

FOUNDATION *News*

Produced by THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION FALL 2017



**Private Gifts to MIND Center
Fuel Expansion of Alzheimer's Care**



**Luckyday Foundation
Provides Major Gift to Academics**

**In Athletics...
Craddock Brothers
Honor Parents with Gift**



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The University of Mississippi Foundation

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

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please visit: www.umfoundation.com

Message from the Chancellor



UM Chancellor
Jeffrey S. Vitter

Now is an exciting time for the University of Mississippi. From our highest-ever ranking by U.S. News & World Report to welcoming our most accomplished freshman class to our Carnegie R1 highest research activity designation, it is truly great to be an Ole Miss Rebel!

We are the flagship in terms of offerings, academic excellence, research, service, creativity, facilities, athletics, and more. You — the members of the Ole Miss family — are responsible for this success. Your remarkable generosity and exceptional involvement ensure unprecedented opportunities for our students, faculty, researchers, and staff. Private giving provides us the margin of excellence to serve a transformative role for our students and society and the competitive edge to excel.

Whether it is for our top-ranked Patterson School of Accountancy or to advance Alzheimer’s disease research at the Medical Center, your extraordinary gifts resonate across all our programs and campuses. During my investiture, I shared how we will use our strengths and tremendous momentum as a spring board and together we will create a roadmap into the future focusing upon academic excellence, athletics excellence, and building healthy and vibrant communities.

With our great people, I have every confidence that we will continue to grow and prosper as Mississippi’s flagship university. But being the flagship is more than simply a designation: It is a calling and a responsibility to transform lives, communities, and the world. Thank you for all you are doing as we live out our flagship mission.

Message from the Foundation Board Chair



Foundation Board Chair
Joc Carpenter

The power of private support is clearly evident at the University of Mississippi, where our student body is growing and excelling, programs are expanding, and innovations are finding solutions to some of society’s greatest challenges. Thanks to you, our dedicated alumni and friends, our capacity to do more and be more has been enhanced. In a continued environment of lower state support, your generous gifts are helping define a future like no other.

Throughout this publication, you will read about donors who have thoughtfully created gifts to match their interests with the university’s needs. Two noteworthy highlights of this year’s philanthropy are \$22.8 million in planned gifts dedicated to our university and donor response to the Children’s of Mississippi Campaign. Deferred gifts will help propel Ole Miss forward in delivering nationally recognized performance and

service; the support for Batson Children’s Hospital will enhance the health of our youngest citizens.

Your gifts will always receive the highest level of management and care — that is the assurance you are guaranteed. Together we can continue working to strengthen our dynamic university while enjoying the tremendous fruits of those efforts. We now look to the new 2017-2018 academic year and all that it holds for the Ole Miss family.

UM NAMES NEW VICE CHANCELLOR



Charlotte Parks, a professional with more than 25 years of experience in higher education fundraising, has been named the University of

Mississippi’s inaugural vice chancellor for development.

Parks joins Ole Miss from the University of South Carolina, where she led fundraising for all colleges and managed principal gifts, donor relations and stewardship. Prior to USC, Parks directed major campaigns at Georgia State University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Rhodes College and Roanoke College.

Parks will oversee the UM, Medical Center, and the Ole Miss Athletics development teams. She has worked in virtually every aspect of fundraising, from prospect and research management to annual giving and campaign management, and has successfully built relationships and acquired large gifts from major corporations and foundations.

Parks earned an undergraduate degree from Rhodes College, where she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and a master’s degree from Bowling Green State University.

FACT:

Charitable Gift Annuities are among the most popular planned gifts (see page 12 for more information).



IT'S A 'LUCKYDAY' FOR OLE MISS STUDENTS

Foundation commits \$7.25 million in scholarships for freshmen, transfer students

With a new \$7.25 million commitment to the University of Mississippi, the Luckyday Foundation of Jackson is ensuring that entering freshmen and community college transfers have strong support and exceptional opportunities to help them earn college degrees.

Already numbering close to 2,700 strong, Luckyday Scholars are excelling and graduating.

The foundation's newly inked four-year agreement brings the total educational support for Ole Miss students to \$55 million since the program's inception in 2000, as it fulfills the vision of the late banker Frank Rogers Day. The Aberdeen native created his foundation to provide educational opportunities for Mississippians.

"The late Frank Day was a stellar business leader who envisioned lifting up his home state and its citizens by providing resources to help young people pursue college degrees," Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter said. "Now the Luckyday Foundation Board of Managers is expanding this alumnus' significant legacy, diligently working as our partners to ensure that this scholarship program provides an exceptional level of support to students."

"Lives have been transformed through this successful initiative at Ole Miss, and other universities are looking to model its components. We are grateful for the Luckyday Foundation's latest expression of approval for the program and our staff."

Attorney Holmes Adams of Jackson, chair of the Luckyday Foundation Board of Managers, monitors students' academic performance and says their achievements consistently increase. For example, of 75 freshmen chosen for Luckyday Success Scholarships in fall 2015 – many of whom were the first in their families to attend college – 96 percent returned in fall 2016.



Luckyday Foundation Board of Managers chair Holmes Adams, center, visits with Golda Sharpe, a Luckyday graduate and alumni coordinator, and Joshua Tucker, another Luckyday graduate.

"The University of Mississippi has been a very good steward of our support," Adams said. "The aim is for these students to obtain college degrees; however, the board has been astounded by how beneficial the program has become and the level of commitment by Ole Miss staff members."

"Our scholarship recipients not only excel in academics, but they also are stars in their own right across the campus. The programming and support is equipping these students to make real contributions in a number of campus organizations, a huge benefit of this program the board did not anticipate. We believe Frank Day would be extremely pleased."

Key to the program's success is the help with the transition from high school or community college to a major university with almost 25,000 students. Luckyday Scholars benefit from three full-time staff members, who meet with them monthly, and from guidance provided by peer mentors.

Foundation board members visit campus to get feedback from students on program components. For one football game each fall, the students, alumni and board members also gather for a tailgate to keep building a support network.

This network and sense of community are among the program's outstanding aspects, Adams said.



Some of the Luckyday Foundation's 2017 graduating senior scholars are pictured at a reception hosted in their honor. Foundation board members visit scholarship recipients on the Oxford campus several times each academic year to see how they are progressing and to gain feedback on the program.

"There is such a strong presence of support among our students and a warm sense of cooperation between the program and Ole Miss administrators and staff across campus," he said. "The Luckyday program is very intentional – nurturing and supportive – giving young people the confidence to accomplish things they never thought possible."

"Working with this program is one of the greatest gifts I've been given. The board and I enjoy seeing these students perform well."

The donor's story resonates well when encouraging students to perform, said Patrick Perry, director of the university's Luckyday program.

"Frank Day established a model of working hard and giving back," he said, referring to Day's rise from the mailroom to become CEO of Trustmark Bank in Jackson and founder of a foundation to provide scholarships. "We try to instill in our students the ideals of working hard to achieve their individual goals and the importance of developing relationships with others to be successful and happy in life."

Each year, 80 freshmen – all Mississippians with an ACT score of 20 or higher and high school GPA of 3.2 or higher – are awarded Luckyday Success Scholarships, which provide \$2,000 to \$5,000 annually depending on remaining financial need after other scholarships and grants are awarded.

Students can continue to receive the support as long as they maintain minimum requirements: attending an annual retreat, fulfilling study hall hours and living for the first two years in the Luckyday Residential College.

The Luckyday program also ensures that 25 Mississippi community college transfers receive \$10,000 in scholarship funds for their remaining two years of study, or up to \$5,000 an academic year. They must be Mississippians and have remaining financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after other scholarships and grants have been awarded. Also, eligible recipients must have a minimum 3.0 GPA on at least 48 transferable community college credit hours.

Freshmen enroll in the EDHE 105 course, designed to help them transition from high school, develop a better understanding of the learning process and acquire essential life skills; transfer students in EDHE305, helping them adjust to the university setting, providing resume preparation, business etiquette lessons and more.

In 1991, the Luckyday Foundation also created the Christine and Clarence Day Scholarships, honoring Frank Day's mother and father, in UM's Business School. In 2001, the foundation joined the Mississippi Bankers Association to endow the Frank R. Day/Mississippi Bankers Association Chair of Banking, and the holder is Ken Cyree, dean of business administration.

For more information, visit <http://luckydayscholarship.olemiss.edu/scholarship/>.

A TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND

Brockman Foundation Endows Accountancy Position

Family and friends say the late Don Jones loved the University of Mississippi from the moment he stepped on campus in the early 1960s.

"He just immediately embraced Ole Miss, became a part of it and was a leader on behalf of the university in so many ways," said James W.

Davis, Peery Professor Emeritus and Jones' lifelong friend. "Every cause that we ever had, Donny supported financially and otherwise. He was involved with everything important that we ever did."

"When Don enrolled at Ole Miss, he felt he had been given an opportunity and wanted to make the best of it," his wife Melissa Jones said. "He had a deep love of the people associated with the university, the professors who guided and encouraged him while getting his bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting. He also had a love for the school and always wanted the very best for it."

"He even had the Rebel brand on his golf club covers!" recalls Evatt Tamine, director of the Brockman Foundation, a charitable trust for which Jones served as financial adviser for more than two decades.

On April 12, 2016, less than two months before Jones died suddenly at his Oxford, Mississippi, home, the Brockman Foundation surprised him with the news that the Donald D. Jones Chair of Accountancy Endowment had been established within the Patterson School of Accountancy on his beloved Ole Miss campus.

"Through Don's work, finding investment opportunities and following through with them, the Brockman Foundation was able to build to the extent to where it can now make some substantial gifts," Tamine said. "We are able to do the work we do, to a large extent, because of the work Don did over the years. So it seemed appropriate to do something that honored him."

An initial gift of \$2 million established the endowment that will support salary supplements, research and creative activity in an effort to attract and retain outstanding faculty.

"Because of this incredible gift, we will be able to ensure quality teaching, research and service for future generations of University of Mississippi students," Dean Mark Wilder said, adding that the School intends to fill the chair in 2017. "We are extremely grateful to the Brockman Foundation for its generosity and for continuing Don Jones' legacy of involvement within the Patterson School. We are honored that the Don Jones name will be forever associated with the Patterson School faculty and our students."

Davis agreed: "This gift is an immense honor. We knew he was a positive influence in the company, but we now know how much they appreciated his dedication, energy and ability to grow the company. They truly honored him in a way that was appropriate; they knew what he loved."

Melissa Jones said her husband, who was overwhelmed by the gift,

told her that he hoped it would keep the Patterson School at the forefront of nationally renowned accountancy schools and give students the opportunity to excel.

"This was a very humbling experience and both of us were very

grateful for the recognition," she said. "Don felt strongly about the School of Accountancy and would tell anyone who would listen how important it was to him."

In college, Jones was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, serving the fraternity in many capacities from pledge class president to chapter president. He was a member of the Interfraternity Council, Omicron Delta Kappa (president), Army ROTC, the ROTC band, a Deputy Brigade Commander, and a member of the Scabbard and Blade Society.

Named a distinguished military student, the McComb,

Mississippi, native was on the honor roll and was a member of the Delta Sigma Pi freshman honorary, Beta Alpha Psi accountancy honorary (vice president), Beta Gamma Sigma business honorary and Phi Beta Psi campus honorary. He graduated cum laude in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in accountancy and served as a graduate assistant for Davis while pursuing his master's degree, which he earned in 1967.

At Ole Miss, Jones met Melissa Massengill, a 1968 graduate of the UM School of Business Administration. They were married on Dec. 23, 1967, and together raised a daughter, Kelly, and a son, Dru.

After graduation, Jones joined Arthur Andersen & Co. in Houston, Texas, as an auditor from 1967 to 1968. He then served a two-year stint in the U.S. Army as a second and first lieutenant, Finance Corps, before returning to Arthur Andersen until 1976. Jones then had the opportunity to join Brown & Root, Inc. in Houston from 1976 to 1981. There, he provided leadership in multiple capacities from internal audit manager to senior manager of the power division and finally as the senior manager of computer services. In 1981, he joined Universal Computer Systems, Inc. in Houston, where he was the chief financial officer until 1995 when he became chief executive officer of Pilot Management Ltd. in Bermuda. He served there until 2008.

Jones was active in his church and was a member of the Mississippi Society of CPAs, Texas Society of CPAs, Georgia Society of CPAs and the Bermuda Chapter of Canadian Chartered Accountants. He was an avid golfer, hunter and fisherman and a dedicated supporter of Ole Miss Athletics. Additionally, he enjoyed reading, history, telling stories and spending time with his children and five grandchildren.

"For Don to be back in Oxford, heavily involved with the university, and to have this gift made him a very, very happy man," Tamine said. "He always felt one step closer to heaven in Oxford."

MAKE A GIFT: Brooke Barnes, (662) 915-1993 or brooke@olemiss.edu.



Don Jones and wife, Melissa M. Jones (center) stand with, from left, daughter-in-law Melissa G. Jones, son Dru Jones, son-in-law Kurt Autenreith and daughter Kelly Jones Autenreith at a surprise lunch held in Don Jones' honor in 2016.

Hearin Foundation Extends Support of Teacher Program

A new commitment of \$28 million from the Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation marks a total investment of \$42.1 million over 10 years into the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program, a collaborative teacher preparation program at the University of Mississippi and Mississippi State University that provides both scholarships and an honors college-type experience for top students.

The new funding, which the universities will split, will sustain the program until 2021 and comes as METP leaders prepare for the program's fifth class of new freshmen.

Meanwhile, METP seniors at both UM and MSU, who were recruited into the program's charter class in 2013, graduated in May and will enter Mississippi's teacher workforce for the first time.

"The Hearin Foundation's goal is to improve the economic status of Mississippi," said Laurie H. McRee, a trustee of the Jackson-based foundation. "(We) believe that if you can help raise the level of education, you can raise the economic level of state, as well.

"It's incredible to see the caliber of (students) the program is attracting. The fact that the universities are working together is just icing on the cake."

