



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION

# FOUNDATION NEWS

Spring 2010

## Initiatives Focus on Professors, Scholarships Campaign seeks \$100 million for faculty endowment

**A**nounced at the April 9 inauguration of Chancellor Daniel W. Jones, the \$100 million Campaign for Faculty is ensuring that the University of Mississippi can attract and retain the best minds in academia. Included as part of the campaign will be both unrestricted gifts to the newly created Barnard Endowment for Faculty Support as, well as gifts specified for the creation of faculty chairs, professorships and lectureships within UM schools and departments.

"We have amazing faculty at Ole Miss and are extremely fortunate that we've been able to attract such talented teachers and researchers despite limited funding for them," said Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the UM Foundation. "If we want to keep the gifted faculty that we now have and continue to attract the highest caliber

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## Hale Scholarships benefit music, pre-dentistry students

**T**he late Emmette and Nannie Hale of Senatobia survived the Great Depression when there were few educational opportunities – a fact that made them proud of their children's and grandchildren's college degrees. Now a \$500,000 gift in the couple's memory will open a world of opportunities for University of Mississippi students.

Created by a gift from the estate of their son, the late Dr. Alfred Hale of Holly Springs, the Emmette and Nannie Hale Ole Miss First Scholarship Endowment will

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(Top) Faculty member Susan McClelland works with students in the UM School of Education.  
(Bottom) Four grandsons of the late Emmette and Nannie Hale – Buster Hale of Oxford (from left), David and Tim Hale of Senatobia, and Mike McLarty of Oxford – announce the new scholarship endowment.



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION

# FOUNDATION NEWS

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## Message from the Chancellor

As I reflect on my first semester as chancellor of our university, I find it hard to imagine how different the past few months would have been without our devoted, inspiring and generous alumni and friends. Lydia and I thank you for your warm welcome, your words of encouragement and advice, and your remarkable love for our university.

We began this academic year facing many challenges. The consequences of our nation's and state's economic recession have led to a dwindling budget and the necessity of sharply focused planning for the years ahead. Many of us have had to reexamine our priorities, our strengths and our goals. However, the foundation of fiscal strength and conservative fiscal values laid by our alumni, friends and administrators has left us in a better position to face these challenges. We are committed to being good stewards.

It is along those lines that we have decided to expand the leadership roles of our foundation team. Foundation President and CEO Wendell Weakley will be assuming greater responsibilities for overseeing the Office of University Development, which is led by Deborah Vaughn, senior executive director of development and chief development officer.

While it has been a challenging year, the issues we faced have inspired a unity among our constituencies. Alumni, our foundation leaders, administrators, faculty leaders, student leaders and Staff Council have become problem-solving partners committed to facing our economic challenges with a united and measured effort. We will not allow our economic constraints to undermine our commitment to excellence.

So as we move forward, it is my hope that we can continue refocusing our core values and highlight and expand the service component of our threefold mission: teaching, research and service. Central to that mission is providing our students with an enriching educational experience. This spring we have commemorated the transference of leadership by marshaling our university's service component. Opportunities for continued and renewed service efforts both on campus and off are offered to all faculty, staff, students and alumni.

We are extremely fortunate for the support of our alumni and friends, and we are grateful for the responsibility you have placed in us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel W. Jones".

Daniel W. Jones



## Message from the Foundation President

An investment in our faculty is an investment in our students, and subsequently in our academic reputation. With that compelling reasoning, we embark on a new private support initiative – the Campaign for Faculty – with a goal of increasing our endowments for faculty support by \$100 million.

Chancellor Dan Jones has placed attracting faculty support on his list of top priorities, and Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat has agreed to help lead the effort. To recruit and retain top students and to maintain our standing as a premier public university, we must focus on building resources for outstanding faculty members. A dramatic decline in state funding expected to continue through fiscal year 2012 magnifies the vital need for private support for faculty and other areas that impact academic excellence. Please consider supporting the Campaign for Faculty.

With rising tuition costs, the desire to make our university financially accessible is more important now than ever. A new program – Ole Miss Opportunity – will strengthen our commitment to access and affordability for the neediest Mississippians. We hope you will support Ole Miss Opportunity with your gifts, as the program guarantees that low-income students can fully cover tuition, housing and meals.

A strong endowment does provide stability during challenging economic times. The University of Mississippi Foundation experienced a most unusual FY 2009 with investment performance. Even though our investment returns are among the best in the SEC in the last one- and three-year periods, the UM Foundation endowment suffered significant losses through June 30, 2009, which, in turn, has had a tremendous impact on endowment funds. A year ago all of our schools were braced for reductions or elimination of endowment distributions, and we are happy to report that is not the case for FY 2010. Our endowments continue to regain momentum, and as of December 31, 2009, the majority of endowments were no longer below their original gift value.

While the economy has negatively impacted overall private support this year, we appeal to you to consider a gift of any size. We gratefully acknowledge the many loyal alumni and friends who understand the level of commitment needed for our university to fulfill its mission in this state and far beyond. Please continue to invest in the University of Mississippi – it's an investment that truly does impact lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendell W. Weakley".

Wendell W. Weakley

## Sense of Community Builds in First Residential College

UM students have a new way to reside, study and socialize that's inspired by a very old theory: Great benefits come from living in a closely knit campus community.

Around 450 students are part of the inaugural Residential College, with the second college to open in the fall. Based on current members' reactions and the number of applications for residency, the initiative is a success, said Dan O'Sullivan, the faculty fellow who directs the college.

"Students have a wealth of opportunities in which to get involved," said O'Sullivan. "They are also channeling their interests into founding and organizing groups and activities. They have the opportunity to become leaders in a community of leaders."

Louis Brandt of Houston, Texas, provided an instrumental gift to support the first college because of the potential it held to renew the small university culture he and his friends enjoyed as college students. Brandt was part of a UM student body numbering around 3,000 and lived in residence halls and a fraternity house.

"I took for granted the camaraderie I enjoyed as a result of being a part of small groups," Brandt said. "Now that the university has grown ... students rarely live on campus after the required first year. This is certainly the norm among public universities, but I feel it is an unfortunate change in culture that causes students to miss one of the most valuable experiences of college, that of developing close academic and social associations with students from all walks of life."

"The Residential College concept has now succeeded beyond anyone's expectations," Brandt said. "In my recent tour of the college, I had an opportunity to visit with some of the students and without exception, they expressed their intent to live in this 'on campus' facility until graduation. ... There is a great demand for more space of this type. I am very pleased to have helped in the renewal of this new and exciting culture."

Universities abroad have provided residential colleges for years. To enhance the academic environment and improve retention rates, American universities have begun to move to this model.

O'Sullivan, associate professor of French, lives in the college with his family. Twenty-five other profes-



The first Residential College is embraced by participating students, who benefit from faculty mentors, innovative programming and facilities, and a return to campus living.

sors interact with students through meals and activities. The building features a dining hall, library, study and music practice rooms, computer and fitness centers, and theater facilities, and is located just off the Grove Loop.

The college acts as a safety net, with O'Sullivan and other faculty members monitoring members' grades. Programming includes German and French tables at meals, study groups, film series, fitness and self-defense classes, monthly family-style dinners, chess tournaments, sessions with writing mentors, workshops on such subjects as obtaining internships and more.

Assistant Professor Chris Sapp, who hosts the German Table, became involved because the setup reflects the kind of undergraduate education he enjoyed.

"I attended a small liberal arts college and had lunch every day with my professors at the German Table and saw them in the evening once a week at German Club," he said. "Most of us lived on campus

all four years, and it really became home. When I came to Ole Miss, I was surprised at how many students live off campus, and my hope is the Residential College will change that and increase a sense of academic and social community."

Freshman Elizabeth Seratt of Vicksburg enjoys the college. "The Residential College gave me the opportunity to meet people I wouldn't have met any other way. My RC friends come from all majors and backgrounds, are involved in Greek Life and Model United Nations, listen to different kinds of music and support different political parties – and they are some of the best friends I've ever had," she said.

To enhance programming and to complete the second Residential College, the university continues to seek private support. For more information, call Debbie Vaughn, senior executive director of development, at 662-915-1686. To make contributions, visit [www.umfoundation.com/makeagift](http://www.umfoundation.com/makeagift) or mail checks to The University of Mississippi Foundation, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677.

## Second College Honors Luckyday Foundation's Support

A \$4 million gift from the Luckyday Foundation for the UM's second residential college further extends the commitment of the late alumnus Frank Rogers Day to ensure educational opportunities for Mississippians.

To honor the Luckyday Foundation's commitment, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning has approved the name "Luckyday Residential College" for the new building, which will be completed in August. Luckyday Scholars will live in the college.

"Frank Day had a noble vision about investing in young people and their education," said Holmes S. Adams, chairman of the Luckyday Foundation Board of Managers. "The foundation strongly believes that Luckyday Scholars at Ole Miss will benefit significantly from living together in a smaller community near the Grove. We want to do whatever is necessary to achieve our ultimate goal of academic success and a

college diploma for each of our scholarship recipients."

Chancellor Dan Jones responded, saying, "The phenomenal impact of the Luckyday Foundation on our university has been evident for years through

*'Frank Day had a noble vision about investing in young people and their education.'*

– Holmes S. Adams,  
chairman of the Luckyday Foundation  
Board of Managers

scholarship opportunities provided to students who've gone on to make amazing contributions to the state and beyond. We are profoundly grateful to the Luckyday Foundation for its past support and for this

generous gift to further transform student life at the University of Mississippi. We are honored that one of our residential colleges will bear the Luckyday name."

In 2001, the foundation began providing annual Luckyday Scholarships, and the initiative has since developed into one of UM's largest scholarship programs, awarding more than \$22 million to more than 1,900 Mississippians. The Foundation funds other UM scholarships in varying amounts, including those for community college transfers majoring in education, communicative disorders and social work and for National Merit Finalists.

Support from Luckyday complements many other opportunities provided by Day, who was chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Trustmark National Bank for many years before he died in 1999. Day created UM's Christine and Clarence Day Scholarship, the state's largest business scholarship, to honor his parents.

## Funds Pay Tribute to Mississippi Newspaper Families

The contributions of two couples who have chronicled the life of Charleston and the lives of its residents by publishing the local weekly newspaper are being honored with UM journalism scholarships.

Ed and Becky Meek of Oxford have created the Bill and Jean May Mississippi Sun Scholarship and the Clay and Krista McFerrin Sun-Sentinel Scholarship with a gift of \$200,000. First preference for the scholarships will be given to Charleston High School and West Tallahatchie High School students who want to pursue journalism degrees in the Meek School of Journalism and New Media at UM.

A native of Charleston, Ed Meek said the scholarships were established with several goals, including recognizing the impact W.W. "Bill" May and the late Jean May had on his own career, as well as paying tribute to the contributions the May and McFerrin families have made to Charleston and Tallahatchie County. The Meeks also hope to provide assistance to students to pursue journalism

degrees.

The Mississippi Sun of Charleston united with The Sumner Sentinel of Sumner in 1973 to become The Sun-Sentinel.

"The newspaper in Charleston has been a force for decades, bringing together a diverse population and supporting important community development," Meek said. "Charleston is benefitting from some positive initiatives, such as that of the Charleston Arts and Revitalization Effort, and the newspaper has supported these projects."

The Mays edited and published The Mississippi Sun until their retirement, and Bill May now lives in Tennessee. Clay McFerrin joined The Sun-Sentinel in 1982 and became editor and general manager in 1986, then editor and publisher in 1995. His wife, Krista McFerrin, oversees a wealth of responsibilities at the newspaper.

"Krista and I are very honored for the Meeks to name this scholarship for us," Clay McFerrin said.



"It is exciting to think about young people finding their way to journalism careers by taking advantage of this opportunity. The Meeks have always been great people and wonderful supporters of what we try to accomplish here in Charleston and Tallahatchie County."

The Meeks' gift of \$5.3 million in 2007 provided initial funding for the Meek School of Journalism and New Media. A journalism graduate, Meek is a former UM assistant vice chancellor for public relations and marketing and associate professor. He got his first taste of journalism in the sixth grade, when he worked after school at The Mississippi Sun.

Becky Meek earned two degrees from UM. The Meeks formed Oxford Publishing Inc., acquired in recent years by Questex Media Group Inc., and founded the Tupelo Furniture Market.



## ‘Transformation Through Service’ *UM celebrates investiture of Chancellor Daniel W. Jones*

Dr. Daniel W. Jones was inaugurated as the 16<sup>th</sup> chancellor of the University of Mississippi April 9 in a daylong observance focusing on community service by students, faculty and staff.

The theme of “Transformation Through Service” reflected Jones’ personal commitment to the importance of serving others as an educator and physician. The chancellor also took the occasion to announce a new \$100 million campaign to attract private gifts for faculty support. (See page 1.)

“Our university has the position of being the flagship liberal arts university for a state that has dramatic needs, so I do want us to clearly focus on what we can and should be doing to not only transform individual lives but also to transform communities, and I mean community in the broad sense of local, state, nation and world,” the chancellor said.

Formerly vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine at the UM Medical Center, Jones was named chancellor by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning in June 2009. He took office July 1, following the retirement of Chancellor Robert C. Khayat.

Jones began his inauguration day with a prayer service at the Paris-Yates Chapel, then delivered the keynote address in the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Among others making presentations were Artair Rogers, president of the Associated Student Body; Ken Sufka, president of the Faculty Senate; Dr. Jimmy Keeton, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine; Charles Clark, president of

the Ole Miss Alumni Association; and Johnette Taylor-Jenkins, president of Staff Council.

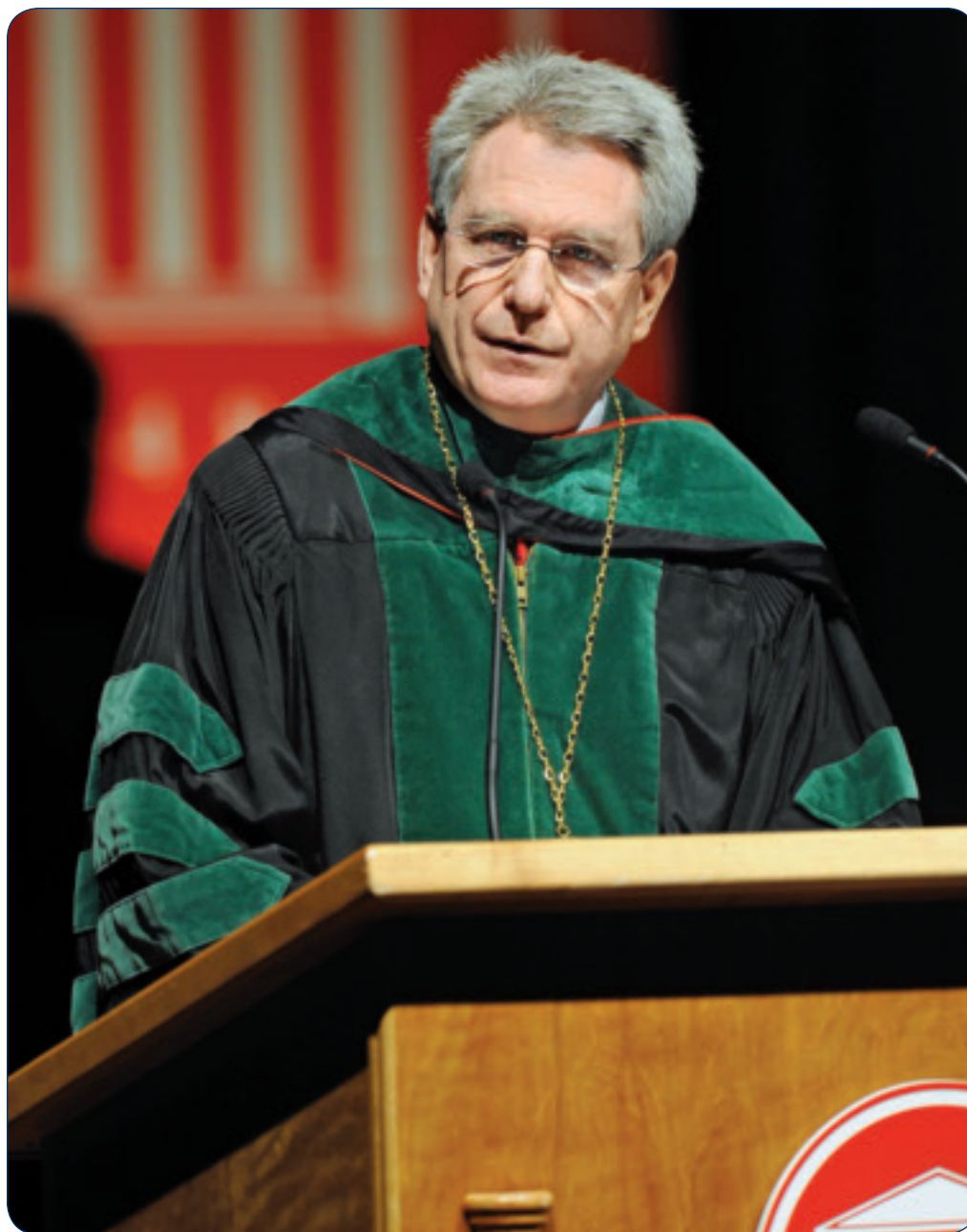
After the morning inauguration, the chancellor and his wife, Lydia, hosted a luncheon for special guests at The Inn at Ole Miss and attended the initiation ceremony for new members of Phi Beta Kappa, the university’s most prestigious academic honor

society. Another luncheon was hosted for faculty members from all UM’s campuses.

