that the University of Mississippi remains a premier public education institution," said Chancellor Robert Khayat. "This recent gift to the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College will enable us to continue to attract the state's most high-performing students and provide them with a vibrant center of academic excellence. We are profoundly grateful to Jim and Donna Barksdale for their continued support."

After earning his bachelor's degree from UM in 1965, Barksdale held key leadership positions in some of the world's most successful companies, including FedEx and AT&T Wireless.

Services. Along with providing funding to create the SMBHC, Barksdale also established a scholarship program

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MOMENTUM

A CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI



Alumni donate \$5.3 million to create journalism school

Thanks to the generosity of alumni Ed and Becky Meek, the University of Mississippi School of Journalism, Marketing-Communications and Technology is becoming a reality.

The new school, recently approved by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, will focus on the future of journalism and communications, with an emphasis on technology and its impact on society, a

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(top) Freshman Ventures and the Sophomore Service Project provide 'outside-the-box' educational opportunities for honors students; (bottom) Ed and Becky Meek make their gift official

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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THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION**NEWS**

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Message from the Chancellor

It is the responsibility of the flagship university of the state to lead—not only in offering high quality opportunities for students, but also by identifying and addressing the important issues that confront society. For 161 years, Ole Miss has accepted that responsibility.

As we have matured we have developed a better understanding of the dimensions of our leadership abilities. At the center, of course, is the duty to provide exceptional opportunities for our students to be successful. The University of Mississippi Foundation has proven a wonderful partner in meeting and exceeding our goal to enhance the university experience for our students.

On September 26, 2008, we will host the first of three presidential debates. This debate will focus on domestic issues and present opportunities for our students that are truly extraordinary. This is another example of university leadership that will benefit our state.

In this issue of *Foundation News*, we are pleased to bring you stories of men and women, friends of Ole Miss, who are committed to helping us lead the state, region and nation. As you read these stories, we hope you will be encouraged by the progress being made at Ole Miss. We are deeply grateful for your continued interest and active participation.

Warmest Regards,

Robert C. Khayat
Chancellor



Message from the Foundation President

Our fiscal year ending in June 2008 is shaping up to be another truly remarkable year at Ole Miss and at the University of Mississippi Foundation. The continued loyalty of our alumni and friends allows Ole Miss to reach a level of prosperity that bodes well for future generations of students and Ole Miss family. I'm pleased to include several highlights from this fiscal year:

- The endowment surpassed the \$500 million mark in September 2007, reaching a major milestone in the history of our university.
- We will exceed \$50 million in annual private support for the fourth consecutive year.
- Successful capital campaigns are in evidence across our campus in areas such as:
 - The Inn at Ole Miss
 - The UMMC Cancer Clinic
 - The UM School of Law's new building
 - New and expanding athletic facilities in baseball and basketball
 - The UM School of Manufacturing Excellence
 - Residential colleges
- We are rapidly approaching our goal of 1,000 donors in our planned and deferred giving areas.
- A new School of Journalism has been approved thanks in large part to private support.
- Our MomentUM campaign is closing in on its \$200 million goal, with support still coming in.

This is an historic era in the life of the University of Mississippi as we see private support carrying our programs and students to academic enrichment on par with or exceeding the best universities across America. Your generous support has taken Ole Miss into countless areas that public funding just can't provide. Our students and future alumni are now positioned to continue this legacy that we are so proud of. Your gifts are making the difference. Our heartfelt thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,

Wendell W. Weakley
President/CEO, University of Mississippi Foundation

Spring 2008

SCHOLARSHIPS

Alum's Gift of Music Lives on in Gifts of Scholarship and Rare Flutes

Mary Lee Sneed Hill knew the power of music—how it can chase away the blues and brighten the darkest days. That's why, for more than 40 years, the University of Mississippi alumna shared her voice with the sick and shut-in, performing at nursing homes throughout Memphis, Tenn., and the Mid-South.

"To her, music was a way of communicating with people," said her son, Richard Dean Hill. "That's what she was trying to do—to communicate the good parts of humanity."

Mary Lee Sneed Hill, of Memphis, died in January 2007. Her family has ensured that her legacy will live on in the Mary Lee Sneed Hill Vocal Music Scholarship Endowment, established with a \$25,000 gift, and a gift of flutes to the UM Department of Music.

The scholarship will provide assistance to deserving students pursuing a degree in music in the

UM College of Liberal Arts. Recipients will be chosen on the basis of academics, leadership abilities and the display of talent in the vocal music field.

"We hope recipients will share their talents with those who need it most—the elderly, the poor and the sick," said Dean Hill, Mary Lee's widower.

Dean Hill also donated a collection of 54 flutes he and his wife collected during their missionary work to such exotic locales as China, Argentina, Yugoslavia, Haiti and Spain.

The flutes enhance the university's efforts to include



UM music instructor Linda Pereksta

music from all cultures in its curriculum, said Ron Vernon, associate dean of liberal arts and professor of music.

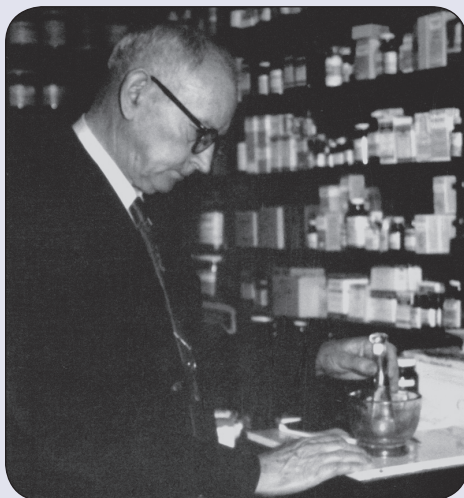
To the Hill family, the gift is an extension of Mary Lee's undying love of music and people. She earned a degree in music and fine arts from UM in 1941. She spent much of her life sharing her voice. Even after a near-fatal car accident in the 1970s she continued to perform for the sick and elderly.

"That was a miracle to me. She would be in such pain, but she wouldn't turn anyone down," Richard Dean Hill said. "That was the magic she created."

Scholarship Honors Family of Pharmacists

One of Allen Linton's favorite childhood memories is of visiting her grandfather's drugstore in Isola, and watching as he stood behind the counter, carefully compounding prescriptions with his mortar and pestle. It's an image that's defined the Linton family. Pharmacy school brought together Allen's mother and father: they met there in 1946 and were married in 1948. Pharmacy is the career many in the family chose and it's the reason Allen and her mother, Sara LeMaster Linton, gave \$25,000 to the University of Mississippi Pharmacy School to seed

the Linton Family Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment.



Anderson Maltraverse Linton Sr., a 1911 graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy, compounds prescriptions in his Isola drugstore.

"We have such pride in our family's pharmacy background," said Allen, who works as a cancer navigator at Baptist Center for Cancer Care in Oxford, and holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Ole Miss. "And Ole Miss is very dear to all of us."

The scholarship honors the notable number of Linton family members who attended UM's pharmacy school. It will be awarded to full-time students from Mississippi enrolled in the school of pharmacy, with preference

going to students from Humphreys, Lee and Panola Counties, where most of the Linton family members call home.

The Linton family pharmacy tradition started with Anderson Maltraverse Linton Sr., Allen's grandfather. In 1911, he was the first member of the family to graduate from the pharmacy school. A dedicated student, he served as president of his pharmacy class while at Ole Miss. In his Isola store, he routinely waited for payment until the Delta cotton was picked, baled and sold. The family believes he would be humbled and honored to have a scholarship bear his name.

"He was an extraordinary, humble and gracious man," Allen said. "This is such an appropriate way to honor his legacy. He valued education and was always trying to help people better their lives."

It was a lesson passed on to future generations.

Aune Family Establishes Scholarship Endowment in Memory of Son

Ask most anyone who knew Mike Aune what he was like and they'll probably tell you two things: that he loved life, and he loved all the people in his.

Tragically, his life ended too soon. Aune, a 2000 graduate of Lafayette High School and a 2004 UM graduate, died in 2007 of an aneurysm at age 25.

His parents, Eddie and Cindy Aune, of Oxford, have established the Mike Aune Memorial Scholarship Endowment in his memory. The scholarship will benefit a rising Croft Institute sophomore who shows exceptional promise, and the award can be renewed for three years contingent upon the recipient maintaining at least a 3.0 grade-point average.

"We are grateful for the opportunities afforded

Mike by the Croft Institute," Eddie Aune said. "We hope that this scholarship will enable other students to follow their dreams like Mike, and prepare for a career in international service."



Mike Aune

The Croft Institute for International Studies, a highly competitive program at UM, accepts only 45 students each year for the international studies major. Aune, who was one of those selected, was a dedicated student, traveling to Spain and Chile to better learn Spanish and teach English. After graduation, he taught English at a private school in Pachuca,

Mexico, from July 2004 to July 2005.

In October 2006, Aune was hired as an intelligence analyst with the Defense Intelligence Agency-Department of Defense in Crystal City, Va., where he

worked as an all-source intelligence officer for the Counter-Narcotics Trafficking Office. He was employed there at the time of his death.

"His accomplishments, for such a short time with the agency, were remarkable," said Tony Tomlinson, Aune's supervisor. "Very few new employees produce such highly praised reports as Mike did on his first try. He was a special young man, and we miss him greatly."

"Mike had the right perspective of life in not letting setbacks affect his plans for the future," Robert Allen, Aune's pastor at Oxford's First Baptist Church, said. "He always looked forward and personally encouraged me to face the future. I think this scholarship will help perpetuate Mike's positive view of life."

Memorial donations to the scholarship fund can be made to the UM Foundation.

Alumni Couple Creates Scholarship to Honor Lifelong Friend

Mitzi Whittington fondly remembers her childhood best friend Morris George—his bright red hair and freckles, his love of learning and their good-natured competition for grades at Coffeeville High School in their hometown.

Now, thanks to a scholarship Whittington and her husband, Lynn, have created in his name at the University of Mississippi, Dr. Morris George won't be forgotten.

George, an emergency room doctor in Memphis, Tenn., died in January 2007 due to complications from Type 1 diabetes. His legacy is ensured through the Dr. Morris George Jr. Memorial Scholarship, established with a \$25,000 gift from the Whittingtons, of Montgomery, Ala.

"We wanted to do something to memorialize him," Whittington said. "Morris was always going,

really brilliant, very smart. He had a passion for learning, and I think he would be honored to know there is a scholarship in his name."

George and the Whittington couple are all Ole Miss alumni.

"We also thought this was a good way to support the university ... and a good way to help students from Mississippi," Whittington said.

George graduated from Ole Miss in 1978 with a degree in music. He earned a Taylor Medal, the university's highest academic award. He later received a medical degree from the UM Medical Center in Jackson. An accomplished pianist, he played the piano in the Whittingtons' wedding.

"I knew Morris all my life," Whittington said. "He was my best friend and is dearly missed."

Recipients of the Dr. Morris George Jr. Memorial

Scholarship are to be full-time incoming freshmen at UM, with first preference given to residents of Grenada and Yalobusha Counties.

The Whittingtons' gift is part of the university's MomentUM campaign, a four-year initiative to raise \$200 million. The campaign, which ends in December 2008, already has raised more than \$180 million for scholarships, graduate fellowships, faculty support, a basketball practice facility, residential colleges and a new law school on the Oxford campus. Also in the plan is a cancer center at the UM Medical Center in Jackson.

For more information about the UM Foundation, go to <http://www.umfoundation.com>.

To make a donation to the Dr. Morris George Jr. Memorial Scholarship, contact Cody Giles at 662-915-6967 or wcgiles@olemiss.edu.

Honors College Students Get Support for Extraordinary Experiences

Two students in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi have been selected to receive Barksdale Awards, previously known as Extraordinary Student Awards.

Miriam “Mimi” Abadie of Hattiesburg and Mary Margaret Peterson of Olive Branch were presented the awards at Honors Day.

The \$5,000 award supports creative, courageous projects proposed by talented students who are willing to take some risks with their time and efforts and who propose ambitious, independent programs of study, research or humanitarian effort.

Debra Young, assistant dean of the Honors College, said the Barksdale Awards were established to encourage students to test themselves in environ-

ments that don’t have the built-in safety of a classroom, teaching lab or library.

“It takes courage to go into the world on your own terms, determined to set your own criteria for success and to learn by experience,” Young said. “It’s a little scary for us too, as administrators and teachers, but we have some extraordinary students, and the Barksdale Award supports the out-of-the-

ordinary undergraduate experience.”

This summer, Abadie, a senior philosophy and English major, plans to travel for eight weeks to Senegal to explore the cultural environment for music

and dance featuring a particular African drum, the djembe. She is to have a five-week internship under a

Senegalese drum maker, making her own drum, and plans to record different musical accounts in villages and cities, as well as conduct more traditional research at the West African Research Center.

Peterson, a junior biochemistry major, plans to return to Malawi, Africa, where she spent two weeks in 2006 working with American doctor Mark Boersma and witnessed firsthand the effects of HIV/AIDS on the population.