"We hope that this provides a template for our state institutions to continue to work together for education, particularly with respect for teacher education," said Alan Perry, a trustee of the Hearin Foundation and a member of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. "We hope that their example is followed by other institutions across our state."

Enrollment information compiled by the two universities shows a significant uptick in both the number and quality of new college students entering teacher education programs at UM and MSU since 2013, as a result of METP.

The program is designed to attract the best and brightest students from around the nation, and the average ACT score for incoming METP freshmen at both institutions is approximately 30.



Graduating METP seniors like Ben Logan of Sherman have gained hands-on teaching experience since their freshman year as part of the program.

MAKE A GIFT: Billy Crews, (662) 915-8579 or wlcrows@olemiss.edu.

Peaces Create Graduate Scholarship

University of Mississippi student Rush Peace had it all: a well-rounded college experience that combined rich academic experiences with the thrill of playing baseball under legendary Coach Tom Swayze. And then it was on to dentistry school and a rewarding 40-year career.

Peace and his wife, Judy, of Macon, Georgia, want to support other Ole Miss student-athletes who graduate and choose to continue studies at UM's schools of Dentistry, Medicine or Law. Their blended gift of \$60,000 — an outright gift combined with a planned estate gift — has funded the new Dr. Rush Abbott and Julia Robertson Peace Graduate Scholarship Endowment.

Rush and Judy Peace return to the Oxford campus several times a year and share the inspiration behind their gift.

"Student-athletes should be prepared for life after college sports; not everyone makes it in professional sports," he said. "Hopefully this scholarship will encourage some to consider



Rush Peace, center, and wife Judy visit with UM administrators.

dental, medical or law school as options."

Peace's affection for his alma mater also stems from exceptional experiences playing sports. With his knees knocking with nerves, Peace once found himself being called in by then Head Baseball Coach Tom Swayze for a talk after delivering a so-so performance fielding balls.

"Show me your glove," Coach Swayze demanded. Peace did as he was told. "You can't

play with a glove like that!"

Coach Swayze left the field, returned with a shovel and buried the glove behind the pitcher's mound. Decades later when Peace and his wife attended an M-Club event, the then-elderly Coach Swayze asked Peace if he ever dug up his glove. Peace reported that he was happy to leave a part of himself with his alma mater.

MAKE A GIFT: (662) 915-1755 or jrwilso@olemiss.edu

Setting High Standards



Sam Millette Jr. (left) with his father, Samuel M. Millette

Samuel M. Millette is a U.S. Marine war veteran, an esteemed attorney with a 50-year career in Charlotte, North Carolina, and a revered family man.

"He is the standard to which I aspire," said Sam Millette Jr. of Destin, Florida, whose admiration for his 93-year-old father led him to establish an endowment in his name.

The Samuel M. Millette Faculty Support Endowment in Business will provide funds to support and expand the University of Mississippi School of Business Administration by enabling the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty. The endowment can support salaries, research and creative activity, programs, and other faculty needs.

"The gift is to honor my dad who generously paid for my education in the 'B School' even though I had not decided to be a serious student until I entered law school years later," said Millette, a 1975 graduate of the UM School of Business Administration.

Ken Cyree, dean of the School of Business Administration, said Millette's endowment is one of the best ways to honor a beloved family member while also supporting Ole Miss.

"We all have people in our lives whom we could honor in this way," Cyree said.

MAKE A GIFT: Tim Noss, (662) 915-5932 or tnoss@olemiss.edu

Crawfords Create Scholarships for Eagle Scouts, Business Majors



Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter visits with (from left) Paige, Terry and Cindy Crawford to thank them for the Mitchell Crawford Eagle Scout Scholarship Endowment.

Achieving the Eagle Scout ranking — the highest accomplishment in scouting — reflects a level of leadership and commitment reached only by about five percent of Boy Scouts. Mitchell Crawford was one those proud Eagle Scouts.

Crawford, 34, died in 2011 after a five-year battle with lymphoma. Terry Crawford and his wife, Cindy, of Ocala, Florida, have committed \$500,000 to create a scholarship endowment in the son's name at the University of Mississippi School of Business Administration, with first preference going to Eagle Scouts. Both father and son graduated with business degrees from Ole Miss.



Mitchell Crawford

The Mitchell Crawford Eagle Scout Scholarship Endowment also pays tribute to the lives of Mitchell's mother, Connie Mitchell Crawford — a deeply dedicated elementary school teacher who lost her battle with ovarian cancer in 2001 — and to his great aunt, Mary Shashy Jones, for the roles they played in Mitchell's life and the larger Crawford family, said Terry Crawford.

Dean of Business Administration Ken Cyree expressed appreciation to the Crawford family for making such significant investments in students' lives.

"Terry Crawford obviously put a great deal of thought into how he would create a permanent tribute to the life of his son. We are extremely grateful and humbled that he chose to provide student scholarships at Ole Miss.

Mitchell's legacy will be expanded as this endowment assists many students, who will then graduate and make contributions to the business world and to their respective communities," Cyree said.

Following his graduation from Ole Miss, Crawford worked for Kraft Foods as a sales manager on the Wal-Mart sales team in Bentonville, Arkansas, where Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton was an Eagle Scout. At the time of his death, he had been with Kraft for 10 years, first serving as a regional sales representative in Wilmington, North Carolina.

He also was an avid sports fan who played on various intramural teams during his college years and then faithfully followed the Ole Miss and Kansas City football teams. During the last few years of his life, he participated in the annual Ole Miss fantasy football camp with his father. He also was active in First Baptist Church of Bentonville and was survived by his wife, Shanna, his daughter, Paige, and many other family members and friends.

"Mitchell never stopped believing he would overcome the beast of cancer and was such an inspiration to his family, friends, doctors, nurses and all those he met on his journey," said Terry Crawford. "I hope there are students who will be impacted by this scholarship and will benefit from their degree and chosen profession in business."

MAKE A GIFT: www.umfoundation.com/makeagift

Crosswells Underwrite Student Recruiter Position for Texas

With a recent \$400,000 gift to the University of Mississippi, Allen and Leah Crosswell of Houston, Texas, have provided the means to hire and support a new recruiter whose goal will be to get more high-achieving Texas students to choose Ole Miss for college.

Crosswell, a 1989 graduate of the UM School of Business Administration, agreed to underwrite the expenses that will support the role of a senior-level admissions counselor in Houston. The university currently has only one other Texas admissions counselor, who recruits out of Dallas.

"The Crosswells graciously offered a solution to an identified need, and for this gift we are very grateful," said Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter. "The Crosswells' generous philanthropic investment in our university reveals their passionate belief in the power of education and their vision for improving opportunities available to young people."

Though Texas has recently taken Tennessee's place as the second state after Mississippi with the most students at Ole Miss, Crosswell says too many outstanding Texas high school students are enrolling elsewhere.

"We're primarily trying to increase the awareness of the value of a degree from the University of Mississippi," said Crosswell. "We're not getting the students with the upper grade-point averages and upper ACT and SAT scores. They're going to the other competitive colleges primarily because they don't know what we have to offer."

Crosswell believes these high-achieving prospective students would be more likely to choose Ole Miss if they knew of its many benefits — the curricula, faculty and culture that made a difference in his own values and life views, so much so that he felt compelled to give back.

"Most of them don't even know we have the Honors College," Crosswell said. "They're not hearing about the national ranking of our schools — three in the top 10 — or that our Patterson School of Accountancy is ranked number 1, 2 or 3, depending on the ranking service, for example."



Allen Crosswell and his wife, Leah, (center) enjoy a recent visit with UM administrators (from left) then Provost Morris Stocks; Brett Barefoot, development officer for parents leadership; Chancellor Jeff Vitter; and Brandi Hephner LaBanc, vice chancellor for student affairs.

And it's just a matter of spreading the word, says Crosswell who has worked with the Office of Admissions to develop a program that will get these students' attention.

"We'll make sure they know what we have to offer, make sure they get set up to come visit here, make sure they can meet other Ole Miss students from the major metros of Dallas, Houston, Austin and San Antonio and also visit with some of our professors," Crosswell said, adding that the whole experience will be pre-arranged by the recruiter. "I think it will help us build awareness."

It will also provide a personal touch, says Leah Crosswell: "Everybody wants to be wanted, so all of sudden they have somebody who wants them and who's showing them a program that will have real value when they graduate."

MAKE A GIFT: Brett Barefoot, (662) 915-2711 or bmbarefo@olemiss.edu.

Tollison Gift Benefits Those Pursuing UM Law Degrees



Grady Tollison (in suit) meets law students (from left) Nia Wilson, Kelsey Nicholas, Addison Watson, Michael Williams, and David Rucker.

sciences graduate with an emphasis in criminal justice; Addison Watson of Oxford, a graduate of Missouri State University with a degree in criminology; Michael Williams of Richland, Mississippi, a graduate of UM's Patterson School of Accountancy; and Nia Wilson of Jackson, Mississippi, a Mississippi State graduate with a degree in communications.

Attorney Grady Tollison, a 1971 graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, is helping others pursue the education they need to enter the profession that gave him a successful career.

"To this day, I feel indebted to the Law School and my professors," said Tollison of Oxford, Mississippi, after recently establishing the Grady Tollison Law Scholarship.

Tollison, the senior partner in Tollison Law Firm, P.A., has met the five first-year law students who are already benefiting from his generosity: Kelsey Nicholas of Marion, Illinois, who received a bachelor's degree in forestry with a focus on wildlife management from Mississippi State University; David Rucker of Germantown, Tennessee, a UM applied

sciences graduate with an emphasis in criminal justice; Addison Watson of Oxford, a graduate of Missouri State University with a degree in criminology; Michael Williams of Richland, Mississippi, a graduate of UM's Patterson School of Accountancy; and Nia Wilson of Jackson, Mississippi, a Mississippi State graduate with a degree in communications.

MAKE A GIFT: Suzette Matthews, (662) 915-1122 or suzette@olemiss.edu

Ford Foundation Completes Pledge for Performing Arts Center at UM



Trustee Anthony T. Papa, fifth from right, presents a \$1 million check to Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter as the final payment on the Ford Foundation's long-term commitment to the Ford Center. Also joining the presentation were, from left, Julia Aubrey, director of the Ford Center; foundation trustee John Lewis, and foundation trustee Cheryle Sims.

The Gertrude C. Ford Foundation completed its \$20 million commitment to funding the world-class Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Mississippi with the presentation of a check for \$1 million at a recent ceremony in Jackson.

The 88,000-square-foot Ford Center, which opened in 2002, has hosted graduations, plays, concerts, the 2008 presidential debate and many other important events. The center is paid for, thanks to the donation from the Ford Foundation, which has been a major contributor to several Ole Miss improvement projects and research efforts.

Ford, wife of former U.S. Rep. Aaron Lane Ford, was raised in a family that greatly valued philanthropy down through its generations. Some 150 years ago, a \$25 donation from her family helped the Andrew Female College Building Fund in Randolph County, Georgia.

In 1991, she established the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation in Jackson. She died in 1996, but her legacy lives on through the foundation's generous giving.

Besides funding for the Ford Center, the foundation has given gifts to several other UM initiatives.

It funded the Gertrude C. Ford Ballroom in The Inn at Ole Miss, the Daniel W. Jones, M.D. Chair For Faculty Support on the Oxford campus, the Suzan Thames Chair of Pediatrics at the UM Medical Center and land for Gertrude C. Ford Boulevard.

In November 2016, the foundation announced a \$10 million gift to the UM Medical Center to establish the Gertrude C. Ford MIND Research Center, which is dedicated to researching Alzheimer's disease, the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States. More than 50,000 Mississippians suffer from Alzheimer's or similar conditions.

The Ford Foundation also announced in 2015 a \$25 million commitment to the new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics center, which is under construction on the Oxford campus. The donation is a testament to the belief that the center will improve Mississippi through increasing general science literacy and through preparing a greater number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates as well as K-12 teachers in those subjects.

Cheryle Sims, who was a longtime friend and confidant of Mrs. Ford and serves on her foundation's board, said the Ford Center for the Performing Arts and the foundation's continuing partnership with the university is something her friend would be proud of.

"It's wonderful," Sims said. "We feel like everything there at the Ford Center is beautiful, and they're having good shows and good turnout for those shows. We're very proud we invested in that building. Mrs. Ford would be very happy."

MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or dhollis@olemiss.edu

Completed Fountain Terrace Offers Peaceful Space on Campus



Mary "May" Davis Owen

The University of Mississippi has completed renovations to the Ole Miss Memory Garden. Adjacent to Paris-Yates Chapel, the bench-lined terrace stands as a monument to students who lost their lives while enrolled at Ole Miss and welcomes anyone seeking a quiet place.

The Memory Garden's fountain was made possible by the late Penn Owen of Como, Mississippi, who contributed \$100,000 in memory of his mother, the late Mary "May" Davis Owen, a 1928 Liberal Arts graduate, also of Como.

"I've always thought Paris-Yates Chapel is really something special and the Paris family members were my mother's great friends, going way back to Henry's parents," Owen said in 2015. "So I asked Henry if there was something I could do with this money around the chapel."

Paris contacted Ole Miss Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat who proposed a beautification of the existing terrace.

"My father greatly admired Paris-Yates Chapel and he was very grateful to be able to be a part of that very beautiful facility," said Penn Owen III of Memphis, Tennessee. "He would be very pleased with its

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Students rest between classes at the Ole Miss Memory Garden.

completion and that he was able to do something in memory of his mother who loved Ole Miss."

The Memory Garden is the brainchild of the Class of 2006 and Dean Emeritus of Students Sparky Reardon. Later, the Class of 2011 donated the garden's four benches.

MAKE A GIFT: Sandra Guest, (662) 915-5208 or sguest@olemiss.edu



Donna Glenn (center) with husband Mike Glenn is congratulated by (from right) their daughter Katherine Glenn, a rising senior, and others after the announcement of the Donna H. Glenn Council Scholarship Endowment.

