



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION

# FOUNDATION NEWS

Spring 2009

## At Ole Miss, Generous Support Continues

### Pediatrics chair named for philanthropic alumna

For more than 20 years, Suzan Brown Thames, of Jackson, has worked tirelessly to improve health care for Mississippi children. Now her name will be synonymous with her life's passion through an endowment for the Medical Center.

The Suzan Brown Thames Chair in Pediatrics in the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children was announced, as a surprise to Thames, at the Nov. 20 National Philanthropy Day luncheon sponsored by the Mississippi chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Thames also accepted the award for 2008 Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year at the event.

"I have never been so shocked, so overwhelmed and so proud," she said. "This is a tribute not just to me but to the pediatrics department that has grown so much over the years. We need more and more chairs." At UMMC, a chair is fully

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## School of Accountancy secures endowed chair

Alumnus Roland Burns is a man dedicated to education. In 1999, with what started as an interest in his own children's school, Burns, along with his wife, Sheryl, took on the responsibility for helping open what is now Legacy Christian Academy in Frisco, Texas. The school now has 725 students on its 30-acre campus.

More recently Burns, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in accountancy in 1982, made a gift of \$1.5 million to seed the Roland and Sheryl Burns Chair of Accountancy in the UM Patterson School of Accountancy.

"The generosity and commitment of the Burns family will create new educational opportunities for our

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(Top) Suzan Thames at the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children  
(Bottom) Roland and Sheryl Burns



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION

# FOUNDATION NEWS

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## Message from the Chancellor

When a person is given the privilege of serving as chancellor of our university, progress during his tenure will depend upon the support received from many groups. Faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, the board of trustees, the governor, legislators, the congressional delegation and others are critical to the pursuit of university goals. For Ole Miss, our foundation, its board and staff are crucial. Without the support and leadership of the UM Foundation, we cannot move forward.

At my first meeting with the Foundation board, unqualified commitment to the revitalization and progress of all aspects of our university was offered. Since that beautiful autumn day in 1995, when the Foundation board members committed to an aggressive, ambitious plan for the University, we have steadily—sometimes miraculously—achieved goals that were previously unattainable. At the Medical Center and on the Oxford campus, evidence of a vital, active and productive foundation is everywhere.

The leaders of the Foundation have committed their time, energy and personal resources to University needs. Almost without exception, special programs and facilities on our campus would not exist without support from the Foundation.

Throughout the fourteen years I have served as chancellor, a harmonious relationship has prevailed between our foundation leaders and the University management team. We have witnessed steady growth in the level and number of gifts to the Foundation, improvement of services offered by our staff, timely reporting to donors and governmental oversight agencies and prudent management of our endowment.

To each of you who has participated in the remarkable success of the UM Foundation, the University community expresses its profound gratitude to you. You have enabled our university to join the elite academic centers in the nation.

On a personal note, my family joins me in thanking you for enhancing our lives through your dedication to Ole Miss and your generous support of us.

Warmest Regards,

Robert C. Khayat  
Chancellor



## Message from the Foundation President

While 2008 is a year we soon want to put behind us on the economic front, the continued support and loyalty of our alumni and friends pull us closer together as we work to enhance the lives of our Ole Miss students. Our endowment, which reached \$500 million in December 2007, has seen a market decline of more than 25 percent, like so many other university endowments. Notwithstanding the loss in value, our donors continue to fund the many scholarships and programs that would otherwise go unfunded. We continue to grow and fulfill our mission of being a “great American public university.” We are grateful for your gifts, which keep our academic enrichment in place for this generation of students. You can see from the many highlights of this past year that we have much to be thankful for, including:

- The historic Presidential Debate, funded in large part by private support.
- Exceeding \$50 million in annual donations for the fourth consecutive year.
- The completion of the successful four-year MomentUM Campaign, which garnered \$240 million in gifts and pledges.
- The start or completion of many new projects:
  - The Inn at Ole Miss
  - The new School of Law
  - The Center for Manufacturing Excellence
  - The UMMC Cancer Clinic
  - The new basketball practice facility and expanded baseball complex
  - The first residential college at Ole Miss
- The 1848 Society for planned and deferred giving more than doubled in size during the MomentUM Campaign.

I hope you enjoy each of the articles in this issue, as they tell many of the stories we hear each day. These are stories about how private support makes a difference in the lives of our students. Your generous support is making such a positive impact on our Ole Miss community. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,

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

## Alumnus Seeds Scholarship, Supports UM Athletics

Alumnus Stephen Rowell has honored the memory of his father by creating the William Paul Rowell Scholarship Endowment with a gift of \$100,000. He also has dedicated \$200,000 to establish the Stephen E. Rowell Athletics Scholarship Endowment, which will provide scholarships for UM student-athletes.

The elder Rowell attended Mississippi State University for one year before leaving, and found success in the dry cleaning, cattle farming and construction industries. “My father always tried to help kids by giving them summer jobs to earn money for their education,” Stephen Rowell said. “Later in life he practiced random acts of kindness where he could. One particular moment that stands out in my mind occurred on a pheasant hunting trip in Clearfield, Iowa. Our hunting guide, whom we had used for the past two years, had run into a bit of bad luck, as his wife had left him with two young children. When we left to go hunting, we saw his children playing barefoot in the snow. When my father found out they didn’t have much money, he gave our guide \$500 to buy shoes and clothing for his children.”

Assistant vice chancellor for university relations



William Paul Rowell

Debbie Vaughn said of Stephen Rowell’s support, “These generous gifts will both honor William Paul Rowell and provide vital assistance to our students. I can’t say enough about Stephen Rowell’s dedication to Ole Miss.”

“They say the measure of a man can be determined by the acts of kindness that are done by

him when there is absolutely no way he can benefit from that act,” said Stephen Rowell. “My father was one of those outstanding people whose legacy should be remembered. He was one of the ‘good guys,’ and that’s the reason this scholarship was created in his memory.”

Both father and son are natives of Heidelberg, in Jasper County. The elder Rowell was an avid Ole Miss football fan. “He was one of Archie Manning’s biggest fans, not just because Archie was a good athlete, but because he was a man of character,” Rowell said. “He would be proud to know that I’ve had the pleasure of meeting Archie and that all the things he believed about Archie being a good guy are true.

“He would be especially proud to know that his hard work is still paying dividends in the form of this scholarship. The work ethic he instilled in me is the reason that I was able to create this endowment. One of my father’s favorite quotes was, ‘Education is a good thing—as long as we don’t try to use it as a substitute for work.’”

Stephen Rowell earned a degree in accounting from Ole Miss in 1978. He now owns Flagstar Construction, a commercial construction and general contracting firm in Brandon.

“Ole Miss is something that runs in your blood,” Rowell said. “It’s a special feeling that you feel when you come back to the Grove or go to the Square. I’m glad to be able to give something back.”

## Former Youngest UM Student Creates Scholarship



Creighton Wilson

Alumnus Creighton Wilson, of Gainesville, Fla., has created the Dr. Creighton L. Wilson Scholarship Endowment with a gift of \$100,000.

“I wanted to repay Ole Miss for all it has done for me,” Wilson said. “Although I don’t get back to Oxford much, I still have Ole Miss blood in my veins.”

The endowment will provide a permanent source of scholarship support to deserving Ole Miss students.

“I hope this scholarship will help students who need it most,” Wilson said. “When I think back, I had to work my way through college. I just don’t want students to have to struggle like I did.”

From his humble beginnings on a farm in Lambert, Wilson entered Ole Miss in 1944 at just 14 years of age. At the time Wilson was the youngest freshman ever to enter the University, where his nickname was “little flea,” because he was 4 feet 10 inches tall and 90 pounds.

He remembers struggling to make ends meet as a student, often eating tomato sandwiches for lunch when money ran out at the end of the month. Wilson credits much of his success at Ole Miss to Malcom Guess, who then served as dean of men, for giving him a job on campus.

“Dean Guess knew I didn’t have much money, so he gave me the job of fire marshal of the third floor of the YMCA building,” Wilson said. “And with the job came a free room.”

Wilson earned a bachelor’s degree from Ole Miss in 1949 and a master’s degree from the University of

Arkansas in 1950. In 1953 he earned a medical certificate from UM before going on to earn a medical degree from the University of Tennessee. For the majority of his career in medicine, Wilson specialized in orthopedic surgery. He also taught clinical orthopedics and rehab at the University of Miami Medical School.

“This generous gift reflects the dedication and commitment of Dr. Creighton Wilson to the University of Mississippi,” said Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the UM Foundation. “We are profoundly grateful for his support and for helping create more opportunities for Ole Miss students.”

Wilson comes from a long line of Ole Miss alumni. His father, C.L. Wilson, and his three brothers, Robert, Albert and George, all graduated from Ole Miss.

## Dean's Son Memorialized by Scholarship

As dean of the School of Education at the University of Mississippi, Tom Burnham places a high priority on helping students attend Ole Miss.

With a new scholarship named for his late son, Burnham is doing just that. The Tom Burnham Jr. Memorial Scholarship Endowment will assist full-time UM students.

"My purposes in funding the scholarship centered in honoring the memory of my son and in supporting the University," Burnham said. "My work here has been a great joy, and I have the greatest love and respect for Ole Miss."

UM Chancellor Robert Khayat said, "Not only are we grateful to Tom Burnham for his dedication and service to the School of Education, but that he would give back to Ole Miss in this way is truly remarkable. Dean Burnham and the school's faculty work tirelessly to produce successful leaders in the classroom and other educational settings. This gift is just one

more example of his commitment to help strengthen education in Mississippi."

Burnham's daughter, Cassandra Vanderford, is a teacher at Brandon High School. She and her husband, Craig, also contributed to the scholarship honoring her brother.

"As first and second generations of a family to attend and complete college, we value greatly our experiences and want to extend the same opportunities to other young people," Burnham said.

Burnham is a product of the Mississippi education system, beginning with grade school. He attended Hinds Community College, then earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and master's degree in school principalship, both at



Tom Burnham

Mississippi College. His doctorate in curriculum and instruction is from Delta State University.

Before becoming dean in 2004, Burnham previously served as superintendent of the Henderson County (N.C.) Public Schools, as Mississippi's superintendent of education, and as superintendent and a high school principal for the Biloxi Public Schools. He also served as assistant dean of continuing education at Delta State University and as a teacher and administrator in the Rankin County Schools.

"Mississippi is my home, and the home of my grandsons, and I want to do everything possible to advance education and provide greater success for our students," Burnham said.

## Suzan Thames continued from Cover

endowed when gifts reach \$2 million. Dan Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, said \$1.5 million has been raised for Thames' chair through private donations.

"The resources are going to be great to move the department forward and to further the treatment of our children," Jones said.

A consummate fundraiser and volunteer, Thames said her motivation is the well-being of Mississippi's children. She stated in her acceptance speech that she was among many people who did what was necessary to accomplish the impossible. She shared the credit with family, friends, fellow volunteers and the physicians and leadership of the Medical Center.

"Because of them, I was consumed by the thought that the health and welfare of a child—any child—was important to our society," Thames said. "As much as anything, it's been a journey of blind faith. Throughout my journey, I have had the privilege of standing on the shoulders of many giants."

Thames is a 1968 graduate of UM's College of Liberal Arts with a bachelor's degree in special education, speech and hearing. She became interested in the Medical Center with her involvement in Recreation,



Suzan Thames

Enrichment and Activities for Children's Health, or REACH, a Junior League project that involves work with young cancer patients. Thames and other members of the Junior League raised \$2 million to build the Mississippi Children's Cancer Clinic, which opened in 1991 and serves thousands of children throughout the state.

Thames also raised money to help build the Blair

E. Batson Hospital for Children, which opened in 1997. Under her leadership as president and chair of the board of Friends of Children's Hospital, the organization raised a record \$1 million in 2007.

Thames also serves on the UM Foundation's board of directors and the advisory board of the department of communication sciences and disorders in the School of Applied Sciences, and she is president-elect of the school's alumni chapter board. Besides giving to the Medical Center, she has made donations to the Chancellor's Trust, School of Applied Sciences, Inn at Ole Miss and Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

"She epitomizes what a foundation board member is all about," said Sandra Guest, vice president of the UM Foundation. "She is supportive of the University at both the Oxford and the Jackson campuses. She has been an ambassador for Ole Miss for many years."

It's estimated that at least \$20 million in charitable contributions can be attributed to Thames. Thames' name is equated with family, philanthropy and children, UM Chancellor Robert Khayat said.

"The word 'volunteer' means Suzan Brown Thames," he said.