During the summer of 2008, she plans to spend time in Salima, a new village built by Children of the Nations program in Lilongwe, involved in AIDS research.



Mary Margaret Peterson



Mimi Abadie

Scholarship Honors Pharmacy Alumnus

Like most little girls, Cecilia Caldwell’s daddy was her hero. From the time she was a two-year-old sitting beside him as he drove, to fishing with him and her brothers on Wissahickon Creek, Cecilia adored him and could usually be found by his side.

“He is still my hero,” she said. “He always will be. Over all these years, my love and admiration for him and my appreciation of him have steadily grown. I am so thankful that he was my father.”

Because of a scholarship in his name, Caldwell’s legacy will live on. Cecilia, along with her mother, Bettye, and other family members and friends, have created the Henry Cecil Caldwell Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment to honor a man they love and dearly miss.

“Dad always encouraged people to do their best. That’s what he was all about, encouraging people and building them up,” Cecilia said. “That’s why we thought this scholarship to assist pharmacy students from Mississippi with financial need is a fitting way to honor him.”

Caldwell, a Walnut Grove native, earned a bach-



Marty Beasley (left), a Caldwell family friend, Bettye Caldwell, Cecilia Caldwell and her husband, Paul Scavotto

elor’s degree from the UM School of Pharmacy in 1952 and earned a master’s degree in pharmaceutical organic chemistry from UM in 1954. He later earned his Ph.D. in pharmaceutical organic chemistry from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. In 1954, he married Bettye Sue Caldwell, a native of Lena and an alumna of Mississippi College.

His family remembers him as a hard worker and devoted family man. From his humble beginnings in rural Mississippi on a chicken farm, he became the

first in his family to graduate from college. He instilled in his children a love and appreciation for the outdoors, and they recall happy days walking in the woods, canoeing, tubing, fishing and rock collecting.

“His Mississippi roots were a big part of him,” Cecilia said. “He loved this place.”

Caldwell had a long and successful career, working for much of it at SmithKline & French labs (now GlaxoSmithKline) in Philadelphia, Pa., and later at AAI in Wilmington, N.C. He published many important technical papers and held 23 U.S. patents.

All three of Caldwell’s children have connections to pharmacy. After attending pharmacy school, Cecilia worked in the pharmaceutical industry and now practices as an obstetrics and gynecologist at the Maine Medical Center in Portland. Brent is chemist for Boehringer Ingelheim, a pharmaceutical company based in Connecticut, and now works in Germany for the company. Mark is an architectural engineer who does a great deal of consulting for pharmaceutical companies.

Senior Class Honors Dean of Students

UM senior class president Charles Cascio announced the Class of 2008/Thomas J. “Sparky” Reardon Scholarship at the annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony. The Class of 2008 plans to raise at least \$25,000 to endow the scholarship so that it can be awarded in perpetuity to students who demonstrate financial need and strong leadership abilities.



Sparky Reardon

Reardon, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of students, said he was “humbled and honored” by the announcement.

The scholarship serves as the 2008 senior class project, which is chosen each year by class officers and an executive committee. The committee of some 60 students voted during the fall semester to create a scholarship and name it for Reardon.

“Endowing a scholarship in Sparky Reardon’s name as our senior class project is the best way we can think of to honor what he’s done for Ole Miss students for almost 30 years now,” Cascio said.

UM Chancellor Robert Khayat agreed: “Sparky Reardon has for a long time been an integral part of the Ole Miss family, and we’re thrilled the senior class is honoring him in such a meaningful way. Our first priority is creating opportunities for students, and we are grateful to the Class of 2008 for helping us do that.”

Tax deductible gifts to the scholarship endowment can be made through the University of Mississippi Foundation.

Additional gifts to the Class of 2008/Thomas J. “Sparky” Reardon Scholarship are being accepted by the UM Foundation, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677. Contributions also can be made online at <http://www.umf.olemiss.edu/makeagift/> or by calling the foundation at 662-915-5003.

Law Firm Gives to Robert Langley Memorial Scholarship

Oxford law firm Tannehill & Carmean PLLC has contributed \$20,000 to the Robert Langley Memorial Scholarship Endowment at the University of Mississippi.

J. Rhea Tannehill Jr. and Jay P. Carmean, both Ole Miss alums, said they wanted to do something to honor the memory of their friend, Robert Langley, a UM police officer who was killed Oct. 21, 2006, during a traffic stop.

“Robert was a very principled guy,” Tannehill said. “He liked doing the right thing and he wanted to help people. He was working on his degree at Ole Miss, but he never got to finish it. I think he would

be pleased to know this scholarship established in his name will help others get an education.”

Tannehill and Carmean came to know Langley

**“Robert was a very principled guy.
He liked doing the right thing
and he wanted to help people.”**

personally through their professional interaction. Langley and Tannehill also served in the National Guard together, another reason he felt compelled to contribute to the scholarship.

“We kept in touch by e-mail while Robert served in Afghanistan,” Tannehill said. “He volunteered to go with his unit because he saw an opportunity to serve his country and earn more money for his family.”

“Robert Langley’s life was characterized by his commitment to others,” said Gloria Kellum, vice chancellor for university relations.

Langley was a four-year veteran of the University Police Department. He is survived by his wife, Lisa, two sons and two stepdaughters. The scholarship is to be awarded to an Ole Miss student majoring in criminal justice, helping students who wish to serve the community, as Langley did.

Additional gifts to the Langley Scholarship endowment are being accepted by the UM Foundation, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677. Contributions also can be made online at <http://www.umf.olemiss.edu/makeagift/> or by calling the foundation at 662-915-5003.

Robert Langley with Truss



Oxford Couple Establishes Theatre Arts Scholarship

Dinah Leavitt Swan and her husband, Terry Swan, have established the first scholarship endowment of its kind for theatre students at the University of Mississippi.

With a donation of \$25,000, the Oxford couple established the Patricia Tarr Leavitt Scholarship, named in memory of Dinah's mother. The scholarship is to be awarded to full-time undergraduate students from Mississippi majoring in theatre arts.

Patricia Tarr Leavitt, whose mother's family settled in Biloxi in 1868, attended Ole Miss in the 1930s, as did her younger sister, Barbara Tarr. Both were members of Kappa Delta sorority.

Both Swans are Mississippi natives. Terry Swan, from Jackson, earned his bachelor's degree in education from UM in 1970. A retired Air Force colonel, he is a speech instructor in UM's Lott Leadership Institute.

Dinah Swan, a Pascagoula native, earned her bachelor's degree in speech and master's degree in

theatre in 1969 and 1970, respectively. She later earned her doctorate in theatre from the University of Colorado-Boulder. She taught theatre at Fort Lewis College for 27 years and was chair of the department for eight.



Terry and Dinah Swan

She also taught writing. Already a successful playwright, since retiring she has become a novelist. She is director of Theatre Oxford's annual National 10-Minute Play Contest.

The Swans' love of theatre and admiration for the UM Department of Theatre Arts were the driving force behind the scholarship.

"It was our confidence in and respect for UM's theatre department chair Rhona Justice-Malloy, and her faculty, that precipitated our decision to place the scholarship in theatre," Swan said. "She's doing great things with the program, and it's the new direction that she's taking the department that was one reason we wanted to do this."

Justice-Malloy hopes the scholarship will help with recruiting. "This is the first theatre arts scholarship specifically for students from Mississippi," she said. "We hope this will help attract students that might not otherwise come to Ole Miss."

Barksdale Donation Provides Scholarship for MFA Student

John Hodges, a published fiction writer enrolled in the University of Mississippi's acclaimed Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing, has been awarded a \$3,000 scholarship by the university's MFA committee.

Philanthropist Jim Barksdale funded the scholarship as part of his support for the creative writing program.

"I am deeply honored by the award," said Hodges, of Florida and Alaska. "The many writers and outstanding teachers of Oxford have in the short time that I have been here offered so much support and inspiration. I greatly value their dedication and friendship."

Hodges' short stories have appeared in more than a dozen print journals, including *American Short Fiction*, *The Chattahoochee Review* and *Iron Horse Literary Review*. His story "Crying Babies in Heaven" was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

As a photographer, Hodges participated in Light Work's artist-in-residence program. His photographs

have appeared widely and can be seen in the current issue of *fstopmagazine.com*. His poem "The Teller on the Right" appeared in *Rattle*, a biannual poetry journal, in December, 2007.

"We must rely on donors to be truly excellent," said Barry Hannah, director of the MFA program. "We are lucky for Barksdale and John and Renee Grisham, our angels and stone-fine, stand-up people."

"This award assists the department of English to continue its progress toward excellence in the delivery of its degrees," said Patrick Quinn, department chair. "Thanks to our generous benefactors, we are proud of our high-rated MFA program and the professors who make

Ole Miss a top choice for graduate education."

Hodges received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Florida State University.

The MFA program in creative writing recently has been listed by *The Atlantic Monthly* magazine as one of the five up-and-coming writing programs in the nation.



National Center for Physical Acoustics Receives \$100,000

Nationally known inventor Elwood “Woody” Norris has always been fascinated by sound. So when he heard about the many research projects under way at the National Center for Physical Acoustics at the University of Mississippi, he wanted to help.

His gift of \$100,000 from the Elwood and Stephanie Norris Foundation to the center will provide funding for research and development of ideas not eligible for federal funding, according to NCPA Director Hank Bass.

“We are so grateful for this very generous gift from Woody and Stephanie Norris,” Bass said. “At this time, NCPA has little investment capital to



Elwood ‘Woody’ Norris

initiate research in areas not of specific short-term interest to a federal sponsor. This gift helps to bridge that gap, and we couldn’t be more thrilled.”

“Research is integral to the life of a comprehensive university,” said Alice Clark, vice chancellor for research and sponsored programs at UM. “This wonderful gift from the Norris Foundation will help the National Center for Physical Acoustics better serve the people of Mississippi.”

Growing up in Barrelville, Md., Norris became intrigued by sound when he started tinkering with broken radios. He remembers begging them off local repair shops just to see if he could fix them.

Norris now holds patents to 47 of his own inven-

tions, including HyperSonic Sound, which enables sound to be targeted to an individual listener, a transcutaneous Doppler system and an ear-mounted speaker/microphone device.

In 2005, Norris won the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize for Revolutionizing Acoustics, the largest single cash prize for invention in the United States, which is awarded to an individual who demonstrates remarkable creativity and a proven commitment to inspiring others. Norris used some of his winnings to start a foundation to aid struggling independent inventors.

“We’re living in the age of an explosion of knowledge,” Norris said. “I’m interested in everything. All these things that people never thought of before are coming to the forefront. People need to be encouraged to go out there and pursue the fields that will help them create the wonderful things they are capable of achieving.”

Old Chemistry Auditorium to be Named for Carl Comer

When Fulton native Carl Comer tells stories about his time at the University of Mississippi, many are set in the Old Chemistry Building. As a student earning a bachelor of arts in education and, later, a master of science in combined sciences with a major in chemistry, at the University of Mississippi, Comer spent countless hours in the building. So it is altogether fitting that the new auditorium there be named after him.

“That auditorium means a great deal to me,” Comer said. “There’s just something about walking in that building that brings back so many fond memories.”

The Old Chemistry Building is slated to undergo major renovations this summer, and will become the new headquarters for the UM School of Engineering in 2009. As the centerpiece of the building, Comer Auditorium will be used for lectures, classes, presentations and other events. These renovations are part of the \$25 million Campaign for Engineering which will help the school strengthen its education, research and service operations in ways that will have a far-reaching impact on the school, the university and the

state.

“Carl’s career as a teacher and administrator was long and distinguished,” said Chancellor Robert Khayat. “He is highly respected and loved by his students and his peers.”

The love of all things Ole Miss, from auditoriums to those students he relished helping, extends throughout the entire Comer family. Carl’s wife, Nannette Comer, attended Ole Miss, earning both a bachelor of arts in education and a master of arts.