Glenn Honors Wife, Future Students

To commemorate their wedding anniversary, University of Mississippi alumnus Mike Glenn of Eads, Tennessee, surprised his wife, Donna, with a gift that will truly keep on giving.

With a \$250,000 investment, Glenn established the Donna H. Glenn Council Scholarship Endowment to honor his wife while also providing financial assistance to Ole Miss students for generations to come.

The scholarship, which will be available to entering freshmen majoring in journalism (Donna's field of study), was recently announced at a Rose Garden Ceremony hosted by the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy (OMWC). As stated in the endowment agreement, scholarship recipients will be expected to participate in leadership development and mentoring sponsored by the OMWC and the Lott Leadership Institute at Ole Miss.

"The luckiest day of my life was when I met Donna at FedEx, but perhaps even more so was when she agreed to go out with me the first time," said Glenn, a 1977 graduate of the UM School of Business Administration who retired in December as executive vice president of market development and corporate communications for the FedEx Corp. "I don't think we made it through the evening without her understanding how passionate I am about this university. And I think as our relationship developed, she knew that it was going to be a big part of our lives.

"I would like to thank the Ole Miss Women's Council for giving me an opportunity to honor my wife. It's an appropriate year to have this scholarship in place because this year is our 30th anniversary. This is a great way to celebrate that."

Donna Glenn knew her husband was planning to make a gift to the university but says "it was a very nice surprise" when she learned the scholarship would be in her name.



Kappa Alpha fraternity brothers (with plaques, from left) Michael Deauville, Kyle Thigpen and Dillon Pitts, recipients of the 2017 Kelly Kelly & Wilbanks Scholarship, are joined by (from left) KA President Hayden Poer, Christine and Chris Kelly, Ken and Lynn Wilbanks, and Sam and Kim Kelly.

Continuing Support Through Scholarship



Alice Henderson (center) with (from left) Katie Hester, a founding member of the Ole Miss Women's Council, and Mary Donnelly Haskell, OMWC chair.

Alice Henderson of Jackson, Mississippi, has expanded her legacy at the University of Mississippi by establishing an Ole Miss Women's Council scholarship, providing future recipients with financial assistance, mentoring and leadership training.

The John P. and Wanda Alice Henderson Council Scholarship will help assure students not only are supported in their academic studies but also benefit from broadening experiences such as travel to cultural locations and monthly dinners with life lessons.

Alice Henderson is an Ole Miss alumna and Chi Omega sorority member, while the late John Henderson, a Texas native and ExxonMobil Corp. executive, was a Trinity University alumnus. The Hendersons have been generous to both of their alma maters.

Alice Henderson said, "I'm really pleased to create this scholarship in our names, and more importantly, I know John would be pleased that we will continue to help young people earn college degrees."

For more information about the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy, visit omwc.olemiss.edu.

MAKE A GIFT: Barbara Daush, (662) 915-2881 or barbara@umfoundation.com

Working Toward A Common Purpose

Through a nine-year collaboration, the women's councils of two Mississippi universities have developed a bond that is proving beneficial for both organizations.

In 2007, the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy (OMWC) helped develop a similar council at Jackson State University. Ever since, the two have strengthened each other, building on their relationship for the benefit of students. Recently, the organizations gathered together at the University of Mississippi.

"Growth occurs from the interaction between the two councils; friendships are developed and ideas are shared," said Meredith Creekmore of Jackson, Mississippi, a founding member of the OMWC. "This recent collaboration gave both the Jackson State and the Ole Miss women's councils the opportunity to develop a rapport that will be ongoing."

At the meeting, council members from both universities shared best and promising practices, gained insight on the structure and implementation of their respective programs, and discussed the coordination of student scholarships.

"The meeting provided the opportunity to emphasize the importance of women working together in higher education in the state of Mississippi to benefit our students and universities," said Dr. Gwendolyn Spencer Prater, chair of the Women's Council for Philanthropy, an



Representatives from the women's councils at Jackson State University and the University of Mississippi recently gathered on the UM-Oxford campus to continue building on their relationship. Ole Miss First Lady Sharon Vitter (front row, second from right) was also on hand as the council members shared ideas and goals to strengthen student scholarships and experiences at both universities.

organization of the Jackson State University Development Foundation. "The meeting, with energetic and committed women from both councils, demonstrated that we have similar goals to support young people in developing a philanthropic lens during their tenure at our sister universities that will guide them throughout their life's work."

OMWC Chair Mary Haskell shares similar sentiments: "This was an exciting opportunity to come together as sister organizations to share our programming ideas and discuss our current and long-term goals for creating the most effective ways of supporting the outstanding students we are privileged to have as our scholars."

While each of the councils is unique, they

share a common organizational structure and mission. Helmed by an accomplished cadre of female leaders and philanthropists, the councils provide students with scholarships for tuition and books as well as guidance and training in leadership skills, career development and personal growth.

The scholars, who are mentored throughout college by sitting members of the councils, participate in leadership training, community service projects, cultural enrichment activities and alumni networking.

For more information about the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy, visit omwc.olemiss.edu.

Ole Miss Women's Council Honors Khayat with Endowment



Ole Miss Women's Council 2015-16 chair Karen Moore (left) of Nashville, Tennessee, and 2016-17 chair Mary Haskell of Oxford, Mississippi, present UM Chancellor Emeritus Robert C. Khayat with information regarding the OMWC scholarship established in his name.

OMWC Names Gillom Sisters 2017 Legacy Award Honorees



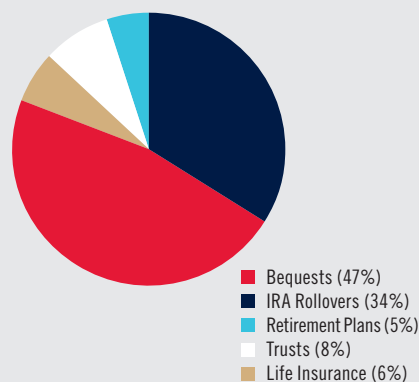
Sisters and basketball legends Peggie Gillom-Granderson, left, and Jennifer Gillom are the 2017 recipients of the prestigious Legacy Award given by the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy. The two were honored at an April 22 reception and dinner at The Pavilion at Ole Miss, with C Spire as the Presenting Sponsor.

Let Your Passion for the University Live On

It is never too early for a donor to start thinking about the kind of legacy he or she wants to leave at the University of Mississippi. A planned gift can enable donors to make the greatest impact in all academic and athletic disciplines, while ensuring success for future students, faculty and staff of Ole Miss.

In Fiscal Year 2017, a total of \$22.8 million in current and future planned gifts were recorded for both the Oxford and Jackson campuses. This comprises 15 percent of total giving. The majority of these gifts were generated from bequests. Additionally, now that IRA Rollover is permanent, we have seen a record number of donors utilizing this giving tool to minimize their taxes.

Take a look at planned gifts donors chose in FY17:



The 1848 Society

Established in 1998, the university's 150th year, the society recognizes alumni and friends of the university who have funded or planned a deferred gift. If you would like more information on making a planned gift, please visit: <http://um-foundation.planmylegacy.org/> or contact Sandra Guest, (662) 915-5208, sguest@olemiss.edu; or Anna Langley (662) 915-1298, alangley@umfoundation.com.

YOUR LEGACY IS OUR FUTURE!

Finishing Strong



John Gee often trains for races on the dirt paths of Henry Cowell Redwood Forest in Santa Cruz, California.

At 67 years old, John Gee ranks in the top 25 nationally among runners in his age group.

"I've got a 28-inch waist and 8 percent body fat and my resting pulse is 41 because I'm a lifetime long-distance runner," Gee said. "I train on hills and dirt. I told everybody that running on asphalt is going to hurt them and none of them believed me. Now those guys are couch potatoes, and I'm still out beating 25-year-old kids."

Gee has won races from 5Ks to marathons, logging over 100,000 miles since he started running. His prizes have included ribbons, medals and trophies. Now, he's got a prize in mind for the University of Mississippi.

Gee and his wife Susan have generously agreed to donate half of their testamentary estate to the UM School of Law from which he received his juris doctorate in 1974. His unrestricted gift may be used by the school to support scholarships, faculty programs and more.

"We are very appreciative to Mr. Gee for his generosity, which will play an important role in strengthening the School of Law and help it reach new heights of excellence," said Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter.

Gee, who grew up in Pulaski, Ohio, received a political science degree from DePauw University in 1971. He then enrolled at Ole Miss Law School because he liked the southern climate and the tuition was affordable.

"I paid my own way through law school. I worked on the section gang on the railroad every summer and I worked a part-time job at a plywood factory in Oxford, so I paid the whole deal myself," Gee said, adding that moving to the South came with a level of culture shock.

"That was the first year the Law School had a lot of out-of-state law students," he said. "The local guys spoke a different language, literally. I remember Robert Khayat was an associate professor at that time, teaching civil procedure. I was called on to talk about a particular case and I said Lafayette County the way it's pronounced in the north and I got a chuckle from the class."

Additionally, Gee remembers being the only student with long hair in his first-year class.

"They were the Rebels, but I was more of a rebel than they were," Gee said, laughing. "So I get a kick out of Ole Miss now with recent players Dexter McCluster playing football and Stefan Moody playing basketball with their long hair."

After earning his law degree, Gee moved to Cincinnati, where he established his own practice as a plaintiff lawyer specializing in worker's compensation cases. There, he met Susan, a court reporter, during a deposition; she's now president of the Ohio Court Reporters Association and owns her own court reporting business.

Gee says his Ole Miss legal education gave him the foundation he needed to establish a successful career (42 years and counting) and, for that, he's grateful: "I'm just pleased to help out Ole Miss; the university was good to me, so I wanted to try to return the favor."

MAKE A GIFT: Suzette Matthews, (662) 915-1122 or suzette@olemiss.edu.



Greg Whitehead (right) shares good times, celebrating with the Tampa Bay Rebels after an Ole Miss victory.

Planning Ahead

The Tampa Bay Ole Miss Club was fairly inactive when University of Mississippi alumnus Greg Whitehead became president two years ago. Today, with 121 active Alumni Association members, the club is thriving.

"The Ole Miss Alumni Association has had a club in the Tampa Bay area for several years, but it has taken off over the past two years," said Port Kaigler, former assistant director of Alumni Affairs. "We knew we needed to increase our presence in the Tampa Bay area and we have started to, thanks to Greg's leadership and the work of his board."

The owner of a Tampa-based sales and marketing company in the wholesale home furnishings industry, Whitehead likes to have a hand in improvement whenever possible. He knew he could help make the alumni club better, just as he constantly strives to enhance his own life

by staying in shape and by expanding his knowledge through books, music and travel.

Now, he hopes to help improve athletics and ultimately academics at Ole Miss.

Whitehead has generously agreed to donate a portion of his estate to establish an endowment that will provide ongoing scholarships to Ole Miss student-athletes.

"I want to give back to my school that I love," said Whitehead, a Zion, Illinois native, who moved to Mississippi with his family during high school. Whitehead played baseball for Itawamba Junior College for two years before transferring to Ole Miss, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration.

"I fell in love with Ole Miss. It has a special quality that can't be put into words, something spiritual or even mystical. In addition to being the most beautiful campus in the country, it has a charm that can't be quantified. It's a place that keeps calling you back," Whitehead said. "Ole Miss is my family, so I've earmarked this amount for athletics because I believe a strong athletics department helps esprit de corps and reputation, which in turn help to increase enrollment, improve academics and foster growth and achievement in many areas."

MAKE A GIFT: Sandra Guest, (662) 915-5208 or sguest@olemiss.edu

Graduate's Gift Supports School of Business, Scholarships

The late Marion McManus of Houston, Texas, grew up on a small farm, one of nine children. His parents' Meadville, Mississippi, home had no electricity or running water and every day he and his siblings were expected to pick cotton after school to help make ends meet.

"Growing up with that hardship gave him a lot of drive and ambition to make a better life for himself and he realized that having an education was an important part of that," said Michael McManus, Marion's son, also of Houston.

Michael McManus says the business degree his father earned from the University of Mississippi in 1950 instilled the knowledge he needed to become successful. In appreciation, he wanted to support education by establishing the Marion McManus Scholarship Endowment with a \$300,000 planned gift and the Marion McManus Excellence in Business Endowment with a \$200,000 planned gift, both to the UM School of Business Administration.

"Mr. McManus's story is a great example of the transformative power of higher education," said Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter. "He used the education he received at the University of Mississippi to go from humble beginnings to a highly successful businessman. We are grateful for his gifts."



Tim Noss (left), development officer for the School of Business Administration, awards the late Marion McManus of Houston, Texas, a certificate acknowledging his gift to the university.

The McManus Scholarship is available to incoming freshmen in the School of Business Administration who are Mississippi residents with a minimum ACT score of 27. The McManus Excellence in Business Endowment provides support for the greatest needs of the Business School as determined by the dean.

Tim Noss, a development officer for the School of Business Administration who met McManus shortly before his death, said, "Mr. McManus had many wonderful memories of his classes and professors in the Business School as

well as the many extracurricular activities with his fraternity, Delta Psi."

Prior to college, McManus served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Upon returning, he was admitted to and planned to enroll at Ole Miss.

"He showed up at Ole Miss and they had thought, since his name was Marion, that he was a female, so they had assigned him to a female residence hall," Michael McManus said. "I think he basically got miffed and went off and enrolled at LSU. My uncle told me the government found out he wasn't a resident of Louisiana and refused to pay for his school any more under the GI Bill, so he transferred to Ole Miss to complete his education."

After graduating, McManus was hired by Fuller-Austin Insulation Co. in Houston, eventually becoming part owner and president. The company was sold in 1974, but McManus continued to manage the company until 1981 when he started Tecon Services, which became a successful industrial insulation company.

McManus enjoyed playing golf, traveling, hunting and spending time with his family and friends.