## Senator Trent Lott Contributes to Wife's Scholarship

Former Mississippi senator Trent Lott has made a \$250,000 gift to a University of Mississippi scholarship endowment that honors his wife.

"We are grateful to Senator Lott for his continued support of Ole Miss and are thankful to those friends who created this scholarship," said UM Chancellor Robert Khayat. "The Patricia Lott Scholarship ensures that Ole Miss will continue its long tradition of nurturing strong leaders for our state and nation."

Recipients of the Patricia Thompson Lott Scholarship are students in UM's Lott Leadership



Chancellor Robert Khayat accepts Sen. Trent Lott's donation

Institute who are incoming freshmen from Mississippi with demonstrated leadership abilities. Lott scholars

are required to pursue a major in public policy leadership. Besides maintaining academic standards, the students are expected to continue their commitment to community service. To help them balance these requirements, they are paired with faculty mentors.

The Patricia Thompson Lott Scholarship was originally established in 2005 with gifts from Lott Institute executive director Bill Gottshall and his wife, Donna; Sen. Lott's former state director Guy Hovis and his wife, Sis; and Senate Secretary Gary Sisco and his wife, Mary Sue.

Established in 1999, the Lott Leadership Institute honors Sen. Lott, an Ole Miss graduate.

## Longtime Education Advocate Honored With Scholarship



Lindsey Todd

To honor the memory of his father, a longtime public school administrator, University of Mississippi alumnus Joseph C. Todd, of Cincinnati, Ohio, has created the Lindsey O. Todd Scholarship Endowment at

his alma mater with a gift of \$100,000.

The elder Todd, who died in 1973, dedicated his life and career to improving public schools in Mississippi.

"My father was an energetic man with an inquisitive mind whose passion was public service," Joseph Todd said. "He held the basic belief that education was the key to opportunity, personal fulfillment and societal progress. He did not complete a degree at Ole Miss, but he was always mindful of the importance in his life of having had the opportunity to attend his state's university. I

know he would be proud and honored to have a scholarship bear his name."

Lindsey Todd began a 49-year career as a school administrator in 1919. Unable to return to Ole Miss because of his father's terminal illness, he became principal of a school in Kemper County.

During summer sessions, he earned a bachelor's degree from George Peabody College for Teachers, a master's degree from Columbia University Teachers College and a Ph.D. from Peabody. His doctorate was the second in the state earned by a Mississippi public school administrator.

Todd became superintendent of schools in Collins and Philadelphia. He served as president of East Central Community College for 19 years, and as superintendent of Meridian Public Schools, including Meridian Community College, for 18 years.

"Dr. Lindsey Todd was one of Mississippi's most inspiring and effective leaders in the field of public education," said former governor William

Winter. "Every present-day Mississippian owes Dr. Todd a huge debt of gratitude for his unceasing battle for public education in this state."

Todd served as president of the Mississippi Education Association in 1945. He was a founder of the Mississippi Association of School Administrators in the early 1930s and served as the second president of the association. After World War II, Todd acted as a consultant to several states developing community college systems. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the American Association of School Administrators honored him with distinguished service recognition.

Todd's two children both earned degrees at Ole Miss. Joseph Todd received a bachelor's degree from UM in 1956 before earning his medical degree at Harvard University. His sister, Jane Todd Gurry, earned her undergraduate degree from UM in 1953. Later, she attended Duke University Divinity School and graduated from the Virginia Theological Seminary.

# Health Care Consultancy Group Supports Pharmacy School

**M**edical Marketing Economics LLC, a consultancy group based in Oxford, has committed \$350,000 to support the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy.

“Faculty, staff and students of the School of Pharmacy are grateful for the generous support of Dr. Mick Kolassa and the MME partners,” said Barbara Wells, the school’s dean. “This gift will make a meaningful difference for both graduate and professional students and their faculty. MME provides a wonderful example for us all—alumni, businesses, faculty and staff—to emulate. These forward-looking, community-minded individuals believe in the importance of supporting the school to ensure that we can provide the best education possible. We thank them for the faith they place in us and our students.”

The gift will support the pharmacy school in three



**MME partners (back, from left) Doug Paul, Kevin Patterson, (front) Bill Lobb, Brian Reisetter, Mick Kolassa**

different ways: \$150,000 will create and endow the MME Fellowship in Pharmacy Administration; another \$150,000 will create a general fund to support

the school; and the remaining amount will support the science library located in the Thad Cochran Research Center.

“Our company, MME, wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for the Ole Miss School of Pharmacy,” said Kolassa, CEO and managing partner of MME, who holds a Ph.D. in pharmacy from Ole Miss. “It is where many of us met, the source of many of our employees and a major source of pride for all of us. We see this gift as a way for us to give back.”

MME develops value-based strategies and market research for health care goods and services and assists its clients in gathering, evaluating and understanding the information needed to make decisions about their products and services. Of MME’s seven partners, four hold degrees from UM’s School of Pharmacy. The company also has an office in Montclair, New Jersey.



The new School of Pharmacy Practice Building will soon be constructed in Jackson

For more information about the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy, visit [www.pharmacy.olemiss.edu](http://www.pharmacy.olemiss.edu)

## Support Grows for Promises to Keep Campaign

Two loyal pharmacy grads, Jim Ainsworth and Keith Shelly, have each made generous contributions to support the UM School of Pharmacy.

Ainsworth, who graduated in 1967, is vice president of regional operations for Baptist Memorial Health Care based in Memphis, Tenn., and also serves as CEO of Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi in Oxford. He has worked in the Baptist system for nearly 40 years, beginning his career as a pharmacist there in 1969.

"I feel all of us have an obligation to contribute to the education of future health care professionals," Ainsworth said. "It is no longer realistic to think that public dollars will be sufficient to cover the health care workforce needs of the future."

The gift from Ainsworth and his wife, Sarah, also a UM grad, will support construction of a new Pharmacy Practice Building in Jackson.

"We also wanted to support the University because our benefits as students laid the foundation for outstanding professional as well as personal careers,"



Jim and Sarah Ainsworth

he said.

Besides Sarah, who earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Ole Miss in 1965 and 1966, the couple's two daughters, Rebecca McGee and Debra Ottens, are also UM alumnae, with Rebecca earning a pharmacy degree in 1991.

Shelly, who graduated in 1978, owns Donelson Drug Mart, a pharmacy in Nashville, Tenn. He also serves as the director of pharmacy for Centerstone Community Mental Health Centers, located throughout middle Tennessee. He says that although he returned to his native Tennessee after graduating from Ole Miss, he never forgot the good times, friendships and value of his education from his time in Oxford. His gift will create the J. Keith Shelly Conference Room in Faser Hall.

"The University of Mississippi is among the nation's leaders in promoting excellence within our profession by providing quality instruction to its

students and by prioritizing research goals," Shelly said. "I am proud of that fact and recognize that maintaining this standard requires the emotional and financial support of those who have already benefited from this great institution. I am pleased to be able to contribute to the School of Pharmacy to promote its



Keith Shelly

growth, particularly as the school celebrates its 100th year."

Shelly's two daughters have Ole Miss ties: Karah earned an MBA and Kalyn is currently attending.

Both gifts are part of the pharmacy school's Promises to Keep Campaign, a five-year initiative to raise \$5 million in private support. Of the money raised, \$2.5 million will help construct the UM Pharmacy Practice Building; \$1.5 million will provide scholarship support; and \$1 million will provide faculty support through an endowment to attract and retain the best and brightest professors, clinicians and researchers from around the globe.

## Walgreens Supports School of Pharmacy

Drug retailer Walgreens has made a generous gift to support the UM School of Pharmacy. The gift will help with costs for the new Pharmacy Practice Building in Jackson.

"Walgreens has a long-standing partnership with the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy," said Tonya Shackelford, a Walgreens district manager who is also an Ole Miss pharmacy alumna. "Many Ole Miss pharmacy students intern with Walgreens through our summer internship program and go on to work for us full-time. Ole Miss graduates are an asset to our company and the profession. Walgreens is dedicated to advancing the field of pharmacy, and the new School of Pharmacy Practice Building will certainly help us do that."

The new 26,000-square foot building will not only provide essential facilities to meet the needs of students and faculty, but it will also allow the pharmacy school to address the critical shortage of trained pharmacists in Mississippi by allowing for an increase in enrollment in the professional pharmacy program.

The building will feature technology-driven class-



Walgreens district manager Tonya Shackelford (front row, third from left) presents a check to pharmacy school dean Barbara Wells (front row, second from left)

rooms and research space for students, faculty, residents and fellows. A student lounge will be provided, as well as space for professional associations. A pres-

ence on the Medical Center campus in Jackson will foster interdisciplinary collaboration with health care practitioners, faculty and students.

## UM Benefits From State Representative's Salary

Cecil Brown, a Mississippi State Representative from the 66th District, has established the Nancy H. Brown Teacher Corps Endowment with a gift of \$130,000. The gift honors Brown's wife, a teacher in the Jackson Public Schools.

Scholarship recipients will be second-year Mississippi Teacher Corps (MTC) teachers in the Jackson Public Schools. The MTC was co-founded by Andy Mullins in 1989, who now serves UM as executive assistant chancellor.

"Education is a passion in our home," Brown said. "Nancy is a math teacher, and I spend much of my legislative time working on issues in public education. Also, we are both alumni of Ole Miss and love the University. Nancy and I agreed when I was elected to the House nearly 10 years ago that we would always give all of my legislative pay to charity. We have been very blessed and wanted my service in the House to be all about public service and not in any way for personal gain. The Teacher Corps gives us a way to concentrate future gifts on our commitment to public education."

"Nancy is very appreciative and happy about the

opportunity to create the scholarship. This scholarship is a way for her to continue to participate in public education long after we are both gone.

"Without question the most critical element in a quality education is a qualified teacher in every classroom," Brown said. "There is no substitute. Mississippi suffers from a shortage of teachers—more than 2,000 in the current year. In addition, large numbers of young teachers leave the profession in the early years, further exacerbating the problem. Graduates of the MTC have proven time and again that they will be successful in the classroom and become leaders in educational excellence. Through the MTC we are building an army of qualified teachers one individual at a time."

MTC participants receive teacher training and certification, a full scholarship to UM for a master's



Chancellor Robert Khayat, Nancy and Cecil Brown, Andy Mullins

degree in education, job placement that includes full pay and benefits and, most importantly, an opportunity to help strengthen education in Mississippi.

"Economic and social indicators make it clear that a quality education is the key to a brighter future for all Mississippians," Brown said. "If we are going to build a successful economy in Mississippi, we must provide educational opportunities for everyone."

## Loyal Ole Miss Supporter Leaves Lasting Gift



Lewis A. Graeber Jr.

Even though he was not an Ole Miss alumnus, Lewis Adolphus Graeber Jr., of Marks, will be remembered as one of the University's biggest fans. He was a member of the Chancellor's Trust as well as the UM Loyalty Foundation, and he and his wife, Frances, who graduated from UM in 1941, established a

scholarship in their names to assist students at the University.

"He loved to say he was Ole Miss' biggest walk-on alum," said son Bill Graeber, a UM alumnus. "But what Dad cared most about was helping young people get a quality education."

Graeber's education-related philanthropic efforts stretched across Mississippi, and included establishing scholarships at Delta State University; Northwest

Mississippi Community College; Belhaven College; French Camp Academy; Reformed Theological Seminary, in Jackson; and Delta Academy, in Marks. He also served on the boards of both French Camp Academy and Belhaven College.

"He was the most giving man I've ever known," said son and alumnus Clark Graeber. "He was a happy giver. He said it was fun to give away money."

Though he didn't allow for fanfare over his generosity, one of his greatest joys was receiving letters from the students who benefited from the scholarships he funded. "He never asked for any kind of recognition," Clark said. "But he especially appreciated notes from the kids."

Graeber, who passed away in 2008, was educated in his hometown's public schools and at Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College). Except for the four years he spent in the Navy during World War II, when he was stationed at Pearl Harbor, he lived in Marks his entire life.

He and his brother, James "Jim" Peyton Graeber, founded Graeber Brothers Inc., in 1937, and Dixie Gas Inc., and farmed Caledonia Plantation. He and

Jim also co-founded the Graeber Foundation, which funded many of the scholarships he created.

Besides supporting education, Graeber also gave to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., the Salvation Army, and other charitable organizations, many in Mississippi. He served as an alderman for the city of Marks, was an elder in Marks Presbyterian Church, and served on the boards of LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, Delta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, National Propane Gas Association, Mississippi LP Gas Association, Mississippi Safety Council, Mississippi Economic Council and the Quitman County Planning Commission.

In addition to Bill and Clark, their sister, Geri Graeber Pitts, is also an Ole Miss graduate. Graeber's son Lewis graduated from Tulane University.