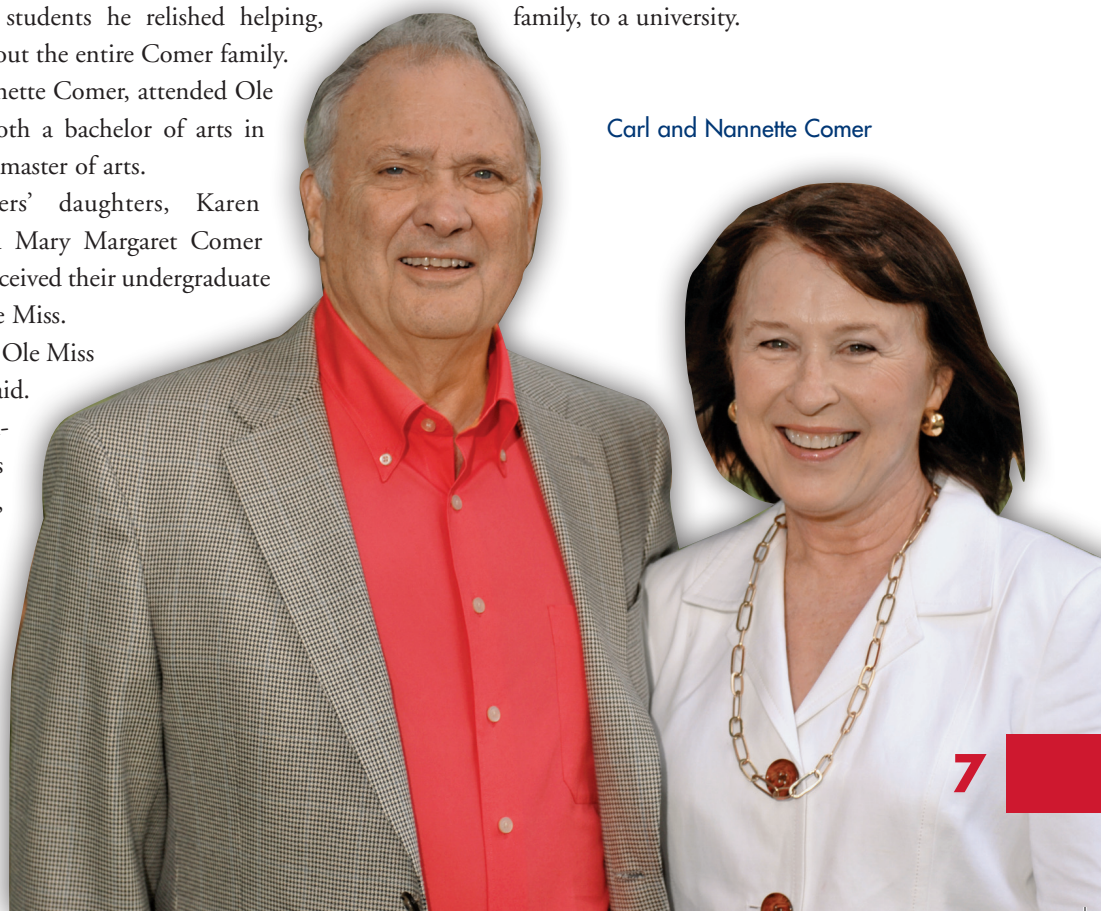
The Comers’ daughters, Karen Comer Fox and Mary Margaret Comer Grissom, both received their undergraduate degrees from Ole Miss.

“We are an Ole Miss family,” Karen said. “We never considered ourselves just students, alumni or fans. Ole Miss is just more a part of

us, and we’re a part of it—like home.”

The family hopes that generations of students will sit down in that room and fall in love with a science and with a school. They hope some of them will see the name on the classroom and understand how much learning can mean, to a man, to a family, to a university.

Carl and Nannette Comer



Gift Celebrates 30 Years of Studying Southern Culture

To help mark three decades of examining, reflecting upon and celebrating Southern culture, Michelle Hyver Oakes has pledged \$30,000 to the Center for the Study of Southern Culture (CSSC) at the University of Mississippi. Oakes, who recently became chair of the center's advisory committee, said she feels strong ties to both the center and Ole Miss.

"The center's work over the past 30 years has been remarkable," she said. "I'm



Michelle Hyver Oakes

honored to chair its advisory committee and help champion its mission and activities."

She also hopes her gift will inspire others to give.

"It's important to financially support the organizations we believe in, and I believe in the center," Oakes said. "I hope my commitment will be the first of many new gifts to the center made by its friends and supporters. Our collective donations will enable its continued vitality and growth."

Oakes' gift is designated as unrestricted, which allows CSSC interim director Ted Ownby and others who best understand the center's needs to decide how

and when the money is to be used.

"Friends of the center nurture and sustain it," Ownby said. "We are so grateful to Michelle Hyver Oakes for this generous gift. She has put her support in us and entrusted us with continuing to educate others about Southern culture. Gifts like this help us fund important projects such as *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* and other outreach programs, including conferences and publications."

Private gifts have also helped fund scholarships and documentary photography exhibitions, establish the Southern Media Archive and host the weekly Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture Series.

A native of New Orleans who now resides in Charleston, S.C., Oakes earned a bachelor's degree in biology from UM and her MBA from Tulane University.

Wilkie and Hailman Named Inaugural Overby Fellows

Two distinguished Mississippians with national reputations—one a journalist, the other a lawyer—have been named inaugural fellows at the new Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics at the University of Mississippi.

The honorees are Curtis Wilkie, holder of the Kelly G. Cook Chair of Journalism at UM, and John R. Hailman, recently retired assistant U.S. attorney from Oxford.

Known nationally for his work as political writer for *The Boston Globe*, Wilkie joined the university's journalism faculty in 2003. Hailman has traveled worldwide for the Justice Department, training prosecutors and educating judges about issues related to terrorism, white-collar crime, drug-trafficking and undercover operations.

Wilkie and Hailman are to write, lecture and

conduct programs at the Overby Center during their one-year fellowships. "The common thread

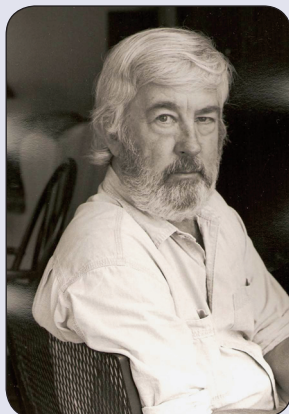
between Curtis and John is that they are astute observers of people, they are great storytellers and they are good writers. They represent the very best of journalism and public service," said Charles L. Overby, chairman of the Freedom Forum, which funded the building and beginning operations of the Overby Center with a \$5 million grant.

Paying tribute to Wilkie and Hailman individually, Overby said, "Curtis is synonymous with Southern journalism and politics. If you said those words to leading journalists in the country, they would mention

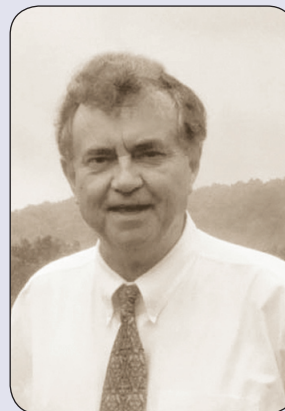
Curtis' name immediately. He is one of the great assets on the Ole Miss campus.

"John is a keen observer of the Southern scene. He understands politics going back to his days in Washington with Sen. John Stennis. He has a broad range of interests and now that he is retired from the Justice Department, he will be free to write about what he has seen and what he thinks."

Adjacent to the newly renovated journalism department facility at Farley Hall, the Overby Center is a new building that features 16,000 square feet of conference space. It includes a 225-seat auditorium, a multipurpose conference room that will accommodate 100 people for seminars and dinners and a boardroom seating up to 24 people.



Curtis Wilkie



John R. Hailman

Couple Gives \$321,000 to UM School of Engineering

Harper Johnson, 93, remembers the locomotive that carried him to Oxford in 1935. He saw radio born, then television, and he heard a professor tell him both were fads. Behind every change he's seen in his life, Harper Johnson sees something else: engineers.

Along with his late wife, Elsie, Johnson, an electrical engineer in Greenwood, gave \$321,000 to the University of Mississippi to create the Elsie and Harper Johnson Jr. Scholarship Endowment for the School of Engineering. Johnson is also a member of UM's 1848 Society, which recognizes those who have either funded or planned a deferred gift, such as a

bequest or a life income plan.

"Mississippi in general is starving for engineers," said Johnson. "Without engineers we're not going to grow. I want to see Ole Miss grow in the way of engineering. I want to encourage students from Mississippi to stay in the state. To keep students in Mississippi, you've got to have something for them. I want to help keep them in engineering and give them somewhere to go."

The scholarship will be awarded to full-time



electrical engineering students from Leflore or Tate County.

"What Elsie and Harper have done is exactly what the state of Mississippi, and small towns especially, need," said Floyd Melton Jr., an attorney in Greenwood and a friend to Johnson.

"The goal of this scholarship is to see kids take the hard courses, become engineers and come back into our communities to work and live."

Alum Continues Giving: \$150,000 Supports Math, Science

University of Mississippi engineering alumnus and former Hungarian refugee John G. Adler, chairman of the board of directors of Adaptec Corp., announced a gift of \$150,000 to UM's Center for Mathematics and Science Education (CMSE). Adler previously donated stock worth some \$3 million to the UM School of Engineering.

"The university has had a very big impact upon me; wherever the money is to be invested, I'm sure there will be measurable results,"



John G. Adler and John O'Haver

said Adler, a member of the Woods Order, a UM engineering alumni fundraising and leadership group.

CMSE was funded through a \$1.2 million gift from the Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation in 2006. Housed in the UM School of Engineering, the center aims to improve

math and science education across the state by fostering interaction between UM departments and

K-12 public schools. Faculty provide education and leadership training, and encourage high school students to pursue math, the physical sciences and engineering.

"One of our goals is to educate K-12 students about what engineers, mathematicians and scientists do," said John O'Haver, associate professor of chemical engineering and CMSE director. "We need to explain to them the incredible need in our country for students to pursue these fields, and the opportunities and career paths that will be there for them."

Adler's donation will allow the center to expand its Engineering Ambassadors program, which sends engineering students into K-12 schools.

Two Mississippi Companies Support School of Engineering

Two of Mississippi's largest companies, Cellular South and Ergon Inc., have made generous contributions to the University of Mississippi School of Engineering. Both companies were founded by UM graduates.

Wireless provider Cellular South has pledged \$150,000 for the Cellular South Distance Learning Lab, and petroleum refiner Ergon has made a \$100,000 gift to the Campaign for the School of Engineering for the building's renovation and equipment. "Both Cellular South and Ergon continue to be very generous to the school of engineering," said Kai-Fong Lee, dean of engineering. "We are so thankful that

these Mississippi companies continue to give time and resources to our students."

The Distance Learning Lab is to be used primarily for the Introduction to Engineering course, which Mississippi high school students take online.

"We're looking at this as an opportunity to participate and be involved with the exciting things going on at Ole Miss," said Hu Meena, president of Cellular South. "This really is a partnership between Cellular South and the school of engineering." Ergon also has been instrumental in assisting the school with its co-op program, which blends classroom learning with practical work experience.

"Ergon has a long history of working with the engineering program at the University of Mississippi," said Robert Lampton, Ergon president of supply and distribution and an Ole Miss alumnus. "It's a great school, and we wanted to help upgrade the facilities to keep it great."

Leslie B. Lampton Sr., a 1948 UM graduate, founded Ergon in 1954 as a petroleum retailer with two employees; the company now has more than 2,500 employees.

Founded by Wade Creekmore Sr., a 1923 UM graduate, Cellular South is headquartered in Jackson and has more than 85 retail locations in five states.

Dedicated Member of Ole Miss Family Assures Legacy

To show support for the university and the ongoing MomentUM Campaign, UM alumnus Jamie Houston, of Ridgeland, has planned a bequest through the University of Mississippi Foundation that will create the Jamie Houston Family Endowment. Houston (BBA '74, J.D. '76) said he wanted to give to Ole Miss because he has such a love of the university.

"Ole Miss is so much more than an institution to me," he said. "It's like a second family. I felt that by creating this endowment the Houston family would be leaving a legacy for future generations of the Ole Miss family. I had a wonderful experience here and my family is supportive of this campaign."

The endowment will support both the Patterson School of Accountancy and the UM School of Law.

"I think it's important to give and continue to be a part of the Ole Miss family no matter where we are," Houston said. "Providing scholarships to enrich the lives of students helps Ole Miss attract and retain the best and the brightest students in Mississippi. As individuals and as a society we receive immeasurable benefits from producing educated graduates who also feel a strong connection to Ole Miss."