MAKE A GIFT: Tim Noss, (662) 915-5932 or tnoss@olemiss.edu

A Fan Returns

After years away from campus, University of Mississippi alumnus and sports fan Francis Cerniglia of Cordova, Tennessee, recently received a tour of The Pavilion at Ole Miss and a visit with Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter. He also got to root on the Rebels at a basketball game.

UM Development officers Barbara Daush and Raina McClure hosted Cerniglia as a token of appreciation for his history of financial contributions to the university. Cerniglia, who has supported the university through various gifts to different areas of need for more than three decades, made annual, major and planned gifts to benefit the School of Pharmacy and Ole Miss Athletics.

Cerniglia said he chose to support the two areas because, “the School of Pharmacy allowed me to have a successful life in my chosen field” and “since 1947, when Ole Miss won the SEC championship in John Vaught’s first year as head football coach, I immediately became attached to Rebel sports and never looked back.”

A Greenwood, Mississippi, native, Cerniglia’s first experience in pharmacy was during a summer internship at Chaney’s Pharmacy in his hometown. Earnings were quite different back then – Cerniglia made \$50 per week in his early days at the store and said he was very satisfied with it.

“That was new training for me as I hadn’t had much experience filling prescriptions yet,” he said. “I had to quickly apply what I learned in the classroom.”

After graduating from Pharmacy School in 1959, Cerniglia went to work for Morgan’s Pharmacy in Yazoo



Francis Cerniglia (center) enjoys a tour of the Pavilion led by Keith Carter (left), executive director of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation, and Matt Mossberg, Ole Miss Athletics development officer.

City. It was an “old-timey” pharmacy where the “smell of medicine would knock you out,” he said.

Cerniglia later joined the staff at Walgreens in Vicksburg, Mississippi, where he worked for eight years before deciding to relocate. He worked for Walgreens in Memphis for 32 years before retiring in 1992.

David D. Allen, dean of pharmacy, is grateful for Cerniglia’s support.

“When visiting with Mr. Cerniglia, you can see that he has a great love for all things Ole Miss – especially the School of Pharmacy,” Allen said. “I know I speak on behalf of everyone at the school when I say that we are extremely thankful and humbled by his support over the years.”

MAKE A GIFT: Port Kaigler (662) 915-2712 or port@olemiss.edu



Charitable Gift Annuity

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If you are 60 or older and looking for a simple way to make a charitable gift to Ole Miss that won’t leave you worried about your future financial security, a charitable gift annuity (CGA) could be your solution. In exchange for your gift, you will receive dependable fixed payments for the rest of your life as well as valuable tax benefits.

Your Benefit:

- Fixed payments for life for up to two individuals.
- Relief from investment worries or responsibilities.
- A partial current income tax deduction.
- Capital gains tax savings on appreciated securities you donate.
- The satisfaction of giving back to Ole Miss.

We Can Help

Our Planned Giving team will work closely with your professional advisors to ensure your gift complements your personal financial situation and goals. Please contact us today at 662-915-5208 or visit umfoundation.planmylegacy.org/charitable-gift-annuities

Estate Gift to Benefit Patterson School

Major gift will provide ongoing program support

A recent \$2.1 million gift to the University of Mississippi will provide program support to the Patterson School of Accountancy for decades to come.

The late Wilton Ernest Dyson of Birmingham, Alabama, bequeathed the major gift to the university and designated it for use within the Patterson School at the dean's discretion.

"Because of this incredible gift, we will be able to ensure quality teaching, research and service for future generations of University of Mississippi students," Dean Mark Wilder said. "We are extremely grateful to Mr. Dyson and donors like him who have the foresight to consider the School of Accountancy in their estate planning."

Planned gifts award donors membership in the 1848 Society, named for the year the university welcomed its first students. The society recognizes those who thoughtfully provide for the university through bequests and deferred gifts.

Dyson's endowment, managed by Regions Bank, will provide approximately \$150,000 per year to the Patterson School. In 2016, the Public Accounting Report named the school No. 1 in the Southeastern Conference for its master's and doctoral programs, No. 2 in the SEC for its undergraduate program and one of the nation's top 10 accountancy programs.

"Clearly, this gift indicates that Mr. Dyson had a great appreciation for Ole Miss and a deep sense of loyalty to the accounting profession as a whole," said Mollie Jourdan Seymour, a 2005 UM graduate and trust officer for Dyson's endowment, which is being managed by Regions Bank. "What an amazing legacy to leave!"

His great-niece Ramona Kent of Golden, Colorado, said that Dyson credited his UM education — he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1941 — as well as the accounting profession for changing his life, enabling him to find success after the Great Depression.

"In our family, education was very important," said Kent, a Hattiesburg, Mississippi, native and 1981 Ole Miss business graduate, who lettered in tennis under coaches Russell Blair and Billy Chadwick. "Secondly, accounting is what he loved and it played a big role in the man that he became."

After college, Dyson, a Kentwood, Louisiana, native, served in the U.S. Army as a sergeant in World War II before joining Ernst & Ernst, where he practiced accounting for the bulk of his professional life. Most recently, he worked as vice president and trust officer of Regions Bank. He also was a member of the Alabama Society of CPAs and First Sertoma Club of Birmingham.

"The Patterson School of Accountancy has a history of great financial support from its alumni base," said Wendell Weakley, UM Foundation president and CEO. "This level of giving is a testament to the quality of education our graduates receive."

Kent said her "Uncle B" was always very generous.

"He was obviously very special to me. He was a very kind person and there were no hidden agendas with him. He was a man of integrity and trust," she said. "I just can't say enough about the role model he was and what he meant to me. He was just a great human being."

For information on including the University of Mississippi in long-term estate and financial plans, alumni and friends can visit www.umfoundation.planmylegacy.org or contact Sandra Guest, UM Foundation vice president, at 662-915-5208 or sguest@olemiss.edu.



Wilton Dyson

Supporting Engineering Students

When it comes to generosity toward the University of Mississippi School of Engineering, P.L. "Lew" Hazlewood Jr., of Oxford, Mississippi, is a shining example.

Hazlewood and his wife, Janice, generously established the Janice and P.L. "Lew" Hazlewood Jr. Engineering Scholarship Endowment. The couple set up a planned gift for the future, but in the meantime are donating flow-through funds to accommodate the scholarship.

Giving to Ole Miss comes naturally for the couple.

"My parents paid for my college education," said Lew Hazlewood, a chemical engineering alumnus. "Very often, this isn't the case now, and the burden is left on the student."

"Janice and I want to help these students obtain a college education and to help grow the University of Mississippi School of Engineering. We urge others to donate to the Engineering School via this scholarship."

A native of Liberty, Mississippi, Lew Hazlewood was first exposed to the university at a 1959 football game against rival Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Coincidentally, his future wife, a native of New Iberia, Louisiana, also was at the game, although they didn't meet until a few years later.

"From that time, I have dearly loved Ole Miss," Hazlewood said.

Lew Hazlewood enrolled at the university in 1967. Following graduation, he worked for the PPG Industries chemical facility in Lake Charles, Louisiana, for 35 years.

"At first, I was a process engineer," he said. "Then, I was promoted

and ultimately became team leader. My education at Ole Miss enabled me to understand chemical processes and gave me the necessary skills to perform my job."

The Hazlewoods always wanted to be able to attend more UM sporting events by retiring to Oxford. They moved in 2004 and worked for the university for several years.

With this gift, the School of Engineering Scholarship Committee will be able to select a deserving student who has demonstrated an exceptional academic record and remained in a major track in engineering.

The Hazlewoods' donation has already proven very beneficial for the program, Dean Alex Cheng said.

"With the impending growth that has steadily become the norm at the School of Engineering, donations of any type are very well received, especially ones for student scholarships such as the gift from Lew and Janice Hazlewood," Cheng said.

MAKE A GIFT: Nikki Neely Davis, (662) 915-6678 or nneely@olemiss.edu



'Lew' and Janice Hazlewood, who have created an endowed scholarship in the School of Engineering, are greeted by Engineering Dean Alex Cheng (right).

William Magee Center Expresses Love for a Son, Support for UM Students

The late William Magee's infectious smile could bring light and laughter to a room. The talented young man was an alumnus of the University of Mississippi's Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and Croft Institute for International Studies. He also ran track for Ole Miss and was named to the SEC academic honor roll. The beloved son and brother was a good friend to many — the kind of guy who'd be a pleasure to know.

Before his unfortunate 2013 overdose while trying to beat drug addiction, he had hoped to one day help others win their own battles against substance abuse.

Now he will — his legacy bringing light to Ole Miss students through a heightened focus on drug and alcohol education and prevention. The William Magee Center for Wellness Education will open in 2018, when construction is completed on the university's new South Campus Recreation Facility. Gifts for the initiative have surpassed \$500,000, with a deferred gift of \$850,000 also committed.

Donors include William's parents Kent and David Magee, Diane and Dick Scruggs and Cris and Jay Hughes, all of Oxford; Becca and Phil Mehlin of Little Rock, Arkansas; American Addiction Centers (AAC) of Brentwood, Tennessee, owner of the Oxford Treatment Center's residential center and outpatient clinics; and the Sigma Nu and Kappa Alpha fraternities.

Fundraising for the Magee Center will continue as the university seeks to proactively enhance student success by taking a closer look at substance abuse issues, while implementing best practices to educate and intervene with students affected. In addition, the Magee Center will host a biennial national symposium.

"One of our primary reasons for returning to Oxford (from Birmingham) was to be nearer to Ole Miss and find ways to contribute," said David Magee. "I was blessed to grow up in Oxford and know that students should always come first. I met with Chancellor Jeff Vitter and told him that I planned to write about William and to spearhead an initiative to help other students benefit from educational programming; he gave me great encouragement."

Magee's "William's Story," which was addressed to last fall's freshmen, has been read by an estimated million-plus people.

"Kent and I expected the story to find an audience since so many families face this challenge, but we did not expect the story to be read from coast to coast. Of all the positive responses, none were as strong as those from the Ole Miss family, which always wants to help our students, tomorrow's generation, first and foremost."

Chancellor Vitter was joined by Brandi Hephner LaBanc, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, and Leslie Banahan, assistant vice chancellor,



Gathering at the construction site of the South Campus Recreation Facility where the William Magee Center for Wellness Education will be housed are (from left) Brett Barefoot, UM development officer for parents and family leadership; Billy Young, co-founder and CEO, and Dr. Stephen Pannel, medical director, from the AAC-owned Oxford Treatment Center; Jay and Cris Hughes; Kent and David Magee, Diane and Dick Scruggs, all donors; and Brandi Hephner LaBanc, vice chancellor for Student Affairs. The center will provide Ole Miss students with education and prevention strategies regarding alcohol and drugs.

in supporting the Magees.

"William was an outstanding student-athlete and will always be a part of this university," said the chancellor. "We are deeply grateful to his parents and other passionate donors for driving this initiative to help bring expanded educational and support mechanisms to our campus. Ole Miss wants to be proactive in supporting our students whatever their challenges may be; having added resources makes a tremendous impact on our work."

Dick Scruggs said he and his wife, Diane, were led to support the center because they have become alarmed at the "rapid spread and apparent acceptance of highly dangerous drugs among some student populations."

"The increasing availability of cheap and lethal drugs is a relatively new phenomenon in the drug scene, and the mortal risks associated with them is not sufficiently appreciated. Our extended family has had one such deadly tragedy, and every family with young adults is at risk," Scruggs said. "Diane and I want to be part of a robust campus-wide effort to identify and intervene with at-risk students, hopefully to prevent more young deaths."

"I hope that our society, not just parents, come to understand that substance abuse is a disease and not a character flaw," he continued. "The stigma that so often comes with seeking help deters and delays treatment far too often."

As an intern in a mental health and substance abuse center years ago, Jay Hughes witnessed tragic situations and understands that addiction is a disease in which one body has different receptors than others. "I also recognize the stigma that comes with the denial of so many who simply think it is just a bad choice or a bad person," said Hughes, who along with his wife Cris, was among the first to support the project. "We have to educate people and move forward with treating it for what it is."

Among resources available to students at the Magee Center will be centralized education and advocacy, peer education programs, counseling and outside referrals, research on prevention and intervention, and recovery support.

AAC CEO Michael Cartwright said support for the Magee Center was a natural fit for the company, given its own goals in prevention and



William Magee

Alumnus and Ole Miss First Scholarship Give Student Outstanding Opportunity

education. AAC's Oxford Treatment Center facilities include locations in Oxford, Etta, Tupelo and Olive Branch.

"We have excellent treatment programs in Mississippi where we equip people for long-term recovery," Cartwright said. "Helping to break through the epidemic of drug and alcohol problems among college students, especially in our home communities, is something our company believes in."

Billy Young, co-founder and CEO of Oxford Treatment Center, said addiction affects young people from every background.

"In the work we do, we see the way drugs and alcohol can hijack the future of young people," said Young, an Ole Miss alumnus. "The university is taking a bold step to intervene, and we're committed to supporting this effort in every way we can."

One of Sigma Nu fraternity's philanthropy chairs Nicholas Egorshin of Birmingham said the group wanted to pay tribute to William, David and the family's other son Hudson, all Sigma Nu members. The fraternity's gift also recognizes the challenges among college populations.

"The Magee Center has the potential to change so many lives," he said. "Sigma Nu's gift shows that our members recognize how significant an issue addiction is and our commitment to doing what we can to help combat the problem. We are providing this support in the name of one of our brothers William — an accomplished and well-rounded student — which serves as further testament that addiction does not discriminate and is likely affecting many around us."

KA philanthropy chair Dillon Pitts said, "Our fraternity members believe it is crucial to enhance the university's ability to address needs of the student body. Combining our efforts is the best way to offer premier programming and witness positive results; we are all on this journey together and should help one another any way we can."