"We are grateful to Lewis Graeber and the Graeber family for their generous support of the University of Mississippi," said UM Foundation president and CEO Wendell Weakley. "Mr. Graeber's generosity will continue to benefit Ole Miss students for many years to come."

## The School of Law Campaign: Profiles in Support

### Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes

**B**runini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, founded by John B. Brunini over a century ago, began as a small, collegial group of attorneys practicing law together. Today, Brunini has grown into one of Mississippi's largest and most respected law firms.

The Brunini law firm serves primarily business clients, including a number of Fortune 500 companies

and other significant Mississippi companies. Among them are the nation's largest privately held wireless company, Mississippi's largest health insurer, one of the state's largest banks and also one of its largest health care systems.

Walter S. Weems, chair of the Brunini firm, said, "A majority of our attorneys are graduates of the

University of Mississippi. We anticipate that a significant number of attorneys we hire in the future will also be graduates of the law school, and we are pleased to make this investment to assure that future students have faculty and facilities of the highest quality."

The Brunini law firm has offices in Jackson, Biloxi and Columbus.

### Bradley Arant

**F**ounded in 1871, Bradley Arant is a client-driven law firm. Maintaining offices in Birmingham, Huntsville, and Montgomery, Ala.; Charlotte, N.C.; Washington, D.C.; and Jackson, the firm serves clients in numerous industries.

Bradley Arant generously supports a number of community organizations and recently made a dona-

tion to the School of Law Campaign.

Margaret Oertling Cupples, managing partner of the firm's Jackson office, said the firm's lawyers have a strong commitment to their communities and to the improvement of society through the legal system.

"As part of this commitment, we seek to identify opportunities to make a difference to future genera-

tions of lawyers," she said. "We count among our attorneys many graduates of the fine law schools of Mississippi and Alabama, and are pleased to be able to support those institutions. Educating the next generation of lawyers, some of whom will eventually join our firm, is one way in which we work to have a positive impact."

## Sons Honor Father With Gift to UM School of Law



Hardy M. Graham

**B**rothers Hardy P. Graham and Newell Graham have pledged \$250,000 to the School of Law in honor of their father, Hardy M. Graham. All three Graham men are Ole Miss alumni.

The gift will be used to create the Hardy M. Graham Library Special Collections Room in the new law school facility, which is currently under construction on the Oxford campus.

"My father was a major giver to Ole Miss over the years," Hardy P. Graham said. "Newell and his wife, Bettie, and I decided this gift would be a nice way to honor him. We felt since he was a lawyer and loved Ole Miss that it would be very appropriate to expand on his original gift and have the room named for him."

The elder Graham, a Meridian native who was 94 when he died last year, received both his bachelor's and law degrees from Ole Miss in 1934.

"We are grateful for this generous gift from Hardy Graham and Newell Graham and their families

to support the new School of Law building," said Sam Davis, dean of the school. "The Grahams are some of our most outstanding graduates who have continued their interest in Ole Miss over the years. The Hardy M. Graham Library Special Collections Room is a fitting tribute and will serve our law students well for many generations to come."

Upon graduation, Hardy M. Graham practiced law before the U.S. Court of Appeals, U.S. District Court of Mississippi and the U.S. Supreme Court. After working in Washington, D.C., as an attorney for the Federal Trade Commission and serving in the Navy, Graham moved to Union City, Tenn., to become operating partner of the Union City Coca-Cola Bottling Co. He was a partner in the company until his death.

In 1984 the elder Graham was named Law Alumnus of the Year at the School of Law; in 1989 he received the Hall of Fame Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Following in his father's footsteps, Hardy P. Graham is also a longtime supporter of the University. He serves on the UM Foundation board of directors,

is a member of the Chancellor's Trust and has made other significant donations to Ole Miss, including a gift of \$100,000, also in honor of his father, toward the construction of the University's indoor practice facility.

"Ole Miss has always meant a lot to our family," he said. "We all attribute our successes to the experiences we had at Ole Miss, the people we met and the education we received there. It just had a very positive impact on my life, my father's life and my brother's life."

A 1964 Ole Miss graduate, Hardy P. Graham also earned his master's degree from UM in 1965 while working as a graduate assistant teaching history. As an Ole Miss student, Graham was a member of the UM basketball team and was awarded a Taylor Medal, an award given annually to not more than one percent of UM students for "meritorious scholarship and deportment." He is the president of Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Co.

Newell Graham, who graduated from Ole Miss in 1969, also served as a Navy officer and is the CEO of Union City Coca-Cola Bottling Co.

Established in 1975, the Chancellor's Trust is used to address the University's greatest needs and requires a minimum gift of \$25,000.

## Alumni Couple Supports Chancellor's Trust

Because of their love for the University and their belief in its mission, UM alumni Neel and Pam White, of Austin, Texas, have made a gift to support the Chancellor's Trust.

The Whites said they wanted to give to the Chancellor's Trust primarily because of the many positive changes and vast improvements made to the University under Chancellor Robert Khayat.

"Chancellor Khayat has proved time and again to be a master at forward thinking," Neel White said. "His latest vision of creating a residential college on campus will greatly enrich and enhance the experience of college life for many students. The chancellor is never satisfied with the status quo. He is always one step ahead into the future and betterment of Ole Miss. It's exciting to watch his innovative ideas come to fruition, but more importantly, it's exciting to be a part of it."

"We are grateful to Neel and Pam White for their support of the University of Mississippi," Chancellor Khayat said. The Whites are longtime supporters of

Ole Miss. Many of their other gifts have supported athletics, and the White Construction Company was contracted to build the indoor practice facility on the Oxford campus.

Pam, a Greenwood native, and Neel, from

Clarksdale, met at Ole Miss in 1975. They graduated in 1978 with a BSN and a BBA, respectively. They married six months later and relocated to Texas. In 1981, Neel opened the Austin branch of the Ridgeland-based White Construction Company. Today, he serves as CEO and co-owner with his brother, Guy.

The White family has a long tradition with Ole Miss. Neel's parents, brother and two sisters all attended the University. Continuing in that tradition is the White's daughter, Kelly, who is currently a student. Their son, Charles Neel III, has grown up tailgating in the Grove and has fond memories of Ole Miss on game day.



Chancellor Robert Khayat with Pam and Neel White



## Longtime UM Supporter Honors Chancellor With Gift

For retired Florida lawyer Jerry Center, Chancellor Robert Khayat embodies the spirit of Ole Miss. That's why Center, along with his wife, Susan, made a gift to UM to join the Chancellor's Trust and honor Khayat.

Center and his family are longtime supporters of Ole Miss. His many other gifts have supported the School of Law, and his mother, Mildred Hickey, a Baldwin native, established an Ole Miss Women's Council scholarship in 2000.

"Robert Khayat has been a professor, classmate and friend," Center said. "He was one of the best teachers I've ever had. I consider him a dear friend. And I think he's the best chancellor Ole Miss has ever had. He's done so much for the University to make it a better place."

"The Center family is a true Ole Miss family,"



Susan and Jerry Center

Khayat said. "We are most grateful for their generous support. Jerry was an excellent student and quite involved in the life of the University. This gift will serve to enrich the experience of the current generation of students."

Center received bachelor's and master's degrees in business in 1964 and 1967 and a law degree in 1972, all from Ole Miss. His first job after graduating from the School of Law was with Oxford law firm Freeland and Gafford (now Freeland and Freeland).

"I also wanted to become a member of the Chancellor's Trust because of what Ole Miss has given me," Center said. "From the moment my mother and dad dropped me off on the campus in the fall of 1958 to today, I have nothing but fond memories of and feelings for the University. My parents were able to invest in scholarship programs for students, and Susan and I are blessed to do the same. I hope that the students who receive assistance will join the Ole Miss family and return part of their success to future generations of students."

The 1848 Society, established in 1998, the University's 150th year, recognizes alumni and friends of the University of Mississippi who have either funded or planned a deferred gift, such as a bequest of a life income plan.

## Alumnus Establishes Endowment for Student Life

**I**'ve been away for over thirty years now, and the best memories I have all revolve around the friendships and relationships I made at Ole Miss," said alumnus Steve Castleman, who lives in Birmingham, Ala. "Those friendships have continued, and I'm still close with many of the friends I made while I was a student at Ole Miss. Now we have kids the same age, and our kids are becoming friends, too."

And so, in hopes of helping the bonds of friendship continue to grow with each generation, Castleman is leaving a \$500,000 deferred gift to benefit Student Affairs at the University.

"I wanted to help impact as many students as I could in giving this gift," Castleman said. "By giving to Student Affairs, my hope is that it will have an



Erin and Steve Castleman

opportunity to reach more of the student body.

The Stephen P. Castleman Endowment for Student Life will support projects and facilities management, including the student union and the Turner Center.

The Office of Student Affairs supports the University's academic mission through its commitment to the total development of students. Student

Affairs oversees such offices as campus recreation, international programs, the career center and other departments that contribute to students' physical, occupational, social, intellectual, spiritual and emotional growth.

"Much of student learning takes place outside the classroom, so we work hard to create and maintain an environment that promotes leadership development,

academic achievement and responsible and engaged citizenry," said Larry Ridgeway, vice chancellor for Student Affairs. "We are most grateful for this generous gift from Steve Castleman to enhance our student facilities."

Castleman, who majored in geology, graduated from Ole Miss in 1984. He is founder and president of Spectrum Environmental Inc., an environmental consulting company in Birmingham. He and his wife, Amy, have three daughters, Emily, Erin and Elyse. So far Erin is the only family member who shares his love for Ole Miss. "She's the only one that has seen the light," he laughed. "It's because my wife went to Auburn. There's a family split.

"I've been blessed in my life and being able to pass on a blessing is something that drives me," Castleman said. "Ole Miss holds a special place and helped form who I am. It was an easy decision when I was looking to give back—Ole Miss was near the top of my list."

## Business Professor Honors Parents With Endowment

**T**he chair of the risk management and insurance program in the School of Business Administration has honored his parents with an endowment to support faculty in his department.

Larry Cox, who also holds the Robertson Chair of Insurance, has established the C. Robert and Ruth A. Cox Endowment in Risk Management and Insurance with a testamentary gift.

"My father spent most of his career in the life insurance business, both of my children graduated from Ole Miss—with my daughter earning her degree in risk management and insurance—and I've taught here for over 13 years, so this place is very special to our family," Cox said. "I wanted to honor my parents and also support the efforts of Steve Collins and Robert Forster, members of our advisory board, who have been encouraging estate gifts by our board members and alumni. If Ole Miss is to remain prominent in the field of risk management and insurance

for future decades, then private support is critical."

The fund will support and expand the program by enabling the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty.

"Dr. Larry Cox has provided exceptional leadership for risk management and insurance, building a legacy of outstanding educational opportunities for our students," said Ken Cyree, dean of the business school. "Larry has shown tireless devotion through his service to the RMI program and to insurance professionals throughout the region. This generous gift typi-



Professor Larry Cox (left) with his mother, Ruth Cox Pogue, and Chancellor Robert Khayat

fies Dr. Cox's commitment to the field of risk management and insurance and to the University of Mississippi. We are profoundly grateful."

Before joining the Ole Miss family, Cox served on the faculties of the University of Georgia and New Mexico State University. Since he began teaching at Ole Miss, the number of students majoring in risk management and insurance has grown from 19 to 122, and endowments supporting the program have increased nearly sevenfold. He has served as presi-

dent of the Risk Theory Society, the American Risk and Insurance Association, and the Southern Risk and Insurance Association.

## Alumnus Ensures Bright Future for UM School of Business



Steve Collins

As an insurance general agent, Steve Collins knows just how important planning for the future can be. That's why he committed to helping the risk management and insurance program plan for its future by making a gift of \$200,000 in the form of a life insurance policy.

Collins, who earned an MBA from Ole Miss in 1981 and owns Collins Financial Network in Jackson, feels it's espe-

cially important for those who work in the insurance industry to give back to Ole Miss through insurance policies.

"We need to fund our insurance curriculum with insurance products," Collins said. "It's how we can perpetuate and enhance our success nationally. If every insurance grad left a gift of life insurance then we could significantly and permanently impact the Ole Miss program. It's something I think every board member and graduate should do."

Collins' gift will benefit the Jack W. and Gwenette P. Robertson Chair of Insurance. The Robertson Chair is held by Larry Cox, who joined the Ole Miss faculty in 1995. Since that time the number of insurance and risk management majors at Ole Miss has quadrupled and the program has emerged as perhaps the fastest growing in the nation.

"We sincerely appreciate his support of our faculty," said Ken Cyree, dean of the business school.