A longtime UM Foundation Board member and former board chairman, Houston continues his service to the university through his leadership as chairman of the Deferred and Planned Giving Society Committee, a group working to increase the number of planned and deferred gifts to UM. The committee's mission is to inform, educate and encourage alumni and friends to provide private

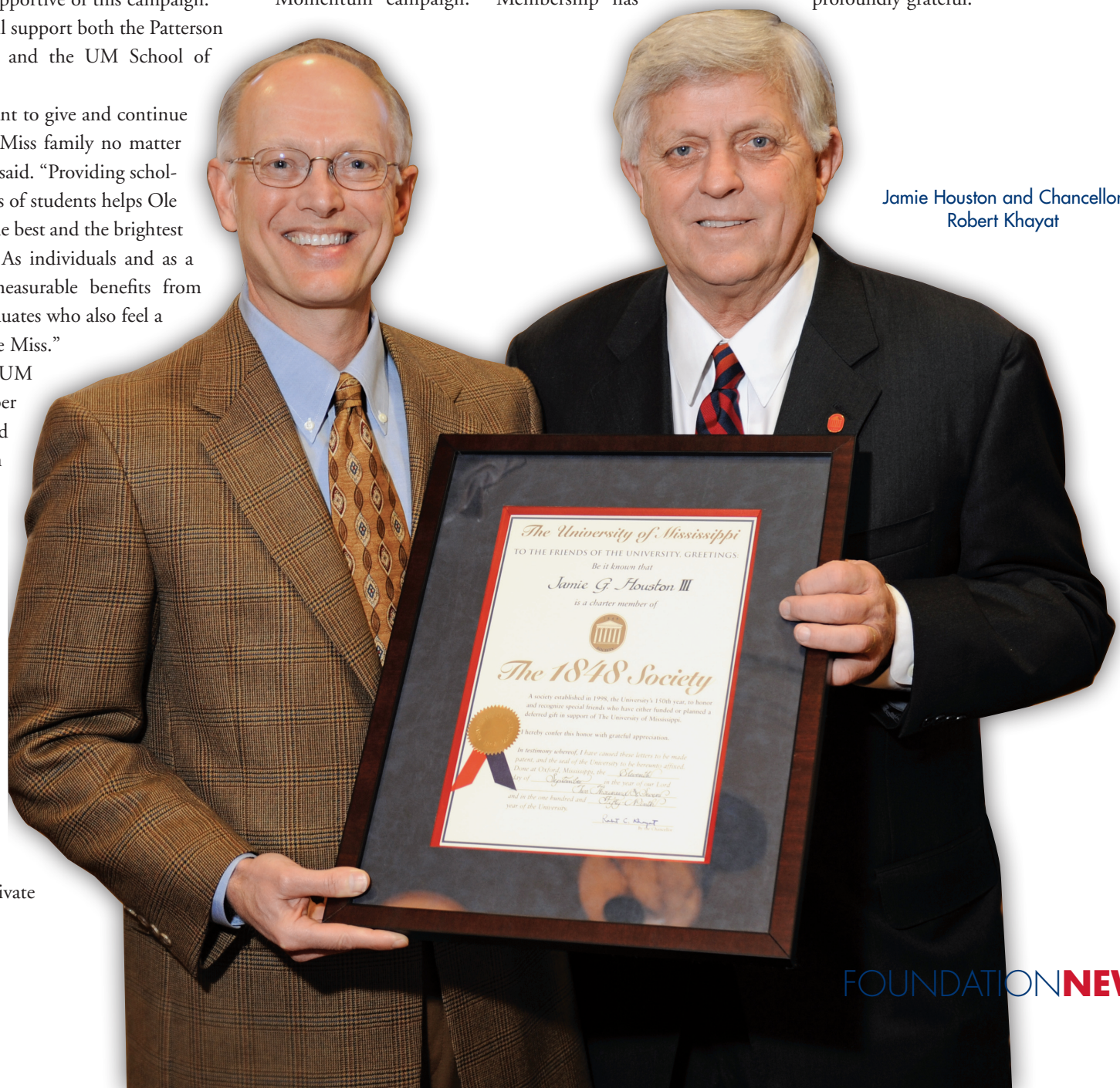
support through planned gifts to the University of Mississippi.

"Planned giving is extremely important to Ole Miss," he said. "I think it's important to give to the future of the university. A planned or deferred gift is truly the gift of a lifetime and creates a permanent legacy at Ole Miss."

Sandra Guest, vice president of the UM Foundation, said Houston provided tremendous leadership to the UM Foundation as chairman and graciously agreed to help with Deferred and Planned Giving Society. The committee set an ambitious goal to increase membership to 1,000 during the Momentum campaign. Membership has

increased to 750 members and they are well on their way to reaching their initial goal. She said planned gifts are important not only to increase our endowment, but also to solidify the future of Ole Miss.

"We are so thankful to Jamie for his exemplary gift and the rest of our committee members for supporting Ole Miss through planned gifts," Guest said. "I don't think anyone realizes the impact of these significant gifts. Since the beginning of the UM Foundation, over \$30 million has been received from planned gifts and there is over \$47 million in future gifts pledged that we are aware of. The Jamie Houston Family Endowment adds to that, and we are profoundly grateful."



Jamie Houston and Chancellor
Robert Khayat

Alumnus Lucian S. Minor Gives \$1 Million to Endowment for Patterson School of Accountancy

University of Mississippi alumnus and longtime donor Lucian S. Minor, of Memphis, Tenn., has established a trust of \$1 million to benefit the university's Patterson School of Accountancy.

Minor established the Lucian S. Minor Endowment in 1996 to benefit the accountancy school, and this latest gift will add to the school's growing endowment.

"Many of the courses that I took at Ole Miss contributed to my success in the business world, particularly in the accounting field," Minor said. "I'm glad to share some of my success with Ole Miss. Hopefully some needy students will benefit from my contribution."

The gift, his second charitable remainder annuity trust, allows Minor and his wife, Mary, to receive interest income from the trust during their lifetimes. The remainder of the trust will ultimately be incorporated into the endowment.

"We are tremendously grateful to Lucian and Mary Minor for their generosity to the school of accountancy and their loyalty to Ole Miss," said Wendell Weakley, president of the University of Mississippi Foundation. "We are especially thrilled about this gift since it not only benefits Ole Miss but

"Ole Miss contributed to my success in the business world, particularly in the accounting field."

also provides many benefits to these wonderful supporters of our university."

The gift is part of the university's MomentUM campaign, a four-year initiative to raise \$200 million. MomentUM, which ends in December 2008, has already raised more than \$181.5 million for scholarships, graduate fellowships, faculty support, a basketball practice facility, residential colleges and a new law



Lucian S. Minor

school on the Oxford campus. Also in the plan is a cancer center at the UM Medical Center in Jackson.

Minor, who graduated from Ole Miss in 1937, is a financial consultant and retired accountant who served in the U.S. Navy, worked for General Mills and held the post of partner-in-charge of the Memphis office of Ernst & Young until retiring in 1978.

In 2005, the Ole Miss Alumni Association recognized Minor with its highest annual honor, inducting him into the Alumni Hall of Fame. Minor has also received the accountancy school's highest annual honor, being inducted into its Hall of Fame in 1997.



Spring 2008

John and Margaret Keeton Give More Than 1,300 Acres of Timberland

Building on three previous gifts to UM academics and athletics totaling some \$1.5 million, John and Margaret Keeton have announced a gift of 1,324 acres of timberland located primarily in Grenada County. One-half of this gift will benefit Ole Miss, with the remainder designated for other local charitable organizations. Plans for the land include some acreage being held for long-term investment purposes and some being sold as financially beneficial opportunities arise.

“John and Margaret Keeton have been building a remarkable legacy over many years, contributing time and resources to their immediate community, as well as to the larger community that encompasses the state and beyond,” said UM Chancellor Robert Khayat. “The Keetons

have invested in the life of the University of Mississippi and in the lives of young people with their generous gifts, and we are profoundly grateful.”

The Keetons have divided their gifts between academics and athletics, as well as supported an array of special projects at the university. An enthusiastic

**“We want to do some good for the children
of Mississippi, the children of the world.”**

football fan, John Keeton said the couple considers needs all over campus.

“We appreciate what the university is doing: providing a reasonably priced, high-quality education,” John Keeton said. “We want to do some good

for the children of Mississippi, the children of the world.”

John Keeton began his undergraduate degree in 1941, and was a roommate of Grenada native William Winter, an attorney who went on to become governor of Mississippi. Keeton’s college days were interrupted by service in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He returned to the university, completing his degree in 1947, the same year he sat on a bench in the Grove and proposed to Margaret Green. They married that year. In 1952, John

made his way back to the university to earn a law degree. The Keetons settled in their hometown to establish a private law practice. After their three children were grown, Margaret Keeton completed her UM degree in social work.



John and Margaret Keeton

University Launches \$200 Million MomentUM Campaign

A \$200 million capital campaign, designed to continue the momentum generated by the University of Mississippi in the last decade, formally launched in October 2007.

MomentUM: A Campaign for The University of Mississippi has already attracted \$181.5 million in private gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations. During the “quiet phase” of the campaign, which began in January 2005, more than 39,200 people contributed or made pledges.

The funds are to help complete a cancer center at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, build a new law school and residential colleges on the Oxford campus, establish a new school of journalism, build a new basketball practice facility, increase funding for scholarships and academic enrichment, modernize classrooms in all schools and colleges and boost the university’s endowment.

Alumni Mike Glenn, Sam and Mary Donnelly

Haskell and Deuce McAllister are co-chairs of the campaign.

“As executive vice president for FedEx, I’ve seen firsthand the enthusiasm that’s generated when an institution takes off on an exciting new venture,” said Glenn, of Memphis, Tenn. “‘Momentum’ is an appropriate word to describe the energy at Ole Miss. We have it all—more and better students than ever before, a superb faculty and renowned graduates who are making major contributions throughout the world.”

Over the past 10 years, state funding for the university has decreased dramatically, falling from 40 percent to just 17 percent. As a result, UM relies on private support now more than ever.

Since 1997, UM enrollment has increased by more than 4,000 students, putting a strain on resources and making housing one of the university’s most pressing needs. The planned residential colleges

will help address that need. Modeled after those at British universities in Oxford and Cambridge, residential colleges are places where students and faculty live, dine and socialize in the same cluster of buildings in which they go to class.

Plans are also moving forward to break ground for a new law school, slated to open in fall 2010 on Coliseum Drive. The new law center includes state-of-the-art classrooms and space for clinics. Lamar Hall, the current law school facility building, will be renovated to provide additional general classroom space.

Other campaign goals of increasing faculty support and scholarships are aimed at contributing to the university’s ability to provide quality education and recruit top students from across the country. Alumni, faculty and even students have already stepped forward to show their support, helping spur the campaign close to achieving its goal.

Medical Center Builds MomentUM with Kickoff Event

Officials from the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the UM Oxford campus hosted a celebration Oct. 30, 2007, on the front lawn of University Hospital to launch the Medical Center’s portion of the MomentUM campaign.

“For Mississippi’s Better Health: MomentUM,” is to help fund the UMMC Cancer Institute, a new heart and vascular center, relocation and renovation of the existing children’s clinics, a medical research scholars program and distinguished chair endowments.

“The MomentUM campaign is an opportunity for our community to express its support for the programs at the University of Mississippi Medical Center,” said Dr. Dan Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs. “Private giving is an important source of support for all successful health science centers.”

“We have fewer than 10 endowed chairs on campus that are fully funded,” Matt Isch, executive

director of development at UMMC, said. “Our goals for the campaign include completing funding on some of the chairs that have already been established and establishing and funding several new ones in key areas.

“The Medical Center recognizes that if it is going to grow its student population and compete for the very best students in the state, it has to be able to offer competitive scholarship support.”

Faculty and staff at the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children and Friends of Children’s Hospital are proud to be a part of the campaign

at UMMC, said Suzan Thames, chair of the board of directors for the Friends of Children’s Hospital and co-chair of the MomentUM campaign.

“Growth and expansion of the pediatric division at the medical center is vital to providing the very best in quality health care for Mississippi’s children and ensuring that we attract and retain the very best and most qualified physicians to practice in our state,” she said. “Our Children’s Hospital has been blessed with the highest caliber of dedicated, committed and cutting-edge staff and physicians.”

Dr. Dan Jones



Ole Miss Raising \$12 Million for Basketball Practice Facility

A plan to raise \$12 million for a basketball practice facility at the University of Mississippi is off on a fast break!

Officials with the UMAA Foundation, the private fundraising arm for intercollegiate athletics, said more than \$6 million of the total has already been donated or pledged by excited supporters.

The 46,000-square foot facility is to include separate practice courts, locker and meeting spaces, film rooms, players' lounges and coaches' offices for both the men's and women's basketball teams. It will also offer shared weight and training rooms. The building will be located on the southwest side of the campus on the corner of Coliseum Drive and Hill Drive, across from the Gillom Sports Center.

"Games are played at Tad Smith Coliseum, but they are won on the practice court," Chancellor Robert Khayat said. "Our men's and women's basketball teams have demonstrated their competitiveness. This new practice facility demonstrates our commitment to support them with whatever they need to continue to be successful."

The campaign to raise private funds for the facility comes at an exciting time for Ole Miss basketball. The men's team made it to the semifinals of the 2008 National Invitation Tournament (NIT). The women's team advanced to the Elite Eight of the



2007 NCAA Tournament before losing to eventual national champion Tennessee.

"We need every Ole Miss fan to join this effort and make a gift to build a practice facility for the exclusive use of men's and women's basketball," said men's Coach Andy Kennedy.

"There are so many reasons why Ole Miss

basketball will benefit both academically and athletically once this facility is built," Ladner said. "We greatly appreciate the generous support of our alumni who continue to donate funds to a facility that has become a need and not just a want."

Construction is underway, with the new facility expected to be complete in fall 2009.

Faculty, Staff Give \$1.4 Million to MomentUM Campaign

Faculty and staff at the University of Mississippi not only serve in classrooms, offices and buildings throughout the campus, but they also have contributed more than \$1.4 million of their own resources toward the university's MomentUM campaign.