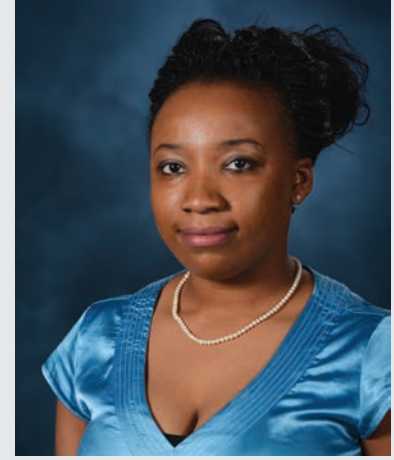
The Magees view the new center as an expression of love for William and a passion for helping students.

"Our university has grown, doubling in size over the past decade. With growth comes the responsibility of serving a diverse student body with diverse needs. This center can be a point of light that can help so many caught between the fringes of struggle and success," said David Magee. "Our goal is to see Ole Miss emerge as a national leader that provides world-class wellness education and resources for its students."

MAKE A GIFT: Brett Barefoot,

(662) 915-2711, bmbarefo@olemiss.edu, or

<https://ignite.olemiss.edu/wellnesseducation>



In high school, Jasmine Turner (right) wrote an essay about her life in the small Mississippi town of Charleston. The story, which was submitted as part of her application for the Ole Miss First scholarship, caught the eye of UM alumnus Bill Cossar (left).

After meeting her, Cossar recommended Turner for the scholarship, so she could more easily pursue her dream of attending pharmacy school.

Now seven years later, Turner has graduated from the Ole Miss School of Pharmacy and has a job with Walgreens in Brandon, Mississippi.

It didn't take long for Turner to use the opportunity she was given to help others. An employee at the university call center, she was able to talk to future Ole Miss students in search of financial aid to help them find opportunities to allow them to attend school and pursue their own dreams, just as she did. Turner recently contributed to the Ole Miss Fund but has her eyes on a much higher form of aid.

"My experience put it in my heart to give back, even though it was just \$100, that was \$100 that someone didn't have, and it can help their scholarships," Turner said. "Eventually, after I get situated, my goal is to start a scholarship similar to Mr. Cossar's and help someone like me who didn't have a lot of financial support but is a very studious person."

Family, Friends Honor Miller's Life with Scholarship



Family and friends of Max Miller — here with his wife, Janis, and grandchildren — are seeking support for a scholarship that will honor his life. Prior to his death in April 2016 while traveling to meet Ole Miss students on a field trip, Miller had served the university for two decades — most recently as associate director of projects for the Haley Barbour Center for Manufacturing Excellence. He previously served as associate director of admissions and on staff in the Financial Aid Office and Office of the Registrar. Funds raised will provide financial assistance to eligible Ole Miss students in any field of study. To make a gift, contact Jason McCormick at (662) 915-1757 or jason@olemiss.edu.

Westbrook Pledges Gift to Meek School of Journalism and New Media

In true Rebel style, University of Mississippi alumna Leslie Westbrook bucked the confines of her generation and became one of the nation's most successful consumer market specialists with Fortune 500 clients.

"Like all good Southern ladies in that era, I planned to marry my college sweetheart and teach school. I was to start the family and add to it the station wagon and dogs," said Westbrook, a Jackson, Mississippi, native. "Well, I cancelled the Big Fat Southern Wedding."

Instead, she landed a job in Procter & Gamble's Market Research Department and left Mississippi for Cincinnati, Ohio. Her bachelor's degree in education would have served her well for teaching, but she required weeks of training for her newly chosen career: consumer research specialist and marketing strategist.

"There is a great need to offer extensive consumer research training to students who are majoring in integrated marketing communications (IMC) through the Meek School of Journalism and New Media," Westbrook said.

Determined to see students adequately prepared to enter her profession, Westbrook recently pledged \$500,000 to the university. The Leslie M. Westbrook Journalism Quasi Endowment will ultimately support the construction of a new state-of-the-art consumer research laboratory bearing Westbrook's name.

In addition to providing financial support, she participates in faculty support, teaching a



Leslie Westbrook instructs students at the Meek School of Journalism and New Media.

Global Brands course during May intercession and co-teaching, guest lecturing and meeting with students several other times a year. She also serves on the board of the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics at Ole Miss.

"We found the perfect fit," she said. "Everything that I learned and put into practice in my career is taught in IMC over the course of the four-year program. I can speak from actual experience, from the business world, about how IMC can be utilized in a career and with a wider

variety of choices — consumer research, marketing, branding, public relations, advertising, writing and more."

In class, Westbrook often shares case studies from her work with such brands as Pringles, Pampers, Dunkin' Donuts Coffee and the Dairy Queen Blizzard.

"I love my time back at Ole Miss, passing it forward, interacting with students," she said. "If I can impact even one student, I am fulfilled."

MAKE A GIFT: Jason McCormick, (662) 915-1757 or jason@olemiss.edu



UM nutrition graduate students (from left) Kelsey Reece of Grenada, Mississippi; Michelle Weber of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Sydney Antolini of Charlotte, North Carolina, deliver vegetables to elementary students.

Transforming Lives Through Outreach

Farm to YOUth, a six-week University of Mississippi pilot project supported by a \$200,000 gift from global agriculture company Monsanto, has kids eating kale and other veggies — all in an effort to improve health through nutritious eating.

Project director David H. Holben, a professor and chair of the UM Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management, believes the project will also help prevent food insecurity, which is defined as a lack of access to nutritious food for an active, healthy life.

"We came up with this idea to address this preventable health threat," Holben said. "The Farm to YOUth program is an outreach and education program and we are measuring its efficacy. We want to see if food insecurity is impacted in the short run; if it will affect change in how kids are willing to try new vegetables; and if it will decrease food waste in the cafeteria. In other words, do children eat more of their vegetables after participating in this program?"

When Holben presented Farm to YOUth to Monsanto, the company jumped at the chance to support the work, establishing the Food and Nutrition Security Support Fund on behalf of the UM School of Applied Sciences.

MAKE A GIFT: Katie Morrison, (662) 915-2135 or katie@olemiss.edu

Private Gifts to MIND Center Fuel Expansion of Alzheimer's Care

The MIND Center at the University of Mississippi Medical Center recently announced a cumulative \$10 million gift from the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation to advance its Alzheimer's disease research and establish the Gertrude C. Ford MIND Research Center.

The gift could not come at a better time.

"Americans are living longer than ever and with the aging of the baby boomer generation, we are facing a silver tsunami," said Dr. Tom Mosley, director of the Memory Impairment and Neurodegenerative Dementia (MIND) Center, at the ceremony on the UMMC campus.

The sixth-leading cause of death in the United States, more than 52,000 Mississippians have Alzheimer's or similar conditions.

"That number is expected to double by the year 2030 and triple by 2050 unless we find ways to slow, stop or ultimately prevent these devastating illnesses," Mosley said.

That is the goal of the MIND Center. Founded in 2010, it brings together research in risk factors, brain imaging and genetic technologies to make discoveries about Alzheimer's disease. In addition, the MIND Center Clinic offers diagnosis and outpatient treatment for patients with memory loss and cognitive impairment.

"In just six years, Dr. Mosley and the MIND Center have put UMMC on the map in the brain-aging field by leading the country in research on Alzheimer's and dementia," said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

In addition to its population-based studies, in 2016 the MIND Center expanded its research portfolio to include clinical trials. The first, the nationwide IDEAS study, launched this fall.

The Ford Foundation's gift will support the overall research mission of the MIND Center.

Research investment is great news for the MIND Center and for the state of Mississippi. According to the American Association of Medical Colleges, every dollar invested in research at medical schools and teaching hospitals like UMMC generates \$2.60 of economic activity.

"This generous gift from the Ford Foundation will help us draw top talent and NIH funding to Mississippi, both of which are critical to our continued success," Mosley said.

The late Gertrude Castellow Ford, wife of



Above: The MIND Center announced a \$10 million gift from the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation to support research on Alzheimer's disease and dementia. At the announcement ceremony were from left: MIND Center director Dr. Tom Mosley, MIND Center advisory board co-chair Suzan Thames, MIND Center advisory board chair emeritus Ambassador John Palmer, Ford Foundation trustee Cheryl Sims, vice chancellor for health affairs Dr. LouAnn Woodward, Ford trustees Tom Papa and John Lewis, and Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter.

Right: Dr. Tom Mosley, director of the MIND Center, speaks at the announcement ceremony.



former U.S. Congressman Aaron Ford, grew up in a tradition of philanthropy. In 1991, she established the foundation in Jackson, which invests in the arts, medicine, science and the overall enrichment of Mississippians.

The Ford Foundation's gifts to the University of Mississippi campus in Oxford total \$55 million, including \$25 million supporting the Ford Center for the Performing Arts and \$25 million toward a new STEM building currently under construction.

At UMMC, the foundation helped provide funds for the Suzan B. Thames Chair of Pediatrics. In 2013, the MIND Center received \$1 million from the Ford Foundation to help establish its overall operations.

The Ford Foundation recently added \$9 million to the initial 2013 gift. With \$10 million in cumulative funding, the MIND Center will rename its research arm after Ford.

"We are proud that the Gertrude C. Ford name will be displayed in perpetuity on our campus," said Woodward, the Medical Center's institutional leader.

John Lewis, a trustee for the Ford Foundation, spoke at the event and noted the

commitment of UMMC's leadership to the health of all Mississippians.

"We invest in people's dreams and visions," Lewis said. "This investment is a step toward the end of Alzheimer's disease."

Ambassador John Palmer, chair emeritus of the MIND Center advisory board, shared this sentiment.

"We must have an unwavering vision of where we will go, act boldly and think creatively, because there is too much at stake," Palmer said.

The Ford MIND Research Center occupies 15,000 square feet of the new Translational Research Center.

The MIND Center's current programmatic priorities include the creation of an early-career investigator program. This will fund "rising star" scientists as they develop their research studies. A related aim is to create a discovery fund, which will provide seed money for promising lines of scientific inquiry.

MAKE A GIFT: (601) 984-2300 or umc.edu/givenow

FOR THE CHILDREN

Philanthropists Push \$100M Campaign Beyond Mid-Point

The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi is past the halfway point to its \$100 million goal, thanks to philanthropists seeking to invest in the future of pediatrics at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

A \$400,000 gift from the Junior League of Jackson in late May followed an anonymous \$10 million planned gift earlier in the month, sending the fund drive to more than \$53 million. The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, launched in April 2016, seeks to enlarge and update pediatric facilities at the state's only children's hospital.

The campaign is a \$100 million fund drive to provide an enlarged and renovated neonatal intensive care unit, more rooms for the pediatric intensive care unit, more operating rooms and the creation of an imaging clinic especially for pediatric patients. A new pediatric clinic will make care for outpatients more convenient and comfortable for families. Expansion of the Children's Heart Center is also on the drawing board.

Children's of Mississippi is an umbrella organization that includes Batson Children's Hospital as well as all UMMC pediatric care. "It is a testament to the value this state places on the health of our children that The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi has come this far in such a short period of time," said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice



Junior League of Jackson President Melanie Hataway, (center) Community Foundation of Greater Jackson President and CEO Jane Alexander (left) and JLJ Treasurer Crystal Thompson, (second from left) present a \$400,000 donation from the league to The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi. Accepting the donation are Natalie Hutto, (second from right) UMMC interim chief development officer, and Michelle Alexander, UMMC major gifts officer.

A \$400,000 gift from the Junior League of Jackson in late May topped off an anonymous \$10 million planned gift earlier in the month, sending the fund drive to more than \$53 million.



Joe Sanderson, who, along with wife Kathy (left) is chairing a \$100 million Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, speaks at a news conference launching the drive in April 2016. At right is Dr. LouAnn Woodward, UMMC vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. The photos on either side of the podium are of Children's of Mississippi patients, from left, Mary Ellis Cravey, Christopher Stamps, Jamie Beck and Malia Croom.

chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

The donation from the Junior League of Jackson represents gifts from a League endowment fund held at the Community Foundation of Greater

Jackson dedicated to services encompassed by Children's of Mississippi as well as money from the fundraising efforts of the Junior League of Jackson, said Melanie Hataway, 2016-2017 president of the organization.

"We've been very frugal this past League year," she said, "and we wanted to give those funds to support Children's of Mississippi in this expansion, which will benefit children and families throughout the state."

The Junior League of Jackson is a longtime supporter of pediatric care at UMMC, raising the funds used to construct the Children's Cancer Center, which opened 1992, and sending hundreds of volunteers to Batson Children's Hospital over the years for programs ranging from the Rockin' Mamas in the neonatal intensive care unit to car seat safety and parties for patients.

"Time and time again, the Junior League of Jackson has proven its commitment to the health of our children through the giving of their time and resources," said Guy Giesecke, CEO of Children's of Mississippi. "They were here when the Children's Cancer Center and Batson Children's Hospital were in the planning stages, and their support over the years has never wavered. Now that we are planning the future of pediatric care



at UMMC, it means so much that the Junior League of Jackson is once again helping bring a vision to reality."

The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi got a boost at the start from campaign co-chairs Joe and Kathy Sanderson of Laurel, Mississippi. The board chairman and CEO of Sanderson Farms and his wife made a \$10 million personal pledge to the drive.

"We believe that the hospital is at maximum capacity and needs to be improved to offer children the best care available," Joe Sanderson said.

*The Campaign for
Children's of Mississippi
seeks to enhance
pediatric facilities at the
state's only
children's hospital.*

Friends of Children's Hospital, a nonprofit group dedicated to raising funds for Batson Children's Hospital, followed that with a \$20 million pledge in August 2016.

This newest Friends of Children's Hospital pledge is a strong renewal of commitment to the group's mission, said board chair Sara Ray. "Only 20 years after Friends of Children's Hospital helped make Batson Children's Hospital a reality, we are once again committing to make a dream come true for our little ones. We're dreaming bigger this time and have committed to raise \$20 million over the next 10 years to expand our beloved children's hospital."

The Sandersons are optimistic the \$100 million goal will be reached because the campaign's mission is too vital not to be realized.