"When I talked with Steve, he commented on the tremendous impact that Dr. Phil Malone had on him when he was a student and how this impact continues to this day. It is through his generosity that we can continue our successes and build a legacy of outstanding educational opportunities for our students through such inspiring faculty as Dr. Malone and others."

In addition to his financial support, Collins serves on the insurance advisory board and recently completed a term as the board's president. Though Collins is a native of Kingsville, Texas, and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri, he considers Mississippi his home state.

"I owe a debt of gratitude to Ole Miss and Mississippi for helping me with my success. That's what motivated me to do this. I have made it my mission to give back and to get others to do the same," he said.

## Alumna Commemorates Parents With Scholarship

University of Mississippi alumna Daphne Denley Craig has honored the memory of her parents with a scholarship in their names. Craig, a 1960 UM graduate, created the Bernice Raggett and John Barksdale Denley Jr. Scholarship with a generous gift and bequeathed a portion of her estate to the scholarship.

"My parents' dream was that their children attend Ole Miss," said Craig, an Olive Branch native. "They would both be pleased to have their names on a scholarship to make their dream possible for other parents."

"We are so thankful to Daphne Craig for choosing to honor her parents in this way," said Sandra Guest, vice president of the Foundation. "Since the beginning of the 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. Daphne's gift and bequest adds to that and we are profoundly grateful."

Craig's mother, Bernice Raggett, a New Albany native, was a homemaker and care-

giver to her four children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Her father, John Barksdale Denley Jr., a Paynes native, worked in his early years as a farmer and later joined the Navy, serving in the Pacific theater in World War II. From 1968 until his death, he was the manager of the Paynes Water Association, a community water system. Craig's siblings, Harriette Denley Faust, Joan Denley Sayle and John B. Denley III, attended UM in the 1960s.

The Denleys made their home in Paynes; a highlight for them was seeing the Rebels win the 1956 Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Texas.

"Neither of my parents were high school graduates but they both had the dream for their children to attend college," Craig said. "Because of their sacrifices, their encouragement and their love, my parents opened doors for their children through which they themselves could not pass."



Daphne Denley Craig and  
Chancellor Robert Khayat

## Alumnus Continues Tradition of Giving

Jim and Mary Margaret Bennett, of Pearl, will continue to fund the Faye Evans Bennett Ole Miss First Scholarship through a bequest to the University.

"We are most grateful for this generous gift from the Bennett family," said Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the Foundation. "Planned giving is extremely important to Ole Miss because it helps secure the future of the University. A planned or deferred gift is truly the gift of a lifetime and creates a permanent legacy."

The Bennetts created the scholarship in 2002 to honor Jim's first wife, who died in 1961. Their bequest will allocate funds from their estate to further grow the scholarship, which helps deserving students attend UM.

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

Jim met Faye while he was stationed with the Naval Air Corps in Brunswick, Ga. After he was transferred to a facility near the nation's capital, they married and later had two daughters. When World War II ended, Faye and Jim both enrolled at Ole Miss,

where she earned her bachelor's degree and he completed his master's degree in education. His teaching career took the family from Amory to Pontotoc and then Jackson.

After Faye's death, Jim later met Mary Margaret Coman and the two married. The Bennett daughters are both UM graduates, with Beverly Bennett Lee, of Dallas, Texas, earning her bachelor's degree in home economics and Jeanne Bennett Brinson, of Brandon, earning her bachelor's degree in business administration. The tradition continues with four granddaughters who are UM graduates.

Although he officially retired as a public school administrator in 1985, Jim, along with Mary Margaret, has done volunteer mission work in his retirement.



Chancellor Robert Khayat with Mary Margaret and Jim Bennett

They have scores of stories and memories from their mission experiences in Argentina, China and Mongolia.

## Pharmacy Grad Pays It Forward

In his second year of pharmacy school at Ole Miss, Stan Williams remembers walking into Associate Dean Emeritus Joe McCaskill's office. Williams was paying his way through school and had simply run out of money. When he told McCaskill about his situation, McCaskill pulled out his checkbook and wrote him a \$200 check.

"He said, 'Son, you pay me back when you can,'" Williams remembered. "I just can't begin to tell you how much that meant to me."

Though the initial loan was repaid long ago, Williams has been working hard to give back. His love for Ole Miss isn't just lip service. Although the Gulf Coast native attended LSU (and, yes, he does cheer for



Stan and Carol Williams

the Tigers), his heart and soul are in Oxford.

Williams returns often to campus. He has served on the School of Pharmacy's board of advisors for 10 years. Williams has given to the Galen Order, which recognizes donors of at least \$5,000 to the pharmacy school over a 10-year period, every year since he graduated. And as a recent show of support, he pledged a \$1 million life insurance policy to the School of Pharmacy. "Hopefully they won't need it anytime soon," Williams joked.

"There are so many people that don't look back after graduation, and I have never really understood that," Williams said. "I got a great education from Ole Miss. It helped launch my career."

Marvin Wilson, associate dean for academic and student affairs and professor of pharmacology, encouraged Williams to apply for a competitive internship with Eli Lilly and Co. Out of 250 applicants, Williams got the job. After that summer Williams decided to go into industry.

"Ole Miss has a great faculty; they really care about the students," Williams said. "They go the extra mile and make themselves available for extra help. You really don't see that at large universities."

Recently promoted as a director of sales for the central United States in Abbott Vascular's Endovascular Group, a division of Abbott Labs, Williams also has worked for the American Heart Association, and Quantum Health Resources.

He lives in Fort Worth, Texas, with his wife, Carol, a pediatric dietitian at Cook Children's Hospital; daughter Maggie, 8; and son Jack, 5. Said Williams, "Life is all about a strong family, good friends and never forgetting where you came from."

## Family Pays Tribute to Thomas Murphree Sr. With Gift

When parents pass on a deeply held belief in the power of education and a steadfast devotion to a university, the belief and devotion tend to be continued and strengthened by their children.

That belief is the foundation for the Thomas Martin Murphree Sr. Scholarship Endowment, a newly created fund to support students pursuing degrees in the School of Business Administration. Creating the scholarship with a gift of \$135,000 are the Murphrees' three sons: Robert S. Murphree, of Jackson; Thomas M. Murphree Jr., of Summit; and Dennis H. Murphree, of San Antonio, Texas.

"Establishing this scholarship in memory of our father was a natural fit because he was such a proponent of people having access to quality education," said Robert Murphree, an attorney. "My mother, Margaret Murphree, formed the idea for this scholarship before she died in 2008, and my brothers and I agreed it was the perfect way to pay tribute to our father's life and values."

"Thomas and Margaret Murphree were inspiring



Robert Murphree, with wife Melissa (center) and daughters Catherine (left) and Caroline

role models," said UM Chancellor Robert Khayat. "Supporting the University through their involvement and attendance at campus events became a strong family tradition—a tradition their children continue today."

Thomas Murphree Sr. was a recognized business professional in the insurance industry. He graduated

from Central High School in Jackson before enrolling at Ole Miss. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Thomas Murphree met his wife, Margaret, while they were both working for the Works Progress Administration, which was created to help provide economic relief to citizens during the Great Depression. They married in 1940 and had five children.

Before her death, Margaret Murphree talked about rearing her children in an interview with the University.

"Education has always been very important to us. When the children were growing up, we came together at the dinner table three times a day for meals. Our family

had very lively discussions around that dinner table. I took the children to the public library every week. I wanted them to have inquiring minds."

Three of the couple's five children earned degrees from Ole Miss, and now some of the 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren are continuing the tradition by choosing Ole Miss as their college home.



For more information about the School of Business Administration, visit [www.olemissbusiness.com](http://www.olemissbusiness.com)

## Estates of Carl and Olivia Nabors Fund Multiple Initiatives

A longtime University faculty member and his wife have left a final, transformative gift to the institution they supported for decades.

More than \$1 million was recently received from the estates of Carl and Olivia Nabors to support several areas of the University: the University Museum, J.D.

Williams Library, the basketball practice facility and two scholarship initiatives, Ole Miss First and the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy.

"When I think of Carl and Olivia Nabors, I think of quiet, kind, generous people," said Chancellor Robert Khayat at a recent reception honoring the late couple and their family. "Everyone at Ole Miss is grateful for the generous gifts made by Carl and Olivia, and we wanted to celebrate the fact

that they've designated funds to areas that need help."

Ole Miss alumni Will Lewis, brother of Olivia, and Billy Bratton, nephew of Carl, oversaw the recent settlement of the couple's estates (Olivia died in 2001 and Carl five years later).

Olivia Nabors received a bachelor's degree in home economics from Ole Miss in 1951, and Carl, a World War II veteran, followed with bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting in 1952 and 1953. Although "their paths never crossed as undergraduates," their love for Ole Miss eventually drew them together, Billy Bratton said.

After working for the accounting firm Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company in Memphis, Tenn., for several years, Carl returned to his alma mater to teach. In 1961 he embarked on a 30-plus-year career, serving as associate professor of accounting, chair of the accounting department, acting dean of the School of Business Administration, and on the University's

athletics committee. He also met Olivia, a native of the town. They married in 1965 and lived in Oxford the rest of their lives.

"Carl and Olivia Nabors were two of the most ardent supporters of the University of Mississippi," said Jimmy Davis, former dean of the School of Accountancy and currently H. Eugene Peery Chair of Accountancy and professor of accountancy at Ole Miss. "He and Olivia attended most of the games in all sports, including games away.

"Carl was an exceptional accountant, always organized, paying strict attention to detail, and was a gifted teacher," Davis said. "His students appreciated his willingness to work with them on an individual basis, enjoyed his sense of humor and respected him for his interest in their employment and well-being in general. He and Olivia loved to entertain and made a lasting impact on my life and upon the many students who were fortunate enough to know him."

Ole Miss  
Women's  
Council  
for Philanthropy



(From left) Chancellor Robert Khayat, Billy Bratton; Beatrice Bratton, sister of Carl Nabors; Patricia Lewis; Will Lewis

## Scholarship a Tribute to Mother and Sports Hall of Fame Inductee Father

**D**iana Day-Cartee said that creating the JoAnne and Eagle Day Ole Miss First Scholarship is allowing her late father's "mission on earth to live on" while also fulfilling one of her mother's longtime desires.

Named for Day-Cartee's parents, the scholarship will provide a deserving young man or woman eight semesters of undergraduate education at Ole Miss.

"Since his retirement from pro football, my father's passion was working with inner-city kids to help them overcome their problems," Day-Cartee said. "He stressed the importance of education to them day-in and day-out, and my mother has always wanted to help someone attend Ole Miss. Both of my parents have always loved young people. They have encouraged many with their life lessons urging others to be the best they can be. Mom and Dad are great examples that hard work and dedication do pay off in the end."



Eagle Day

Eagle Day, who excelled at football and baseball at UM, was inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 1981, after a career punting for the NFL's Washington Redskins and quarterbacking in the Canadian Football League.

"Eagle and I both loved Ole Miss so much," said JoAnne Day, who lives in Jackson. "He'd be thrilled to know about this, and I was floored when I found out. This is absolutely wonderful."

Day-Cartee said that funding a scholarship for a deserving Ole Miss student was only fitting. "My parents met at Ole Miss, when my dad was playing football and my mom was a baton twirler with the band," she said. "My parents had twins—my brother, William, and I—and we both came to Ole Miss. He played football and I twirled with the band."

Day-Cartee earned her bachelor's degree from UM in 1980. She now lives in Nashville, Tenn., with her husband, Alan Cartee, and their daughter, Ali. In addition to serving as CEO of DDC Investments, she is involved in several community service organizations in Nashville, including the city's Junior League, for which she is vice president of development.

Day-Cartee learned of Ole Miss First through the initiative's newsletter, she said. She asked Chancellor Robert Khayat to surprise her mother with the news of the JoAnne and Eagle Day Ole Miss First Scholarship as a Mother's Day gift. JoAnne Day will mentor the recipient of the scholarship.

"We are grateful for this gift from Diana Day-Cartee and for the gift of time that JoAnne Day will provide," Khayat said. "Eagle was a legendary member of the Ole Miss family and JoAnne and Diana continue to be wonderful ambassadors for Ole Miss. We are pleased that Diana has honored them in such a meaningful way."

Ole Miss First was created by Chancellor Robert Khayat to ensure that every deserving student who wishes to do so may attend UM. Besides tuition, the program provides a mentor for each Ole Miss First scholar during his or her tenure at the University. To learn more about Ole Miss First, visit [www.olemissfirst.com](http://www.olemissfirst.com).