More than 700 current faculty and staff have given or pledged a total of \$1.46 million since Jan. 1, 2005.

"It's extraordinary that our employees, who give so much of their time and effort to Ole Miss, also give back in this way," said Gloria Kellum, vice chancellor for university relations. "These gifts illustrate the deep dedication of our faculty and

staff and their commitment to our students and their success. It is heartwarming."



The gifts are part of the MomentUM campaign, a four-year initiative to raise \$200 million. The campaign, which ends in December 2008, already has raised more than \$181.5 million for scholarships, graduate fellowships, faculty support, a basketball practice facility, residential colleges and a new law school on the Oxford campus. Also in the plan is a

cancer center at the Medical Center in Jackson.

While the campaign is geared toward specific initiatives, faculty and staff have given to a number of other areas of need on the Oxford campus.

John O'Haver, associate professor of chemical engineering, said he gives regularly to the school of engineering for several reasons.

"First, I believe in what we are doing here, and want to do what I can to help this university be better and better. Second, I want to be able to challenge my students upon graduation to give back. I think it is more effective if I can say, 'Yes, I give too.' Third, most of our students came here on significant scholarships and I would like to help make that possible for future generations."

Chairs: MomentUM Campaign Close to Goal

You may call it the home stretch, the finish line or the light at the end of the tunnel. The successful conclusion of MomentUM: A Campaign for the University of Mississippi is now within sight.

What began quietly in 2005 has generated \$181.5 million in gifts and pledges, assuring that the \$200 million goal will be met or surpassed when the campaign is scheduled to end in December.



Mary and Sam Haskell

MomentUM is already changing the face of the Oxford campus. The spectacular eight-story Inn at Ole Miss—due to open its doors in late spring—rises above Jackson Avenue and the Gertrude Ford Parkway. The old married student apartments are gone and work has begun on a magnificent \$50 million law school building on the site across from Tad Smith Coliseum. The faculty houses that dotted the hillsides on the north side of campus are being removed so that construction can begin on two residential colleges—a bold concept in student housing and the first new residence halls built on the Ole Miss campus in nearly 40 years.

Clearly, “momentum” was the appropriate theme for this campaign. It describes the energy we see at every turn, including greater numbers of higher-caliber students and superb faculty and renowned graduates making contributions throughout the world. The momentum is reflected by the more than 33,000 alumni and friends who have contributed to the campaign. Among them are 12,366 people who made a gift for the first time.

Perhaps most encouraging are the more than 700 faculty and staff who have given a total of \$1.4 million. Their support is a heartwarming confirmation of their personal commitment to our university and its students.



Mike Glenn

programs.

Countless more people stand to benefit from the campaign than just Ole Miss students. The entire state of Mississippi and beyond will receive care from the University of Mississippi Medical Center’s proposed Cancer Institute and Heart and Vascular Center. Nearly \$34 million has been donated or pledged for these critical projects.

Although the finish line is in sight, we are not finished. Additional funding is needed for the residential colleges, the law school and the basketball practice facility.



Deuce McAllister

As Fox News anchor and UM alumnus Shepard Smith said in a promotional video for the basketball facility, Ole Miss supporters must step up and make a commitment to the University’s future. It’s not too late to join the campaign that is literally changing the face of the University of Mississippi. You can make a gift online at <http://www.umf.olemiss.edu/makeagift/> or call the UM Foundation at (800) 340-9542.

As co-chairs of the MomentUM campaign, we are honored to have played a part in this great undertaking and proud of your response to the challenge. You can feel the MomentUM. Isn’t it great to be an Ole Miss Rebel?

Students have always been the chief beneficiaries of our generosity. In addition to new and better classrooms and residence halls, MomentUM has also provided hundreds of thousands of dollars for scholarships and graduate stipends through the Ole Miss First program, the Ole Miss Women’s Council, the Chancellor’s Trust and scores of school, college and departmental



Life Insurance Policy Earmarked for Medical Center

Mary Sue and Don Mitchell are grateful for many things in their lives—their spiritual journey, their family, their community and the fruits of their labor and education. To show their gratitude, they recently made a planned gift that touched each of these areas.

Their gift of an appreciated life insurance policy will benefit several worthy purposes in the Jackson area. The University of Mississippi Medical Center will benefit, with a significant portion of the policy going to both the R. Faser Triplett Sr., M.D., Chair of Allergy and Immunology in the Department of Medicine and to the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children.

Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Triplett are long-time friends and partners in the Mississippi Asthma and Allergy Clinic. “Faser is a compassionate doctor, an

astute businessman, a dedicated partner and a dear, dear friend,” said Dr. Mitchell. “The creation of this chair in Faser’s honor is going to help us have one of the best allergy and immunology programs around. We all believe very strongly in the university and in the Medical Center.”

Dr. Triplett has been a valuable asset to the Medical Center throughout the life of the allergy and immunology program. The completion of this endowed chair will allow the department of medicine to recruit and retain an outstanding academic allergist. As the only academic health center in Mississippi, the Medical Center must train more allergists-immunologists and encourage



Dr. R. Faser Triplett Sr.

them to remain in the state to care for a tremendously underserved population.

“Don has spent about half his life laughing with and at Faser,” said Mrs. Mitchell. “It is our pleasure to honor him in this way.” The Mitchells’ granddaughter, Allanne, has benefited firsthand from the Batson Hospital for Children. Although she and her parents, Sally Kay and Michael McNitt, live in San Diego, Calif., they have used the services of the Batson Hospital.

“She was a very sick little girl,” said Dr. Mitchell. “(Dr.) Paul Parker and (Dr.) Bev Evans have been lifelines for her when she was in Jackson.”

Eli Manning Raising \$2.5 Million for Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children

Eli Manning, BankPlus and the Friends of Children’s Hospital have joined forces to raise money for the new Eli Manning Children’s Clinics at the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

The inaugural fund-raising event in this five-year, \$2.5 million campaign was held on June 23, 2007, at the Mississippi Museum of Art. An Evening with the Mannings was a huge success, raising over \$400,000 for the new clinics. The event featured Eli in a Grid Iron Chef Cook-off against his father, Archie Manning, former University of Mississippi and New Orleans Saints quarterback.

“During a visit to Jackson, my father and I toured Blair E. Batson Hospital and met several children and physicians,” said Eli, who graduated from Ole Miss in 2003 with a degree in business administration and is starting

quarterback for the New York Giants.

“With their care and dedication, the doctors, nurses and staff of Children’s Hospital truly change the lives of so many Mississippi children. I am

humbled by the work they do and am honored to make this five-year commitment to help raise funds to build this state-of-the-art clinic that will serve Mississippi families for years to come.”

Children from all of the state’s 82 counties come to Children’s Hospital each year. The spectrum of care ranges from well-child care for healthy newborns to care for a multitude of childhood illnesses.

As the state’s only Level I emergency room designed specifically for children, the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children provides services unavailable anywhere else in Mississippi.

Since the hospital was built more than 20 years ago, the number of patients it treats has more than doubled. Plans are underway to relocate the children’s clinics, expand and renovate the emergency department and build a family resource center to meet patient growth.



Dr. Dan Jones, Eli Manning and Dr. Owen B. Evans, chair of pediatrics

UMMC Named to Top 100 Hospitals

The University of Mississippi Medical Center is listed among the 100 top hospitals in the country as designated by Thomson Healthcare, a national health care information company.

The “100 Top Hospitals National Benchmarks for Success” study, which identifies the nation’s top performing hospitals using the two most recent years of data, was released in March 2008. Top performers are selected from more than 3,000 hospitals across the country and divided into five categories for evaluation. The Medical Center was named in the major teaching hospitals category—the only Mississippi hospital to make the Top 100 for 2007.

“It’s not an honor you apply for; that’s what makes it special,” said Dr. Will Ferniany, CEO of university hospitals and health system. “Being a Top 100 Hospital is a reflection of the great physicians and staff at University of Mississippi Health Care (UMHC), who provide high-quality care to our patients. It also reflects that we are an efficiently run, high-quality hospital system.”

Dr. Dan Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs, said the recognition is wonderful for the health system. “I am grateful to Will Ferniany, other University of Mississippi Health Care leaders, our entire staff, and physician faculty for the hard work that has gone into this recognition. I am proud and grateful that now Mississippians can receive care at one of America’s Top 100 Hospitals,” he said.

Gov. Haley Barbour said the announcement “further demonstrates that our commitment to provide UMMC with appropriate resources and funding over the past four years has helped Mississippi’s premier research and teaching medical center gain recognition as one of the nation’s finest healthcare facilities. I congratulate UMMC’s outstanding leadership and staff on this tremendous achievement.”

Ferniany and the UMHC are featured in the latest edition of *Modern Healthcare* magazine for being among the 28 newcomers to the list.



WE'RE PROUD TO BE ONE OF THE 100 BEST HOSPITALS IN AMERICA.

Every year, the Thomson Top 100 Hospital Awards recognize the very best. This honor is based on key statistics and objective measurements of categories such as patient safety, hospital operations, community service and more. And every year, those standards keep going up. That's why, at University of Mississippi Health Care, we're honored to be named a Top 100 Hospital, out of 7,000 hospitals nationwide. We are proud to see the hard work and dedication of our employees and physicians recognized nationally.



University of Mississippi
Health Care

Clinical Programs of The University of Mississippi Medical Center

Hairston Gift Significantly Boosts Alzheimer's Research At UMMC

Having seen too many of their friends suffer from Alzheimer's disease, Mississippi Delta farmers Lucille and Peter Hairston wanted to do something to help battle the debilitating illness.

The Hairstons, who have lived in Silver City for more than 55 years, weren't exactly sure how they could help until they ran into the daughter of Dr. Dan Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs at UMMC.

"I just happened to be in the doctor's office and I was saying we wanted to support Alzheimer's research," Lucille Hairston said. "She knew exactly who I needed to contact."

The Hairstons called the Office of Development and made a significant gift of stock to Alzheimer's



Peter and Lucille Hairston

research at UMMC. "Efforts are currently underway in the Division of Geriatrics in the Department of Medicine to improve the care for patients with dementia, both in the institution and in the state," said Dr. Richard deShazo, professor and chair of medicine. "The first step is to establish a training program in geriatric medicine so we can train geriatricians, the physicians who most optimally provide primary care to patients with dementia."

The Hairstons' support will be used not only to help develop the geriatric program, but

to support the expansion of research in dementia through a new center, the Memory Impairment and Neurodegenerative Dementia (Mind) Center. The Mind Center was established in the Division of Geriatrics by Dr. Tom Mosley, professor of medicine and a nationally known expert in dementia and brain aging.

"Dementia is one of the most common, incapacitating and costly of diseases affecting the elderly," Mosley said. "The Hairstons' generous gift will allow us to further our efforts related to the identification of risk factors and improved treatments for dementia at UMMC."

"We just have confidence in the Medical Center under the leadership of Dr. Dan Jones," Peter Hairston said.

"We are just trying to help future patients," Lucille Hairston said. "It may be us some day."

Longtime Physical Therapy Chair's Bequest Helps Department Improve Training, Care

Making a difference is something Neva Greenwald has done for her students in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center for many years. Most recently she has included the Department of Physical Therapy in the UM School of Health Related Professions in her estate plans.

"In many areas, Mississippi is at the bottom of the list. I can proudly say that our department is not," Greenwald said.

Dr. Dan Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs, said he is personally grateful for this gift to support educational programs in physical therapy.

"Our faculty are so committed to our students and their education," he said. "This gift is tangible evidence of the commitment from Ms. Greenwald and serves as a wonderful example to all our faculty about another terrific way to give back and support."

Greenwald joined the Medical Center as an assistant professor in 1975. After joining the physical



Dr. Dan Jones and Neva Greenwald

therapy program at the Medical Center, she was promoted to associate professor of physical therapy and became chair of the department in 1979.

Greenwald has kept the department and the program moving forward, both through having an excellent faculty and offering the evolving arts and

skills of the profession.

"The only way to really try to improve health care in Mississippi is through education. So we must provide a quality physical therapy education and attract the best students," she said. "I believe we have been striving to do that."

According to Kay McRee in the Office of Development, gifts by faculty members support the programs, students and facilities and express confidence in the Medical Center's mission.

"Initially, Neva was quite reluctant to publicize her gift. However, after careful consideration, her desire to give back outweighed her concern for privacy," McRee said.

"She is a very humble lady, passionate about physical therapy, and hopes that her giving will inspire others on campus to support the Medical Center."

Alumnus Gives \$300,000 to Chancellor's Trust

A University of Mississippi alumnus and his wife have honored Chancellor Robert Khayat with a gift of \$300,000 to the Chancellor's Trust.

Fred and Beth Jones of Columbus gave the money to show their support for Khayat's leadership. Established in 1975, the UM Fund is used at the chancellor's discretion to address the university's greatest needs. For example, the money may be used to enhance faculty development, provide scholarships or respond to changing demands.