"Kathy and I feel like Children's of Mississippi is the most important and most worthy charitable endeavor in the state at this time," Joe Sanderson said. "This project is most important to the state and to the children of Mississippi now and for years to come."

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Fitch-Swiney Gift Establishes Scholarships

Inspired by her experience as a medical student at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and what they see as the future of health care, UM School of Medicine alumna Dr. Sarah Fitch and her husband Alvin Swiney have established the Fitch-Swiney School of Medicine and School of Nursing Scholarship Endowment.

Fitch, a pediatric radiologist in Memphis working for the University of Arkansas Children's Hospital, graduated from Millsaps College before earning her medical degree in 1978. Swiney is a musical instrument technician and acoustician who did undergraduate work at Louisiana State University and completed an apprenticeship with renowned woodwind maker, W. Hans Moennig. Both relied on scholarships and hard work to earn their degrees, making this gift all the more meaningful to them.

"My parents helped as often as they could. They simply weren't able to help entirely," said Fitch. "If I had not had scholarship help in association with work study, it would have been impossible for me to go to medical school."

Swiney's father grew up in a small town and did not have a formal education due to lack of availability. He constantly emphasized the importance of an education to Swiney and his siblings. Swiney went to LSU on tuition scholarship and arrived with the last \$5 his dad had to offer in his pocket. To Swiney, being able to help future students is deeply personal.

"I think about all the children who have the potential to go to college, but yet they don't have basic needs met such as transportation or even having enough to eat before they get there. I think it's very important to provide people with monies and scholarships in order to let them rise to their level of potential," he said.

The annual scholarship will be divided evenly to fund separate full-tuition scholarships for at least one medical student and at least one nursing student each year. Fitch and Swiney want to promote diversity in health care and stipulated that recipients of the scholarship represent diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.

"I simply wanted to provide some financial aid for young men and women of all races that could go to further their education, and I wanted it to go to an area in which I thought it would be used," said Fitch.

Fitch believes that area of need lies within nurse practitioners as well as physicians.

"It has become obvious to me over the last several years that the answer to medical care in the coming years is going to be to use additional personnel other than physicians to provide medical care to the population," she said.

With the rising cost of tuition across the board, scholarships are becoming even more crucial to students of all backgrounds in all disciplines, according to Dr. Loretta Jackson-Williams, vice dean for medical education in the School of Medicine.

"There are very few options for funding a medical education. Currently, this is primarily done with loans and scholarships," she said, adding that this type of scholarship will enable students to make career choices based more on their personal interests and less on earning potential.

"A degree from this institution would not be a worthless degree or not be a diluted degree. It would be something that has merit and integrity and stands for something. So I can't think of a better place to help than UMMC," Swiney said.

Fitch agreed. "I have always known that my education was superb here. I want for other people to be able to help those who need help to be able to get an education here and I hope that many of those students will then practice here."

MAKE A GIFT: (601) 984-2300 or umc.edu/givenow



School of Medicine alumna Dr. Sarah Fitch, second from right, and her husband Alvin Swiney established the Fitch-Swiney School of Medicine and School of Nursing Scholarship Endowment through a planned gift. Dr. Kim Hoover, left, dean of the School of Nursing, and Dr. Loretta Jackson-Williams, vice dean for medical education in the School of Medicine, officially welcomed them into the 1955 Legacy Society.

Award Pays Tribute to Life of Dr. Shoemake-Patterson

Throughout her life, Dr. Nikki Shoemake-Patterson provided the bond that kept her medical school classmates connected, an attachment that has only strengthened since her death in June 2016.



Dr. Nikki Shoemake-Patterson

"Our whole class has been brought together by this tragedy," said Dr. Jennifer J. Bryan, UMMC associate professor of family medicine. "We grieved together, and together we hope to build a lasting memorial to her."

Bryan is among those who helped establish a scholarship fund in their classmate's name following Shoemake-Patterson's death, as she gave birth to her second daughter, who died a week later.

"One reason this class has been so close was because of Nikki," said Dr. Melissa Scholes, assistant professor of otolaryngology at the University of Colorado in Aurora. "Even after our residencies, she kept in touch with everybody. She was the glue that held us together."

The Paula Nicole "Nikki" Shoemake-Patterson, M.D. Award is reserved for females who are fourth-year medical students and who aspire to be surgeons — just as the fund's namesake did.

"From the time she was small, Nikki said she wanted to be a doctor because of her grandfather — he was always sick from heart problems and diabetes," said her mother, June Alford of Gluckstadt, Mississippi. "In junior high she was still talking about being a doctor, so I thought, 'Maybe we have something here.'"

That proved to be so, as Nikki Shoemake graduated from Mississippi State University in 1998, then the UM School of Medicine in 2003. She completed a residency at the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven, Connecticut, and became a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. The physician was on the medical staff at OCH Medical Center in Starkville, Mississippi.

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Bower Foundation Helps Start New School

The latest chapter in Mississippi's health story has a name — The John D. Bower School of Population Health.

At a recent ceremony, university and health-care leaders celebrated the newest health science school at UMMC.

"Population health resides at the intersection of clinical care and public health," said Dr. Bettina Beech, dean of the school. "It is an emerging field that seeks to prevent and treat diseases by keeping people healthy and by addressing the multiple factors that impact the health of individuals and communities."

Approved by the state Institutions of Higher Learning in April, the school will be the seventh represented at the Medical Center campus and only the third of its kind in the United States. Classes began with this fall semester.

The school's namesake, Dr. John Bower, is a UMMC professor emeritus of medicine with a distinguished record of patient care advocacy. In 1966, he established Mississippi's first kidney dialysis unit at the Medical Center. Bower's 1972 U.S. Congressional testimony influenced the decision to allow Medicare coverage for end-stage renal disease patients. His non-profit corporation, Kidney Care, Inc., opened dialysis clinics in 22 Mississippi cities.

"Dr. Bower built a network of health care by providing high-quality, coordinated care with a team approach," said Dr. Ralph Didlake, UMMC associate vice chancellor for academic affairs. "He based the system on data, metrics, best practices and patient outcomes. He was ahead of the game in terms of what population health can do as a delivery model for health care."

At its height, Kidney Care served more than 2,000 people in Mississippi, half of the state's dialysis patients. Furthermore, the dialysis program had the lowest rates morbidity and mortality in the country.

When Kidney Care merged with other dialysis programs in 1996, Bower used the proceeds from the transaction to start the Bower Foundation, which funds projects dedicated to improving the health and educational status of Mississippians.

A \$5 million gift from the Foundation will help fund the school's start-up costs and prepare its home on one-and-a-half floors in UMMC's new Translational Research Center.

"Dr. Bower is an important pioneer in medicine and of the population health model before it was in fashion," Beech said. "He has been an enormous supporter of UMMC for decades and the mission of the Foundation is extremely well-aligned with our mission in the School of Population Health."

This gift from the Foundation is the latest in a legacy of support for programs on the Oxford and Jackson campuses. Since 1996, more than \$14 million has supported education, research, health care and telemedicine, as well as starting the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities at UMMC.

"Dr. Bower recognizes that there is more to health care than the technical component, that ethics and professionalism are important," said Didlake, who directs the center.

"I can't think of a more fitting name to go on this school because, like Dr. Bower himself, it will be a game changer, a paradigm breaker, a trail blazer," said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs.



UMMC recently celebrated the naming of its newest school, the John D. Bower School of Population Health. Addressing the crowd were Bower Foundation CEO Anne Travis, left, UMMC professor emeritus Dr. John Bower, and Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs.

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Gift for the Children

Philanthropist Among Children's of Mississippi Campaign Supporters

Robbie Hughes recently made a generous gift to the University of Mississippi Medical Center, specifically to the Children's of Mississippi \$100 million capital campaign.

In early 2015, Hughes and her late husband Dudley made a gift of \$2 million to endow the faculty chair for the Memory Impairment and Neurodegenerative Dementia (MIND) Center, a cause near to their hearts since Dudley suffered from dementia. Hughes has requested the amount of the gift to The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi be kept confidential.

During their first involvement with UMMC and the MIND Center, Hughes met Dr. James Keeton, former vice chancellor of UMMC and dean of the School of Medicine. Hughes stayed in touch with Keeton and others at UMMC, and eventually took a tour of the hospital and then Children's of Mississippi.

"After I found out the mission of the hospital and became acquainted with the responsible people, I was so impressed with the excellent caliber of care here," said Hughes. "Dr. Woodward, the vice chancellor, is wonderful; being around her, I can tell how much she cares. It's not just a job for her.

"And Dr. Keeton, well, I'm impressed by not only what he has done for the hospital but also his outlook on life. He's interested in what he's doing and the success of the hospital. It makes me want to support UMMC because I learned the money is carefully allocated and put to good use," said Hughes.

The tour of Batson Children's Hospital made an even deeper impact on Hughes.

"To know there were cardiac surgeons operating on teeny, tiny babies blew me away. I was impressed with the degree of caring they showed, and I wanted to be a part of it," she said.

Keeton has become good friends with Hughes over the past few years, and the two share a mutual admiration for each other. "Her quest for knowledge is amazing. She wants to know everything," said Keeton, adding, "After multiple visits, she told me she was going to do something (for the Children's campaign), and I had no doubt in my mind



Philanthropist Robbie Hughes has strengthened her support of UMMC with a significant contribution to The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi.

that she would and she would do it in her time."

As a part of her tour and subsequent meetings, Hughes learned about the plans for the new addition to Children's of Mississippi, which was further affirmation that her gift would be put to good use. "I was really bothered that the children had to be moved to the main hospital for imaging, and I'm thrilled to know about the imaging and surgery units planned for the new hospital. I also know that the present neonatal unit is overcrowded, and that new part will be just fabulous."

"We are very lucky to have a person like her who is committed to us and now also to the children of Mississippi," said Keeton. "I haven't met many people in my life who care as much as she does."

Hughes might argue that her husband Dudley, who died in 2015, cared as much as she does. "Dudley would be extremely pleased to know about this gift and that we were able to do this. He was always helping people, and his daddy was the same way," said Hughes.

MAKE A GIFT: (601) 984-2300 or umc.edu/givenow



Since its founding in 1955, the University of Mississippi Medical Center has benefited from the foresight and generosity of people who have invested in the future by naming the Medical Center as a beneficiary in their wills. As tax laws changed, many other gift plans emerged, and each year these planned gifts have added to the value of the UMMC Endowment and provided funds for professorships, research, facilities, patient care, scholarships, lectureships and many other specific programs to enhance healthcare and academic excellence. Those who have made commitments to the Medical Center through planned gifts have left significant legacies and have truly become partners in the growth and development of Mississippi's only academic health science center.

What is the 1955 Legacy Society?

The 1955 Legacy Society was established in 2015 — the Medical Center's 60th year of being founded. The society recognizes alumni and friends who have either funded or planned a deferred gift, such as a bequest or a life income plan.

Qualifications for Membership

Anyone who has an estate gift planned for UMMC or who has completed a life income trust, retained life estate gift or other charitable trust plan for the university is eligible for membership in the 1955 Legacy Society. For example, the University of Mississippi Foundation can be made the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan. Donors who establish life income plans, retained life estates or other charitable trusts that benefit the Medical Center, whether the foundation manages the plan or not, also qualify.

Gift plans that confer membership eligibility include:

- ♦ Simple bequests
- ♦ Life income gifts, including immediate or deferred-payment charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder annuity trusts or unitrusts
- ♦ Retained life estate gifts
- ♦ Charitable lead trusts that pay income to UMMC
- ♦ Designation of UMMC as beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan

For more information, contact Keri Henley, planned giving specialist, at kehnley@umc.edu or (601) 984-2841 or Natalie Hutto, interim chief development officer, at nhutto@umc.edu or (601) 984-2306.

Rayners' 'Wonderful Life' Inspires Gift to UMMC



Jim and Mary Sharp Rayner

Dr. Jim Rayner, an Oxford, Mississippi, ophthalmologist, and his wife Mary Sharp Rayner are acutely aware of the rising cost of higher education.

Their \$1 million gift — the Dr. and Mrs. James W. Rayner School of Medicine Scholarship Endowment — will help Mississippi's future physicians meet the state's health-care needs.

"Mary Sharp and I felt we needed to give something back because UMMC is in large part responsible for the wonderful life we've had," said Rayner, who has lived in Oxford since beginning his ophthalmology practice, devoting the final 10 years to cataract, implant and laser surgery.

A graduate of Millsaps College in Jackson prior to earning his medical degree at UMMC, Rayner completed an internship and residency at the John Gaston Hospital in Memphis and fellowships at Johns Hopkins and in San Francisco.

In school, he worked every summer.

"I always sold things — books, Bibles, cookware, everything. I would make enough in three months to pay for an entire year of medical school," he said.

His personal experience led the Rayners to establish their scholarship for students who "demonstrate initiative, discipline, professionalism, a commitment to personal accountability and an industrious spirit."

It will also go to those who have a history of summer employment during college or medical school and are working to diminish debt while earning a medical degree.

Jim Rayner hopes his philanthropy will not just help current students but also inspire his fellow classmates and colleagues to give back. He believes that his \$1 million gift is "within the grasp of many physicians."

"The goal is to find quality students who are exceedingly bright but who are not going to medical school because they can't afford it," he said.

MAKE A GIFT: (601) 984-2300 or umc.edu/givenow

Triplett Family's Gift Expresses Gratitude for Compassionate Care

Liz Triplett Walker has always had strong ties to the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Children's of Mississippi. She spent 13 years at UMMC as an oncology social worker, volunteers with Friends of Children's Hospital, a nonprofit organization created to benefit Batson Children's Hospital, and is a member of UMMC Candlelighters, a group that offers support for families with children undergoing cancer treatment.

When her then 4-year-old son Felton was diagnosed with a neuromuscular disease at Batson Children's Hospital in the fall of 2010, the connection between UMMC, Walker and her four siblings became closer, leading the family to make a \$1 million gift to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi.