The inauguration activities were kept low-key out of respect for the university’s budget challenges. In the weeks leading up to the inauguration, the university focused attention on the service that individuals and student groups render to the community, state, nation and world. The Office of Information Technology created a service directory Web site to showcase service activities and allowed students, faculty and staff to log their service hours. The site not only documented the university’s service mission, but it also continues to encourage people to get involved. An information fair was hosted as part of the inauguration to inform the community of service activities and opportunities.

“The most important thing the university does is to transform individual lives, to give young people an opportunity to come to campus, be part of educational programs and have that transformational experience that only higher education can provide,” Jones said. “We want to always keep that as our highest priority, but more and more, society is looking to universities to provide leadership beyond the classroom to address society’s needs.”

A native Mississippian, Jones graduated from Mississippi College in 1971, earned his M.D. in 1975 at the UM Medical Center and completed his residency in internal medicine there in 1978. He had a private practice in Laurel, then went to Korea as a medical missionary in 1985. He returned to the UM Medical Center as a faculty member in 1992.



Dr. Daniel W. Jones delivers his inauguration address April 9, as students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends unite to celebrate the university’s service mission. The 16<sup>th</sup> chancellor set as a priority attracting \$100 million in private gifts for a faculty support endowment.

## Hearin Foundation Improves Lives of Mississippians

From improving literacy and preparing a manufacturing workforce, to enhancing the health and well-being of Mississippians and working to promote community building, \$1.044 million in support from the Robert M. Hearin Foundation to the University of Mississippi is changing lives.

The Jackson-based foundation provides support to state universities and colleges, as well as promotes economic development in Mississippi. Robert M. Hearin Sr. – the chair and CEO of Mississippi Valley Gas Co. until his death in 1992 – made provisions in his will to establish the foundation.

Of the total, \$300,000 – part of a multi-year commitment of \$1.5 million – went to the UM Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction.

“The School of Education is extremely grateful for the opportunity to impact children’s lives in north Mississippi utilizing the Hearin Foundation grant that established the Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction,” said Angela Rutherford, director of the center. “CELI is able to assist in preparing undergraduate students in elementary education and graduate students in literacy education to meet the literacy instructional needs of children in our state, as well as assist teachers in school districts to deliver evidence-based literacy instruction.

“CELI also hosts a reading summer camp for area fourth- and fifth-grade students and an annual literacy conference where teachers and administrators learn about different aspects of literacy instruction,” she said.

The gift of \$300,000 to the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation is the first installment of a \$1.25 million commitment from the Hearin Foundation, and the funds are supporting the center’s operational expenses. Founded in 1999, the Winter Institute helps promote community development, public service and educational advancement through collaborations with civic leaders and community residents of all races and cultures.

“The Hearin Foundation’s continuing generosity allows the Winter Institute to sustain its work of community building and reconciliation,” said Susan Glisson, director of the institute. “We would not be able to do this necessary work without the foundation’s support. The funding will enable us to get into communities throughout the region and be a catalyst for bringing people together so that we can break



Rose Jackson Flenorl, manager of global citizenship at FedEx Corp., and William Winter, former Mississippi governor, participate in a Race in the South panel discussion sponsored by the Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation. The Winter Institute’s work is supported by the Hearin Foundation.

down the barriers that have separated us in the past.”

A total of \$250,000 in support went to the new Center for Manufacturing Excellence for an internship program. The center aims to keep jobs in Mississippi by educating the nation’s future manufacturing professionals, and its \$22 million home is under construction and adjacent to Carrier Hall.

CME is bringing together the schools of Engineering, Business Administration and Accountancy and the College of Liberal Arts, as well as seeking major input from manufacturing companies and industry experts to give students the technical skills involved in successful manufacturing and the understanding of management, accounting, communication, leadership and human resources.

“Curriculum for this innovative academic offering is being finalized and will be offered beginning in the fall,” said James Vaughan, CME director and Barnard Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering. “This program and center is projected to have a major impact on the state and region, as the nation begins to

recover economically. We are deeply grateful to the Hearin Foundation for recognizing the potential for this initiative and offering such strong support.”

UM’s School of Applied Sciences received \$194,000 from the Hearin Foundation. The school houses the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies and the departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders; Nutrition and Hospitality Management; Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management; Legal Studies; and Social Work.

“The support of the Hearin Foundation is the cornerstone on which great things are being built in the School of Applied Sciences,” said Marie Barnard, assistant dean. “The Hearin Foundation funding helps us recruit and retain high-quality faculty who conduct research on important issues affecting our region, as well as prepare graduates in high-need fields within the state of Mississippi. We are grateful to the Hearin Foundation for its support and are pleased to work with the foundation on improving the health and well-being of all Mississippians.”



## MBB Works to Improve Children's Reading Readiness

Improving the school readiness of Mississippi children enrolled in child care centers is needed for their long-term academic success, as well as for the state's long-term economic health.

That's the idea behind Mississippi Building Blocks, an innovative program that has won private support from business and community leaders and hopes to prove worthy of permanent state support. The program has received \$1.1 million in recent gifts through the University of Mississippi Foundation, bringing MBB's private funding to more than \$7 million.

"In order to effectively address the achievement gaps that present themselves at kindergarten entry, it is important to intervene during the first three years of life or from birth to school entry so that disparities do not have a chance to persist and widen. Mississippi Building Blocks is designed to help existing child care programs improve the care of our youngest citizens," said Dr. Laurie Smith, executive director of Mississippi Building Blocks.

Since so many children under the age of 5 years old are attending licensed child care centers throughout Mississippi, it makes sense to work on improving the



quality of child care where these children attend prior to entering kindergarten, Smith said.

"We recognized that many children in the state were coming to kindergarten already behind with their early childhood or pre-literacy skills," said Executive Director of the Barksdale Reading Institute Claiborne Barksdale, who is working on MBB's four-year pilot program that began in August 2009. "Early childhood education should begin at birth when the brain is developing. We can't wait until children turn five and begin kindergarten to start their education. The state's future depends on an educated workforce."

MBB is at work in 100 classrooms of 35 child care centers participating in the program by random selection, and more will be added each year. A trained mentor is placed in each classroom for 20 consecutive days to help the teacher with best practices in cur-

riculum and language skills. With its mission to improve early childhood education, particularly to those areas most economically disadvantaged, MBB is also providing \$3,000 in educational materials to each classroom and helping promote parenting skills. Scholarships and stipends are available to teachers who seek child development associate degree credentials, and financial management counsel is offered to center directors and bookkeepers.

Private funding has been provided by AT&T Foundation, Cellular South Charitable Foundation, Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, Entergy Corp., Phil Hardin Foundation, McAllister's Corp., Mississippi Power Education Foundation, Rock River Foundation, Barksdale Reading Institute, Meredith Creekmore and Phillip Friedman, as well as Mississippi Low Income Child Care and the U.S. Department of Education.

The University of Missouri is studying an intervention group comparing a control group of children and classrooms to determine the success of the program, and results will be utilized in seeking state funding to implement the program throughout Mississippi.

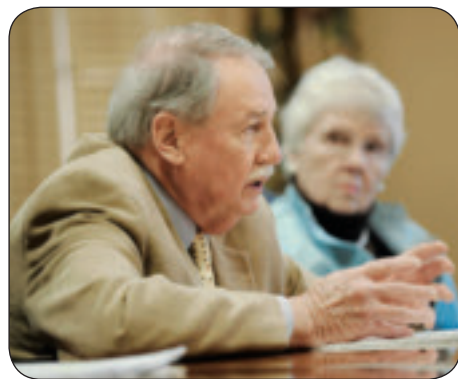
## Anonymous Gift Helps Build Stronger Communities

An anonymous \$150,000 gift to UM's McLean Institute for Community Development is helping raise the quality of life for people throughout the country. The gift is part of a three-year \$600,000 fundraising effort to further the work of the institute, which has projects in 30 states.

"We are extremely grateful for this initial gift, which is the seed money that will allow us to plan for the continuation of the work of the McLean Institute," said Vaughn Grisham, institute director and professor emeritus of sociology. "My mentor, George McLean, began his work 60 years ago, and this gift will help us to train more leaders to improve their communities."

Owner and publisher of the Tupelo newspaper from 1934 until his death in 1983, George McLean

worked to improve life for the underclass in Lee County. His efforts transformed the county from one of the poorest in the nation to being recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a leading model of community development.



**Vaughn Grisham, director of the McLean Institute for Community Development, and his wife, Sandy**

Toward the end of his life, McLean approached Grisham to establish a permanent tie between his community development work and the state's flagship university. McLean's goal was realized after his death, when his widow, Anna Keirsey McLean, donated \$150,000 to establish the UM institute.

More than 25 years later, the institute has positively affected hundreds of communi-

ties throughout the state, region and nation, as well as in Canada and Russia. Through on-site research examining strong communities and the subsequent sharing

of best practices for community and economic development, the institute is ensuring that those living in troubled areas can address civic challenges.

The many people who receive training as a result of the institute – whether they're UM sociology students or community-identified citizen-leaders participating in local training sessions – have taken on such issues as job loss, lack of affordable housing, low-performing schools and lack of afterschool programs.

The work of Grisham and the McLean Institute to develop and empower leaders to improve their hometowns has received supporting grants from the Annie E. Casey and the Kettering foundations. The recent \$150,000 gift, as well as gifts within the next three years, will further the institute's teaching, research and service and help more areas, particularly in Mississippi.

To learn more about supporting the McLean Institute for Community Development, contact Cody Giles, development officer for liberal arts, at 662-915-6967 or [wcgiles@olemiss.edu](mailto:wcgiles@olemiss.edu).



## Longs Endow Business Scholarship for Family Leaders

The lives of two brothers who served in World War II, graduated from the UM with business degrees and followed their father in the family business are being honored with a scholarship at their alma mater.

Named for Raiford N. Long Sr. of Ripley and the late Erst Long Jr. of Corinth, the business scholarship endowment was created with a \$125,000 gift from Randall G. "Randy" Long of Long Wholesale Distributors Inc. in Corinth, and Raiford N. "Ray" Long Jr. and Samuel E. "Sam" Long III of Long Wholesale Inc. of Meridian.

"Ole Miss was a consistent thread throughout their entire lives, and that love for Ole Miss is being carried on by their family," said Randy Long. "We wanted to pay tribute to their lives in a way that combined their love of the university and their long presence in the Mississippi business community. A business scholarship endowment at their alma mater seemed like the perfect vehicle."

Ray Long said his father and uncle earned reputations for their positive outlooks and outstanding work ethic.

"These men have always been recognized as extremely hard-working, balancing their business with being great family men and dedicated Christians. They also had a high degree of integrity and ethics – something to which the third and fourth generations now running the family businesses aspire," he said.

With the help of its employees, the Long distribution centers have evolved from a general store supplier, delivering orders with a horse and wagon, to one of the largest convenience store suppliers in the South. The Long family likewise has extensive history at Ole Miss. Among degrees that family members have earned are seven in business, three in law, two in education, two in accountancy and one in music. When Erst Long Jr. attended Ole Miss, his wife, Velma, was the secretary to the business dean.

"The generosity and commitment of the Long family is very inspiring, and we greatly appreciate this gift," said Ken Cyree, dean of business administration. "Through this family's philanthropy, Ole Miss students will benefit for years to come. It is truly moving to see the family's passion for the School of Business Administration represented through multiple generations."



On hand for the Long Scholarship presentation are family members (from left) Lorraine and Ray Long of Meridian, Penny and Randy Long of Corinth, UM Business Dean Ken Cyree, Velma Long of Corinth, Ben Long of Corinth, Susie Long Marshall of West Point, Sam and Frances Long of Meridian, and Clark, Laura Kate and Griffin Carmichael of Oxford.



Erst Long Jr. (seated) and his brother, Raiford N. Long Sr., served in WWII.

The family hopes the scholarships will help deserving young people.

"Creating a scholarship endowment is a very lasting way to honor my dad and to memorialize my uncle. We want to help some students experience what we all have experienced," said Ray Long.

In 1922, Erst Long Sr. founded Tippah Wholesale Co. in Ripley. In the 1940s, another warehouse was opened in Corinth under the name of Alcorn Wholesale. The two Long sons, Erst Jr., who served in the U.S. Air Force, and Raiford, who served in the U.S. Navy, then became active in the family businesses.

In 1964, the Longs purchased a company in Meridian to expand their service territory. Through the years, three more warehouses were built in Meridian and Corinth. Other distributors were merged into their operations, including Corr-Williams Wholesale of Meridian, Hattiesburg Grocery Company and, most recently, J.J. Rogers and Sons Wholesale in Tupelo.

## Deloitte Strengthens Support for Accountancy Faculty

Accountancy professionals from Deloitte LLP have joined with the Deloitte Foundation to commit \$250,000 to enhancing faculty support at the University of Mississippi's Patterson School of Accountancy.

The gift to UM's nationally recognized accountancy school creates the Deloitte Foundation Lectureship in Accountancy, which will provide resources for research and creative support for faculty members, as well as salary supplements.

Barry Atkins of Memphis, a Deloitte partner and UM graduate, said that directing the gift toward faculty support reflects recognition of professors' roles in their students' career preparation.

"Faculty members serve as the foundation of a successful program," Atkins said. "The fact that the accountancy programs are nationally ranked is a

tribute to the professors. The Patterson School of Accountancy produces some of the best and the brightest young professionals. The professors do an excellent job preparing them for the profession, for their careers and for life in general. We want to ensure the



Deloitte partner Guy Moore

foundation provided by the faculty remains solid."

Guy Moore of Wilton, Conn., another Deloitte partner and UM graduate, said, "As UM alumni, we are focused on providing meaningful contributions to the university to ensure that it continues to produce talented and well-prepared graduates. Deloitte has a deep commitment to the accountancy profession, and the profession is strengthened by quality graduates who are our future."

More than 100 of the university's alumni currently pursue careers with Deloitte, which provides audit, consulting, financial advisory, risk management and tax services to clients. Internships at the organization offer UM students invaluable real-world experiences, and Deloitte professionals also provide leadership through service on the Patterson School's Advisory Council.



UM Provost Morris Stocks (from left), Senior Executive Director of Development Debbie Vaughn, Deloitte partner Barry Atkins, Associate Director of Development for Accountancy Carol Anne Marion, Patterson School Dean Mark Wilder, and UM Foundation President/CEO Wendell Weakley gather to recognize Deloitte's new gift and continued support.