Fred Jones, who graduated from the UM School of Business Administration in 1958, when Khayat also was a student, said that part of his motivation in giving specifically to the Chancellor's Trust was his loyalty to Khayat's vision for the university.

"I think this is the best way money can be spent," Jones said. "I support Chancellor Khayat and I don't think anyone could match what he's done for the campus. I had a wonderful time at Ole Miss and I hope students attending school there today will enjoy it as much as I did."

"Fred Jones is one of our outstanding graduates who has continued his interest in Ole Miss with his

support," Khayat said. "We are most grateful for this generous gift."

The couple's gift comes in large part in the form of an IRA rollover.

"This is an attractive option for individuals who wish to make charitable donations, as it eliminates all or part of the taxes that would otherwise be due on the amount withdrawn," said Wendell Weakley, president of the University of Mississippi Foundation. "Fred and Beth Jones are good friends to this institution and their gift will make a significant difference in the lives of our students and faculty."

Jones is president of Columbus Marble Works, which was established in 1846. He and his wife have two daughters, Perrin Kibler of Atlanta, Ga., and Bethea Smith of Columbus.



The Chancellor's Trust



Beth and Fred Jones

Alumni Couple Supports Chancellor's Trust

A University of Mississippi alumni couple has honored Chancellor Robert Khayat with a gift of \$25,000 to the Chancellor's Trust.

Pete and Allison Davis wanted to give back to their alma mater and support Khayat's leadership and vision for the institution.

"I wanted to support the many positive steps the university has taken under Chancellor Khayat's leadership," Davis said. "I had a desire to participate in the impressive changes that the university continues to undergo."

Pete Davis, originally from Laurel, is a real estate investment banker in Atlanta, Ga. He received a bachelor's degree in English in 1994 and a master's degree in education in 1998. Before leaving Oxford for Atlanta, he worked as an Ole Miss assistant tennis coach, a development officer for the school of engineering and in the Office of the Chancellor.

"Chancellor Khayat gave me some fantastic and unique opportunities during the time I worked with him, and I saw this gift as a small way to help repay him for that," Davis said.

Allison Davis also attended Ole Miss and received her bachelor of fine arts degree in 1995. The couple's children are 16-month-old twins Peter and Lillis.



Alumnus Creates Ole Miss First Scholarship to Honor Mentor

University of Mississippi alumnus C. Patrick “Pat” Massey, of Birmingham, Ala., has honored the memory of his mentor Roger Q. Scott with a gift of \$25,000 to fund an Ole Miss First scholarship in Scott’s name.

Growing up in Pensacola, Fla., Massey lived across the street from the Scott family and he said it was Scott who recruited him to play football at Ole Miss.

“I’ve always been grateful for what Mr. Scott did and have always been really proud of Ole Miss,” Massey said. “I’ve talked about doing something for him for years. Now that I’ve retired, I had the opportunity do something in Mr. Scott’s name.”

The Roger Q. Scott Sr. Ole Miss First Scholarship is to be awarded to full-time freshmen who are residents of Pensacola, Fla., and are graduates of Pensacola High School. Selection will be based on merit and need.

“I think it’s wonderful they saw this scholarship as a way to both give back to the university and honor the memory of a special and influential person,” said Jill Waycaster West, development officer for the Ole Miss First Scholarship program.



C. Patrick “Pat” Massey

Even though Scott lived most of his adult life in Florida, he never forgot his Mississippi roots. When he saw an opportunity to help Massey and other boys in his neighborhood, including Frank Crum (who went on to play football with Massey) and Billy Renfro (who played basketball), attend Ole Miss, he jumped.

He wrote a letter to legendary Ole Miss football coach Johnny Vaught, recommending Massey for the team. And now, just as Scott helped him, Massey hopes this scholarship will make it possible for more deserving students to attend Ole Miss.



Roger Q. Scott

Scott, a veteran of WWI, was born in the Lee County community of Birmingham, near Tupelo. He attended UM and played football in the early 1920s. Scott’s son William “Bill” Scott also attended Ole Miss and played baseball for the Rebels for three years in the early 1950s.

Even though Scott lived most of his adult life in Florida, he never forgot his Mississippi roots. When he saw an opportunity to help Massey and other boys in his neighborhood, including Frank Crum (who went on to play football with Massey) and Billy Renfro (who played basketball), attend Ole Miss, he jumped. He wrote a letter to legendary Ole Miss

Ole Miss Alum Gives Children Gift of Philanthropy

Jane Carter Thomas, of Greenwood, is providing her children the opportunity to mentor some of the University of Mississippi’s most involved students. Thomas has established two Ole Miss First scholarship endowments named for her children, A. Carter Thomas and W. Preston Thomas Jr.

Thomas was motivated by the uniqueness of the Ole Miss First Scholarship Program and saw an opportunity to encourage philanthropy in her children.

“This will be a great experience for them,” Jane said. “I know they will receive as much as they give. Through this they will learn and grow.”

Giving back is something the Thomas family has always felt strongly about and Ole Miss has long been a recipient of their generosity. In 2005, Jane established the W.P. “Bill” Thomas Scholarship Endowment in memory of her husband, a lynchpin of the Mississippi Delta’s farming, business and civic communities. Jane also endowed an Ole Miss Women’s Council for Philanthropy scholarship in memory of UM student Graham Carson of Marks.

“Jane Thomas and her family are wonderful members of the Ole Miss community,” said Chancellor Robert Khayat. “The establishment of these scholarships for deserving Ole Miss students shows how much they value giving to others and how much they love Ole Miss. We are grateful for their continued support.”

The A. Carter Thomas Scholarship will be awarded to a full-time entering freshman who exhibits strong school involvement, school spirit and community service. The W. Preston Thomas Jr. scholarship is designated for a UM student who grew up in or near Greenwood, an area Preston loves and calls home. Recipients will be full-time freshmen from Mississippi with first preference to residents of Coahoma, Leflore, Quitman, Holmes, Sunflower, Grenada or Tallahatchie Counties.



Jane Carter Thomas and her two children, Ann Carter Thomas and William Preston Thomas Jr.

Ole Miss First FACTS

The Ole Miss First program has set a goal of reaching **100 scholarships by the end of 2008**. And we’re getting closer, thanks to your support.

Scholarship Honors Husband and Son

Louise Godwin, a retired schoolteacher and long-time UM supporter from Tupelo, knows the importance of a good education. That, along with love for her alma mater, is why she chose to donate \$25,000 to the Ole Miss First Scholars Program.

Godwin established the Chauncey R. Godwin Sr. and Chauncey R. Godwin Jr. Ole Miss First Scholarship, in memory of her husband and in honor of her son, to assist deserving young men and women who are pursuing an education at the University of Mississippi.

"I feel honored to have an Ole Miss First Scholarship in my name," said Chauncey Godwin Jr. "It's something that will continue to be meaningful to me. I'm very supportive of the school, because Ole Miss is such a special place to me."

The elder Chauncey Godwin attended Millsaps College in Jackson, and for many years ran his own manufacturing business in Tupelo. His son graduated from UM with a degree in business administration and is president of C and N Specialty Foods in Tupelo.



Chauncey R. Godwin Sr.



Chauncey R. Godwin Jr.

Scholarship to Benefit Mississippi Students

To show continued support and give back to their alma mater, Lori and Robert "Butch" White, of Aberdeen, have established a scholarship for deserving students at the University of Mississippi.

The couple recently seeded the White Family Ole Miss First Scholarship with a \$25,000 pledge.

The Whites specified that the scholarship be awarded to a full-time student, with first preference given to a student from Mississippi who demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities. The scholarship, established under the Ole Miss First Scholars Program, is contingent on the recipient maintaining at least a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average.

"We wanted to do what we could to help students from Mississippi have the opportunity to go to Ole Miss," said Lori White. "We think it's important to have local students stay in the state and succeed."

Both Robert and Lori attended Ole Miss. Lori earned her accountancy degree in 1984. Lori's mother, Mitzie Brown Lindsey, also attended Ole Miss and graduated in 1959 with a degree in education.

Following in their family's footsteps, the Whites' twins, Wes and Lindsey, entered Ole Miss in fall 2007 as freshmen. Both are recent graduates of Oak Hill Academy in West Point.

Spring 2008

Business Leader Sets up Ole Miss First Scholarship

Entrepreneur Russell French has pledged \$25,000 to seed The 5 Twelve Ole Miss First Scholarship at the University of Mississippi.

French, a New Albany native, is an alumnus of UM's hotel restaurant management program. He owns 208 restaurant in Oxford, which he opened in 2002. He also recently purchased the Oliver-Britt House, one of the city's first bed-and-breakfast operations, with plans to renovate and reopen it. Once open, the new bed-and-breakfast inn and restaurant will be called The 5 Twelve.

French said he was motivated to create this scholarship because he wanted to give back to Ole Miss students, who are such a vital part of the Oxford community.

"Investing in students is beneficial to this town," French said. "Ole Miss students make up a large part of Oxford's population and support our local businesses. As a business owner, I'm grateful for their patronage. I wanted to give something back to them as a thank you."

French also said he would encourage other local business owners to follow his lead. "I'm excited to be one of the first business owners on board with Ole Miss First, and I would love to see other Oxford businesses jump right in and create more scholarships and opportunities," French said.

"Russell French is and always has been a strong supporter of the university," Chancellor Robert Khayat said. "We are profoundly grateful for this generous gift. And as a university, we are fortunate to have such a wonderful and mutually beneficial relationship with our town and its residents."



Chancellor Robert Khayat's goal is 100 Ole Miss First scholarships by the end of 2008

Honored with Women's Council Scholarship, Fritts Also Makes Commitment to Mentor UM Students

The first Ole Miss Women's Council Scholarship designated for students majoring in public policy leadership honors Martha Dale Fritts of Washington, D.C. Fritts also is accepting a seat on the Ole Miss Women's Council, which provides valuable mentorship and leadership training for recipients. Her husband, Eddie Fritts—former president and CEO of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)—and the couple's three children established the endowment with a \$105,000 gift.

"Martha Dale is really a teacher at heart, as she has been mentoring all her adult life," said Eddie Fritts. "She has been the centerpiece of our family and deserves special recognition. I am so grateful she is willing to share additional time mentoring young people."

**Ole Miss
Women's
Council
for Philanthropy**

Martha Dale Fritts served for 12 years on the board of the Wolf Trap Foundation, which oversees the nation's only national park for the performing arts, and she has been involved in the Meridian House Foundation, which assists newly posted diplomatic families in Washington. She helped host University of Mississippi galas in Washington that honored the late U.S. Rep. Jamie Whitten, as well as U.S. Senators Thad Cochran and Trent Lott. She is a board member of the University of Mississippi Foundation and the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts, and serves as a national trustee on the Chi Omega Advisory Board.

"The endowment of a scholarship in my name is a high honor, as I am aware of the financial pressure on young students these days," Fritts said. "I look forward to mentoring recipients on our numerous trips to our second home in Oxford. Because of our involvement in the national political process, we chose to designate public policy as the major of recipients. Eddie and I plan to bring recipients to Washington as our guests to see firsthand how public policy is developed and implemented."

"Our family believes blessings should be shared, and we are hopeful this scholarship endowment will serve as an example that will lead our grandchildren to share their blessings with future generations,"

Fritts said. "I am extremely proud of this endowment, as it is a legacy worth continuing in perpetuity."

Martha Dale and Eddie Fritts, high school sweethearts, have three children—Tim Fritts, Kimberley Fritts Turner and Jennifer Fritts Darcey—who all attended or graduated from the university, and they have five grandchildren.

Eddie Fritts led the NAB for 23 years. A member of the Ole Miss Alumni Hall of Fame, he now heads the political affairs firm he founded and represents many of the nation's most prominent telecommunications firms.

"Martha Dale and I were impressed by the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy in that it provides an avenue of additional resources for young women and men, while including a very strong and effective mentoring program," said Eddie Fritts. "We are hopeful this endowment will attract other contributors to this wonderful program."

Mission of the Ole Miss Women's Council

To increase awareness of philanthropy as a force in shaping the future of The University of Mississippi, as well as sponsor innovative programs that attract and develop students through leadership, scholarship and mentorship toward a lifelong commitment to improving the University and society.



Eddie and Martha Dale Fritts

UM Foundation President Honors Daughters with Women's Council Scholarship

UM Foundation president Wendell Weakley and his wife, Sue, have honored their three daughters with a bequest that will create an Ole Miss Women's Council scholarship endowment.

"You cannot imagine how much this means to the members of the Council," said Jan Farrington, chair of the Ole Miss Women's Council. "Wendell has been most supportive of our program since becoming president of the Foundation. This bequest to set up a Women's Council Scholarship to honor his three daughters is a confirmation that our mission is important and that our work is appreciated. We are deeply grateful to Wendell and Sue not only for the gift, but also for setting the example for others."