The campaign seeks to raise \$100 million in philanthropic donations to fund a portion of the project that will update and expand pediatric care at UMMC, including construction of a new neonatal intensive care unit, updating and expanding the pediatric intensive care unit, adding more operating suites, creating an imaging center just for children and building a pediatric outpatient clinic adjacent to Batson.

"I have a passion for the Children's Hospital, especially since it's Mississippi's only one, and we have seen first-hand the benefits



Because of the treatment Liz Walker's son Felton (third from left) received at Batson Children's Hospital, Dr. Faser and Jackie Triplett's children (from left) Lou Ann Woidtke, Suzy Fuller, Liz Walker, Diane Holloway, and Chip Triplett made a \$1 million gift to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi.

of having wonderful physicians in our backyard," said Walker. "My siblings have also seen what the hospital has done for Felton and others, and they wanted to give back so the care can continue and improve."

The gift was made through the family's foundation, the Dr. and Mrs. Rodney Faser Triplett Foundation, named in honor of their parents, Faser, the first board-certified allergist in Mississippi, and his wife, Jackie.

Liz's brother Chip Triplett agreed. "We would support anything involved with the children's hospital."

MAKE A GIFT: (601) 984-2300 or umc.edu/givenow

Mannings' Gift to Benefit Children's Hospital



Abby and Eli Manning sit with Batson Children's Hospital patient Abigail Morgan.

Eli and Abby Manning recently made a personal pledge of \$1 million to the Children's of Mississippi \$100 million capital campaign — a winning play for the health of Mississippi's children.

The Mannings already scored for pediatric care, raising more than \$2.5 million in partnership with Friends of Children's Hospital to open the Eli Manning Children's Clinics at Batson Children's Hospital.

"Abby and I are the parents of three precious daughters," Eli Manning said, "so we know that the health of your children means everything. We want every family to have the best quality care for their children close to home. That's why we opened the Eli Manning Children's Clinics at Batson Children's Hospital, and that's why we made this commitment to the future of pediatric care at UMMC."

"Every mother wants her children to have what they need, and when they need medical care, they want that care to be compassionate and to be available nearby," said Abby Manning, who graduated from Ole Miss with a degree in family and consumer sciences. "This is why Children's of Mississippi means so much to our family."

Eli Manning was named one of the "Top 20 Philanthropists under 40" by The New York Observer and was a finalist for the 2016 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year award. His devotion to Batson Children's Hospital can also be seen in the article he wrote for The Players' Tribune, titled "The Autograph," which tells of his visit with a young man fighting cancer at Batson Children's Hospital.

The campaign aims to fund an expansion and update of the neonatal intensive care unit, add more pediatric ICU rooms and surgical suites, create an imaging department just for children and expand the outpatient clinic.

"We joined this team because we want the very best for the children in Mississippi," Eli Manning said. "This campaign to build a world-class facility will help shape the future of our state. Supporting it means giving Mississippi's doctors the tools they need to fight the good fight. You'll be telling Mississippi's parents that their children matter. You'll be giving Mississippi's sickest children new hope. And take it from me, there's no better feeling than knowing you played a part in giving a child a chance to grow up."

MAKE A GIFT: (601) 984-2300 or umc.edu/givenow

Sanderson Championship Donation to Friends of Children's Hospital Sets Record

Century Club Charities, the host organization of the Sanderson Farms Championship, Mississippi's only PGA TOUR event, donated a record \$1.125 million from the 2016 tournament to Friends of Children's Hospital, topping its previous record-setting amounts for four consecutive years.

Since tournament host Century Club Charities announced Sanderson Farms as the tournament's title sponsor in 2013, nearly \$4 million has been donated to support Mississippi's only children's hospital.

"We at Century Club Charities believe in the future of Mississippi's children," said Century Club Charities President Peter Marks. "There is no better way to invest in our state than to invest in the health of our children. This is what we work for all year."

This year's gift is earmarked for Friends of Children's Hospital's \$20 million pledge to The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, which is funding construction to update pediatric care at UMMC.

Joe F. Sanderson Jr., CEO and board chairman of tournament sponsor Sanderson Farms, sees the tournament's donation as part of being a good corporate citizen.

Sanderson Farms became a title sponsor of the tournament, Sanderson said, "because of its philanthropy. As a good corporate citizen, Sanderson Farms gives back to others in the communities where we live. Making a contribution of this magnitude to Children's of Mississippi at a time when expansion and updates of pediatric care at Batson Children's Hospital and UMMC are being planned is a heart-warming experience for myself and my wife as well as all Sanderson Farms employees."

Sanderson and wife Kathy Sanderson are chairing The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, a drive to raise \$100 million, and they personally donated \$10 million to the cause.

UM Chancellor Jeffery Vitter said the Sanderson Farms Championship is a "shining example of the collective power of sporting events, business and philanthropy. We are so grateful for our long-standing relationship with Sanderson Farms, including the tremendous contributions that come from the success of the tournament. These gifts are making a real difference in improving the lives of Mississippians."

The 2017 tournament, set for Oct. 23-29 at the Country Club of Jackson, will be the 50th anniversary of the event.

MAKE A GIFT: (601) 984-2300 or umc.edu/givenow



Batson Children's Hospital patient Tucker Jones pets the rooster atop the Sanderson Farms Championship trophy. Tucker was among patients at the announcement of tournament host Century Club Charities' gift.

NEW STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

Rebel Nation Responds with Gifts for Capital Projects, Programs

Thanks to exceptional support from the Rebel Nation, Ole Miss Athletics Foundation experienced another solid fiscal year, with multiple capital projects leading to student-athlete successes on and off the fields and courts.

For the third consecutive year, the foundation saw contributions exceed \$30 million, climbing to \$31.43 million in FY17. This continuing strong support from Rebel Nation has exceeded the \$165 million mark over the last five years.

"A new standard of excellence has been created for all aspects of Ole Miss Athletics and we are so appreciative of how our donors, alumni and friends have given over the past five years," Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Ross Bjork said. "Each person has responded to our call with unprecedented financial support and these gifts have allowed us to build new facilities, renovate existing facilities and fund our athletics program at one of the highest levels in college athletics."

"Despite some of our present-day encounters, the entire Ole Miss family has created a tremendous foundation for allowing our program to move forward and I know our best days are yet to come. We are Ole Miss!"

Among projects are the newly-completed Gillom

Center, an \$11 million renovation upgrading the home for the soccer, volleyball, softball and rifle programs. Men's and women's tennis also will practice and compete in a new indoor facility beginning in early 2018, with six courts and seating for 300 fans.

Men's and women's basketball, playing for the second year in The Pavilion at Ole Miss, saw a special addition to the hardwood, as Ben and David Craddock's major gift earned their family the naming rights on the court.

The nationally-ranked track & field program saw its facility receive major upgrades, as the ribbon was cut on the \$7.3 million project last September. Among highlights of the work are a top-of-the-line surface, large video display board and new throwing area.

2018 will bring a fresh look to Ole Miss baseball through a \$20 million project set for completion by the season's opener. Part of the \$200 million *Forward Together* campaign, the additions include a team performance center, a field-level club behind home plate and a rooftop plaza down the first base line.

Most notably, Ole Miss football and Vaught-Hemingway Stadium received a wave of upgrades. A move placing the student section in the north end zone and a seating increase brought the venue's full capacity to 64,038, resulting in multiple record crowds throughout the 2016 season. New video

boards, sound system and lights were also installed, further enhancing the gameday experience. A set of new outdoor practice fields opened for players.

Construction of the north plaza outside of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium featuring the Jake Gibbs Letterwinner Walk and Lloyd Bell Tower is to be completed within the coming months. A focus of the plaza is a wall honoring all letterwinners from every sport at Ole Miss. One letterwinner in particular, Bill Jordan, founder of Realtree Outdoors, committed \$1 million toward the *Forward Together* campaign, and his family has been honored with the naming of the field in the Olivia and Archie Manning Athletics Performance Center.

"We are excited about another excellent fundraising year and appreciate the generosity of Rebel Nation," said Keith Carter, senior associate

athletics director for development and executive director of the OMAF. "We are truly thankful as this support has directly led to facility growth and student-athlete success."

All of these projects funded by donors continue to boost student-athlete success. Off the field, 2016-17 boasted the highest cumulative semester GPA in recorded history with a 3.01, while more than 50 percent of student-athletes earned a spot on the AD's Honor Roll (3.00 GPA). Ole Miss also achieved a cumulative APR of 985,



The 2017 SEC Softball Tournament Champions

four points ahead of the national average, and continued its 10-year increase of 40 points.

Athletically, Ole Miss men's golfer Braden Thornberry captured the NCAA Individual National Championship, the school's first national golf title. He and his team advanced to the NCAA Team Championships for the first time since 2001 and earned four team tournament titles.

The track & field and cross country programs also soared to new heights, as the men finished third and the women were eighth in the NCAA Division I Programs of the Year. The men raced to a fourth-place podium finish at the NCAA Cross Country Championships and placed 12th at the NCAA Indoor Championships and 14th at the recent NCAA Outdoor Championships. The women made their first appearance in the cross country national championships and earned a program-best 12th-place at NCAA Indoors and a 29th-place finish at NCAA Outdoors.

Softball, which just a year ago played in its first-ever NCAA Tournament, bettered that in 2017 by winning the SEC Tournament Championship, earning the team a national seed and host site for the NCAA Regional Round. The team went on to NCAA Super Regional play for its inaugural appearance and finished the year with a program-best 43 wins.

For Sports and Students

Davises' Love for University Inspires Significant Gift

Don and Lynne Davis met in anatomy and physiology lab and realized instantly they had great chemistry.

Now married for 53 years, the Davises of Meridian, Mississippi, admit they fell in love at first sight. They are grateful to the University of Mississippi for bringing them together and also for making them who they are today: Don, a highly successful otolaryngologist who recently retired after a 43-year practice, and Lynne, a retired pharmacist.

"We both love Ole Miss," Don Davis said. "We spend a lot of time in Oxford. I credit Ole Miss with my education which allowed me to make enough money and make the wise investment choices needed to be able to give back to the university in a significant way."

With a \$1 million gift, the Davises have established two endowments: The Donald S. and Lynne R. Davis Endowment for Athletics will provide support for the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation (OMAF) and the Donald S. and Lynne R. Davis Academic Scholarship Endowment will offer financial assistance to undergraduate students from Meridian.



Lynne and Don Davis

Dr. Davis, an Iuka, Mississippi native whose professional life was spent in Meridian, said he hopes the scholarship will provide UM tuition support for students from Meridian's two private schools — Lamar School, the Davis children's high school alma mater, and

Russell Christian Academy. Additionally, he hopes his endowment for athletics will support continual improvements to Ole Miss sports programs.

A member of the Ole Miss Air Force ROTC, Don Davis graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology in 1958 and then entered flight school for three years before returning to Ole Miss to take classes that would prepare him for medical school. At that time, he met Lynne Ruble of West Point, Mississippi, who graduated from Ole Miss in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy.

After Don Davis earned his medical degree in 1966 from the University of Mississippi Medical School in Jackson, he and Lynne moved to Meridian to start a practice and a family. The couple has three grown children — Alicia Davis Johnson of New Orleans, Louisiana, Don Davis Jr. of Oxford, Mississippi, and Andy Davis of Meridian, all Ole Miss alumni — and seven grandchildren.

MAKE A GIFT: Keith Carter, (662) 915-7159 or jkcarter@olemiss.edu.

Serving an Ace for Ole Miss Tennis

Brandts make major gift to new indoor facility

Ole Miss tennis fans can leave their winter coats at home come January as the Rebels begin competing in a new \$11 million indoor facility.

A \$300,000 gift from Louis and Lucia Brandt of Houston, Texas, helped jump-start construction on the 52,000-square-foot building. Located southeast of the Manning Athletic Performance Center, the facility will feature six tennis courts and grandstand bleacher seating for 300.

A former Ole Miss tennis team member, Louis Brandt — an Oxford native whose dad was an economics professor — has enjoyed playing tennis for more than seven decades.

"Athletics has always been part of my life," Brandt said. "Through college athletics, people are brought back to campus and are able to stay connected. That's extremely important to a university."

Brandt began playing tennis at 12 with a wooden racket.

"My friends and I learned by watching the Ole Miss team members When I was around 14, I taught myself to string rackets. I purchased equipment from the Sears Roebuck catalog and, after destroying several rackets, became brave enough to put up a sign at the university advertising my services. People responded, and I began to string rackets for college students and eventually for some members of the tennis team."



The Brandts' love of tennis and of Ole Miss combined to inspire their support of the tennis programs. Brandt gives former head coach Billy Chadwick credit for setting the bar high for team success. "His successors are maintaining that level of accomplishment."

The Brandts' longtime gifts permeate every area of Louis' alma mater; a University of Texas alumna, Lucia has also become an Ole Miss supporter.

MAKE A GIFT: Keith Carter, (662) 915-7159 or jkcarter@olemiss.edu.

Louis and Lucia Brandt

Treherns Make Major Contribution to Baseball Renovation Project



Jan and Ed Trehern

this new era of facilities for Ole Miss Baseball,” said Ed Trehern. “Ole Miss has become a national pacesetter for facilities and crowds in baseball. The baseball facilities are very good now, but it is time to go to the next level because the competition is not sitting quietly. Baseball has become one of the trademarks for Ole Miss Athletics. We hope our gift will encourage others to support and give what you can to keep Ole Miss at the top.”

A dugout club will be a new feature to OU Stadium. The exclusive club will have 330 seats and give fans a look at the Rebels as they leave the clubhouse and head to the field. As part of the \$1.5 million donation by the M-Club toward the *Forward Together* campaign, a rooftop plaza will be built above the performance center.

MAKE A GIFT: Keith Carter, (662) 915-7159 or jkcarter@olemiss.edu.

Ole Miss Athletics has announced plans for a \$20 million baseball project that will enhance the student-athlete experience as well as the game day atmosphere for Rebel fans. There will be multiple phases to the renovations with the goal for the entire project to be completed by the start of the 2018 season. The project will include the construction of a team performance center, dugout club and rooftop plaza on the first base side of the stadium.