Atkins said, "Many Deloitte partners and professionals, alumni and non-alumni, have committed themselves not only to our extensive recruiting efforts that occur throughout the year, but also monetarily to the Deloitte Foundation Lectureship. Having recruited at a number of universities, we can say that the commitment of UM professors is what distinguishes the talent at Ole Miss from other schools. Graduates are prepared academically, professionally and socially."

Mark Wilder, dean of the Patterson School, expressed his appreciation for the support.

"We are profoundly grateful for this tremendous investment by our UM accountancy alumni with Deloitte and by the Deloitte Foundation to enhance the work of the Patterson School of Accountancy," he said. "This generous gift provides critical resources for faculty support and helps ensure our ability to offer competitive salaries to attract and retain professors of the highest quality. We are honored to have the Deloitte name on a permanent endowment at Ole Miss, and we greatly value our long-standing partnership with the organization."

UM Accountancy programs have achieved a national top 30 or higher ranking for the last five consecutive years. The 2009 *Public Accounting Report* places the undergraduate program 19<sup>th</sup> and graduate program at 18. The undergraduate/graduate rankings place Ole Miss third in the Southeastern Conference after Florida and Georgia.

Moore recalls the day in 1982 when he was admitted as a partner in Deloitte – a meaningful benchmark in his career.

"Among the first few people I called was (the now late) Professor Gene Peery at Ole Miss," he said. "He set me and many others on a path to career success. The positive impact professors can have on their students is one reason this gift is directed for faculty support."

Atkins concurred, "When I was a freshman, I didn't know what path I wanted to take. Accounting became the choice because of my affinity for math and analytical thinking. Many professors invested a great deal of time in my college career to ensure I was successful, from Dr. Finley Graves and Dr. Russell Briner, to Dr. Jimmy Davis."



## Wynn's Gift Reflects Belief in Providing Faculty Resources

A new \$200,000 fund at UM's Center for the Study of Southern Culture is the result of one woman's belief that faculty members must have resources to pursue a wealth of research and scholarship.

Philanthropist Leila Wynn of Greenville recently provided a \$100,000 challenge grant that has been matched with \$100,000 in funds from several sources, including a final push from CSSC Advisory Committee members. The fund will enhance research on the South, as well as impact faculty recruitment and retention.

"Leila Wynn has been a great supporter of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and the University of Mississippi for some years," said Ted Ownby, CSSC director. "She studied Faulkner here, and she knows the needs of scholars from her work with UM and other colleges and universities. She knows that scholars need time to research, think and write, and this gift will be a wonderful way to allow our faculty the freedom to do that."

Southern Studies faculty members research such topics as religious history, literature and globalization,



CSSC Director Ted Ownby (left) with Leila Wynn of Greenville

race and museums, the blues and the devil, the contemporary small-town South, and African-American identity in the contemporary urban South.

After helping organize the Friends of the Center organization and serving on the CSSC Advisory

Committee, Wynn turned her attention to faculty support when her grandson, Charlie Weissinger of Rolling Fork, was earning a Southern studies degree at UM.

"Faculty members are absolutely essential to a strong program," Wynn said. "I feel that really worthy faculty members should be supported in order for them to more actively pursue their work. I was very impressed with the education my grandson received."

In addition, Wynn has made significant contributions to the William Faulkner Collection and other Southern studies sources at UM, including many first edition and limited edition manuscripts.

An Austin, Texas, native, she settled in Mississippi after earning degrees from Smith College and the University of Texas. She also studied at Ole Miss and Delta State University.

Named Philanthropist of the Year in 2000 by the Mississippi Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, Wynn is a life trustee of Millsaps College and has served as board chair of the Straddleford Foundation, a family foundation.

## Graupner Receives Inaugural Woolsey Scholarship



Melanie Graupner (third from left) receives the James Robert "Bob" Woolsey Scholarship. Among those on hand for the presentation is Maxine Woolsey (second from left), Bob Woolsey's widow and an educational outreach specialist in engineering.

Melanie Graupner, an international student from Germany, is the first recipient of a memorial scholarship paying tribute to J. Robert "Bob" Woolsey, late director of UM's Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute.

Graupner will use the scholarship to attend geology field camp in South Dakota.

"I feel extremely honored that I was selected for this award named for such a great geologist," said Graupner. "My ultimate goal is a career with a U.S. company that allows me to work out in the field."

A renowned geologist and expert in undersea mineral resources, Woolsey died in a 2008 car accident. Memorials totaling \$11,000 came to the UM Foundation, and Maxine Woolsey, his widow, committed additional funds to create the Woolsey Scholarship Endowment for Geology and Geological Engineering.

Woolsey said Graupner's plans fit with the intent of the annual scholarship.

"To appropriately honor Bob, this scholarship should help students become hands-on geologists and geological engineers," she said. "Bob always felt the best classrooms didn't have walls. I want schol-

arship recipients to use the funds to have extraordinary experiences."

His work in the scientific community garnered attention for UM, but the researcher, in return, was grateful to the university for allowing him to take students on his travels to enhance their training and education.

"The idea for the scholarship formed right away because MMRI and the students were Bob's second family," said Maxine Woolsey.

Bob Woolsey was instrumental in founding UM's two marine centers: the Center for Marine Resources and Environmental Technology and the Seabed Technology Research Center, which is a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Institute for Undersea Science and Research. He organized an international consortium of scientists and engineers to study gas hydrates and led efforts to establish a gas hydrates monitoring station/seafloor observatory in the Gulf of Mexico.

## Funds Enhance Napier Scholarship Honoring Parents

No disrespect to Thomas Wolfe, but John H. Napier III, a 1949 UM history graduate, has irrefutable evidence that you can, in fact, go home again.

The evidence is found in the lives of his Mississippi parents, who ventured out West. They lived in Arizona and then California, where Napier's father earned a master's degree at the University of California-Berkeley and a doctorate at Stanford. After 20 years, the couple returned to Pearl River County, bringing back the benefits of their experiences "abroad."

The parents, John H. Napier Jr. and Lena Mae Napier, inspired Napier and his younger brother, Eastman Francis Tate Napier, also a UM graduate, to establish a scholarship fund in 1989. John Napier III recently arranged an additional \$70,000 gift to the



John H. Napier III



Lena Mae Napier



John H. Napier Jr.

fund through the settlement of his brother's estate in England.

"Both my parents were dedicated to academic excellence, and they were both very bright," said Napier.

His father was the first president of Sierra College in Auburn, Calif., and later served as superintendent of the Picayune school system. His mother's accomplishments included three college degrees, a job in banking, and a career with the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C.

Napier, who retired from the Air Force in 1977 as a lieutenant colonel, is no less accomplished. He

worked in intelligence and special operations, served in national security at the Pentagon and completed his career at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama.

Napier, who now lives with his wife, Cameron, in Ramer, Ala., is a historian, whose book *Lower Pearl River's Piney Woods: Its Land and People* was published by UM's Center for the Study of Southern Culture in 1985. He also authored the *Air Force Officers Guide* and a history of his family.

The family's roots account for Napier's decision to attend Ole Miss, where he was a Taylor Medalist and was active in Sigma Chi fraternity, Air Force ROTC, and on the student newspaper and yearbook staffs.

After his UM graduation, Francis Napier lived in France and England, working in foreign currency exchange. Although his will directed most his estate to Oxford University in England, John Napier was able to direct a gift to Ole Miss. The funds were added to the Napier scholarship, which goes to students from Pearl River or adjacent counties.



Eastman Francis Tate Napier

## Southern Foodways Event Draws Record Donations



Dubbed the "G8 of Grits and Gravy" by enthusiasts, the Southern Foodways Alliance's annual Taste of the South gathering brought in almost \$150,000 in January to support the SFA's mission to document, study and preserve the diverse foodways of the American South.

Coinciding with the annual gathering of the Fellowship of Southern Farmers, Artisans and Chefs, the Taste of the South event is put on jointly by the SFA, an institute of UM's Center for the Study of Southern Culture, and Blackberry Farm, an inn located in the Great Smoky Mountains. Now in its sixth year at the inn, Taste of the South is a "fellow-

ship of food luminaries from the whole South," said Mike Riley, SFA board member.

Luminaries included New York City restaurateur Danny Meyer, owner of Union Square Hospitality Group, along with some of the South's best chefs and restaurateurs. The four-day event attracted more registrants than ever before, largely due to the quality of the sessions offered, Riley said.

In addition to a talk by Meyer, offerings included a cast-iron skillet demonstration, a biscuit-making class and tastings. There was also the live auction – featuring such packages as weekend getaways and private dinners – which garnered more than twice the amount raised at the 2009 Taste of the South.

Ted Ownby, director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, said that the \$150,000 raised through the high-end auction will help continue the work of the SFA to examine the food cultures of the South through documentary projects, symposia and other events. Ownby and those involved with the SFA also hope the funds will allow UM's Southern Studies faculty to capture through foodways courses "the energy, excitement and creativity that comes from SFA events."

"A lot of credit goes to our SFA board members, and our deepest thanks goes to those who put up items for auction and those who bid on those items," Ownby said.

For more information about the SFA, visit [www.southerfoodways.com](http://www.southerfoodways.com).



## UMMC Prepares for Construction on Pharmacy Facility

Pharmacy students will soon have a new home on the campus of the University of Mississippi Medical Center once construction is completed on the School of Pharmacy Instructional and Research Facility. Work on the building has begun across from the School of Dentistry and a groundbreaking ceremony was held in late January.

"We are the newest school on campus," said Leigh Ann Ross, associate dean for clinical affairs in the pharmacy school. "And I believe having a designated place will increase our visibility and heighten awareness of our program."

Currently, pharmacy students split the seven-year Doctor of Pharmacy program between Oxford and Jackson. They spend three years completing pre-pharmacy courses and two years in the professional pharmacy program in Oxford. They reside in Jackson for a year of study and a year of advance practice experiences at preceptor sites throughout the mid-South.

Most pharmacy courses have been offered at the Jackson Medical Mall since 1998 when the school transitioned to the Doctor of Pharmacy, or Pharm.D., which expanded clinical requirements and increased

the time students spend in Jackson.

The planned two-story, 26,000-square-foot structure will consolidate the department's facilities, now scattered over two miles. The school's leadership hopes the new building will increase student interaction with pharmacy faculty and the Medical Center as a whole.

Plans for the new building include 17 classrooms, administrative and faculty offices, and laboratory and clinical research space. An attached 160-seat auditorium will be equipped to allow lecturers to share live video with the Oxford campus.

The building will cost approximately \$9.5 million. The School of Pharmacy has some federal funding secured, as well as a commitment from the UM-Oxford campus. The capital campaign Promises to Keep is underway to attract more private funding.

"This new building will truly take our clinical teaching and research programs to the next level of accomplishment," said Dean of Pharmacy Barbara G. Wells.

For more information on supporting the pharmacy school's campaign, contact Sarah Hollis at 662-915-1584 or [shollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:shollis@olemiss.edu).



Leigh Ann Ross (left), associate dean for clinical affairs in the School of Pharmacy; Barbara G. Wells, dean of pharmacy; and UM Chancellor Dan Jones help turn the first shovelfuls of dirt for the pharmacy school's new Instructional and Research Facility in Jackson during a groundbreaking ceremony. The \$9.5 million, 26,000-square-foot building will create a home for the school's UMMC-based clinical programs.

## Baptist Memorial, NMMC Partner to Support Pharmacy

Traditionally competing hospitals Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi of Oxford and North Mississippi Medical Center of Tupelo have united to support the expansion of faculty for the UM School of Pharmacy.

Each hospital is funding half the cost of a salaried full-time faculty position for the next six years, reflecting a commitment to pharmacy education. UM is matching the gifts, which will result in the hiring of two full-time professors.

When the positions are filled, the professors will serve in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Projections indicate the addition of two faculty members will enable the pharmacy school to continue enrollment growth.

"We are indebted to Baptist North Mississippi and North Mississippi Medical Center for their long-standing support of pharmacy education," said Barbara G. Wells, dean of pharmacy. "These gifts will allow us to grow our enrollment and better prepare our students to provide comprehensive pharmaceutical care for patients throughout Mississippi."



Don Hutson



Gerald Wages

"The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy has an outstanding record for producing the pharmacy graduates so badly needed by the health-care industry of our state, and the additional faculty positions will enable the school to expand the size of the pharmacy class," said Gerald Wages, North Mississippi Health Services executive vice president for external affairs. "We are excited about North Mississippi Medical Center's opportunity to assist in the growth of the pharmacy school, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with many of the school's gradu-

ates in the future."

The hospitals previously joined to contribute resources for UM nursing programs.

"Baptist North Mississippi has a track record of supporting health-care programs at area colleges and universities, so we were happy to partner with the Ole Miss pharmacy program," said Don Hutson, administrator and CEO of Baptist North Mississippi. "We value our collaborative relationship with Ole Miss and look forward to extending student pharmacy education into the future."

BMH is a 217-bed acute-care facility serving the northern third of the state. The hospital offers more than 90 medical and surgical professionals representing more than 30 specialty areas, such as cardiology, radiation oncology and neurosurgery.

NMMC is a 650-bed regional referral center. With physicians representing more than 45 specialties, the hospital serves more than 650,000 people in 22 counties in north Mississippi, northwest Alabama and portions of Tennessee and is designated as a Level II trauma center.

## Barrett Honors Professor Owens through Civil War Library

John W. “Don” Barrett graduated from UM with a great appreciation of history and the ability to write well – both of which have figured prominently into his successful legal career. Now he’s saluting a professor who influenced him with a \$100,000 gift.

The Lexington attorney is providing the lead gift for the Harry Owens Civil War Library, which is a key component of UM’s Center for Civil War Research. Owens, a professor emeritus of history, taught from 1964 through 1998.

“When I learned that a Civil War research initiative was underway at the university and part of it would be a library collection honoring Harry Owens, I welcomed the opportunity to give my support,” Barrett said. “I believe the Civil War has shaped our lives in ways few of us fully realize, and ... I feel that it is appropriate to study this conflict. This is a great initiative for the university and for the state of Mississippi, as well as a fitting way to honor a tremendous professor.

“Dr. Harry Owens helped me develop a love and appreciation of history that I have carried with me for 40 years,” said Barrett – who with his wife, Nancy, has provided longtime support to their alma mater. “The writing skills he taught me have impacted the briefs I have written in my legal career. In turn, I have passed on these Harry Owens techniques



**Don Barrett (right) honors his former history professor Harry Owens with a gift.**

to the younger lawyers in my firm.”

Owens said, “The Civil War was a tremendously

important period in American history. The Revolutionary War gave us the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution or a prescription of what America could be; the Civil War turned those words into reality, preserved the Union and abolished slavery. I am very pleased Don Barrett chose to support the center through this generous library gift in my honor. I taught Don and his children, and the Barretts are a great Ole Miss family.”

The Barrett law firm has offices in Lexington and Nashville. Barrett maintains an active trial practice and has substantial experience in state and federal courts, primarily in product liability, environmental torts and consumer fraud. Barrett’s national role in tobacco litigation was featured in three books. He has been the lead or co-lead counsel in national class-action cases, with several record-breaking settlements.

At UM, Barrett was chosen for a Carrier Scholarship, graduated magna cum laude and earned a juris doctorate with honors. He was selected for the Hall of Fame and as yearbook editor.

The Barretts are the parents of Richard Barrett, Katherine Barrett Riley and Charles Barrett. The Ole Miss graduates are attorneys who practice with their father.

## Research Center Explores Memory of Civil War

The American Civil War is central to our nation’s history, and particularly to Southern identity and society. The legacies of that 19<sup>th</sup>-century conflict continue to influence 21<sup>st</sup>-century lives, as well as politics, culture, economy and society.

To that end, the Center for Civil War Research was recently created under the UM Department of History to facilitate the exploration of this still-powerful presence in society. Although the center embraces all aspects of Civil War research, its special focus is the memory of the Civil War. To study the memory of the war is in no small way to study its importance in American life at the time of

the conflict and in every period since.