## Gift Combines Scholarships With Internships

**R**enasant Bank has committed \$100,000 to create a new type of scholarship for the UM School of Business Administration.

"Renasant Bank is proud to support the University of Mississippi through the Ole Miss First scholarship fund and the Renasant Bank Fund for Business Excellence," said E. Robinson "Robin" McGraw, Renasant Bank chairman and CEO. "This is a tremendous opportunity to invest in and mentor Mississippi's future business leaders, and we look forward to

helping our state's best and brightest learn the fundamentals needed for successful business careers."

Of the total amount, half will be used to create two Ole Miss First scholarships. The Renasant Bank Corporate Ole Miss First scholarships will also include internship opportunities within the company.

"We are thrilled about the new corporate component of the Ole Miss First scholarship program," said Denson Hollis, development officer for Ole Miss First. "Renasant Bank is the first to fund this type of scholarship and we are incredibly appreciative. It's another example of Renasant's dedication to ensuring a bright

future for University of Mississippi students."

The Renasant Bank Corporate Ole Miss First scholarships will be awarded to full-time students pursuing degrees in banking and finance in the School of Business Administration.

The remainder of Renasant's gift will be used to establish the Renasant Bank Fund for Business Excellence, which will assist the School of Business Administration with recruitment and retention of faculty, and will also create a general fund to address the school's greatest needs.

"Faculty, staff and students of the School of Business are grateful for the generous support of Renasant Bank," said Ken Cyree, dean of the School of Business.

Renasant Bank is headquartered in Tupelo and has locations throughout Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama.



Robin McGraw

# MomentUM Campaign Surpasses \$200

For the last decade, the University of Mississippi has experienced a surge in enrollment, growth in private funds, a revitalized campus and unprecedented national recognition. MomentUM: A Campaign for the University of Mississippi was designed to continue that positive energy.

Administrators imagined a capital campaign that would allow alumni and friends to invest in new facil-

ities, provide scholarship and faculty support and enhance the endowment. Grappling with budget cuts and the current economic climate of uncertainty, the MomentUM Campaign came at an especially critical time. State funding as a percentage of total operating revenues for the University has decreased dramatically, falling from 35 percent to just 22 percent in the last decade. As a result, UM is relying on private support now more than ever.

When the campaign ended in December 2008, the Ole Miss family had given more than \$240 million, exceeding not only the overall campaign total but other benchmarks as well.

One of those benchmarks was to attract 10,000 first-time donors. More than 24,000 people who contributed to MomentUM made their first gift to the University. Another benchmark was to enlist 100 new donors at the \$100,000 or higher level. Of the 355

ventures," said Glenn, of Memphis. "Momentum is an appropriate word to describe the energy at Ole Miss."

## Impact on the Campus

The Ole Miss family responded enthusiastically to the MomentUM Campaign—contributing \$46 million to literally change the face of the Oxford and Jackson campuses. So many needs will be met thanks to the work of the past four years.

- The Inn at Ole Miss was expanded to create an eight-story hotel and conference center where alumni and friends can relax.
- The new Robert C. Khayat School of Law building will open in 2010.
- Renovations to Old Chemistry and Carrier and Anderson halls, as well as a partnership with Toyota Motor Corp, will create the School of Engineering Complex and the Center for Manufacturing Excellence.
- Construction of the new Pharmacy Practice Building will soon begin in Jackson.
- The first residential college is nearing completion.
- The FedEx Student-Athlete Academic Support Center was created, and new practice facilities for the football and basketball teams were built. In addition, an expansion to Oxford-University Stadium is nearly complete.

"First impressions are important," Khayat said. "A beautiful, modern campus is attractive and welcoming to both visitors and students."

## Impact on Faculty and Academics

The MomentUM Campaign raised \$8.8 million to fund faculty fellowships, chairs and professorships on the main campus.

"Attracting and retaining the best possible faculty is critical to our success and the success of our students," said Provost Morris Stocks. "Since the strength of a great university resides in its faculty, supporting them is a major priority for the University of Mississippi."

Besides endowing faculty positions, campaign funds have helped create and support the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, the Center for



Site of the Robert C. Khayat School of Law building, to be completed in 2010

gifts at that level, 153 were from first-time donors. Lastly, the University sought to increase future gifts from the estates of donors. Nearly \$23 million was committed through planned and deferred giving, providing Ole Miss with a source of funds many years into the future.

Other family members also stepped up to demonstrate their affection. Faculty, staff and retirees, many of whom have allegiances to their own alma maters, gave more than \$8 million to the campaign.

Alumni Mike Glenn, Sam and Mary Donnelly Haskell and Deuce McAllister served as co-chairs of the campaign.

"I've seen firsthand the enthusiasm that's generated when an institution takes off on an exciting new

# million Goal

Mathematics and Science Education, the Center for Literacy Education and the J.D. Williams Library's Information Commons.

## Impact on Students

Donors provided \$44.8 million in scholarship funds for Oxford students since the beginning of the MomentUM Campaign.

The funds have helped students through such programs as Ole Miss First, the Ole Miss Women's Council and Lott Leadership Scholarships, all of which provide mentoring, service learning and leadership development in addition to tuition assistance.

Other private scholarship support, which includes funding from the Luckyday Foundation, the E.H. Sumners Foundation, the Hearin Foundation and the Barksdale family, are designed to help students leave Ole Miss without heavy debt burdens, or help students who would not otherwise be able to realize their dreams of an education.

"My mother had been a stay-at-home mom for more than 20 years, and my father worked at a factory



Alumni (left to right) Mike Glenn, Mary Donnelly Haskell, Sam Haskell and Deuce McAllister served as co-chairs of the MomentUM Campaign

for more than 20 years," said Neely Lott Metcalf, a 2005 graduate and Luckyday Scholarship recipient. "Had I not received the Luckyday Scholarship, I would have been attending a community college near home. I would not trade my Ole Miss experience for the world. The friendships, organizations and courses were so memorable and enjoyable that I know I would not have been able to have such a high-caliber experience anywhere else."

## Impact on the Medical Center

The University of Mississippi Medical Center campus in Jackson exceeded its goal, raising more than \$7 million for facilities, more than \$30 million for faculty support and \$11 million for scholarships. The funds are creating endowed chairs and professorships; establishing the University Heart Center, a Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, and a Cancer Institute; and supporting renovations of the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children.

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In the end, the Ole Miss family rallied around Khayat and his vision for the University of Mississippi to make the MomentUM Campaign a success.

"He wants to make things better for people," said Carolyn Ellis Staton, who retired as UM provost in 2008 and serves as special assistant to the chancellor. "That first took shape in the way

## MomentUM Totals

**Total gifts: \$240 million**

### Oxford Campus

- Facilities support: \$39 million
- Faculty and academics: \$8.8 million
- Scholarships: \$44.8 million
- School and program support: \$97.4 million

**Medical Center Campus: \$50 million**

**Planned and deferred gifts: \$23 million**

**Gifts from faculty and staff: \$8 million**



Thanks to the MomentUM Campaign, the Inn at Ole Miss was expanded to an eight-story hotel and conference center

he took care of students, but it expanded to employees, faculty, alumni and friends. They genuinely felt he cares about them, and that set the stage for lots of people to be invested in his vision. I think that's a real rarity in a leader."

During his 14-year tenure, Khayat, who will retire in June 2009, garnered more than \$827 million in private contributions, which allowed the university to achieve its many wide-ranging goals.

"Robert Khayat enables people to believe in themselves and what they're doing," said Gloria Kellum, UM's vice chancellor for university relations since 1998. "Because of that, Ole Miss became 'the little engine that could,' and we accomplished things that faculty, staff, students and alumni believed impossible only a decade or two ago. He inspired all of us to come together to build a great public university."

# Houston, Texas, Foundation Supports Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children, Ole Miss First

For James “Joc” Carpenter, helping make possible a \$1.5 million gift to the University was a little bit like playing Santa Claus.

Carpenter, an Ole Miss alumnus who lives in Port Gibson, serves on the board of the Madison Charitable Foundation, a private organization created and funded by his longtime friend Wiley Hatcher, of Houston, Texas.

“He said he wanted to help people in need,” Carpenter said. “That was the instruction. It was that simple.”

Of the total gift from the Madison Foundation, \$1 million will help support the renovation of the pediatric emergency department at Mississippi’s only children’s hospital, the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children, part of the UM Medical Center in Jackson. The remaining \$500,000 will create the Madison Foundation Ole Miss First Endowment.

“It is clear that the Madison Foundation has a sincere desire to help people in need,” Chancellor Robert Khayat said. “We are grateful for this gift and for the dedication and support of all those involved with the organization, especially Joc Carpenter. This gift will help us improve trauma care for children and provide scholarships for deserving students.”



Leigh Anne and Joc Carpenter

Dan Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, said, “We are grateful to the Madison Foundation for their support of the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. We appreciate the thoughtful consideration of the trustees, especially Joc Carpenter. This gift provides the margin of excellence we need to meet the needs of Mississippi’s children.”

Carpenter feels it’s rewarding to be involved with the Madison Foundation, especially after touring the hospital. “It makes you realize how many giving people there are in this world,” he said.

We are supporting several organizations in Mississippi,” he added. “It’s a lot of fun. We’re not looking for publicity or recognition. We just want to help.”

Suzan Thames, chairman of the board of Friends of Children’s Hospital, greatly appreciates that help. “I had the opportunity to meet with Joc and Leigh Anne for a tour of the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children,” she said. “Both their personal dedication and financial commitment to improving the quality of life of children in Mississippi was most evident in their caring and sharing of information



and ideas. I felt an immediate kindred spirit with these special friends. The Madison Foundation’s generous donation to our children’s hospital will greatly enhance the quality of medical care of the sick and injured children of our state.”

The Madison Foundation Ole Miss First Endowment will provide two Ole Miss First scholarships that will be awarded in perpetuity. Ole Miss First is a unique scholarship program that includes a mentorship component. Madison Foundation Scholars will be full-time freshmen who are Mississippi residents.

Hatcher, the man behind the Madison Foundation, is a Mississippi native who lived in Port Gibson for more than 25 years before relocating to Houston, where he developed a pipeline engineering company, which he recently sold. The proceeds from the sale are funding his charitable foundation.

“He wanted the money to be put to work now,” Carpenter said. “He wanted to be able to see it help people right away.”

Perhaps inspired by Hatcher, Carpenter and his wife, Leigh Anne, also an Ole Miss graduate, recently seeded the John Edward Ainsworth Ole Miss First Scholarship. The scholarship honors Carpenter’s cousin, who graduated from the University in 1959 and died in 1998.

“He was a devoted Ole Miss fan and loved Ole Miss,” Carpenter said. “He’d be tickled about it. It would make him smile.”

Besides the John Edward Ainsworth Ole Miss First Scholarship, the Carpenters, longtime Ole Miss supporters, also recently made their own gift to support the Batson Hospital.



Batson Hospital patient Ja-Marcus Martin (left) will benefit from the Madison Foundation’s gift

# Estate Endows Liberal Arts, Medical Scholarships

Alumnus Clarence Thomas Hill Jr.'s hunger for knowledge and dedication to education continues through a bequest of \$1.4 million for University scholarships.

Hill's nephew, Julian Hill Jr., an oncologist in Tupelo, remembers his uncle as a man who valued education. "He thought of his life as a lifelong educational project," the younger Hill said. "He had a tremendous personal library. We could have conversations on just about anything."

The money from Hill's estate will establish the Dorothy Palmer Landrum and C. Thomas Hill Jr., M.D., Endowment, which will create scholarship opportunities for Ole Miss students in both the College of Liberal Arts and the Medical Center, in Jackson.

"Scholarships remain a priority for the University and the College of Liberal Arts as we continue to attract and retain the highest caliber students," said Glenn Hopkins, dean of the College. "We are grateful for this gift."

Dan Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine echoed Hopkins' sentiments. "Lives will be changed through this gift.



Dorothy and C. Thomas Hill Jr.

Medical students will have the opportunity to choose a practice type and location with less burden of financial debt. And communities in Mississippi will benefit from having well-trained physicians to provide compassionate care."

A native of Corinth, Hill was born in 1919. It was his lifelong dream to become a pilot, and in 1940 he entered the Army Air Corps and earned his wings. When he had to leave the Army a year later due to medical complications, Hill took a job as a private flight instructor in Ponca City, Okla. It was there that

he met his wife, Dorothy Palmer Landrum, a Ponca City native. The couple married in 1945.

Hill's work at the private flight school in Ponca City led to a job training pilots for Great Britain's Royal Air Force. He was given a commission with the RAF and flew transports between Africa and England, and England and the U.S. Part of his job was transporting the wounded, which piqued his interest in medicine.