Weakley said he was inspired to make the gift by



Back row: Sue, Sloan and Elizabeth; center, Wendell and front, Allison

his role in the newly formed UM Deferred and Planned Giving Society Committee. This committee promotes the 1848 Society, established in 1998, which recognizes alumni and friends of the university who have either funded or planned a deferred gift, such as a bequest or a life income plan.

"Planned giving has such a tremendous impact on our university and its endowment,"

Weakley said. "Our mission is to inform as many of our alumni and friends as possible. We want to

educate them on the endless possibilities of crafting a tax-wise gift to the University and encourage them to step forward during the Momentum campaign."

Weakley said the Sloan, Allison and Elizabeth Weakley Women's Council Scholarship Endowment is also a gift that holds special meaning to the entire Weakley family. Both he and Sue are Ole Miss alumni, and have deep love for the university.

The scholarship honors in perpetuity the three women, all of whom also have ties to Ole Miss.

Allison Weakley Sutherland works as an auditor at KPMG in Memphis, Tenn., and earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in accountancy in 2002 and 2003 from UM. Her husband, Ashley Sutherland, also earned a bachelor's degree in business in 2002 from UM.

Allison said she is especially proud to have a Women's Council Scholarship bear her

continued on page 29

Ole Miss
Women's
Council
for Philanthropy

Bruce Moore Creates OMWC Scholarship in His Wife's Name

Karen Moore always connects people with opportunities, said Bruce Moore, who is honoring his wife by creating the Karen Bell Moore Scholarship at the University of Mississippi under the guidance of the Ole Miss Women's Council with a \$100,000 gift.

"Karen is always reaching out and doing things for other people," said Bruce Moore, president of the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) Outpatient Services Group. "When a person continually puts others first without any expectation of anything in return, there is a definite ripple effect. Karen makes life better for many; she cares about people on a very individual basis."

A framed certificate about the scholarship was wrapped as a surprise birthday gift for the honoree.

"Bruce won't ever be able to give me a gift that will be greater than this scholarship," Karen Moore said. "I was so excited and so humbled. Bruce and I feel passionate about the university and about the

work of Chancellor Robert Khayat. This scholarship will support both."

Scholarship recipients are to be selected from middle Tennessee residents who plan to attend UM. Karen Moore serves on the Ole Miss Women's Council, which provides mentoring and leadership training to help scholarship recipients succeed. Some council scholars recently traveled to Nashville for a weekend of music industry-related experiences, and Moore helped plan the experiences.

"I love the women on this council and the purpose of their work,"

said Karen Moore. "It is so inspiring to see the way they encourage students. This is what I'm all about: I love to mentor and to see young people thrive."

"Karen and Bruce Moore are extraordinary members of the Ole Miss family," Chancellor Khayat said. "We are grateful for their contributions to the university, which include their service in several areas and this tremendous new scholarship honoring Karen. I have enjoyed meaningful conversations with them about strengthening our beloved university, and their thoughtful gift is an example of their vision and devotion."

Bruce and Karen Moore



Spring 2008

The School of Law Campaign: Profiles in Support

Federal Express Corporation

It comes as no surprise to anyone at the University of Mississippi that FedEx Corporation has been named by *Reader's Digest* as one of "America's Best Charity-Minded Corporations." The generosity of FedEx has touched many individuals and departments at the University of Mississippi over the years.

The FedEx Web site states, "FedEx cares about the communities in which we live and work. We are dedicated to effective corporate citizenship, leading the way in charitable giving, corporate governance and a commitment to the environment." FedEx has more than lived up to its commitment with contributions to the University of Mississippi.

"FedEx has followed a strategy of developing its in house legal resources, and while we hire lawyers from all over the world, we recognize the importance of having top flight law schools in the same region as our corporate headquarters," said Rush O'Keefe, senior vice president and general counsel at FedEx.

"As an alumnus of the University of Mississippi School of Law, the learning experiences gained there were invaluable, and we believe it's important to support the campaign to continue building on the rich heritage of Ole Miss."

FedEx recently presented a gift to create an academic support center for student-athletes on the

Oxford campus. Completed in spring 2007, the 22,500-square foot building houses the Student-Athlete Academic Support Center, including offices, conference rooms, tutoring rooms, study areas, a multimedia classroom, a computer lab and a high-tech auditorium. In addition, FedEx has supported numerous UM scholarship endeavors and the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy. The corporation also has given to the Whitten Chair of Law and Government, the Lott Leadership Institute, the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation and renovation of William Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak.

Roger Flynt

Although it has been more than 40 years since Roger Flynt has walked the Ole Miss campus as a student, his continued generosity has helped the university make great strides in development and academic advancement. His charity has not only been received gratefully by the UM School of Law but has affected the entire Oxford campus over the years.

In honor of Flynt's retirement as vice president from BellSouth, in Atlanta, Ga., the corporation made a donation of \$100,000 to the university's

Commitment to Excellence Campaign for the Chancellor's Trust Program in 2000.

"I could never repay the debt I owe Ole Miss and the law school for my education and friendships I made there," said Flynt. "Any success I have attained is due to my wife and Ole Miss."

A native of Meridian, Flynt attended Ole Miss for his undergraduate studies and went on to graduate from the UM School of Law in 1964. He was inducted into the UM Hall of Fame, was named UM

Law Alumnus of the Year in 1992 and was selected into the Phi Delta Phi Honorary Legal Fraternity. He established the South Central Bell Legal Department Scholarship in Law Endowment Fund at the university in 1988. Other past achievements include serving as the Federal Bar Association President for the Mississippi Chapter, being a fellow for the Mississippi Bar Foundation, Board of Governors and being president of the UM Law Alumni Association from 1985-86. He resides in Oxford with his wife, Gaye.

Rain did not dampen the excitement as university and law school officials held an indoor ground-breaking for the new law facility March 29



FOUNDATION NEWS

Lowry Lomax

Not many students get the chance to appreciate the instruction and education of two diverse schools at the same university as attorney Lowry Lomax of Pascagoula did. After graduating with a degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences and working for a couple of years, Lomax's passion for law motivated him to return to the university and attend law school.

"Like so many alumni of Ole Miss, I find it gratifying to give to this school as a token of appreciation for the excellent education that I received here

on both sides of the Grove: pharmacy and law," he said. "I believe the abundance of support that Ole Miss receives from alumni and friends has made this school one that has attracted, and will continue to attract, the finest of students. I am proud to be a part of this effort."

A native of Waynesboro, Lomax graduated from the UM School of Pharmacy in 1971 and later practiced pharmacy in Meridian and Mobile, Ala. Two years later, Lomax attended the UM School of Law and graduated in 1977. He spent his first year in

private practice and later served as assistant district attorney in Jackson, George and Greene Counties. Soon after, Lomax concentrated his efforts on representing shipyard workers who had developed diseases associated with asbestos exposure and who had lost their hearing from years of work in the shipyard. Lomax maintains a law office in Pascagoula and currently has a satellite office in Oxford. His wife, Marla Leigh Williams, also attended Ole Miss, as well as their daughter, a junior in the business school, and their son, a first year UM law student.

Scarlotte M. and Crymes G. Pittman

Saying they want to give something to benefit all Mississippians, Crymes and Scarlotte Pittman have chosen time and again to share their success with the University of Mississippi.

In 1999, the Pittmans joined other major donors in making UM's Commitment to Excellence Campaign a success through a gift that created the "Life of the Mind" freshman seminar. In addition, the Pittmans have made donations to athletics, the Triplett Alumni Center and the Inn at Ole Miss. They previously made a generous gift to the law

school for library and research support, and their most recent gift to the UM School of Law Campaign will greatly enhance the future education of young law students.

"I knew as soon as I could win in the gin rummy games in the basement of the old law building that the competition as a lawyer wouldn't be that difficult," Pittman said. "Everyone should have that opportunity."

Pittman, who earned his bachelor's and law degrees at Ole Miss, is a longtime member of the

Mississippi Bar, a member of the Mississippi Trial Lawyers Association and a fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation. A partner in the firm Pittman, Germany, Roberts & Welsh in Jackson, Pittman limits his practice to civil litigation and was part of the Mississippi tobacco litigation team. He and Scarlotte, along with their son Crymes Morgan, daughter Lucy Pittman Culver and daughter-in-law Ashley, all received undergraduate degrees from Ole Miss. Crymes M. and Ashley also are graduates of the UM School of Law.

Justice Michael K. and Kathy Randolph

Justice Michael K. Randolph does not shy away from his community, evidenced most recently by his generous gift to the School of Law Campaign. From serving in the U.S. Army 1st Infantry Division during Vietnam to his current position as a Mississippi Supreme Court justice, Randolph has served those around him with passion and integrity.

Before Justice Randolph sat through his first year of law classes, he was decorated for heroism in Vietnam and devoted his time and energy to the U.S. Naval Reserve. He broadened his understanding of

the law during his attendance at the Naval Justice School and through his work as an attorney with the Judge Advocate General Corps.

"The University of Mississippi School of Law is more than a learning institution and educational building," said Justice Randolph. "It is a sanctuary where dreams are fulfilled. Not only did Ole Miss prepare me, the son of a construction worker with a third grade education, to accomplish my ambition to practice law, it created the opportunity for me to serve the citizens of our state as a Supreme Court

justice."

Justice Randolph completed law school in 1974; he was the president of the UM law school student body. He was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to serve on the National Coal Council. Before being elected to the Mississippi Supreme Court for an eight-year term in November 2004, Justice Randolph practiced with Bryan Nelson Randolph PA, in Hattiesburg. He currently resides in Hattiesburg with his wife, Kathy, and is an active member of the Temple Baptist Church.

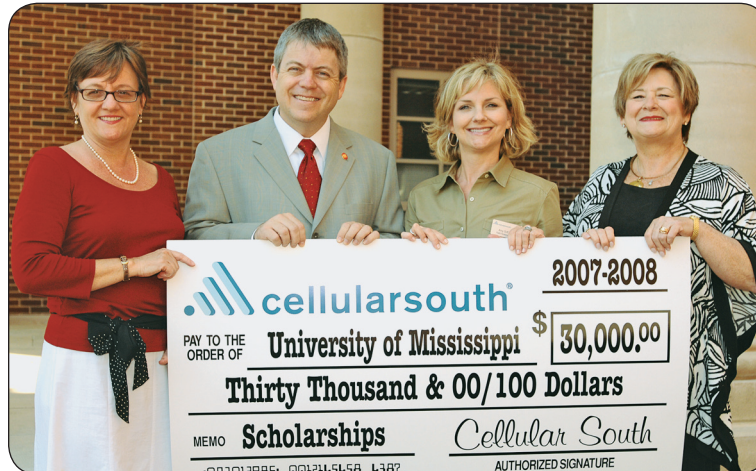
Cellular South Continues Support, Awards Five New Business Scholarships

Cellular South, one of Mississippi's largest companies, continues its legacy of giving with a \$30,000 contribution to the University of Mississippi School of Business Administration.

The gift is part of the Jackson-based wireless communications company's commitment to providing annual scholarships to Mississippi's public universities.

Half the \$30,000 is devoted to the Cellular South Endowment at UM to fund future scholarships. The other half will go to scholarships for five students pursuing business degrees: John Graham Doty of Oxford, W.C. Lee'Allen Keys of Ecrú, Michael Allen Reid of Southaven, Lee Hubert Thompson III of Marks and Shanika Starr Young of Horn Lake.

To receive the \$3,000 award each academic year for four years, the students must demonstrate good



Sandra Guest, VP, UM Foundation, Brian Reithel, former dean of the business school, Amy Nash, Cellular South public relations specialist, Sue Hodge, assistant to the dean

campus citizenship by being involved in community service or extracurricular activities. Recipients are Mississippi residents with a minimum ACT score of 28 and at least a 3.0 grade-point average.

"The Cellular South scholars are all well-rounded students who have excelled in the classroom, in school leadership positions and in community service projects," said Brian Reithel, former dean of the business school. "It's gratifying to see that these students share an excitement about pursuing a business degree and a belief that Ole Miss can offer them the skills they will need to be successful."

Cellular South places an emphasis not only on funding these scholarships but also on its relationship with the recipients, who are eligible to participate in a summer internship with the company to gain firsthand knowledge about the wireless industry and the business world.

Founded by a UM graduate, Cellular South is a leader in wireless voice, data and mobile commerce products and employs approximately 900 people in the metro-Jackson area.

Scholarship Endowed In Memory of Business Alumnus

Ed Howard always had a zest for life. He especially loved horsing around with his nieces and nephews, spending time with his wife, Rita, and following Ole Miss sports. He never slowed down, even when he got sick, and was always trying new things such as watercolor painting and guitar.

To ensure a lasting tribute, Rita Howard and her family and friends have endowed the Carl Edward "Ed" Howard Memorial Scholarship for Insurance Excellence with a \$110,000 gift through the UM School of Business Administration.

"Ed really loved Ole Miss," Rita said. "We felt this would be such an appropriate way to honor him. I think this would have pleased him."