The goals of the center are to

- Promote academic excellence among undergraduate and graduate students of the Civil War
- Obtain and house research materials currently beyond the scope of the University Libraries
- Increase interest and enrichment across departmental and disciplinary boundaries on the UM campus
- Reach out to the Oxford community and beyond through public lectures, conferences and other programming
- Forge meaningful, working relationships

with other institutions of higher learning throughout Mississippi and the region

- Serve the people of Mississippi by confronting the aspects of our common history that perpetuate divisiveness, and to promote an understanding of our shared past as the foundation on which to build respect for each other in today’s diverse society.

Visit <http://civilwarcenter.olemiss.edu> to learn of upcoming activities and events sponsored by the center or to share a Civil War memory. Those interested in supporting the center with private gifts may contact Cody Giles in University Development at 662-915-6967 or [cody@umfoundation.com](mailto:cody@umfoundation.com) or John R. Neff, director, at [jneff@olemiss.edu](mailto:jneff@olemiss.edu).



## McRights Focus on Helping UM Graduate Students

Johnny and Renee McRight remember their undergraduate and graduate school years at Ole Miss as some of the best of their lives. They also recognize that the fellowships, grants and other opportunities they were afforded made their graduate degrees and professional careers possible.

To ensure similar opportunities remain available to graduate students, the Greenville couple has created the McRight Biology and Speech Pathology Endowment with a gift of \$100,000. The fund will provide assistance for first-year graduate students in the two fields on a rotating basis, with first preference given to Mississippians.

"We want students to be the best students they can be," said Johnny McRight, who earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in biology. "We know from experience that if your finances are stable, you can focus on your studies. Renee and I felt compelled to do something to provide deserving students the same opportunities we enjoyed. We also want our university to have the resources to be competitive in recruiting

students."

McRight benefited from his experiences in the biology department, where he became fascinated with plant physiology. Bailey Ward, now professor emeritus of biology, was an influential figure in McRight's academic career and encouraged him to complement his biology and chemistry classes with post-graduate studies in pharmacology. After graduation, McRight founded his own company, DeltAg Formulations, which has evolved into a formulator, manufacturer and major supplier of soil and plant biostimulants and micronutrients. Meriwalker Britt, the couple's daughter, earned a biology degree from Ole Miss and joined DeltAg Formulations.

Renee McRight operates a private practice in speech pathology, after earning undergraduate and graduate degrees from Ole Miss in communicative disorders. "I always knew I wanted to work with children, and this field intrigued me from the beginning," she said, adding that over the years she has worked with people of all ages. "My generation of speech

pathologists worked on licensure law, and Gloria Kellum was the professor who instilled in us the sense



Renee and Johnny McRight

that we needed to be active in promoting our profession. She made us all better."

Johnny McRight comes from a family with numerous ties to the university, including his parents, Lila Lee Nossor McRight, who was elected Miss Ole Miss in 1946, and his late father, W.O. "Bill" McRight, who played football and graduated in 1949.

## Sons Remember Holleman with Gift to Law School

The late attorney Jesse Boyce Holleman of Gulfport once said that his career had been on the "courtroom floor." Although his work as a five-term district attorney and later as a criminal defense attorney were legendary, his family remembers him for his willingness to help people in need.

Sons Tim C. and L. Dean Holleman – both attorneys in the firm their father founded, Boyce Holleman & Associates – are paying tribute to his life with a \$100,000 commitment to the UM School of Law. Part of the gift is designated for the new law school, where a seating alcove will be named for their father, and another part will support the Boyce Holleman Debate Series, established after his 2003 death.

"My dad loved practicing law, and he loved helping people," Tim Holleman said. "He ingrained in us that one of the privileges of being an attorney is that sometimes you represent people and earn a fee and sometimes you help people who can't pay just because they need your help. When my dad passed away, numerous people told me stories of how he had helped them for free. He had great empathy for others."

Dean Holleman said, "We hope this gift will be a reminder to the young men and women seeking to



Dean Holleman (left) and brother Tim Holleman (right) are pictured with their father, the late Boyce Holleman.

join the legal profession that while it has much to give, there is much to be given back."

Boyce Holleman earned a Purple Heart for his U.S. Naval service after being shot down in World War II, was elected a state legislator and later acted in theater and movies.

"Through the years, Mississippi has produced many notable, extremely capable lawyers, and our

friend Boyce Holleman was among the best of that group – he was a truly great attorney," said Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat. "As both an attorney with a thriving practice and as a district attorney with significant responsibilities, (he) ... provided strong advocacy, thoughtful case management and excellent representation of his clients."

The son of William Clifford and Ruth Taylor Holleman grew up in Wiggins and earned undergraduate and law degrees from Ole Miss, where he was on the debate team. He was elected district attorney for the Gulf Coast and later returned to private law practice. Holleman is survived by his six children, four stepchildren and 16 grandchildren. His wife, Annie, passed away in 2006.

The Boyce Holleman Debate Series accepts private contributions. Those interested can visit [www.umfoundation.com/makeagift](http://www.umfoundation.com/makeagift) or mail checks to the University of Mississippi Foundation, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677. Checks should be made payable to the foundation and donors should note "Boyce Holleman Debate Series."

## Longtime Support Impacts Academics, Athletics

**B**ill F. Cossar said that since his retirement from Entergy seven years ago he “makes every event” at his alma mater. Although those events are mostly sporting in nature, Cossar recently made the 40-mile trip from his Charleston ranch to formalize a \$125,000 donation to the University of Mississippi.

In addition to establishing the Bill Cossar Ole Miss First Scholarship, which will support students from Tallahatchie County, the gift will also benefit the Vaught Society, which supports UM’s athletics programs and the Chancellor’s Trust, which will allow Chancellor Dan Jones to address some of the university’s most pressing needs.

“Bill Cossar is making a tremendous impact on the success of our academic and athletics programs through his generous commitment,” Jones said. “We deeply appreciate this gift and all that he has done over the years to help ensure excellence in the classroom and on the playing field at Ole Miss.”

A longtime supporter of UM Athletics, Cossar joined with his brothers and Ole Miss alumni, John and George Jr., in 1993 to create the Mississippi Valley Title Insurance Co./George Payne Cossar Sr. Scholarship for law students. The annual scholarship honors Cossar’s late father, a well-respected Mississippi lawyer and 1931 UM graduate. The new scholarship in Bill Cossar’s name will support undergraduates from Tallahatchie County, where Cossar grew up and now lives.

“I wanted to do something for deserving students from my home,” said Cossar, who graduated from Ole Miss in 1962 with a degree in marketing and sales. “I was able to pay for 90 percent of my school working in the summer, but so many people graduate now with student loans to repay. I wanted to help with that burden and also help someone who maybe wouldn’t go to school otherwise.”

Cossar decided the Ole Miss

First Scholarship program was the ideal vehicle to help students. The program was created in 2000 by Cossar’s friend and Ole Miss classmate, UM Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat, to help ensure scholarship support for every deserving student.

Khayat, who facilitated Cossar’s gift, said that the ongoing commitment of private support is evidence of an abiding love for Ole Miss: “The Cossar family has for several generations been at the center of life at Ole Miss and that’s certainly true for Bill,” Khayat said. “He told me he wanted to make a significant gift to help our students and athletics teams, and on behalf of everyone at Ole Miss, I’m grateful to him for doing that.”

The Cossar family’s ties to Ole Miss run deep. In addition to Bill Cossar’s father and brothers, his mother, Elizabeth, also attended Ole Miss. The legacy

has continued with nieces and nephews as well as with his daughter, Connie Cossar, who attended Ole Miss before graduating from Belhaven College. (Although Cossar’s son, Harper, who holds a doctorate in communications from Georgia State University, did not attend Ole Miss, Cossar joked that he’s tried to convince his son to seek employment at UM.)

After Bill Cossar graduated from Ole Miss, he spent 41 years with Entergy (formerly Mississippi Power and Light), retiring from his post as vice president for governmental affairs in 2003. During his career, Cossar served eight years, under Govs. Ronnie Musgrove and Haley Barbour, on the State Personnel Board, which he chaired for five years. Cossar previously served on Mississippi’s Economic Development Board under Govs. Bill Allain and Ray Mabus.



UM alumnus Bill F. Cossar of Charleston (center) is presented with a certificate by Chancellor Dan Jones (left) and UM Foundation President and CEO Wendell Weakley for his ongoing commitment to support academic and athletics programs.



## Campaign Sets \$100M Goal for Faculty Support continued from Cover

professors, support for them must grow.”

To that end, the Foundation has created the Barnard Endowment, named for one of UM’s most influential leaders, Frederick A. P. Barnard, who served as chancellor from 1856 to 1859. Because it is structured as an endowment, the fund will provide a permanent stream of salary and research support for UM faculty.

Although UM faculty salaries currently fall below the average of the Southern University Group – which includes 31 state universities from across the South – many UM faculty members are leaders in their fields,

serving as editors for prestigious journals in such areas as banking and finance and conducting ground-breaking research into such areas as land mine detection.

“We have deeply committed, talented and resourceful faculty, who have transformed this university by overachieving in many ways,” Chancellor Dan Jones said. “Compared to our peers, we have had below-average per-student funding, and our faculty have experienced below-average compensation for some time. In spite of these challenges, they participate in or lead nationally recognized programs, and indeed, the University of Mississippi has achieved remarkable

national rankings for academic performance.”

Because UM faculty members have been able to overcome funding challenges and receive national recognition for their work, Ole Miss continues to attract the region’s brightest students and provide them with the resources to thrive after graduation.

“Our first priority remains providing outstanding educational opportunities for all deserving students so that they may lead productive and rewarding lives,” said Jones. “In order to do that, we have no choice but to ensure that we can recruit and retain superior faculty.”

## Hale Fund Assists Music, Pre-dentistry Students continued from Cover

assist students studying pre-dentistry or music. Al Hale studied music as an undergraduate at Ole Miss, before earning his medical degree from the University of Tennessee. He practiced dentistry for four decades and spent a lifetime enjoying music.

Dr. Hale was an Army veteran and well-known leader who was involved in the community of Holly Springs and its First Baptist Church. He opened his antebellum homes – White Pillars, Grey Gables and Hilltop with his exquisite antique and art collections – for the annual pilgrimage and was active in the Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce.

“He knew everyone and really worked at making everyone feel comfortable,” said Dr. David Childers of Holly Springs, the executor of the estate, who also said his friend had planned the scholarship fund for several years.

“Dr. Hale never wanted any personal glory for these scholarships and his gift,” Childers said. “He set up these scholarships to honor his parents because he felt as though they had done so much for him. He also



**Portrait of Dr. Alfred Hale of Holly Springs, whose estate provided scholarship funds**

really loved Ole Miss,” he said.

Emmette “Buster” Hale III, an alumnus and retired chief information officer of the university, agreed, describing his uncle as a generous man to his family and to the university.

“He wanted to leave a legacy and honor my grandparents, and he knew how vitally important scholarships are to students and the university,” he said.

Dr. Hale’s love of music will live through the new scholarships. Buster Hale said his uncle was a “gifted musician with perfect pitch.” Growing up in Senatobia, he played football in high school and changed uniforms at halftime to perform with the marching band. He dreamed of playing piano at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, but

his father advised him that there wasn’t a great deal of money to be earned at that position in the 1950s.

Charles Gates, chair of music, said the bequest will help recruit and support gifted music students.

“We in the Department of Music are united in our dedication to making our programs as strong as possible, as we prepare students for careers as professional musicians and educators, provide every student at the university a chance to experience music, and serve as a center of musical art and culture for Oxford and the surrounding mid-South area,” Gates said. “We know that continued excellence and growth in these endeavors requires the support made possible by the good stewardship of benefactors such as the late Dr. Hale.”

Dean of Liberal Arts Glenn Hopkins said, “The gift from Dr. Hale’s estate will help deserving students attend college, earn degrees and enrich their lives. We are most grateful for these generous scholarships and especially gratified to be remembered by a former student.”

Not only was Dr. Hale a musician and a dentist, he also was an avid Ole Miss sports fan, attending football and basketball games with his nephews and friends.

In addition to Al Hale, Emmette and Nannie Hale were the parents of Mildred “Millie” Hale McLarty and Emmette Hale Jr. and the grandparents of eight. Several earned degrees from Ole Miss.

## IAVO Presents Software for 3-D Visualization Training

Professor Waheed Uddin's civil engineering students at UM have placed sensors on emergency vehicles to study traffic flow on roads and walked major airport runways to examine construction materials as part of national and international research projects. Now, thanks to a \$4.6 million software donation, students can enhance such real-world experiences right on their computers.

Recognizing Uddin's commitment to innovative teaching, IAVO Research and Scientific of Durham, N.C., contributed 150 licenses of its GeoGenesis® image-processing software, with 20 of the licenses designated for the UM School of Medicine. The gift will help prepare not only engineering students but also students in an array of disciplines with cutting-edge technology through 3-D visualization and remote sensing – technologies the U.S. Department of Labor has identified as high-growth industries in the 21st century.

"Mastering these tools provides great marketability for all students," said Matt Heric, CEO of IAVO. "In fact, understanding GIS – or geographic information systems – has become a tangent to what it means to be literate. The software applications of

GeoGenesis are endless, and we have been impressed with Waheed Uddin's ideas for involving disciplines across the Oxford and Medical Center campuses in what we consider to be a university-wide gift."

The software is allowing students, as well as UM's research community, to fully realize the value and impact of 3-D visualization and remote sensing on earth sciences, environmental concerns, engineering, architecture, societal issues, business, education, archaeology, history, geo-politics and more. School of Medicine professors are exploring the software's applications with medical imaging analysis.

Traditional geospatial analysis and geographic information systems provide only a 2-D view of the planet. The latest 3-D technology of GeoGenesis comes from the development and use of satellite imagery, laser terrain mapping, global positioning systems and GIS, said Uddin, director of the UM Center for Advanced Infrastructure Technology Transportation Modeling and Visualization Laboratory. He is managing the GeoGenesis gift and implementing it in



Matt Heric, CEO of IAVO

the CAIT laboratory.

In addition to preparation of students and collaborative research, the gift will be utilized in outreach to the state in planning effective emergency preparedness and responses. Three-dimensional visuals of buildings, critical life-line infrastructure assets, terrain, highways and vehicles provide those studying potential and actual disasters a more in-depth look at the impact of such crises.

## Students Welcome Edge with Instrumental Technologies

UM students hoping to one day fight terrorism or organized crime will have a competitive edge in the job market, thanks to gifts from two leading corporations in the intelligence software industry.

Donations valued at more than \$800,000 from Visual Analytics Inc. (VAI), headquartered in Frederick, Md., and i2 Inc, headquartered in McLean, Va., are allowing UM students pursuing minors in intelligence and security studies to use the same crime-and terror-fighting tools as those utilized by intelligence professionals.

The gifts were made to UM's Center for Intelligence and Security Studies, which was created partly in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Part of the School of Applied Sciences, CISS offers a minor in intelligence and security studies and provides educational and scholarly resources to the national intelligence community.

"These are the exact software packages our students will use when they graduate and go to work

for the FBI or CIA," said Carl Jensen, director of CISS and a former FBI special agent. "This is a significant advantage for our students. They'll be comfortable with and adept at using these technologies even before they get out in the field. We are grateful to both i2 Inc. and VAI for their very generous support."

The i2 software, valued at more than \$475,000, allows investigators and analysts in law enforcement, government, military, intelligence and commercial organizations to quickly understand complex scenarios and huge amounts of seemingly unrelated data, perform analysis and communicate findings, according to the company's Web site.

The software from VAI, valued at \$335,000, is used to investigate money laundering, financial crimes, narcotics trafficking, terrorism, border security, embezzlement and fraud.

"The donation of our analytical and information sharing software to the University of Mississippi's Center for Intelligence and Security Studies provides

students with direct access to advanced technologies used throughout the globe within intelligence and law enforcement agencies," said VAI CEO and co-founder Chris Westphal.