After the war, he and Dorothy moved to New York City, where he worked as a pilot for American Airlines. After one particularly rough landing in snow and ice at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, Hill vowed to his brother, Julian Hill Sr., that he would never fly again. He came to Oxford, where his brother was already a student, to begin his medical education.

Hill earned a medical certificate from UM in 1951, and took his medical degree from the University of Tennessee in 1952. He was a fellow in radiology and nuclear medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern School of Medicine. He practiced radiology in Clovis, New Mexico, until he retired and returned to Ponca City with his wife after she fell ill. He died in 2007 at age 87.



Ventress Hall, home of the College of Liberal Arts

## Bancroft Fund's Gift Transforms Children's Hospital

Health care for the state's most critically ill and injured children will be greatly enhanced through a \$2.5 million pledge from the Joseph C. Bancroft Charitable and Educational Fund to the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. The money will fund the renovation of the only pediatric intensive care unit in the state.

"This extraordinary gift from the Bancroft Fund will transform our ability to provide state-of-the-art intensive care for Mississippi's children by almost doubling our capacity," said Dan Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. "It will allow us to care for children from all over our state in the most technologically advanced and family-centered facilities."

Originally built in 1997, Batson Hospital's PICU currently has 16 intensive care beds and 14 transitional beds designated for less critically ill patients not well enough to transfer to one of the general pediatric



**Gerald M. Abdalla (left) talks about a \$2.5 million pledge for the renovation of the pediatric intensive care unit at the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children in Jackson as Dan Jones looks on**

floors. In the last year, the unit averaged approximately 150 admissions per month and occasionally experienced bed shortages.

Renovation plans for the unit include moving the transitional care beds to another floor in the hospital, dedicating 28 beds exclusively to intensive care.

Additionally, two centrally-located nurses' stations will be replaced with several smaller stations located between two rooms, allowing nurses to observe patients at all times.

Design plans also enhance the hospital's family-centered care environment by increasing the number of rooms in which parents can stay overnight with their children. Further changes involve creating a larger waiting room and designating private areas for family consultations.

"Batson Hospital is a critical resource for the health care of children in our state," said Gerald M. Abdalla, director of the Bancroft Fund. "We consider this to be a project to benefit the children of Mississippi."



## Alumnus Celebrates Physician Friend's Life With Gift

Alumnus James M. Brock has made a planned gift to the Arthur C. Guyton Research Center at the UM Medical Center. Brock and Guyton were friends and classmates at Ole Miss and later roommates at Harvard Medical School.

"Arthur Guyton was an outstanding individual," Brock said. "He was a great guy and I feel privileged to have known him and to have called him a friend. That's why I wanted to make a gift to Ole Miss in his name."

Brock, who earned a bachelor's degree in 1941 and a medical certificate in 1942, both from UM, said of Guyton, "He was so intelligent and industrious. He was working on the motorized wheelchair at the time we were in school."

Guyton, an Oxford native, is credited with the invention of the electric wheelchair. He also broke ground in hypertension research and wrote the *Textbook of Medical Physiology*, still used in physiology classrooms. Guyton chaired the department of physiology and biophysics at the medical school for 34 years. He died in 2003. His father, Billy S. Guyton, an



**Sandra Guest, vice president of the UM Foundation, with James Brock**

eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, was also dean of the two-year medical school, then located on the Oxford campus.

The Guyton Research Center houses the department of physiology and biophysics, the Center for Excellence in Cardiovascular-Renal Research and researchers in other fields, including cancer, obesity and metabolic diseases.

"We are grateful for the support from Dr. Brock," said Dan Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, adding that the gift "allows us to add to the Guyton legacy with continued research excellence."

Brock's gift is a charitable remainder annuity, which allows for annuity payments to the donor for life, and provides significant tax benefits.

Brock, a McComb native, left Harvard Medical School before finishing his degree due to rheumatic fever. After a lengthy recovery, Brock earned his medical degree from Tulane University and did his dermatological training at Tulane and Louisiana State University. He opened the Brock Skin Clinic in McComb 60 years ago and still practices there six days a week.

Four of Brock's five children earned degrees from Ole Miss. His son James Brock Jr. is a medical doctor.

Brock also plays trombone in Dr. Jim's One More Time Band and in a New Orleans-based jazz trio. He fell in love with playing jazz when he played in the Ole Miss dance band, the Mississippians.

## Barksdale Foundation Extends Current Scholarship Funding

The Barksdale family will continue to fund full-ticker scholarships to medical students at the Medical Center.

The Bryan Barksdale, M.D., Scholarship, the Fred McDonnell, M.D., Scholarship and the Don Mitchell, M.D., Scholarship will be extended to attract more students to the Medical Center, according to David Barksdale, director of the Barksdale Foundation.

"Mr. (James) Barksdale has again made a commitment to funding scholarships that will change the lives of individuals; strengthen our School of Medicine by allowing us to recruit the brightest and by allowing us to continue to improve our diversity; and change the lives of many Mississippians when these health professionals complete their training and begin their practices in Mississippi communities," said Dan Jones, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

The scholarships were created in 1999 with a \$2 million gift from James and Sally Barksdale to

encourage highly qualified African-American medical students to stay in Mississippi for their medical training. The Barksdales named the scholarships in honor of the physicians in their family: Dr. Bryan Barksdale and Dr. Don Mitchell, both of Jackson, and Dr. Fred McDonnell, of Hazlehurst.

"Our family is delighted with the quality of students the Medical Center is attracting with these scholarships," David Barksdale said. "We have met many of the scholarship recipients and are following their successful careers with interest."

Barksdale scholar Katreece Ellis said she is grateful for her scholarship.



Barksdale scholars Katreece Ellis and Dustin Markle examine tissue specimens in a histology lab

"The Barksdale scholarship has enabled me to concentrate on my studies and focus on becoming the best doctor possible without worrying about financial difficulties, present or future," she said, adding that she feels thrilled to know she'll be able to serve Mississippi and its people.

The Barksdale Foundation has also provided funds to establish the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi and established the statewide Barksdale Reading Institute to promote literacy.

"I am grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Barksdale for the commitment of their resources that allow all of us to move forward together," Jones said.

## Greek Council, Tri Deltas Help Children's Hospital

The University of Mississippi Greek Council has contributed to the Friends of the Children's Hospital, the nonprofit organization created to benefit the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children at the UM Medical Center in Jackson. The Greek Council is composed of the presidents of the 32 Greek organizations on the Oxford campus and leaders of the Interfraternity, Panhellenic and National Panhellenic councils. Its members decide the amounts and beneficiaries of the gifts.

In addition, the UM chapter of the Delta Delta Delta sorority has given to the Children's Cancer Clinic at the Batson Hospital.



Greek Council members present a check to Suzan Thames, chair of the board of the Friends of the Children's Hospital

diseases as cancer, epilepsy, cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia and numerous other childhood illnesses. These are wonderful and generous gifts from the Greek students at the University of Mississippi. I can't tell you how much we appreciate everything they have done

"We are absolutely so excited about this," said Suzan Thames, chair of the Friends of the Children's Hospital's board. "So few people realize that the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital is the only children's hospital in the state of Mississippi, treating such

for the children of our state."

The funds given by the Tri Deltas were raised at the Delta Delta Delta Pancakes for Kids event held last fall.

"We wanted to do something to benefit our state," said Elizabeth McRight, president of the sorority and a Greenville native. "This is the first time our sorority has given to the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital, but I know it won't be the last. This is something our girls are really proud of."

Thomas "Sparky" Reardon, dean of students, commended the students for their generosity and desire to positively represent the entire UM Greek community.

"These students are scholars and leaders who believe in giving to others," Reardon said. "Ole Miss Greeks provide support and services for agencies, organizations and individuals. These gifts to benefit the Batson Hospital are especially meaningful since the funds will be used to help the children of Mississippi. This is an outstanding achievement and we, as a university, appreciate and applaud their efforts and generosity."

## Longtime UMMC Nurse Establishes Scholarship

**B**ess Blackwell's mother was a private duty licensed practical nurse, and watching her mother's love for her profession inspired Blackwell to become a nurse as well. Blackwell's 33-year career at the University Medical Center ended this year with her retirement, but her drive to inspire others to enter the nursing profession continues.

To that end she established the Bess Crawley Blackwell Scholarship Endowment in Nursing. The purpose of the endowment is to provide scholarships to promote excellence among nursing students and to help ethnic minority students



Bess Blackwell

who are preparing for a nursing career.

Two scholarships will be issued each year to students seeking an undergraduate nursing degree.

"When I thought about this scholarship, I was very blessed to have my mother pay my tuition. I know of other people who were not as blessed to have parents to pay for school, and at least I can give back to those people and the

profession of nursing," she said.

Kaye Bender, dean of the School of Nursing, said

Blackwell is an excellent role model for nurses.

"She has been a strong supporter of the UMMC School of Nursing. Having a scholarship in her name will help the School further its goal of encouraging nurses from diverse backgrounds into the profession. Bess' legacy will continue for many years to come," she said.

Blackwell, who graduated in 1976, said nursing school was difficult but her mother encouraged her. "You don't go into nursing for the money or hours. You do it because you love people. You've got to be a patient's advocate," she said.

Blackwell hopes her contribution will encourage more people to enter the nursing profession, particularly as the nursing shortage continues to impact the health care industry: "I wanted to do what I could to assist them in meeting their goals of becoming a nurse," she said. "I hope to continue to be a role model to help them live out their passion."

## Scholarship Supports Graduate Nursing

**A** student's financial need and an untimely family death led Janet Harris to think about how to leave a legacy and impact her profession's future.

Harris, chief nursing executive at University Hospital, mentored a graduate student in the nursing executive track who was a single mother and needed help continuing her education. The student raised her awareness of the financial need of adults who work full time and have families. Concurrently, the unexpected death of her only niece's husband forced her to take stock of how finite life is.

"It prompted a discussion with my husband about what we wanted when one of us dies," she said. "The result of that conversation highlighted what my true passions are."

The establishment of the Janet Y. Harris Scholarship in the School of Nursing at the Medical Center will provide money to fuel her passion of training nurse professionals.

"I didn't want to wait until I die to do this," Harris said. "I wanted to watch what these people

would do after they received that scholarship and completed their graduate education. It is a small way I can contribute to my alma mater and the overall profession of nursing."

Kaye Bender, School of Nursing dean, noted: "There's limited scholarship money available for graduate nursing education, so when one of our alumni steps up to the plate and helps a fellow nurse, it helps the whole profession." Bender added that having Harris' name on the scholarship "encourages these recipients to follow in her footsteps."

Helen Watts said her advisor recommended that she apply for the scholarship.

"It was a great honor to be considered for the scholarship, and I have since gone into working in the Mississippi Department of Education as the state school nurse consultant," Watts said. "I'm really excited to be in a position where I can help school nurses to be ready for their jobs."

Harris said she encourages every UM Nursing graduate to consider how they can contribute to the



Janet Harris, right, presents a scholarship to nursing student Helen Watts

advancement of nursing, because the needs are great.

"If every person that's an alumnus gave \$10 or \$15 every year, we would make a significant difference to students," she said. "The bottom line is, I got a great education here, and the very least thing I can do is give back to my alma mater."

## Scholarship Honors Family's Four Generations at UM

To honor her father's lifelong dedication to Ole Miss and a family commitment that has spanned four generations, Ann H. Gresham of Indianola has given \$100,000 to establish the George P. Hopkins Engineering Scholarship Endowment.

Scholarship recipients will be full-time freshmen who are pursuing a degree in engineering. Students from Sunflower County, where Indianola is located, and Harrison County, where Hopkins' hometown of Gulfport is located, will be given first preference.

"The School of Engineering is deeply grateful for this gift from Ann Gresham," said Kai Fong Lee, dean of the engineering school. "The amount of scholarship we can offer a student is an important factor in the student's decision of which university to attend. We have been blessed with the generosity of many donors and the Hopkins Scholarship will enhance the school's competitiveness in attracting outstanding students to the University of Mississippi."

Gresham said she hopes the scholarship helps send deserving students through the UM School of



George P. Hopkins

Engineering, a program that has played a large role in her family's life. After her father earned his degree in civil engineering in 1917, his son, George P. Hopkins Jr., a 1950 graduate, and great-grandson, George P. Hopkins IV, a 2008 graduate, also earned engineering degrees. Another of Hopkins' great-grandsons, Michael Gresham, is currently enrolled in the engineering school.

"We are big Rebel fans," said Ann Gresham, who also attended Ole Miss. "I mainly wanted this scholarship to be in memory of my father and to recognize his sons and grandsons who have pursued civil engineering. I just hope it will help smart, young engineers to go out into the world and be better citizens."