Ed, a native of Beaumont, Texas, earned his bachelor's degree in finance in 1980. He moved to Dallas, Texas, where, through a mutual friend, he



Ed Howard

met Rita, also an alumna of UM's business school. In 2005, after a 23-year career with State Farm, Ed was diagnosed with mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer. He lost his battle with the disease that same year.

He is remembered by many as fun-loving and full of life. More than 100 of his friends and co-workers at State Farm have contributed to the scholarship fund.

Rita, who serves as State Farm's vice president-agency in Houston, Texas, said she has been overwhelmed by the generosity.

The State Farm Companies Foundation matches charitable contributions up to \$3,000 a year that State Farm associates, agents or retirees make to colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada.

Recipients of the Ed Howard Memorial Scholarship are to be full-time students majoring



Larry Cox and Rita Howard

in risk management and insurance. Contingent upon maintaining at least a 3.0 grade-point average, the scholarship may also be used for study abroad through the school of business administration during the summer of the recipient's senior year. The recipient also is paired with a mentor, a unique aspect of the scholarship.

Mississippi's MorganWhite Group Endows Scholarship with \$200,000 Pledge

The MorganWhite Group, a Mississippi company headquartered in Jackson, has pledged \$200,000 to create the MorganWhite Group Scholarship Endowment in Insurance and Human Resources Management at the University of Mississippi.

The company's founders, Johnny Morgan and David White, are graduates of UM's School of Business Administration who first met as roommates their freshman year. At that time, Morgan had a small laundry business and White was working for his grandfather's equipment business. Both hard workers and budding entrepreneurs, they recognized talent and drive in each other early on and decided to join forces.

"We've had tremendous success, and we owe Ole Miss a lot of the credit," said White, who earlier this year provided six other scholarships for UM students



Brian Reithel, David White and Johnny Morgan

to travel to London to learn about the international aspects of the industry. "We also wanted to give back to the business school to help create future leaders in our industry. One thing Ole Miss has done for us is create lasting business relationships that we would never be able to put a dollar amount on."

His business partner agreed. "We would challenge anyone that's been successful in the insurance industry to support the industry by giving back to Ole Miss," Morgan said.

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity of Johnny Morgan and David White," said Brian Reithel, former business school dean. "Our alumni's involvement is so important to our business school and is crucial to the success of our current students."

The scholarship is to assist deserving students with demonstrated financial need in their pursuit of degrees in insurance or human resources management in the UM School of Business Administration. Scholarships are to be awarded in the amount of \$1,000 per semester to full-time students who maintain at least a 3.0 grade-point average and can be awarded until the course of study is completed.

Family Honors Father with \$100,000 Scholarship

A University of Mississippi business alumnus has donated \$100,000 to create the B. Stirling Tighe Memorial Scholarship Endowment.

Bowman "Bo" Stirling Tighe Jr. and his wife, Sylvia, of Ridgeland, created the scholarship in memory of Bo's father, also an Ole Miss alumnus.

"My father loved Ole Miss and he is the reason I wanted to come to school here," Tighe said. "He's also the reason I wanted to give back—and am able to give back—to Ole Miss. If there is one thing that I learned from my father, it's that there is no substitute for hard work. Because of him instilling a strong work ethic in me, I have excelled in my career. And it's my success that has put me in the position I'm in now as far as being able to make this gift."

The elder Tighe graduated from UM with both a bachelor of business administration degree and a juris doctor degree. A strong supporter of university athletics, he was a member of the Ole Miss Alumni Association and the Ole Miss Loyalty Foundation.

The scholarship will assist students in the UM School of Business Administration, with preference

given to students in the petroleum land management program or hoping to pursue a law degree. Tighe wanted to create a scholarship both to honor his father and inspire more students to study petroleum land management, his profession.

Tighe, a certified professional landman, graduated from Ole Miss in 1977 with a degree in business.

His wife, Sylvia, a native of Laurel, also attended Ole Miss. She worked for 24 years for OffiSource Inc. in Jackson, which was involved in many of the restoration projects on the UM campus.

The Tighes have two children, who plan to continue their family's legacy at Ole Miss.

From left: Brian Reithel, former UM business school dean, Bo and Sylvia Tighe, Tara Hallie and Stirling Tighe



Spring 2008

Alumni Couple Seeds Business Scholarship with \$100,000

Although Michael Strojny grew up just outside Washington, D.C., he's a Southerner at heart. His interest in Civil War history brought him South for college campus tours.

"I knew I wanted to go to school in the South, and I looked at Emory, LSU and Auburn," he said. "But when I came to Ole Miss, I knew it felt right."

Strojny found that Ole Miss was more than history books and term papers. It was home, full of good friends and warmth. He met his future wife, Jane, a Pontotoc County native, at Ole Miss and he graduated in 1968 with a bachelor's of science in business administration and she with a bachelor's in education. He found Mississippi was also the perfect place to grow his business.

"I felt the South would be the place to be in the future," Strojny said.

In 1975, the couple opened Strojny and Strojny Financial Services in Biloxi. The business started at their kitchen table where they prepared tax returns for friends and neighbors. Soon it moved to a spare bedroom, and now includes six offices in and around the Gulf Coast. The business has grown to include tax, accounting and investment services and business consultations.



Michael and Jane Strojny

Strojny credits much of his success to Ole Miss and his mentors while in school. That's the reason he and Jane have given \$100,000 to seed the Michael and Jane Strojny Scholarship Endowment in Business.

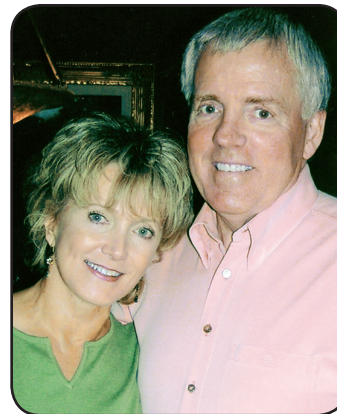
"Ole Miss was such a good experience for me," Strojny said. "I would like this scholarship to help someone who might not otherwise be able to stay in school. Plus, Ole Miss

business students will play a part in developing the future leaders of our company."

As the family business grew, so did the family itself. They have a son, Michael, and a daughter, Jennifer, who received an MBA from Ole Miss in 1999. Jennifer met her husband, Kerry Milligan, in the Grove on campus. And so the Ole Miss tradition continues.

Barksdale Gift continued from Cover

at the UM Medical Center and founded the Barksdale Reading Institute and the Mississippi Principal Corps, a program designed to better train the state's school principals.



Donna and Jim Barksdale

This is Barksdale's fourth major gift to the SMBHC, which he, along with his late wife, Sally, helped establish in 1997.

"Due to the leadership of Chancellor Khayat and Dean Sullivan-González, the Honors College has become a center for academic excellence within the University of Mississippi, and we are proud to be associated with the fine faculty, staff, students and alumni of the Honors College," Barksdale said. "Through this gift we will expand the range of educational opportunities provided by the Honors College, and hope to convince some of Mississippi's brightest young minds to call

Mississippi their home after graduation."

Administered over a five-year period, the funds are to be used to help the college reach its target enrollment of 1,000 students, expand its course offerings, increase staff and support student field experiences. A defining characteristic of the SMBHC, field experiences enable honors students to learn and grow personally by traveling and exploring the world.

"I've been so stunned; we are very happy and very excited about this," said Douglass Sullivan-González, SMBHC dean. "This generous gift from Jim Barksdale will enable us to continue providing an enriched honors experience, as well as to bring in additional qualified students. We believe there are many more high-achieving students in Mississippi who want to enjoy what we offer."

Part of the funds will also be used to increase the number of Honors College scholarships from 14 to 21. The new scholarships are to be awarded to freshmen entering this fall.

"Being a member of the Honors College has truly been a blessing for me, especially since most of my financial aid is from the scholarship I've received through it," said April Smith, a sophomore accounting major from Crenshaw. "The Honors College has given me so many opportunities I would not have otherwise had. The professors are engaging, and I feel challenged every day."

Dustin Markle, an SMBHC graduate and Barksdale Scholarship recipient, agreed.

"Personally, I can trace every positive academic experience I had at Ole Miss to the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College," said Markle, who graduated in 2007 with a degree in biochemistry and is enrolled at the UM Medical Center in Jackson. "My experiences with the Honors College had a direct effect on getting me where I am today. The Barksdale Scholarship was a major factor that drew me to the Honors College and Ole Miss. I appreciate the Barksdales' generosity, which has inspired me to strive to give back one day."

The SMBHC was a key to UM's successful quest to shelter a chapter of the prestigious honor society Phi Beta Kappa. In 2005, SMBHC was named by *Reader's Digest* as one of the three finest honors colleges in the nation.

Meek Gift Creates Journalism School continued from Cover

unique approach to journalism education among the nation's institutions of higher learning. The Meeks have provided \$5.3 million for the school's initial funding.

For 37 years as associate professor of journalism and assistant vice chancellor for public relations and marketing, Ed Meek helped shape the university's public image.

"We are inspired by the generosity of Ed and Becky Meek," said Chancellor Robert Khayat. "They are longtime friends of Ole Miss, and we are grateful for their continued support. The Edwin Meek school will create unprecedented opportunities for our journalism students, as well as provide national leadership."

"Becky and I feel we owe the university so much," Meek said. "We are delighted to be able to repay Ole Miss a very small part of the very large debt our family owes for the great opportunities this university has given to three generations."

"This is a giant step forward," said Samir Husni, journalism chair. "A school devoted specifically to journalism puts us on the same playing level as other universities in the nation."

The UM Department of Journalism's graduates rank among the nation's top communications professionals and hold key positions at *the Boston Globe*, *USA Today*, *the New York Times*, CNN, Fox News and virtually every television station and newspaper in Mississippi.

The school is to be housed in newly renovated Farley Hall, also home to the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics.

Meek got his first taste of journalism working after school at *The Mississippi Sun* in Charleston. He became editor of his high school newspaper and discovered journalism was his calling.

High school sweethearts, Ed and Becky were each the first in their families to attend college.

"I was near the bottom of my high school class," he said. "I had no business going to college, but a couple of high school teachers and Ole Miss professors took an interest in me and encouraged my development. I ultimately became an 'A' student."

To pay his way through school, Ed worked as a freelance writer and photographer for UPI and such regional newspapers as *The Birmingham News*, *The Clarion-Ledger* and *The Commercial Appeal* in Memphis, Tenn. In 1961, when he earned his Bachelor of Science in Journalism, which combines journalism and business courses, his work had already appeared in *Time*, *Life* and other national publications. He earned a master's degree in liberal arts with an emphasis in journalism from UM in 1963 and later earned a doctorate in communications from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Becky earned her bachelor's degree in education in 1966 and her master's degree in special education in 1967. After teaching briefly at UM and Oxford City Schools, she worked for 28 years at the Oxford's

Mental Health Center, now Communicare. In 1962, Ed took a job as staff writer in the university's public relations office. Two years later, at age 24, he became UM's youngest department head ever and faced the task of rebuilding the university's image after the violence associated with James Meredith's enrollment.

The Meeks' daughters, Cindy Sinervo and Kellye Houston of Oxford, are both Ole Miss alumnae. Two of their grandchildren, Kate Sinervo and Hillary Houston, are attending UM, and the Meeks hope their remaining grandchildren, Meg Sinervo and Jake and Hale Houston, continue the family tradition.

Weakley continued from page 23

name. "Growing up in a female dominated household and having a daughter of my own, it is important to me to support other women and personify the support women can provide to this great university," she said.

Sloan Weakley Galloway is a learning specialist with Audio Visual Innovations in Atlanta, Ga. She earned two degrees from UM: a bachelor's in elementary education and a master's in curriculum and instruction.

Sloan was thrilled to learn of the scholarship because Ole Miss holds a special place in her heart. "I am so happy and proud of my dad for doing this," Sloan said. "Ole Miss is probably my favorite place to visit because it is filled with so many wonderful memories of college."

Elizabeth Knox Weakley, a student at the University of Colorado at Boulder, feels a strong connection to Ole Miss because of her family's history with the school. She has been coming to Ole Miss games with her sisters since she was born, and returns each summer.

"I have a very strong belief in the Women's Council because of the leadership/mentorship program aspects," Weakley said. "This program goes well beyond financial needs; it meets the needs of maturing students who will lead us tomorrow. It's our duty to provide a little guidance along the way to ensure the future success of our alumni."



The new School of Journalism will be housed in Farley Hall, also home to the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics

THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

With UM’s history of producing some of the **nation’s finest leaders**, it is no wonder Ole Miss was selected to host the first of three presidential debates in 2008. University administrators, faculty and staff have already begun to make preparations for the historic event, set for September 26, which is expected to draw more than 2,000 international journalists—not to mention the candidates—to Oxford.



RALLY ROUND THE DEBATE

The first presidential debate will be a lightning rod for activities academic and otherwise at The University of Mississippi throughout the spring, summer and early fall of 2008.



The University of Mississippi Foundation



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