"It allows them to try, practice and review all of the features and functions while being exposed to different scenarios, problem sets and real-world circumstances. We are very pleased that Ole Miss is a participating member of our collegiate software program and look forward to supporting their operations," he said.

Marie Barnard, assistant dean of applied sciences, said that having such tools available is "typically beyond the reach of an academic institution."

"These very generous gifts from i2 Inc. and VAI will be instrumental in training and educating the next generation of intelligence analysts and investigators," Barnard said. "This makes our students much more competitive in the job market, and we are grateful to these companies for their support of our program."



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

## Max, Nila Williams Applaud Contributions of Khayat

Two Oxford residents who have contributed to the life of the university for more than four decades are recognizing a leader for his contributions: former chancellor Robert Khayat.

Dr. Max and Nila Williams have joined the Chancellor's Trust with a \$25,000 gift to honor Khayat. The unrestricted funds address the greatest needs on campus.

"Every area of university life has been greatly impacted by Robert Khayat," said Max Williams, a veteran professor and administrator. "This is an incredibly strong place because of his leadership. Robert took his role as chancellor very personally."

Nila Williams said, "Robert Khayat had a vision about what Ole Miss should be on the local and national level, and he put everything into achieving that vision. He has a warm personality that radiates throughout the state and across the country. He ... is loved by so many people."

Max Williams' career enabled him to interact with Khayat. While serving as professor of sociology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Williams directed the Center for Population Studies. In the



Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat (left) with Nila and Max Williams

latter part of his career, he directed research in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

Williams chaired the Faculty Senate and provided leadership as a member, then chair for 13 years, of the UM Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics. He also was a member of the Executive Committee of the Southeastern Conference for six years, served as the secretary of the conference and was UM faculty

athletics representative to the NCAA and the SEC. He now serves on the UM Athletics Association Board.

"Robert was named chancellor at a unique time in our university's history. I am not sure anyone else could have accomplished everything that he has," Williams said.

Khayat said he is humbled by the Chancellor's Trust gift. "The University of Mississippi has been strengthened by the extraordinary commitment, leadership and generosity of Max and Nila Williams. Their long-term investments of time and expertise have been both extremely beneficial and inspiring. We are profoundly appreciative of this amazing couple's devotion to the university."

Williams received bachelor's and master's degrees at UM before earning a doctorate at Vanderbilt University. Nila Williams attended Mississippi University for Women, completed her degree at Ole Miss and enjoyed a career in insurance with Internal Medicine of Oxford. The Williamses have two children, Dr. Ernie Williams of Oxford and Emeline Sahlein of Pasadena, Calif., and have six grandchildren.

## Parkers Express Thanks for Ole Miss Experience



Robert and Rebecca Parker

Rebecca and Robert Parker, of Atlanta, Ga., said that watching their daughter thrive at UM led them to make a gift to the Chancellor's Trust.

The Chancellor's Trust addresses the university's greatest needs and requires a minimum gift of \$25,000.

"I get text messages from her saying, 'Thank you for sending me to Ole Miss; I'm so glad I'm here,'" said Rebecca Parker of their daughter Mackenzie, a senior journalism major. "It's exciting to hear your child say that."

Parker said that Mackenzie, who works as a disc jockey for UM's student-run Rebel Radio, decided to enroll at Ole Miss after touring the campus and talking with other Atlanta-area students who attended Ole Miss. She had toured six other campuses in the Southeast before she decided to enroll on the Oxford campus.

"Many Atlantans are supporting Ole Miss," Parker said. "And so many kids who are fabulous students are choosing Ole Miss. You see these kids succeeding. There's something about Ole Miss that fires them up."

Like others who've supported the Chancellor's

Trust, the Parkers feel the university is under the right leadership and traveling on a positive path.

"We're happy to be able to contribute to what Ole Miss is doing," Parker said. "And we're delighted to participate in the University's progress."

Josh Whelan, UM associate director of development for parents, said that the Parkers and other families who've chosen to give back to Ole Miss are making a significant difference in the lives of students.

"It's gratifying to see parents so involved in their child's educational experience," Whelan said. "We're thankful to Rob and Rebecca on behalf of all Ole Miss students."

"I would encourage other parents to find out what Ole Miss is doing," Parker said. "I would have them look into how they are raising the bar for their kids. I think it will give them a lot of hope and encouragement for their children's future."

## Frank, Joy Tindall Provide Resources Honoring Khayat

Frank and Joy Tindall of Indianola have woven Ole Miss into the fabric of their lives for decades, and now they are strengthening the university's ability to impact others with a \$100,000 gift honoring Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat.

The Tindalls' gift is designated for the Legacy and Chancellor's Trust funds, which address the university's greatest needs.

"Robert Khayat was the ideal chancellor," said Frank Tindall, a 1939 UM alumnus and a longtime university supporter. "He made some tough decisions and worked to position Ole Miss as one of the leading universities. The university made great progress under his leadership, particularly initiatives such as the one that brought a Phi Beta Kappa chapter to the Oxford campus."

Khayat said he appreciates what the Tindall family means to UM.

"Frank and Joy Tindall are a wonderful example of the amazing families who make up our larger Ole Miss family," Khayat said. "The Tindalls have shown their love for the University of Mississippi by maintaining lifelong ties and providing generous support.



Frank and Joy Tindall

Their extraordinary gift will touch many students who come here to pursue high-quality educational opportunities and as an added benefit, establish enduring relationships."

Frank Tindall met his wife, Joy Moore of New Orleans, in 1941. They became engaged in 1942, after he was commissioned as an ensign at the U.S. Naval Academy's V-7 program in World War II. They

married in 1944. As a lieutenant, senior grade, with command of a Fleet Auxiliary Minesweeper, Tindall's active service duty ended in 1945, when he returned to Indianola and met his six-day-old daughter. He continued in the Naval Reserve until 1952, retiring as a lieutenant commander.

Tindall began farming in Indianola, raising cotton, soy beans, rice, catfish, cattle, horses and Labrador retrievers. He also served his community and state.

Tindall was a founder of the First Savings and Loan Association in Indianola and the Reformed Theological Seminary in Clinton. He also served 15 years on the Indianola Public School Board. Tindall was a director of the Holly Ridge Gin Co., Production Credit Association and Delta Western and was the president of the Indianola Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow.

The Tindalls have three children, Frank Tindall Jr. of Indianola and Oxford, Joy Aden of Jackson and Helen Thurber of Mobile, Ala., all Ole Miss graduates, as well as eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



## OMWC Scholarship to Nurture Leaders

Patricia Lott and her husband, former U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, visit campus for an Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy Rose Garden ceremony honoring Mrs. Lott. The April 16 program recognized the council scholarship created in her name by the Trent Lott Leadership Institute. Originally established in 2005, the Patricia Thompson Lott Council Scholarship is designated for public policy majors in order to nurture strong leaders for the state and nation. Donors to the scholarship include Sen. Lott, Bill and Donna Gottshall, Guy and Sis Hovis, and Senate Secretary Gary Sisco and his wife, Mary Sue.



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.

## Riggs Couple Leaves Legacy of Helping Young Patients

The legacy of Marvin and Virginia Riggs is marked by generosity that will touch the lives of Mississippi's children for generations through a \$545,000 estate gift to the UMMC Department of Pediatrics.

This gift is the final chapter in an inspiring story that began a decade ago. Shortly after seeing TV news coverage on the Mississippi Children's Cancer Clinic at the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children, the Riggs donated \$100,000 in stock options. Once the stock sold, they established the Louis Stanley Riggs Endowment for the Children's Cancer Clinic Library, named after Marvin Riggs' brother, who died of cancer. Funds purchase books for the clinic's library and provide each patient with a book to take home from clinic visits.

"Marvin and Virginia Riggs were a wonderful and generous couple," said Barbara Austin, UMMC director emerita of public affairs. "They had no children of their own and were touched, I think, by the spunk of the kids fighting such a terrible disease."

For years after the initial donation, Mrs. Riggs



In 2001, Marvin Riggs (left) and his wife, Virginia (second from right), toured the Mississippi Children's Cancer Clinic at UMMC with Dr. Wallace Connerly and Dr. D. Jeanette Pullen.

made visits to the clinic to read to the patients, and both she and her husband kept up with UMMC activities. "As Mississippians and educators, they took special pride in this place and all it does for our state," Austin said.

The recent bequest will support one of several endowed chairs in pediatrics.

"The generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Riggs enables

the Department of Pediatrics to recruit and retain superior faculty, a critical factor in ensuring excellence in research, teaching and caring for Mississippi's youngest citizens," said Dr. Owen B. Evans, professor and chair of pediatrics. "We are grateful for their foresight and dedication to our patients."

The Vice Chancellor's Excellence Fund for the School of Medicine also received \$275,000 from the Riggs' estate. The funds will go toward the construction of a new School of Medicine.

Marvin Riggs, a Missouri native, came to Mississippi in 1920. The Millsaps graduate dedicated his life to teaching at various local institutions, including Millsaps and Hinds Community College, where his wife was head librarian and director of learning resources.

Marvin Riggs died in 2005 and Virginia Riggs in 2007.

Batson Hospital, which opened in 1997, annually cares for more than 150,000 children from the state's 82 counties.

## Weakley, Vaughn Tapped for Expanded Leadership Roles

Two key UM leaders have accepted expanded roles in the area of private support.

Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the UM Foundation, is assuming greater responsibility for overseeing the Office of University Development, which is led by Deborah Vaughn. Her title is now senior executive director of development and chief development officer.

The moves are designed to strengthen the leadership structure and formalize many of the duties the staff members have been performing for some time, Chancellor Dan Jones said. The moves also reflect a commitment to doing what is necessary to help the institution weather the tough economic climate, since Weakley's and Vaughn's expanded responsibilities allow the vice chancellor for development position to remain vacant.

"The university faces some of its greatest challenges in generations, and we need exceptional leader-



Wendell Weakley



Debbie Vaughn

ship to help us through these times," Jones said. "I'm pleased these valued members of our team have agreed to take on new responsibilities and help us continue to achieve our goals of providing quality education and economic development for the people of Mississippi."

Weakley is just the second-ever president and CEO of the UM Foundation – a position he accepted in 2006 – and he helped oversee the recent MomentUM campaign, which attracted \$240 million

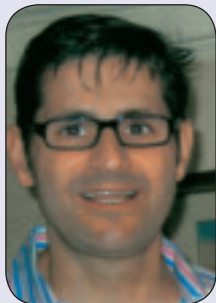
in private support. Before returning to his alma mater, Weakley was a partner in the prestigious Price-waterhouseCoopers accounting firm, where his clients included prominent multinational corporations.

"Private support has never been more critical to our university and for increasing the margin of excellence we expect of Ole Miss," Weakley said. "I look forward to working with our excellent development team as we focus on faculty and student support for now and for generations to come."

Vaughn joined Ole Miss in 2005. She previously was the associate dean for development and alumni relations for Vanderbilt University's College of Arts and Science.

"The University of Mississippi is supported by loyal alumni and friends whose generosity helps define our academic reputation," Vaughn said. "We are humbled and inspired by the many donors who respond with resources to continue the University's great strides."

## Family Creates Scholarship in Rudman's Memory



Jerry Rudman

From an early age Jerry Rudman let everyone know he would attend UM. When he died last year, his family members knew they would create a scholarship to remember the enthusiastic alumnus and to help others pursue college degrees.

"Jerry always loved Ole Miss," said his mother, Iris Rudman Smith of Brookhaven. "Having his name on an Ole Miss scholarship is so appropriate. His career took him across the country and around the globe. He always talked about meeting fellow alumni in his travels and how the Ole Miss connection meant instant friendship."

To pay tribute to his life and affection for UM, Rudman's family has endowed a scholarship in his

name. In addition to Smith, others contributing to the fund benefiting Brookhaven High School students are his siblings, Judith Rudman of Brookhaven, Suzanne Rudman Brooks of Georgetown, Texas, and J.D. Rudman and Dr. Joel Rudman of Navarre, Fla.

Jerry Rudman's father, the late Jerry T. Rudman, owned a Brookhaven CPA firm for 41 years. Smith was the office manager for 24 years, then served 19 years as Brookhaven's city clerk. The Rudman siblings graduated from BHS, and Smith said the family's ties to the community contributed to the decision to designate the scholarship for BHS students.

"We wanted to give back to people who have been part of our lives, as we remembered Jerry's life with this scholarship fund," Smith said. "We believe Jerry would be very proud that the scholarship fund will help Brookhaven High School students who

want to earn degrees at Ole Miss. His wish would be for them to have the positive college experience that he did. He loved every part of Ole Miss and made a point of traveling back to campus and keeping in touch with college friends."

Rudman attended St. Francis of Assisi in Brookhaven before graduating from Brookhaven High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in accountancy in 1982, then accepted an offer to become an accountant with Texas Eastern Oil Co. in Houston. He later became associated with Johnson & Johnson and finally joined GlaxoSmithKline, where he had been promoted to vice president of the Center of Excellence for Clinical Study-Cardiovascular and Metabolism. He resided in New Hope, Penn.

To make a gift to the Jerry Rudman Memorial Scholarship, visit [www.umfoundation.com/makeagift](http://www.umfoundation.com/makeagift).

## Fair Legacy Seen in Involvement, Scholarship Endowment

When UM alumnus Davis Love Fair Jr. of Louisville passed away in 2009, he left an extraordinary legacy of service to Ole Miss.

"He was the best example of what it means to be a loyal and supportive Ole Miss alumnus," said son Dave Fair. "He also dearly loved Oxford and the entire Oxford community."

Fair attended Louisville Public Schools before graduating from Gulf Coast Military Academy in Gulfport. A 1936 Ole Miss graduate, Fair was active in Phi Delta Theta fraternity and was a member of Omicron Delta Theta leadership honorary. He was manager of the basketball team and an M-Club member.

Fair was following in the



Davis Love Fair Jr.

footsteps of his father, Davis Love Fair Sr., another loyal UM alumnus, who died in 1952. The elder Fair, a 1902 graduate, helped select the name "Rebels" for Ole Miss athletics teams, founded an organization to provide scholarships for needy students, served as national alumni president for two terms and organized the Ole Miss Loyalty Club – the forerunner of the UMAA Foundation – and served as its president.

Before their deaths, Fair Jr. established the Davis Love Fair Sr. Memorial Scholarship to assist football players and to pay tribute to his father's remarkable contributions to the university.

"The Fair family has played an integral role in the life of the University of Mississippi for many years and obviously has passed down a deep love for, and commitment to, Ole Miss through generations," said UM athletics director Pete Boone. "Families like the Fairs continue to strengthen our university and enhance our athletics program – all for the benefit of our students."

Fair Jr. first worked for DL Fair Lumber Company plants in Shuqualak, Bruce and Grenada. He served as its vice president from 1948 to 1952 and as president from 1952 until its purchase by Georgia Pacific in 1965. Fair was voted Man of the Year and Tree Farmer of the Year for Louisville and Winston County in 1982.

In addition to holding leadership positions in several professional organizations, he served as an elder of First Presbyterian Church in Louisville, president of the Louisville Rotary Club, trustee and president of the Louisville School Board, and on the board of trustees of French Camp Academy.

To make a gift to the Davis Love Fair Sr. Memorial Scholarship, visit [www.umfoundation.com/makeagift](http://www.umfoundation.com/makeagift).



## Brady Ensures Business ‘Focus’ Scholarships Continue



Business Dean Ken Cyree (left) with Michael Brady

Michael Brady of Atlanta has assisted 18 UM students through an ongoing business scholarship program he created in the late 1990s. Now he's committed a testamentary gift of \$136,000 to ensure his legacy continues.

"At some point in your life, you've got to lock yourself into something that's bigger than you are. In addition to God, of course, that something is my alma mater," the 1969 business alumnus said. "When you're

ready, you'll know it. When it's time to act, you'll act or you'll forever wish you would have. It's one of the things that sets you apart and gives your life meaning.