Hopkins, who died in 1964, was an avid follower of Ole Miss athletics, and he enjoyed attending football and baseball games most. He was the founder of Gulfport-based George P. Hopkins Inc., a contracting and engineering company still in the Hopkins family.

## Gift Finishes Tech Space in Williams Library

Thanks to a recent gift of \$100,000, the final phase of the Information Commons, a new technology-driven lounge and study space in the Williams Library, has been completed.

"We are incredibly excited about the completion of this much needed new space for our students and other library patrons," said Julia Rholes, dean of libraries. "There is a vast universe of materials now available in digital formats and, thanks to this generous gift, our students will be able to access them. The state-of-the-art technology and cozy spaces will make studying and conducting research in the Information Commons a pleasure."

The donor of the gift wishes to remain anonymous, but according to Michael Upton, development officer for University Libraries, the need for the commons was widely known around campus.

"We received this generous gift from a faculty member who was aware of the project and felt it was a great opportunity to serve the students and University,"

Upton said.

The funds were used to help purchase furniture that made the commons area open and fully functional.

Stan Whitehorn, operations manager, said he is grateful for the support.

"For the past 10 years, there has been a movement in the library community to have an information commons," Whitehorn said. "More students are sticking around in here to study, and we're here to make that experience better."

The Information Commons includes three group study areas, 43 new computer stations, comfortable new furniture and an updated copy and print station.



The J.D. Williams Library, home of the new Information Commons

## Lectureship Grows Into Professorship

**B**ig Four accounting firm KPMG LLP has established the KPMG Professorship in Accountancy at Ole Miss.

In 2002 several KPMG partners established a lectureship in accountancy, which required a \$250,000 commitment. Now KPMG partners and other employees have committed to growing the fund to over \$500,000 to fund a full professorship.

“We understand the goals and objectives of the Patterson School of Accountancy and we’re happy to step it up and continue our support,” said Matt Lusco, a UM alumnus and the managing partner in the Memphis, Tenn., and Birmingham, Ala., KPMG offices. “We benefit a lot from the outstanding talent that’s available to us and we hire a number of Ole Miss graduates in many of our offices around the country. We’re proud of our partnership with the Patterson School and hope to keep growing this position until it reaches the endowed chair level.”

In addition to their financial support, KPMG has

granted the Patterson School “Premier” status. This KPMG designation is given to just 40 schools nationwide for placing high-achieving students in KPMG International’s member firm offices.

“We are especially grateful to KPMG for this generous gift to the Patterson School of Accountancy,” said Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the UM Foundation. “KPMG is a longtime supporter of the Patterson School and many of our graduates go on to rewarding careers with the firm. Clearly KPMG is committed to helping provide our students with the best accounting education possible.”

The current holder of the KPMG Professorship is Mark Wilder, who also serves as dean of the Patterson School. Professorships, endowed chairs and other esteemed positions are usually held by faculty members whose accomplishments indicate national and international leadership in their field.

“I am honored to hold the KPMG Professorship,” Wilder said. “Our undergraduate, graduate and

doctoral programs are all ranked among the top 30 in the nation, and KPMG’s support will enable us to continue our tremendous success. We have a great partnership with KPMG. We are especially grateful to our alumni with the firm, not only for their financial support, but also for hiring our students and enabling us to achieve ‘Premier’ school status.”

Wilder, who has taught at UM since 1993, is a certified public accountant whose primary teaching has been in financial accounting. He has conducted research in a wide variety of areas, including earnings forecasting, financial reporting and issues facing the profession.

Wilder is actively involved in University and professional service, including a term as president of the Northeast Chapter of the Mississippi Society of CPAs. He recently completed a two-year term on the MSCPA board of governors. In 2005 he received the Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award, the highest honor for faculty at Ole Miss.

## Kellogg Foundation Funds William Winter Institute

**P**romoting dialogue and community building around improved race relations throughout Mississippi is the goal of the Welcome Table: An Era of Dialogue on Race, an initiative of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation at UM.

The project is funded in part by a \$250,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich.

“We are delighted to partner with the William Winter Institute around the Welcome Table initiative,” said Alice Warner-Mehlhorn, a Kellogg Foundation program director. “We support the work that the Institute is doing to address the healing of race relationships in Mississippi communities and strongly believe that, when people are provided with the necessary tools, they gain the capacity to make significant change.”

Since its inception in 2006, the Welcome Table effort has implemented outreach programs throughout Mississippi. One such program is the Philadelphia Coalition in Neshoba County, one of the first areas in



**Susan Glisson (far left) executive director of the Winter Institute, and Gov. William Winter (fourth from left) with Winter Institute staff and volunteers**

dialogue and community building. Community leaders from around the state will receive training in a series of three retreats and then be supported in their local work.

“We have heard from across the state that Mississippians are interested in talking about race more honestly but do not know how,” said Susan Glisson, executive director of the Winter Institute. “The Welcome Table project is one tool to help initiate frank but civil dialogue.”

Established in 1930, the W.K.

Kellogg Foundation supports children,

families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean and southern Africa.

Besides the Kellogg Foundation, the Hearin Foundation and the Fetzer Institute have also made gifts to support the Welcome Table project.

## Alumna Creates Women's Excellence Endowment

When alumna Donna Ruth Roberts moved back to Oxford eight years ago, she knew she was home to stay. Roberts, who graduated from Ole Miss in 1965, grew up in Yazoo City and lived much of her life in Memphis, Tenn. But no matter her whereabouts, her love for Ole Miss was always with her. That's why she created the Donna Ruth Roberts Business Women's Excellence Endowment with a gift of \$250,000 to support the UM School of Business Administration.

"I truly love Ole Miss," Roberts said. "It's great to get involved with the University. It's something that keeps you going."

Roberts stays involved with the business school by serving on its board, mentoring students, judging competitions and funding scholar-



Donna Ruth Roberts

ships. In 2001 she created the Donna Ruth Else Roberts Council Scholarship Endowment for UM students pursuing a degree in business.

"We are so grateful to Donna Ruth Roberts for donating not only her financial resources to the business school, but also for being so giving of her time," said Ken Cyree, dean of the business school. "Her involvement with our students, the business advisory board and the faculty has been amazing and inspiring."

Roberts, who stresses the importance of knowing the basics about economics and finance comes from a philanthropic family. "My dad got me interested in

giving," Roberts said. "He didn't have the chance to get an education and so he felt like everyone that wanted to should have the opportunity to do so." The Charles Else School of Management at Millsaps College in Jackson is named for him.

"I would go with him to events at Millsaps and I saw how much his money helped the school and helped the students," Roberts said. "And so when I had the opportunity to do the same for Ole Miss, I was following my dad's role model."

It's a model Roberts hopes others will follow.

"Alumni that come back get to enjoy the school, are able to enjoy the football games, all of the wonderful political debates and all of the things Ole Miss makes possible for us to participate in," she said. "We get a lot from it and we should give back to it."

Roberts also supports the Oxford Film Festival and serves on the executive board for the Republican Party. Last year she served as Gov. Haley Barbour's local campaign chair and as Sen. Thad Cochran's local campaign chair.

## Accounting Firm Supports Patterson School

Jackson-based accounting firm Horne LLP has created the Horne LLP Accountancy Excellence Endowment at the University of Mississippi with a gift of \$100,000. The endowment will support the Patterson School of Accountancy, which has a long-standing partnership with Horne.

"We have more than 40 Ole Miss graduates working at Horne and have more starting in the next few months," said Ron Applewhite, a Horne partner who earned his accountancy degree from UM in 1975. "We all agreed that we have benefited personally and financially from our relationship with Ole Miss and the Patterson School of Accountancy, and we have an obligation to give back. We have always asked our team members to support their alma maters, and with the Ole Miss grads, it is an easy ask."

The endowment will create a general fund for

the Patterson School's greatest needs, which include scholarships and faculty support, among other areas.

"We are grateful for Horne's support as well as the time they give to our students," said Mark Wilder, dean of the Patterson School. "Horne is a longtime supporter of the Patterson School and is committed to helping provide our students with the best accounting education."

Horne team members and UM alumni Terry Traylor, Joey Havens and Ginny Stearns have also made contributions to the endowment.

"The Patterson School provided me with the education that has helped me succeed throughout my career," said Traylor, Horne chief operating officer and partner, who earned his accountancy degree in 1987.

Havens, a 1980 graduate who is a Horne

partner in charge and board member, agreed: "Ole Miss has achieved excellence today because of its great family of people. Achieving and growing excellence requires significant investments in facilities, faculty and critical resources. Thus it requires everyone to do their part."

Giving back is also a top priority for Stearns, a 2005 graduate and Horne senior associate. "The opportunities I was given at Ole Miss were made possible by the generous donations from alumni and friends of the University," she said. "I wanted to do my part to make sure current students were given the same opportunities I was while at Ole Miss."

The 2008 Public Accounting Report ranked Horne one of the top 50 accounting and business advisory firms in the country. Horne has 13 offices in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana and Arizona.

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Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

Oxford/Lafayette County Economic

Development Foundation

Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease

The Phil Hardin Foundation

## UM Department Seeds Scholarship

UM's department of printing and graphic services has created the first-ever scholarship of its kind.

Though many university employees give back to Ole Miss, this is the first gift ever made by a university department as a whole.

The funds to create the endowment will come from both department employee gifts and departmental revenue. Printing and graphic services is an auxiliary unit of the University, which means it does not receive funding from the University or the state. Rather, the department generates its own revenue for wages, benefits, retirement, health insurance and utilities by charging for its services, some of which include graphic design, printing, copying, digital color printing, Web design and bindery.

"The scholarship will grow each time the campus community hires us for our services," said Tony Seaman, department director. "We plan to contribute annually to the endowment by giving a percentage of our profits to the fund, so the more work we do on campus, the larger the contribution we can make."

Scholarship recipients will be full-time students pursuing a degree in fine arts with a focus on graphic



Vice Chancellor Larry Sparks with Hilarie Bain and Tony Seaman of printing and graphic services present a check to Chancellor Robert Khayat

or Web design.

"By creating this scholarship we feel we can have a direct impact on the University's core mission of education," Seaman said. "With the increasing costs of tuition and related costs, this scholarship will perhaps make a difference to a student who might not otherwise be able to afford a college education. And who knows? We might help kick off the career of a talented up-and-coming young artist or designer."

## Couple Honors Barry Hannah



Barry Hannah

University of Mississippi adjunct biology professor Howard Lenhoff and his wife, Sylvia, have honored their friends by creating the Barry and Susan Hannah Creative Writing Scholarship Endowment.

Barry Hannah, a novelist and short story writer, is a writer-in-residence at UM. His first novel, *Geronimo Rex*, won the William Faulkner Prize for fiction and was nominated for the National Book Award when he was just 30. His first collection of short stories, *Airships*, is now considered a modern classic.

"Barry Hannah is really very special," Howard Lenhoff said. "He's a national treasure. We're hoping that this is a seed gift that will encourage his many, many friends and students to give something that will allow more students an opportunity to study with Barry."

First preference for the scholarship will be given to a graduate student in the creative writing program in the English department at Ole Miss.

The Lenhoffs, who spent the majority of their careers at the University of California, Irvine, where Howard is a professor emeritus of biology and Sylvia served as director of relations with schools and colleges, retired to Oxford six years ago. Soon after they relocated, they got interested "and we started reading his work," Sylvia said. "We called him soon after that to see about taking a class from him. He was so gracious and let us in the class even though it was already full."

The class led Howard to become more than just a fan—it helped him become a better writer, too.

Since taking Hannah's class, Lenhoff himself has authored and co-authored several books.

It's this love of writing that the Lenhoffs hope Hannah will pass on to as many more students as possible.

## Alumnus Creates Business Scholarship

Alumnus John “Chip” Crunk, of Nashville, Tenn., established the Crunk Family Scholarship Endowment with a gift of \$100,000. The scholarship will be awarded to UM students pursuing degrees in business who are from the middle Tennessee area.

Crunk, who was the first person in his family to attend college, said he was motivated to create the scholarship to help students who might not otherwise be able to pursue their dreams of an education.

“I just hope someone gets to go to college on this scholarship that may not have had the chance,” he said. “In these difficult



John “Chip” Crunk

economic times it becomes that much more important for alumni to give back when they can.”

Crunk, who graduated from UM in 1987, holds a degree in business administration. He also serves on the school’s advisory board.

“I’ve gotten more involved as the years have gone by and it’s been fun,” he said.

Crunk said his gift was also made out of admiration for Chancellor Robert Khayat.