"In 1995 when I read of some of the scholarships in the business school's quarterly publication, I had a spark of an idea that I could fund such a scholarship myself," Brady said. "What struck me was a big company's gift of a few thousand to fund a scholarship. I thought you had to have millions to start a scholarship. I thought, 'I can do that!' and I started Focus initially with \$5,000."

Ken Cyree, dean of business administration and holder of the Frank R. Day/Mississippi Bankers Association Chair of Banking, praised Brady for extending opportunities to business students.

"Michael Brady has been very involved with students who have received the Brady Scholarship, and his dedication to Ole Miss continues through this planned gift. His generosity and passion for the School of Business Administration and the University of Mississippi are consistent with the commitment of this gift and his faith in our mission. I am grateful for his support and pleased Ole Miss students will benefit from his legacy," Cyree said.

The idea of the P.M. Brady "Focus" Scholarship in Business is to provide financial assistance to juniors, seniors and graduate students, with first preference given to those students "in the middle." This could include a variety of life or financial challenges, such as being from a family hit by job downsizing, trying to attend college while raising children, or transferring from a community college with fewer possibilities of other scholarships.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Brady and his family moved south to Florida while he was attending high school. He enrolled in junior college and later transferred to Ole Miss.

After graduation, Brady served one enlistment in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He then pursued graduate work at The Citadel. He entered the business world through the advertising field in Atlanta and later moved to Charleston, S.C., to open and operate The Phone Room through several retail locations. Brady sold that business in 1982 and moved back to Atlanta, where he established the business Telephone Service Network. He sold it in 2003 and now is writing screenplays steeped in the history and culture of the Mississippi Delta.

## Dunns Recognize Importance of Library to University

As two UM students committed to paying their own way through graduate school, Jacque and Michael Dunn managed to make ends meet each month, thanks in part to his job at the J.D. Williams Library.

Recognizing the importance this job played in their lives and careers, as well as the relationship between a library and the overall academic integrity of a university, the Dunns, who reside in Columbia, Mo., have committed a planned gift of \$171,000 to the University Libraries.

"In addition to Mike's personal connection to the library, we recognize the library touches every student and faculty member on campus," said Jacque Dunn, a major gifts officer for the National Audubon Society. "We have always planned to give back to the university ... and acknowledge that we would not be where we are today without our college education and experiences."

The Dunns' gift is unrestricted for the library's

greatest needs.

"Jacque and Michael Dunn's wonderful gift will give the University Libraries the flexibility to respond to critical needs," said Julia Rholes, dean of libraries. "In these times of rapid technology changes, it is impossible to know exactly what library users will want in the future. This generous gift from the Dunns will help us continue being successful."

Michael Dunn is a faculty member in the Missouri School of Journalism; general manager of KBIA, the university-licensed NPR member station; and executive director of the Concert Series. At Ole Miss, he earned a master's degree in radio and broadcasting in 1977 and a doctorate in higher education/broadcasting in 1980. He was hired at the library to shelve books, promoted



Michael and Jacque Dunn

to the front desk and eventually supervised student evening staff and closed the library.

"I am an avid reader. Books and libraries have been very important to me since an early age," said Michael Dunn, a Tennessee native.

Jacque Fudge Dunn, an Oxford native, earned an undergraduate degree in art in 1976 and a master's degree in broadcasting in 1979. She worked in commercial television in Oklahoma City

and at the University of Oklahoma School of Journalism. She also served as a consultant for the opening of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. Following her husband to Mizzou, she was on its development staff for 16 years and now raises funds for the Audubon Society's Mississippi River Region.

## Beloved UM Professor Directs Funds to Accountancy

James W. “Jimmy” Davis’ career at UM has spanned more than 44 years and four chancellors. He has helped UM’s accounting program grow from a department into the Patterson School of Accountancy, served as dean of accountancy and watched hundreds of his students go on to pursue successful accounting careers.

Now Davis has directed part of his retirement funds to the place that has meant so much to him. “Ole Miss is my whole life,” he said. “It’s been good to me and this is my opportunity to repay the university.”

Davis’ retirement funds are designated for the James W. Davis Scholarship Endowment in Accountancy, created in 2002 by faculty, alumni and friends to honor the professor.

“Dr. Davis has been instrumental in establishing and solidifying the reputation of the Patterson School with regard to its great reputation for being teaching-oriented and student-focused,” said Mark Wilder, dean of accountancy. “This generous gift to the Davis Endowment only further exemplifies his lifelong commitment to Ole Miss accountancy students.”

Davis is providing resources to help UM continue competing for the brightest accountancy students.

“Offering scholarships is absolutely necessary. It

gives us a good recruiting advantage,” Davis said. “We’re competing with other good schools, and outstanding students get scholarships. So we have to be in the mix.”

Carol Anne Marion, associate director of development for the Patterson School, said, “Dr. Davis expects the best from his students and takes a personal interest in their success. I graduated from the accountancy program with such high regard and appreciation for Dr. Davis, but it wasn’t until I began visiting with many of his former students through my current position that I came to understand just how deep and widespread his impact has been. Many, many people attribute their success, both personal and professional, to Dr. Davis’ dedicated guidance.”

Davis, a Panola County native, earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Ole Miss. He worked in the Houston, Texas, office of Arthur Andersen before joining the UM faculty in 1965. He



Accountancy Professor James W. Davis (left) with Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat

holds the distinguished H. Eugene Peery Chair in Accountancy. Davis was awarded the university-wide Outstanding Teacher Award in 1985 and received the Patterson School’s outstanding teaching awards in 1983, 1988, 1993, 2004 and 2008. He received the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants’ Outstanding Educator Award in 1993.

## Estate of Veteran English Professor Enhances UM Libraries

“A library is the absolute heart of a university.” That sentiment was often delivered by Charles E. Noyes, whose passion for teaching changed the lives of countless UM students and whose passion for learning will impact generations to come.

A \$128,000 gift from the estate of the professor emeritus of English is designated for the Charles E. Noyes Library Endowment, created in 1991 by two alumni. Noyes already had given more than \$266,000 during his life to strengthen the University Libraries and other academic and cultural areas.

In addition, after retiring in 1982 and until his death in 2008, Noyes focused his energies on the Friends of the Library organization. His efforts were recognized through memorial gifts to the library totaling \$21,000. His personal book collection also was donated to the library, where a graduate reading room bears his name.

“Like any professor, my father had a great love of



Charles E. Noyes

books,” said Helen Noyes Linzey of Florence, Ala. “He had talked about an estate gift to the library for about 20 years. Although he recognized that technology has greatly changed libraries, he hoped books would continue to be enjoyed and treasured.”

Dean of Libraries

Julia Rhoads said, “Dr. Noyes helped us acquire thousands of books for the University Libraries through his years of involvement with Friends of the Library. Because of this generous estate gift and the many memorials paying tribute to his life, thousands more will be added to our collections. It’s difficult to adequately describe the far-reaching implications of his influence.”

David and Barbara Arnold of Yazoo City first created the Noyes Library Endowment.

“Dr. Noyes was a fantastic English professor,” said David Arnold, a retired senior vice president of the Mississippi Chemical Corp. “He made literature come alive. He was an avid reader who could convey his knowledge in an incredible way to a whole classroom of students. When my wife and I ... learned of his support of the library, we knew this would be a great way to honor his influence.”

Noyes earned two degrees from the University of Missouri and a doctorate from the University of Texas. At UM, he served as professor, provost, associate vice chancellor and director of the summer session.

Noyes is survived by Linzey; a son, James C. Noyes of Nashville; and nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruthie Marie Smith Noyes, and a daughter, Marie Noyes Hartwick.



## Hope Family Plans Resources for Three Scholarship Areas

From a small community in southeast Louisiana, the late Wallace E. Hope – a product of the Depression – began working when he was 10 and persevered to become a gas company executive. The legacy he created with his wife, Elizabeth, will be seen through UM scholarships funded with their \$450,000 gift.

“My parents – both very intelligent – never had the opportunity to go to college,” said William M. “Bill” Hope of Memphis, the couple’s son and a UM alumnus. “They were not unlike others in their generation. They worked very hard from a young age, but they were fortunate to do extremely well. Being caring people, they planned this gift to provide educational opportunities for others.”

Wallace Hope died in 2005 at the age of 86. Elizabeth Hope, who now lives in Fairfield Bay, Ark., recently formalized the couple’s plans for a charitable trust to fund scholarships at their only child’s alma mater.

Two-thirds of the trust has created the Wallace E. and Elizabeth G. Hope Scholarship Endowment, providing financial support to students in the School of Education and the School of Nursing on the Oxford campus. The other third is designated for the James W. “Jimmy” Davis Scholarship Fund in the Patterson School of Accountancy.

Bill Hope said his parents chose to assist the School of Education because the gift would help



James W. Davis (from left), William M. Hope and Chancellor Dan Jones

prepare future educators, who then could go out and impact many lives. They selected the nursing program because of the constant shortage of nurses. Hope was invited by his parents to direct the other third of the gift and decided to honor professor and friend James W. “Jimmy” Davis, holder of the Eugene Peery Chair of Accountancy.

“Jimmy Davis taught me auditing,” said Hope, the former managing partner of the Rhea & Ivy accounting firm, which merged in 2008 with Dixon Hughes. “He had a huge influence on me and my decision to stay in public accounting. I want to recognize and thank him.”

Davis remembers Hope among the first class of students he taught at Ole Miss.

“It was a stellar group, equal to any we have ever had,” Davis said. “Bill was confident and the image of success we knew he would achieve. He did just that: rose to the top position in a firm, always supported Ole Miss, hired more than his share of our graduates, and maintained personal and professional friendships over 45 years. I am proud to call him my friend, and I am

honored – and humbled – that this gift will enhance the scholarships that bear my name.”

Hope said that his father also played an integral role in his professional success.

“When I graduated from Ole Miss with two degrees, my dad told me, ‘What you’ve got to understand is all you have is an opportunity – it is a great one – but the game is just starting,’” he said. “I took him seriously and made something of my opportunity. I hope the scholarships provided by my parents will encourage recipients to be the best they can be.”

Wallace Hope spent his career with Amoco – which had grown to be the largest natural gas producer in North America by the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – and served in various management positions throughout the Southern and Midwestern regions of the country.

Bill Hope earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in accountancy and now serves on the accountancy school’s Advisory Council. He and his wife, Clara Dean, an Ole Miss alumna, are the parents of a son, Spence, who with his wife, Kristin, pursue careers with an investment banking firm.



Elizabeth and the late Wallace E. Hope

## Cuthberts Direct Support to Tennis, Other Programs

Val Cuthbert recently found himself posing the question: “How do you leave something behind to make the world better than you found it?” He and his wife, Beth, have answered that question by creating a family trust endowment to benefit UM.

The majority of their new endowment, which carries a significant value, is designated for the Ole Miss Men’s Tennis program, and other portions will create undergraduate scholarships in the schools of Business Administration and Pharmacy and will provide support to the Pride of the South Band.

“The university has done an excellent job using private gifts and other resources,” Val Cuthbert said. “We are very proud of what we see happening, and we want to do our part to see that it continues.”

Men’s Head Coach Billy Chadwick expressed his appreciation for the gift and the Cuthberts’ support.

“Val and Beth moved to Oxford and immediately became members of the Ole Miss tennis family. Not only are the Cuthberts our most loyal fans, they also know our players by name and have become friends with their parents, many of whom are from other countries. Their endowment will ensure that the excellent tradition of the Ole Miss tennis program continues. We deeply appreciate the love and support the Cuthberts give Ole Miss tennis and consider them part of our team,” Chadwick said.

Val Cuthbert said he and his wife have played a great deal of tennis and love the game. “We attend as



Val and Beth Cuthbert (from left) with Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat

many Ole Miss tennis matches as we can each year.”

Beth Cuthbert said, “The Ole Miss tennis players are such great young people. They thank fans for supporting them at their matches, which I think is unique.”

Before they retired to Oxford, the Cuthberts lived in Memphis and Atlanta during Val Cuthbert’s 34-year management career with the McKesson Corp., a health-care services company. They joined with a few other Ole Miss alumni to found the Atlanta alumni

club, which has grown into a large organization.

Val Cuthbert and one of the couple’s daughters, Betsy Cuthbert of Nashville, earned their degrees from the Ole Miss business school, and the couple’s younger daughter, Evelyn Cuthbert-Baird of Nashville, received a pharmacy degree. Beth Cuthbert also attended Ole Miss.

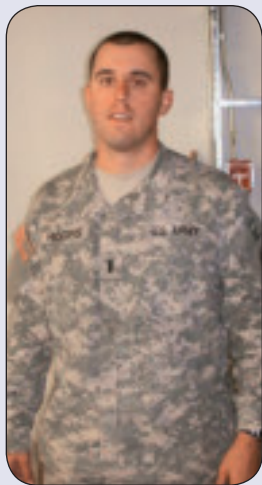
“We greatly appreciate the gift that will benefit our students and the School of Business Administration by allowing us to attract high-quality individuals through the Cuthberts’ generosity,” said Ken Cyree, dean of business administration. “It is through the charity of friends of the school like Val and Beth Cuthbert that we are able to provide an excellent education to deserving young men and women.”

Dean of Pharmacy Barbara Wells echoed that praise.

“We appreciate so much the generous support of Val and Beth Cuthbert,” she said. “One of the greatest needs within the School of Pharmacy is to increase scholarship support for our students. The Cuthberts’ selfless contribution will help us recruit highly capable students and support them in a way that fosters greater learning and ultimately higher competence in the care of patients.”

In addition to tennis and academics, the Cuthberts expressed appreciation for the Pride of the South Band by designating a portion of their gift for its support.

## 1st Lt. Higgins’ Generosity Helps His Alma Mater



Andrew Higgins

Before Army 1st Lt. Andrew Higgins left Ft. Bliss in El Paso, Texas, to begin a year-long deployment in Iraq, he let his feelings be known about UM. He planned a \$20,000 bequest to benefit the Division of Student Affairs.

“Education has always been very important to our

family,” said Higgins, 27. “My dad, Jack, is superintendent of schools in a district outside Cleveland, Ohio, and my mom, Karen, retired after a 35-year teaching career. When I was making my will – as is customary for those being deployed – my dad told me he thought it was extremely important to provide support for schools and universities.”

Higgins came to UM in 2005 to pursue a master’s degree in higher education.

“Ole Miss is one of the best educational values around,” Higgins said. “I was very impressed with the university, and now I miss it so much. The university has become a large school, but there are so many opportunities for students. I am always so

amazed that the emphasis continues to be on each individual student. There’s a lot of personal attention given.”

Larry Ridgeway, vice chancellor for student affairs, expressed his appreciation for Higgins.

“We are deeply honored by Andrew’s thoughtfulness and generosity. At a time when he was preparing to deploy to Iraq, he has remembered Ole Miss and the Division of Student Affairs. We thank him for his gift but also for his willingness to serve our country. We pray for his safe return,” he said.

Higgins, a native of Mansfield, Ohio, served as coordinator of the Student Tour and Recruitment for Student Housing while at Ole Miss.



## Blair Gift Offsets Nursing Students' Tuition Expenses

UMMC nursing students will soon have another resource to help pay for classes, thanks to the late Laura Blair, a class of 1957 nursing graduate.

The Laura C. Blair Endowed Scholarship in Nursing was established with a \$155,000 gift to provide academic scholarships.

Originally from Copiah County, Blair attended Millsaps College and UMMC, where she earned bachelor's and master's degrees.

Blair worked as a registered nurse at Tennessee and Kentucky hospitals before joining the Mississippi Department of Education, where she was responsible for overseeing nursing curriculum for Mississippi's junior colleges until her retirement.

"She did a great job of upgrading practical nursing education," said Jeanette Waits, who retired from the School of Nursing in 1994 after a 33-year career of training young nurses.

Waits said baccalaureate nursing programs were still relatively new in the 1950s and that Blair was an



Laura Blair (center) posed with fellow nursing graduates Mary Howard (left) and Martha Bercaw at the 40th anniversary celebration of the Medical Center, held in 1995.

early advocate. "I admired her. She was one of the pioneers in pushing for higher standards for nursing education."

Blair passed away in 2006 at the age of 89. The gift to UMMC is only one of four separate trusts that will be split evenly between the School of Nursing and Millsaps.

Sheila Henderson, UMMC development officer,

said in about 18 months the endowment will have accrued enough interest to fund scholarship awards. A scholarship selection committee will then oversee making awards to Mississippians.

Waits said she met Blair through the Mississippi Nurses Association. Blair was very active in both the MNA and the Nursing Alumni Association.

"She was a very warm and outgoing person and was always very supportive of her professional staff," Waits said. "She was always well-informed of current issues in nursing."

Dr. Kim Hoover, interim dean for the School of Nursing, said that the endowed fund will help offset the rising costs of undergraduate and graduate nursing education.

"Because this is an endowed fund, Ms. Blair's donation will have a substantial impact for many years," Hoover said. "The School of Nursing appreciates the generous donation provided through Ms. Blair's estate."

## Retired Physician, 'Patron of Archaeology' Provides Gift

Retired physician Dr. Van Robinson Burnham of Clarksdale has invested many hours passing on his love of archaeology and history to his own grandchildren, as well as ensuring that others have the resources to explore and learn from these fields.

Burnham is continuing that commitment with a \$100,000 gift through his IRA to UM. Half is designated for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology to honor Jay Johnson, director of the Center for Archaeological Research. Burnham also is directing \$45,000 of the gift to support the new Center for Civil War Research and \$5,000 to Ole Miss Track.

"I've been planning to provide a gift to Ole Miss for some time now," Burnham said. "This gift is meant to honor Dr. Jay Johnson for his friendship and his great help with local archeology. The gift to the new center honors my Civil



Dr. Van Robinson Burnham with grandson Denson Hollis

War ancestors, including my grandfather and great-grandfather. I also wanted to provide assistance to track because I follow this sport at Ole Miss and ran track during my high school years."

Johnson and Burnham met around 30 years ago.

"Dr. Burnham is a patron of archaeology in Mississippi in the real sense of the word," he said. "He has been a major figure in archaeology of the Mississippi Delta and served on the

board of directors of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for several decades. This remarkable gift is just the latest chapter in a lifetime spent

supporting archaeologists working in the region."

Burnham was named Mississippi Lay Archaeologist of the Year in 2005 and served as president of the board of trustees for the North Delta Museum for 23 years.

John Neff, director of the Center for Civil War Research, said, "We are so grateful for this magnanimous gift – it is absolutely overwhelming. These funds will not only allow us to fulfill this year's plans but also permit us to expand upon them and carry the center well into the foreseeable future."

Burnham, a Ruleville native, graduated from Ole Miss in 1941. He earned his medical degree from Northwestern University in 1943 and completed residencies at Pennsylvania Hospital. He served in the Pacific Theater as a U.S. Navy lieutenant before returning to practice medicine for 60 years.

Burnham; his wife, the late Barbara B. Burnham; their three children – Babs Burnham Sweatt and R. Conner Burnham of Clarksdale and Van R. "Bubba" Burnham III of Sumner – and five grandchildren all attended Ole Miss.

## Ware Foundation Supports Unique Centers at UMMC

The Child Development Center and the Children's Justice Center at UMMC have received a \$250,000 contribution from the Ware Foundation.

The foundation chose to support the two centers after reviewing six proposals. "Our family tends to choose projects that are close to our hearts," said Elizabeth Eason, vice president of the fourth-generation foundation created in 1949 by Eason's great-grandfather, John H. Ware III. "We also like projects that no one else has assisted that may need a leg up."

The donation established the Ware Fund for Healthy Families and Children, a portion of which is being used to renovate both facilities.

The Children's Justice Center added an examination room in anticipation of rising patient numbers in the coming years and an area to assist in the treatment of children with sexually transmitted infections.

Plans for the Child Development Center include renovating the foyer to decrease the stress levels of pediatric patients.



Cutting the ribbon to open a new examination room are Elizabeth Hocker (from left), executive director of the Children's Justice Center; Dr. Owen B. Evans, professor and chair of pediatrics; Elizabeth Eason, vice president of the Ware Foundation; and Stacey Pickering, state auditor.

"It's a little scary and institutional out there," said Dr. Susan Buttross, professor of pediatrics and chief of the division of Child Development and Behavioral Pediatrics. "When children come here for testing ... they're already anxious and not sure what's going on. We need that first impression to be one that puts them

at ease."

The center also will install digital audio equipment in rooms to allow parents or medical students to observe ongoing therapy and to record sessions.

Both centers are one-of-a-kind for the state. Elizabeth Hocker, executive director of the Children's Justice Center, said that although the centers focus on different pediatric subspecialties, their missions overlap. "Children who are developmentally delayed are at high risk for abuse and neglect because caregivers get frustrated," Hocker said. "On the flip side, children often experience developmental or behavioral issues resulting from neglect and abuse."

Dr. Owen B. Evans, professor and chair of pediatrics, said, "We are grateful to the Ware Foundation for their support of the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. We have significantly expanded our programs and are continuing to add new ones in an effort to provide much-needed services to children in our state."

The Ware Foundation, based in Coral Gables, Florida, also supports several children's health initiatives at Baptist Hospital in Miami.

## Whitehead Gift Goes to Children's Cancer Clinic

John J. Whitehead of Biloxi spent a lifetime helping those in need and did so with one very simple rule — he was to remain anonymous. In fact, he so closely guarded his anonymity that even after his death, his family is still hesitant to talk about his donation to the Mississippi Children's Cancer Clinic.

"To this day, many of the people he helped don't know it was my father who helped them," said John's son, Michael Whitehead. "The messengers could only say that everyone has a guardian angel and that was all they needed to know."

The gift to the clinic came after John Whitehead's grandson, Corey, was diagnosed with t-cell acute lymphocytic leukemia a year and a half ago on his 14th birthday.

Michael Whitehead was in Jackson the day his

nephew, Corey, was diagnosed and went to the clinic at the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. "I looked around and realized that Corey was in good hands," he said. "I saw how comfortable the hospital tried to make the kids and their families during difficult times." Shortly thereafter, John Whitehead and the rest of the family made the decision to make a contribution to the clinic.

Corey's diagnosis strengthened the already strong bond between him and his grandfather. "He knew what Corey was going through," said Corey's mom, Lorie. John Whitehead made certain Corey would have everything he needed to distract himself from the battle he was fighting, including a laptop on which Corey spends hours playing his favorite game, *World of Warcraft*. "I really think it's helped him get through

this, since he can't do all the other things teenage boys are usually doing," Lorie Whitehead said.

The money was donated through the Whitehead Foundation, which Michael Whitehead helped his father set up about three years before his death. True to his nature, John Whitehead was a little upset about the name of the foundation, saying he wished it were a little "less identifying."

"Dad did not want credit or publicity for what he had done," said Michael Whitehead. "But I remembered something my brother told me after Dad died about a shared blessing being twice the blessing and a shared sorrow being half the sorrow. Dad wanted to share his blessings and try to lessen others' sorrows. I decided he would forgive me for breaking his rule this once."



## Ergon Gift Enables UMMC to Expand Cancer Research



Dr. Lucio Miele is building UMMC's Cancer Institute into a world-class program by adding researchers and clinicians and establishing coalitions with other universities. The Ergon Foundation of Flowood has provided support.

A \$2.1 million endowment generously donated by the Ergon Foundation of Flowood to fund a chair at the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Cancer Institute has brought a world-class cancer researcher and administrator, Dr. Lucio Miele, to Mississippi.

Miele has joined UMMC as the Cancer Institute's director. Around the corner from his seventh-floor office atop the Arthur C. Guyton research building, stretches a view halfway to Meridian.

Miele's plans for the institute span just as far. "The long-term goal is to get (National Cancer Institute) designation. That's a 10-year goal," he said.

Miele wants to link basic science research, clinical trials, drug development and outpatient treatment, all into one location.

"You need those elements to be taken seriously for funding by the NCI and to show patients why they'll be getting better care and cutting-edge treatments they wouldn't get in a community hospital setting," he said.

Before his arrival from Chicago where he led

Loyola University's Breast Cancer Program and served as associate Cancer Center director for translational science, Miele saw in UMMC building blocks for a premiere cancer program.

The Ergon Foundation's gift stands as one of the largest of those blocks. By endowing the Institute's chair, the foundation backed researcher salaries and administrative expenses. The foundation is a spinoff of Ergon Inc., an energy products, technology and real estate company.

Ambulatory care services and clinical trials already established at the six-year-old Cancer Institute, housed in the Jackson Medical Mall, represent other blocks.

UMMC's cardiovascular research prowess, though mature in its own right, will help build the Cancer Institute, said UM Chancellor Dan Jones.

"The science for cardiovascular and cancer overlap substantially so there will be great synergy across these interest areas," the chancellor said.

Miele shared his goals: "The cancers that are most prevalent in Mississippi are going to be a priority: breast, gynecological and prostate cancers, common in

African-American women and men; hematologic malignancies; pediatric oncology; and hard-to-treat cancers like head and neck sarcomas, neurological, pancreatic and lung."

By collaborating with other institutions, he hopes to create a hub of cancer research, diagnosis and treatment. Already he's applied for NCI planning grants along with counterparts at the University of Alabama, Tulane University, the University of South Florida's Moffitt Cancer Center and Emory University. Those grants could fund a minority-focused tissue bank for researchers and a regional outreach and clinical-trial consortium.

Originally from Naples, Italy, Miele earned a doctorate at the Max Planck Institute in Germany and his medical degree from the University of Naples. Positions with the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration give him experience with research, funding and drug development.

Chancellor Jones said Ergon's gift reflects the improvements the company has been making in Mississippians' lives for years.

"The gift from their foundation extends their commitment to our community in a meaningful way. And this gift allows us to recruit and retain world-class leaders to chart our course in cancer research," he said.

Ergon is a privately owned company that includes a specialty products oil refinery, ethanol plant, shipping operations, and real estate development and management.

"We truly believe in what the Medical Center does. Very few people realize the importance of the institution to the state," said Kathy Stone, a foundation board member and senior vice president, secretary and treasurer of Ergon Inc.

"We selected the Cancer Institute because we believe in it so strongly," she said. "And when I say we, I mean the 3,000-plus employees who make up the company. Without them we wouldn't have a company, so the foundation takes in all of us."

## Council Celebrates 10th Anniversary, Applauds Tuohy

A grand celebration of students, scholarships and opportunities continues as the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy marks its 10th anniversary. Leigh Anne Tuohy, the real-life mom who inspired the Oscar-winning performance by Sandra Bullock in "The Blind Side," accepted the inaugural Legacy Award presented April 17 as part of the anniversary.

The award, which recognizes the contributions of a person who epitomizes one or more of the Women's Council's goals of philanthropy, leadership and mentorship, was established this year.

Tuohy, a 1982 UM graduate, was honored at a ceremony and brunch sponsored by Cellular South.



**Inaugural Legacy Award winner Leigh Anne Tuohy with Michael Oher**

former Ole Miss player – has touched the hearts of people across the country.

"I can't think of a better example of the power of one person to transform another person's life than Leigh Anne Tuohy," said Mary Sharp Rayner of Oxford, chair of the Women's Council. "We are thrilled to be able to launch our award by recognizing such an inspirational woman."

Earlier in February, the

through community service. With a \$7.3 million endowment built and 60 scholarships awarded since its founding, the council is truly making a difference.

"Those of us who serve on the Women's Council have pursued diverse paths but have filled our lives with careers, family, friends and many other endeavors," said Rayner, who is also a member of the UM Foundation Board of Directors. "We felt we could draw on our compassion, concern, knowledge and experience to nurture young people and provide broadening experiences to enhance student scholarships."

Included among those experiences are monthly "Red Plate Suppers," bringing scholars and council members together to discuss life issues and career paths.

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

Proceeds from the brunch benefited Women's Council programming.

Tuohy's story of rescuing homeless teen Michael Oher – a Baltimore Ravens offensive tackle and

Women's Council kicked off its anniversary with a benefit concert by the popular Mystery Trip band of Nashville, which brought its high-energy renditions of Beatles hits to the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Also performing were Nashville award-winning singer-songwriters Rivers Rutherford, Bryan Kennedy and Gordon Kennedy.

Proceeds from the concert – which was sponsored by Regions Bank and coordinated by council members Martha Kirkley of Columbus and Karen Moore of Nashville – also were designated for council programming.

The Women's Council was created to offer students more than traditional financial assistance, which in itself is life-changing. The group attracts private gifts for scholarships awarded to young people based on academic achievement, leadership and a desire to give back to society



**Mystery Trip, a popular Beatles tribute band from Nashville, headlines the OMWC benefit concert.**

Sophomore scholar Marianna Breland of Forest benefits from the mentoring and leadership training. "From the very beginning of my college experience, the Ole Miss Women's Council has provided me with relationships and opportunities that will forever impact me. Through talking with the mentor the council provided and being encouraged to attend campus events, I have learned more about myself and am very active in university life. I know that the Women's Council will not only impact these next years of college but also the rest of my life."

For more information on the Women's Council or for information about establishing a named scholarship, please contact Sarah Hollis in University Development at 662-915-1584.



**Mary Sharp Rayner (from left), Martha Kirkley, Vicki Sneed from the concert's sponsor Regions Bank, and Katie Hester visit at a reception before the concert that took place as part of the anniversary.**



## Scholarship Honors Rayner for Dedicated Work

Mary Sharp Rayner and her family have made their home in Oxford for 39 years, enjoying events and opportunities of a college community. Instead of being a spectator, however, Rayner has rolled up her sleeves and become deeply involved in helping strengthen Ole Miss.

To pay tribute to her dedication to the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy, Dr. Jim Rayner, her husband, has provided \$110,000 to endow an OMWC scholarship. Mary Sharp Rayner has just concluded a two-year term as council chair.

"Mary Sharp is really enthusiastic about the Ole Miss Women's Council – well, she's more than enthusiastic, it's a passion of hers," said Dr. Rayner. "She is a



Mary Sharp Rayner concludes her two-year service as OMWC chair and is honored by her husband, Dr. James W. Rayner.

a former council chair. "She has worked diligently and tirelessly to see that our programs continue to grow during very troubling economic times. She has shown exemplary leadership in not only keeping our existing programs strong but in establishing new ones, as well."

ferent believer in the mission of the Women's Council .... I can think of no better way to honor her than to fund a scholarship in her name – she deserves this."

Jan Farrington of Jackson and others encouraged Rayner to become involved.

"Mary Sharp Rayner has been a powerful influence for the council since the first day she became a member," said Farrington,

Rayner said, "The idea that our work helps change the course of young peoples' lives is very meaningful. I called a prospective student last week to offer her a scholarship, and she told me her parents had said she would have to have a scholarship to attend college. Her emotional response to a scholarship touched me.

"I am thrilled that Jim established this scholarship. The key to success is getting the best education possible and embracing every opportunity that comes. This scholarship fund will help students do that."

Rayner earned a UM degree in education. She first taught high school classes and then worked as the office manager of Rayner Eye Clinic.

Rayner is a former president of Ole Miss Alumni Association and serves as a UM Foundation board member. Dr. Rayner graduated from the Medical Center and is a former foundation board member. They are longtime UM supporters.

The Rayners are the parents of Roane Grantham, Dr. Whitney Rayner and Bradley Rayner, all of Oxford; and the grandparents of Mary Morgan and Sharp Grantham and Lila and James Rayner.

## Ole Miss Family Pays Tribute to Margaret Khayat

The UM community is saying "thank you" to its former first lady Margaret Denton Khayat with the creation of an Ole Miss Women's Council Scholarship. From 1995 through 2009, Robert Khayat led the university and she served by his side, hosting events and refurbishing Carrier House.

The scholarship was endowed by \$110,000 in private gifts from the Robert Khayat Legacy Fund, established upon his retirement. The remainder is supporting the faculty endowment and Ole Miss Opportunity.