“He has such a passion for the University and that really impressed me,” he said. “After having dinner with him a few

times, I knew how committed he was and that made me want to give back.”

Besides supporting the School of Business Administration, Crunk also contributes to UM’s athletics programs. He and his family, including his two children, return to Oxford often for sporting events.

“Chip Crunk’s generosity is making a difference in the lives of our students and our student-athletes every day,” said Debbie Vaughn, assistant vice chancellor for university relations. “We are grateful to the Crunk family for their continued support and are glad they are part of our Ole Miss family.”

Crunk is president and CEO of RJ Young Co., an office equipment and supply company headquartered in Nashville.

## Company Surprises Past President With Gift in His Name

The employees of Bryson & Company Insurance, headquartered in Ridgeland, have honored the company’s past president, Bill Bryson, by creating the William M. “Bill” Bryson Fund for Insurance Excellence at the University of Mississippi.

Seeded with a gift from Bryson & Company, the fund will support faculty in UM’s risk management and insurance program in the School of Business Administration, of which Bryson is an alumnus. Bryson earned his degree in 1949 and was a member of the first class to graduate with a major in insurance after Ole Miss added the program to its curriculum in 1947.

A group including Bryson’s son, Sam, the current president of Bryson & Company, surprised him with the gift at the 2008 Ole Miss Insurance Symposium, held March 25-26 at the University.

“I was completely surprised. It was something I hadn’t even considered,” Bryson said. “It was a generous act on their account. I sincerely appreciate what they did for me and for the young people preparing themselves to enter the insurance industry.”

In 1971, Bill Bryson joined a three-person agency then known as Guy Bailey Insurance. Today, Bryson & Company is one of Mississippi’s largest independent insurance agencies.

“We are deeply grateful for this gift from Sam Bryson and Bryson & Company,” said Larry Cox, chair of the risk management and insurance program. “Bill Bryson has dedicated his career to this industry and this is a fitting way to honor him. I know I can speak on behalf of all of our risk management and insurance faculty when we say we are so appreciative for the support and generosity from the Bryson family and Bryson employees.”

Since graduating from UM, Bryson, a Friars Point native who now lives in Clinton, has served on the risk management and insurance program’s advisory committee. He was vice president and on



Sam Bryson (left), president of Bryson & Company Insurance, with his father, Bill Bryson

the board of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents, and served as president of its state association. During his lifelong career in the insurance industry, Bryson served for 36 years in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve; he was called into active duty during World War II and the Korean War, and retired in 1989 with the rank of colonel.

Bryson’s father, L. L. Bryson, gradu-

ated from UM in 1922, and of Bryson’s three children, two have direct ties to Ole Miss. Kathy Bryson Cook, of Rome, Ga., graduated from the UM School of Business Administration in 1970 and Janet Bryson Flint, of Batesville, is currently attending Ole Miss.

## Alumna Establishes Scholarship for Pet Lovers

A new scholarship endowment's aim is "recognizing and rewarding people who are kind to animals," according to alumna Miriam Wilson Weems, who established the fund.

Weems, who holds degrees in French and art from Ole Miss, recently created the Miriam W. Weems Pet Lovers Scholarship Endowment. Scholarship recipients will be full-time students in the College of Liberal Arts who have a history of caring for unwanted or abused dogs or cats.

"Animals are dear to my heart," said Weems, who helped establish and run the Oxford



Miriam Wilson Weems

Lafayette Humane Society in the 1970s, when she lived in Oxford.

"I knew a student who was entering Ole Miss who had rescued two dogs and she told me she was going to miss her pets," Weems said. "I wanted to create a scholarship for someone like this student, someone who is kind to those who can't take up for themselves."

Although Weems is well-known among pet lovers in Oxford and Jackson for rescuing scores of dogs and cats over the years, she is more widely known for her artwork. A collection of

more than 100 of her paintings, titled *Mostly Mississippi* is currently in bookstores.

Published by Quail Ridge Press, of Brandon, the book is the result of a show by the same name that hung in the University Museum in 2006 at the invitation of UM Chancellor Robert Khayat. Weems said that she will donate some proceeds from the book to the newly established scholarship.

"We are profoundly grateful to Miriam Weems for this unique opportunity to help students," said Glenn Hopkins, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "We strive to attract the best and brightest students and no doubt many of them care deeply for animals."

Weems noted that her husband, Tommy, and UM Professor Emeritus of English Chuck Noyes, who recently passed away, also contributed to the fund.

## Accountancy Chair continued from Cover

accounting students," said Chancellor Robert Khayat. "We are grateful for and inspired by their support."

The chair will help the Patterson School recruit and retain the best possible faculty to insure that quality teaching, research and service will be available for current and future generations of Ole Miss students.

"The School of Accountancy is an outstanding program," Burns said. "We thought this would be a good way to give something back and attract some world-class talent to the school. Faculty support is a great need and is something I feel strongly about supporting."

Under the tutelage of accountancy professors Gene Peery, James Davis and Diane Pearson, Burns excelled in his coursework.

"When I was a student the support that I got from the professors there was tremendous," he said. "It helped me get off to a good start in my career. When I look back at Ole Miss, the key part that contributed to my success was the quality of the professors. Their whole lives revolved around the students and you

knew that the moment you got there. They really took an interest in their students' careers and personal development."

"This generous gift from the Burns family demonstrates their commitment to quality accounting education and we are so grateful for their support, said Mark Wilder, dean of the Patterson School. "Roland has had an outstanding career and is such a tremendous success story. We are very proud of him."

After earning his degrees from Ole Miss, Burns spent eight years with accounting firm Arthur Andersen LLP in Dallas, Texas. He then went on to join Comstock Resources, a publically held oil and natural gas company, where he has served as senior vice president, CFO and treasurer. Since then, he's watched his career flourish in tandem with Comstock's growth—from a market capitalization of \$35 million in 1990 to more than \$2.3 billion today. In 2004, Burns was critical in establishing and taking public Bois d'Arc Energy, a Gulf of Mexico exploration company that Comstock sold in 2008 for \$1.8 billion.

"I've gotten to know Roland and Sheryl personally and they are such warm, giving people," said assistant vice chancellor for university relations Debbie Vaughn. "As evidenced by their work with Legacy Christian Academy and now this wonderful gift to the School of Accountancy, it is clear that they are committed to supporting education."

Burns' ties with Ole Miss are strong. He stays involved with the University and serves on the Patterson School's advisory board. For the last five years, he has made sure that Ole Miss students have the opportunity to work as interns at Comstock. He tries to make it back for at least one football game each season, and both his sons have become big Ole Miss fans. Following in his footsteps, Burns' eldest son, Derek, a high school senior, is planning to come to Ole Miss next year as an accounting major.

"I think if you have been successful, then you have an obligation to give back," he said. "It's very rewarding to give, especially to Ole Miss, and it means a lot to me personally. It means a lot to be able to contribute back to those who have invested in you."

## Sorority Gift to Complete Campus Entrance Gates

Visitors arriving at the University of Mississippi campus by way of Highway 6 and Coliseum Drive will soon see new entrance gates, thanks to a \$250,000 commitment from the Delta Gamma House Corporation.

"First impressions are important, and since Robert Khayat became chancellor, one of our goals has been to make sure that our campus entrances are attractive and welcoming to both visitors and students," said Gloria Kellum, vice chancellor for university relations. "We are grateful to the Delta Gamma House Corporation for ensuring we achieve this goal and more importantly for their strong commitment to bettering Ole Miss."

Although plans have not been finalized for the gates, University architect Ian Banner said the brick and stone structures will be similar to those at other Ole Miss entrances. With completion of the Coliseum Drive gates, expected by the end of 2009, all main roads onto campus will boast entrance gates.

"Our group wanted to make a lasting gift to the



Members of the Delta Gamma House Corporation

University," said Carole Haney, president of the Delta Gamma House Corporation board and an alumna of the Delta Gamma social sorority at Ole Miss. "We wanted to say thank you."

The house corporation board, which consists of 12 Ole Miss Delta Gamma alumnae, oversees the

operation of the Delta Gamma house on Sorority Row. The group worked with Kellum on the coordination of the gift. Funds for the gift came from current member dues and alumnae contributions to Delta Gamma along with investment income, according to Haney.

"Supporting Ole Miss is something we believe to be worthy and important to all of us who participate in Delta Gamma," Haney said.

Judy Trott, who also serves on the house corporation board and retired from Ole Miss as dean of students in 2001, said that the group is now looking forward to making another gift to the University. The Delta Gamma House Corporation will soon place a sign in front of Ventress Hall, according to Trott. The historical marker will note the Tiffany stained glass

window inside the 135 year-old building. Original to Ventress, the window was donated by Delta Gamma and commemorates the University Grays, the company of Ole Miss students and faculty killed in the Civil War.

## Teacher Candidates Assist Struggling Young Readers

Fifth-grader Carlos Pettis wants to throw a goodbye party at the end of the semester for reading coach "Miss Hilton," a University of Mississippi senior education major who tutors at his Oxford school.

"Miss Hilton is a great student-teacher," said the smiling 12-year-old, holding his favorite book, *Killer Sharks*. "I love to read about sharks."

Ashley Hilton is one of 15 UM senior education students selected from a reading diagnostics and intervention course to take part in a 10-week reading intervention program at Della Davidson Elementary and Oxford Elementary, two Oxford schools. Aimed at assisting struggling readers, the project also provides the student teachers with a career heads-up. "I look up to my mentor, Mrs. Harris," said Hilton, of Enterprise, Ala. "She's so great with the kids. She's shown me everything from how to discipline to how to be creative and engage the students to learn and love school."

UM's Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction (CELI) partnered with the two schools as a result of the Mississippi Department of Education's Response

to Intervention Model (RIM). Angela Rutherford, CELI director and education professor, said the RIM provides a framework for monitoring a student's skill acquisition and responds to lack of progress with instructional intervention.

"In just two short years since the center was established, we've impacted many struggling readers and elementary education majors," Rutherford said.

Martha McLarty, Della Davidson principal, described the project as a win-win: "The Ole Miss tutors care," McLarty said. "They are a tremendous benefit here at Della Davidson. Reading is everything, and they are helping put my students on a level playing field when they go on to middle school."

Recognizing a child's difficulties is invaluable, but helping that child improve through one-on-one interaction is even sweeter, said Tamara Murphy, a UM senior student-teacher from Oxford.

"Brandon (the student she helps twice weekly) gets to hear fluent reading, he receives extra assistance and in the end he builds his self-confidence in the



Della Davidson student Carlos Pettis reads to UM student Ashley Hilton

classroom," Murphy said. "His word recognition and vocabulary have both increased, and his overall grades have improved."

The CELI is funded through the Robert M. Hearin Foundation, which helps support the reading intervention program with assistance from the Oxford School District.



## Khayat Legacy Fund Celebrates Retiring Chancellor

The University Foundation recently announced the creation of the Robert C. Khayat Legacy Fund, which will provide a means for Ole Miss alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends to honor the outgoing chancellor, who announced he will retire in June. The Legacy Fund will be used to help offset the negative effects of current economic conditions on Ole Miss students and on the academic family.

“Chancellor Khayat’s role as leader, caretaker, mentor, teacher, nurturer and friend has transformed our university’s campuses in so many positive ways,” said Wendell Weakley, UM Foundation president and CEO. “Creating this fund is a very small token of our appreciation and will allow him to direct such resources to areas of greatest need at Ole Miss—truly consistent with his character and practice as our chancellor.”

Gifts to the Khayat Legacy Fund will be receipted into a special account at the Foundation. Khayat will then determine which university initiatives will benefit

from the donations. Priorities include completion of a new law building as well as funding student scholar-

14-year tenure, Khayat garnered more than \$827 million in private contributions, which allowed the

University to achieve many wide-ranging goals. Among them are a steady increase in enrollment, including an increase in National Merit Scholars; the founding of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter; the selection of Ole Miss students for Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Fulbright and Goldwater scholarships; and a Grand Award from the Professional Grounds Management Society for the best maintained college campus in the nation.

Khayat said he is humbled to be able to direct funds to areas of need as one of his last acts as chancellor.

“It has been a privilege to serve our university, and I am grateful for the support provided by our alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends,” Khayat said.

“The Legacy Fund will be of great benefit

and will help continue our efforts to strengthen Ole Miss.”

Those wishing to contribute to the fund can visit [www.umfoundation.com/legacy](http://www.umfoundation.com/legacy) to make a gift.



Chancellor Robert C. Khayat in front of the historic Lyceum

ships and academic programs adversely impacted by the current economic climate.

The University’s 15th chancellor, Khayat announced that he will retire June 30. During his