"The Ole Miss family is delighted to honor Margaret Khayat through the creation of a scholarship that will assist many future students," said Chancellor Dan Jones. "When Chancellor Khayat was called to lead this university in 1995, he accepted this great responsibility and challenge knowing that he had the full support of Margaret. This office truly requires a family commitment of service, and the Khayats transformed this university by providing a vision of what Ole Miss could become and built bridges with alumni, friends, students, faculty, staff and students to achieve goals."



Margaret Denton Khayat, pictured here with Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat, is recognized by the Ole Miss family for her contributions as first lady.

Chancellor Emeritus Khayat said he and his family are "profoundly grateful" for the tribute.

"Margaret quietly made significant contributions to assure that progress would be made at Ole Miss and, in particular, that every visiting guest, student, faculty, staff and alumnus would have memorable experiences and feel welcome at Carrier House. She made many

sacrifices to assure that I could devote my full attention to my responsibilities as chancellor."

Margaret Khayat said, "It was an absolute joy to be the first lady of Ole Miss, and so many alumni and friends were great blessings to me through their friendship and support. I am really touched and honored to have this scholarship created in my name."

Robert Khayat said he hopes scholarship recipients will be inspired to replicate his wife's "great respect for people, her belief in the important role of the university and her strong spirit of love."

Many people supported the refurbishing of Carrier House, and the Khayats noted the contributions of Bill and Nancy Yates, Fred and Margaret Carl, and Pat Lamar.

A Memphis native and UM student, Margaret Khayat married her husband in 1962. She returned to campus years later to complete a sociology degree.

The Khayats are parents to Margaret Khayat Bratt, who lives in Grand Rapids, Mich., with her husband, David; and Robert Khayat Jr., who lives in Atlanta with his wife, Susannah. They are grandparents of Molly, Ben and Betsey Khayat.

Ole Miss First was created 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).

## Johnson Sends Fourth BHS Student to College

When UM alumnus Larry Johnson created a scholarship to honor his parents, he had no idea it would also reconnect him with a childhood friend. But that's just what the Landmark Foundation Ole Miss First Scholarship in Memory of Swede and Alleene Johnson has done.

A 1960 business graduate and 1962 law graduate, Johnson said that Jahmai Hodges, the recipient of the full-tuition scholarship "turned out, to my surprise, to be the grandson of a childhood playmate, Prentiss 'Sonny' Robins, whom I've not seen in over 50 years."

"Sonny lived nearby and we would have basketball scrimmages in the backyard," Johnson said. "I'm really pleased this scholarship is going to his grandson."

*'I was extremely excited to hear I'd gotten the scholarship. It definitely made a difference in my deciding to go to Ole Miss.'*

— Jahmai Hodges

Hodges, the son of Eddie and Lisa Hodges, is majoring in biology and hopes to attend dental school. He was selected to receive the scholarship by the university's selection committee. Hodges' strong



Ole Miss First Scholar Jahmai Hodges (center) with his parents, Eddie and Lisa Hodges

record of scholarship and leadership while at Baldwin High School – Johnson's alma mater – garnered the attention of the selection committee.

"I was extremely excited to hear I'd gotten the scholarship," Hodges said. "It definitely made a difference in my deciding to go to Ole Miss."

Hodges is the fourth BHS graduate to benefit from Johnson's generosity. In addition to funding Ole Miss First scholarships through the UM Foundation, Johnson aided another Baldwin High graduate directly through his Landmark Foundation.

"I hope to be able to give a scholarship every year," said Johnson, who now lives in Jackson and owns the Landmark Companies, a residential real estate

construction company specializing in single family homes, subdivision development and garden apartments in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Johnson is a longtime supporter with strong family ties to UM. While his mother was forced to withdraw as a result of the Great Depression, he said he and his son, Michael, were fortunate enough to receive UM degrees. Michael E. Johnson, who graduated magna cum laude in business, now serves as chief operating officer for Landmark Companies and works with the Landmark Foundation.

For more information about the Ole Miss First scholarship program, please visit [www.omfirst.olemiss.edu](http://www.omfirst.olemiss.edu).



## Vaught Society Gathers Support for Athletics Programs

Ole Miss Athletics began a new era in its fund-raising efforts at the Cotton Bowl, as the UMAA Foundation launched the new Vaught Society with a kickoff reception for current and prospective members.

Named for legendary Ole Miss Coach John Vaught – one of the most recognizable names in the history of college football due to the extraordinary level of success he enjoyed – the Vaught Society is the leadership fund-raising entity under the UMAA Foundation.

A crowd of approximately 200 key donors were on hand for the event at Dallas' Hilton Anatole. FOX News anchor Shepard Smith served as emcee, and the speakers included UM Chancellor Dan Jones, Athletics Director Pete Boone, Head Football Coach Houston Nutt and Head Men's Basketball Coach Andy Kennedy.

The key to recruiting young athletes is a school having a "little bit of a wow factor," Coach Nutt said, adding that the beautiful Ole Miss campus, educational opportunities and athletics facilities are great recruiting tools. The need for private support continues, he said, and the reward is being able to make a difference in the lives of young people who



Shepard Smith, FOX News anchor, emceeds the launch of the Vaught Society in Dallas.

likely will one day give back to the university.

"There are always things to be done. It's just like our team – you have to get better. You have to improve. You can never stay the same," Nutt said of continually improving the program and facilities.

UMAA Foundation Executive Director Danny White said, "The success of the Vaught Society is critical for Ole Miss Athletics to capture the current momentum and become a consistent top-tier competitor in the SEC. The kickoff event provided a



great starting point to grow this philanthropic program into a national leader. The next few months will be extremely important as we visit with our donors and seek commitments. We are very excited about the new structure and thankful to all of those who have chosen to make an investment for the future of the Rebels."

The Vaught Society is philanthropic in nature, and its members invest in the enhancement of Rebel Athletics. The funds are critical in elevating Ole Miss Athletics to nationally competitive levels on an annual basis by providing the resources for world-class facilities, coaches and scholarship support.

For more information on the Vaught Society, contact Danny White at 662-915-7159 or [dwhite@olemiss.edu](mailto:dwhite@olemiss.edu).

## Diana, Houston Nutt Make Commitment to Ole Miss

In order to give something back to a place that has come to mean so much to him, Head Football Coach Houston Nutt, along with his wife, Diana, has committed \$100,000 to Ole Miss.

"This is something we've always wanted to do," Nutt said. "Diana and I have been talking about this since we moved to Mississippi. We wanted to give back because both the university and Oxford have been so good to us. We have felt so welcome and just love it here."

Half of the gift will create scholarships for deserving student-athletes.

"It is refreshing to see coaches give back to a university," said UM Athletics Director Pete Boone. "Houston Nutt's contribution to our scholarship



Diana and Houston Nutt – with their children (from left) Hanna, Hailey, Houston III and Haven – direct a gift for scholarships and the Indoor Practice Facility.

program will help ensure the athletics department's ability to continue to provide opportunities for young men and women to achieve their goals in life."

The other half of the gift will be used toward the

university's Indoor Practice Facility.

"The Indoor Practice Facility is a building I go to work in every day," Nutt said. "I'm so appreciative to have it for our athletes and staff. It's a place I use, but more than that, it's a building very much used by the community. Every day, in addition to athletics events,

there are community meetings or science fairs taking place. It's a place for everyone."

The 150,000-square-foot facility, which opened in 2004, was made possible by UM's Commitment to Excellence in Athletics Campaign, a \$35 million initiative to upgrade the university's athletics programs.

Nutt joined the Ole Miss family in 2007. Under Nutt's direction in the 2008 season, Ole Miss defeated the Texas Tech Red Raiders in the AT&T Cotton Bowl and finished No. 14 in the nation. The Rebels returned to the Cotton Bowl in 2009 to defeat the Oklahoma State Cowboys and finish 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Ole Miss posted consecutive nine-win records for the first time since 1961-62 and back-to-back January bowl victories for the first time since 1960-61.

Nutt and his staff have brought a new brand of football to Ole Miss. The Rebels' 2010 signing class earned notoriety nationally, as it was ranked Nov. 14 by Scout.com and No. 17 by Rivals.com.

## Football Team Meeting Room

### *Burns Couple Makes Lead Investment in Facilities*

Roland and Sheryl Burns of Frisco, Texas, have committed \$1 million as the lead investment to fund a new state-of-the-art team meeting room for the football program.

The Burns family will be honored with their name on the facility, which will be outfitted with cutting-edge technology to serve Ole Miss student-athletes and coaches. Additional Vaught Society gift commitments are needed to fully fund the \$1.5 million project.

“We are very excited to be able to help with a new team meeting room for Coach (Houston) Nutt,” said Burns. “We hope that our support will help Coach Nutt and his staff continue to make a difference in the lives of the young men that he mentors and develops.”

Coach Nutt expressed his appreciation for the support.

“We are so grateful to the Burns family for their generous gift,” Nutt said. “So many student-athletes will benefit from their kindness. Roland and Sheryl are truly difference-makers in the Rebel football program. Our success depends so much on the support of those such as the Burns family.”

This marks the couple’s most significant financial commitment to Ole Miss Athletics, and the gift raises the Vaught Society total to more than \$4 million. The organization, which launched its efforts just two months ago, is making strides toward a \$12.5 million goal.

“We are incredibly grateful to Roland and Sheryl for their philanthropic leadership within the Vaught Society,” said Danny White, UMAA Foundation executive director. “Ole Miss is a special place, and this landmark gift



Sheryl and Roland Burns

*‘We chose to support the Vaught Society and Coach Nutt in recognition of the importance of the school’s athletics program, especially football, to the overall success of the university.’*

– Roland Burns

serves as a testament to the tremendous pride and affection that so many people share relative to this wonderful institution.”

The Burns family has also provided generous support to UM’s Patterson School of Accountancy, from which Roland earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. He also serves on the school’s advisory board.

“We chose to support the Vaught Society and Coach Nutt in recognition of the importance of the school’s athletics program, especially football, to the overall success of the university,” Burns said. “The football program is the calling card that keeps the alumni connected to the university and draws them back to the campus. A successful football program attracts more alumni to remain connected to the university and to support its educational mission.”

After his UM graduation, Burns spent eight years with accounting firm Arthur Andersen in Dallas before joining Comstock Resources, a publicly held oil and natural gas company, where he serves as senior vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer.

Since his arrival, Comstock has grown from a market capitalization of \$35 million in 1990 to more than \$2.3 billion today.

In addition, from what began as an interest in their own children’s school, Roland and Sheryl Burns took on the responsibility for helping open what is now Legacy Christian Academy in Frisco. The school enrolls about 725 students on its 30-acre campus.



## White Seeks Major Gifts to Strengthen UM Athletics

Danny White joined the UMAA Foundation as chief development officer in the fall, and the seasoned professional has hit the ground running with the launch of the Vaught Society – the leadership fund-raising entity under the foundation. The initial goal for the Vaught Society is to raise \$12.5 million over the next several years in major gift commitments, and the program has already exceeded \$5 million in just a few months.

Now the executive director of the UMAA Foundation, White oversees all aspects of fund raising for Ole Miss Athletics. The major gifts and priority seating staff have moved into the former basketball coaches' offices in Tad Smith Coliseum in an effort to bring the UMAA Foundation and the ticket office closer together.

"This new structure allows us to have consistent, professional collaboration between two high revenue-producing functions – the UMAA Foundation and the Athletics Ticket Office," White said.

Ole Miss Athletics Director Pete Boone said, "Danny brings a high level of professional expertise needed to be successful in the athletics fund-raising business."

The brother of Michael White – Rebel basketball great and current assistant coach – Danny White served as a development associate for the UMAA Foundation from 2005 through 2006. During that time, he helped launch the courtside seating program for men's and women's basketball and assisted in the initial planning of the recent baseball stadium expansion.

"My family and I are thrilled to be back in Oxford and the Ole Miss community," White said. "This is most certainly a great time to be a Rebel."

White rejoined Ole Miss after serving a two-year



Danny White

stint at Fresno State University as associate athletics director for development, where he coordinated all aspects of the Bulldog Foundation but primarily focused on major gift fund raising. Under White's direction, the Bulldogs received the largest (\$10 million), second largest (\$2 million) and third largest (\$1.5 million) gifts in departmental history.

Prior to his arrival at Fresno and following his time at Ole Miss, White spent the 2006-07 season as the assistant athletics director for development at Northern Illinois University.

A collegiate basketball player at Towson and Notre Dame, White began his professional career at Ohio University, where he served as director of basketball operations before becoming an assistant coach.

## Ole Miss Opportunity Established

continued from Back Cover

federal work-study program, loans or personal resources.

Students must meet the following criteria:

- Mississippi resident
- U.S. citizen
- A new freshman beginning summer/fall 2010
- Degree-seeking and enrolled full-time
- Family Adjusted Gross Income (as defined on the 2009 federal tax return) at or below \$30,000

• Confirmation that the student will qualify for a Federal Pell Grant, as determined by the 2010-11 Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA

- High school minimum GPA 2.5

For more information, visit <http://www.olemiss.edu/finaid> or call 800-891-4596.

For those interested in supporting Ole Miss Opportunity with private gifts, please contact Debbie Vaughn, senior executive director of development, at 662-915-1686, visit [www.umfoundation.com/makeagift](http://www.umfoundation.com/makeagift) or mail checks to The University of Mississippi, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677.



## Remembering Susan Haskins

C.O. "Don" Haskins Jr. (center) of McComb visits with Jim Taylor (from left), Teresa Carithers, Haley Huerta, Laura Katherine Henderson, Marcia Cole and Candis Varnell about the new Susan Christena Haskins Memorial Scholarship Endowment that will provide scholarships to hospitality management majors in the School of Applied Sciences. Taylor, Carithers, Cole and Varnell represent applied sciences, and Huerta and Henderson are members of Kappa Delta sorority. The scholarship is funded by Haskins and his wife, Barri, and the sorority. Susan Haskins, an Ole Miss student, died in an auto accident in August 2009. Professors meeting with Haskins told him his daughter had a real passion for life and her area of study. To make a contribution to the scholarship, visit [www.umfoundation.com/makeagift](http://www.umfoundation.com/makeagift).



## New Initiative Extends Access to Neediest Students

**L**ow-income Mississippi students will be guaranteed financial aid support for tuition, housing and meals through a new UM scholarship program.

Days after the board of trustees of the state Institutions of Higher Learning approved a tuition increase for state universities to offset significant cuts in state funding, UM announced the creation of Ole Miss Opportunity.

“During these tough economic times, it is more important than ever to focus on access and affordability,” said Chancellor Dan Jones. “While we realize that increases in tuition will create hardships, we don’t want to decrease access to higher education for our neediest students. The Ole Miss Opportunity scholarship initiative will enhance access and support IHL’s goal to increase the number of baccalaureate degrees.”

UM is committed to extending a quality education to the broadest range of deserving students, regardless of income or need, said Larry Ridgeway, vice chancellor for student affairs.



“Today, more than ever, a college education is an essential step in developing a career and earning a good living,” he said. “Yet at the same time, an increasing number of potential students are from low-income families. Thus, the very people who could most benefit from a secondary education are the least likely to be able to afford it.”

Ole Miss Opportunity is a result of Chancellor Jones’ desire for a program that would improve the

university’s commitment to increasing access to the neediest Mississippians.

The initiative was developed in part by identifying successful components of similar programs and then tailoring the program to fit the specific needs of UM and Mississippi students.

“The university has extensively studied need-based financial aid programs at other universities and believes Ole Miss Opportunity reflects the best practices identified in some of the most successful programs across the country,” said Laura Diven-Brown, director of financial aid.

The scholarship program will provide a combination of gift aid (federal, state, institutional, and private scholarships and grants), thereby guaranteeing that eligible Mississippi residents students get financial aid support to cover the average cost of tuition, residence hall housing and an allowance for meals. Students have opportunities to cover the remaining cost of books, transportation and personal expenses through the

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