Ole Miss continues to upgrade facilities in order to fulfill the needs of its student-athletes. Members of the Ole Miss baseball team will see this first-hand with the construction of a new performance center at OU Stadium. Behind a generous lead gift by Ed and Jan Trehern, the baseball performance center will feature a new clubhouse, training room, weight room and players’ lounge. The OU Stadium addition will be built on the first base side of the facility, meaning the Rebels will switch dugouts after the completion of the project.

“The Trehern family and its foundation are very excited to be a part of



LaBarge Bullpen Club Gift to Benefit Players

A ritual has emerged within Ole Miss Baseball that compels the Rebels to pump their fists in unison to the beat of the 2007 hit song “Love is Gone.” Now, with a major gift, the sport’s fan base wants to show its players that the love is back.

The Ernie LaBarge Bullpen Club (ELBC) has committed \$150,000 toward Oxford-University Stadium enhancements primarily designed to benefit the student-athletes.

“As a former player and coach, I’m happy to see these improvements being made on behalf of the players,” said Matt Mossberg, associate athletics director for development and major gifts. “Everyone knows the allure of Swayze Field, and the previous enhancements to the stadium have been crucial to that fan experience. Personally, I am extremely excited to help in the effort to improve the space our talented coaches and student-athletes work in every day.”

Thanks in part to the Bullpen Club’s gift, players will soon enjoy a state-of-the-art locker room and team meeting room, new hitting and pitching facilities, weight room enhancements and more. The gift will also help fund the M-Club Rooftop Plaza, which utilizes space on top

of the performance center for additional seating.

“When I arrived here in the summer of 2000, one of the first people I met was Ernie LaBarge, the president of the Bullpen Club. I knew I wanted Ernie and the Bullpen Club to be an integral part of the program,” said Mike Bianco, head baseball coach. “Ernie built the club to over 1,000 members before his passing and then the club was named in his memory. The ELBC has continued to be instrumental in our growth as a program, helping supplement our budget.”

A longtime friend of the university and Rebel fan, LaBarge passed away in March 2008.

Of the Bullpen Club’s gift, \$100,000 was donated as part of the \$200 million *Forward Together* campaign, which was launched in 2011 to strengthen Ole Miss Athletics in its continuous commitment to excellence. The additional \$50,000 of the gift is committed to support other baseball projects within Ole Miss Athletics.

MAKE A GIFT: Keith Carter, (662) 915-7159 or jkcarter@olemiss.edu.



Ole Miss baseball players greet young fans during a recent game.

ON CRADDOCK COURT

Family's Gift Results in Naming Opportunity Within Pavilion



The Craddock family is recognized for its generous contribution during halftime of the 2017 Ole Miss-Baylor basketball game.

The Craddock family is all about, well, family. The latest tangible element of that is the family's name engraved on the basketball court of the Pavilion — the result of a major gift to Ole Miss Athletics given by brothers Ben and David Craddock.

Craddock Court is but one example of the family's widespread generosity.

The Craddocks own Craddock Oil Company and other properties that include convenience stores and restaurants throughout Mississippi and the surrounding area. The successful businesses enable the family to give financial support to Ole Miss and many other worthwhile endeavors.

Ole Miss has been important to the Craddocks for a long time. Ben and David both graduated from there and met their wives in Oxford. Ben played football for the Rebels, and both frequently attend sporting events and functions connected with the university.

They feel Ole Miss has given to them, so they want to return the favor.

"Our passion for the school is so strong, and we've wanted to do something with the resources we have," Ben Craddock said. "God has been really good to us and blessed us through work and helping others. We wanted to be connected to this building. I've known Andy Kennedy since he was hired and he's one of my closest friends. (Former men's assistant coach Bill) Armstrong named his son Craddock. That's how close we are. Having that bond with those guys and Matt Insell as well is special."

Ben and David wanted to complete this gift in honor of their parents, Ron and Nancy, who started Craddock Oil Company in 1979.

"We want to put a smile on their faces and also show them what we've been able to grow," Ben Craddock said.

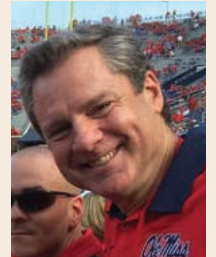
During the 2016-2017 season, Ben Craddock traveled with the basketball team to the Virgin Islands, where a game program became the initial contract for the gift that would ultimately name Craddock Court.

"We were raised to always give back," Ben Craddock said. "It's not about money if it's your heart. My family is a very giving family, and we believe in this place. We believe in its people."

MAKE A GIFT: Keith Carter, (662) 915-7159 or jkcarter@olemiss.edu.

Pearson Supports Women's Athletics with Endowment

In 1978, when Tread Pearson was a senior at the University of Mississippi, his mother, Diane — a longtime professor in the Patterson School of Accountancy — became the first woman named to the Ole Miss Athletics Committee. So it's fitting that his gift in her memory will benefit women's athletics.



Tread Pearson



Diane Pearson

Pearson says his mother was passionate about teaching and would be pleased to know that the Diane Pearson Opportunity Endowment for Women's Athletics will provide financial assistance to student-athletes.

"My goal is to honor and continue the work started by my mother. She was a pioneer in ensuring that women had all the tools necessary to fulfill their potential," Pearson said. "The Diane Pearson Opportunity Fund provides a unique enhancement for Ole Miss. Monies raised from this campaign will be used to prepare female student-athletes to achieve success in life."

Pearson graduated from the university in 1978 with bachelor's degrees in business administration as well as journalism and advertising; he earned a master's degree in radio and television broadcasting in 1981. He then became UM's first sports information director for women's athletics before moving to Boston, where he lived for the past two decades.

"It is very important for us to give back and help Ole Miss continue to provide opportunities to deserving student-athletes," said Pearson, whose donation to Ole Miss Athletics will enhance the student-athlete experience. "The University is preparing the future of our state and the future of our country, and we are honored to be able to help in any way."

Smiths Underwrite Southern Foodways' 'Gravy' with Major Support

Knowing the unifying qualities of food, Brook and Pam Smith of Louisville, Kentucky, recently pledged \$1 million to support Gravy, a podcast produced by the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA) at the University of Mississippi.

Whenever the Smiths travel, they try to meet members of the SFA along the way. A member-supported non-profit institute of the UM Center for the Study of Southern Culture, the SFA sponsors scholarships, mentors students, stages symposia, collects and shares oral histories, and produces and publishes books, podcasts and films.

On a recent trip to visit Pam Smith's family in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the couple detoured to Hemingway, South Carolina, where Scott's Bar-B-Q, praised by the New York Times, attracts customers from hundreds of miles away.

"My whole life has been barbecue," said pitmaster Rodney Scott, who just opened his own barbecue restaurant in nearby Charleston. "I grew up doing it, hanging around it and hanging around other people that do it. And there's just no other way to bring people in quicker. It's like a beacon sign; it just draws them right in there."

That spirit drew in the Smiths. So did the storytelling work of the SFA.

"Gravy shares stories of the changing American South through the foods we eat," said SFA Director John T. Edge. He is grateful for the Smiths' generous gift.

"This sort of long-term commitment offers funding stability so that the SFA can take risks to tell stories in new and bold ways," Edge said.

"At a moment when Gravy recently delivered its one-millionth download, Brook and Pam have invested deeply in our most scalable and sharable effort."

Smith found success in the surety bonding business. He's also a wine and distillery owner and a philanthropist with an interest in organizations that focus on improving life for young people and those like the SFA, which inspires communities to invest in their culinary customs to establish lasting, cross-cultural relationships.

The Smiths donated \$250,000 in 2014 to support the SFA's Smith Symposium Fellows program.



Brook and Pam Smith

MAKE A GIFT: Nikki Neely Davis (662) 915-6678 or nneely@olemiss.edu

A Gift to Reflect Her Passions

Family and friends of the late Anna (Ann) McDonald Berryhill of Pontotoc, Mississippi, are honoring her memory by helping generations of future UM students pursue their interests in music and education.

A 1951 graduate of the UM College of Liberal Arts, Berryhill returned to her hometown to teach, sharing for two decades her lifelong love of learning, specifically in the disciplines of music and history.

"Her students were like her children," reflects Mary McDonald, the daughter of Berryhill's brother, Robert McDonald, Jr. "She enjoyed history and kept boxes and boxes of family mementos and stacks of letters and post cards from her former students. Even years after she quit teaching, she corresponded with many of them on a regular basis. Up until her death, she had several former students visit her in the nursing home."

Representing her passions, the Anna McDonald Berryhill Ole Miss First Scholarship Endowment will give full-time entering freshmen from Pontotoc County financial assistance to supplement eight

semesters of tuition with first preference going to students majoring in music or education.

"Mrs. Berryhill possessed the highest of moral character traits and she expected others to possess nothing less than what she expected of herself," said Buddy Montgomery, president of First Choice Bank in Pontotoc. "She would encourage and advise others, especially the younger generations, to prepare themselves by getting an education, studying diligently, being trustworthy, accountable, responsible and by working hard to pursue their dreams."

First Choice Bank was founded by Berryhill's grandfather, who served as president until 1926.

"Ann and Farrell had no children, so the bank, her students and her church were her life," nephew Robert McDonald, III said.



A new scholarship endowment, named in memory of Ann Berryhill (at left with husband Farrell), will give full-time entering freshmen from Pontotoc County financial assistance.

"She loved music and played the organ at her church for many, many years."

At Ole Miss, Berryhill was an active member of Delta Gamma, serving as treasurer her senior year.

MAKE A GIFT: Brett Barefoot (662) 915-2711 or bmbarefo@olemiss.edu

Professor Honored by Endowment



Dr. Hans-Jürgen Gaycken (left) with his daughter, Dr. Bettina Gaycken

Bettina Gaycken's dream of honoring her father has come true.

Ever since she was a UM student in the late 1990s, Dr. Gaycken, now a radiologist with Women's Health Center in Memphis, Tennessee, has wanted to present her father with a gift that would forever associate his name with her alma mater. After all, Ole Miss is the place where Dr. Hans-Jürgen Gaycken taught German for 35 years in the Department of Modern Languages.

At his 82nd birthday party, Bettina Gaycken told her father she established a scholarship in his name that would be awarded each year to students of German.

"That was a big surprise," Hans Gaycken said. "I was really touched when she did this and thought it was very nice. I'm very pleased to know that it will help students."

In college, Bettina Gaycken herself was taught by her father. "It was then that I understood why so many of his students respected and adored him."

Gaycken says she hopes her gift will both celebrate her father's tenure at the university and encourage more students to pursue a degree in German.

MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis
(662) 915-5092 or dhollis@olemiss.edu

Family Leadership Council Strengthens Student Experience

Seven UM programs are better equipped to enhance the student experience thanks to the generosity of the Ole Miss Family Leadership Council (FLC).

More than \$100,000 in private funds from the council has been directed to strengthen areas of UM's Division of Student Affairs, including the FLC contributing to an endowment — funds that will be held permanently with the annual income used to promote development of student leaders and participation in student organizations.

"To be able to donate money and have the ability to direct where it is allocated gives us a sense of involvement," said Kim Eickholz of Paducah, Kentucky, a council member. "We feel like we are part of the departments that we financially support. We believe the council is able to help in areas that are vitally important to the quality of education for students."

The FLC facilitates interactions between parents and the university, while improving services for students. Council members learn about new initiatives on campus and hear from Ole Miss leaders during fall and spring meetings and through ongoing communications throughout each year, said Brett Barefoot, development officer for parent and family leadership.

Sixteen states are represented on this year's council, which directed support to Student Disability Services; the Student Affairs Leadership and Engagement Endowment; the University's Counseling Center; Campus Recreation; the Center for Student Success and First Year Experience; the Career Center; and the Dean of Students Office.

FLC members say they fully recognize and understand the importance of private support. "We know that as public funding for state institutions decreases, tuition dollars alone can't keep pace with the rising cost of operating a top-tier university in the competitive higher education landscape. We hope that through the power of collective vision and combined resources the Family Leadership Council will continue to fund many needed projects and programs that might otherwise not receive funding," said Bill Coker of Spartanburg, South Carolina.

To be council members, parents of Ole Miss students donate \$2,500 annually. To learn more about the Ole Miss Family Leadership Council, contact Brett Barefoot at bmbarefo@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2711.

Honors College Grows

The university recently celebrated the dedication of the expanded and renovated home of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. The expansion added 15,000 square feet, including new classrooms, study areas, offices and student lounges.

The program has grown tremendously from its initial class of 121 students in 1997 to a student body of more than 1,400 this year. The Honors College annually attracts high-performing students from across the state and country; the average ACT score for incoming scholars last fall was 30.9, and the average high school GPA was 3.97.

Among recent Honors College students (from left) are Cisco Santos, David Pfahler, Tavo Taper and Tan Le — all recipients of the Annexstad Family Foundation scholarship.



Streets Honor Professor Owens



Bill and Ginny Street

A recent gift from two UM donors will provide scholarship opportunities for future secondary education majors while honoring Professor Emeritus Harry P. Owens, who taught history at the university for more than 35 years.

The Dr. Harry P. Owens Secondary Education Opportunity Scholarship Endowment was created with a commitment from Bill and Ginny Street of Alabaster, Alabama.

Bill Street, a senior vice president at ServisFirst Bank, started his post-college career as a social studies teacher in DeSoto County in 1978 after receiving an undergraduate degree in secondary education from Ole Miss.



Harry Owens

"The thing that I got from Harry was learning how to listen," Street explained. "Even if someone is on a different side (of the aisle) than you, you should hear what they have to say because you might learn something useful. I credit him with my ability to do that."

Street was a nontraditional college student. After initially losing interest in his studies at UM in 1969, he left the university to serve in the U.S. Navy, where he became a submarine petty officer. After being discharged in 1975, he returned to the university with two new things: a new resolve for his studies and tuition money from the G.I. Bill.

During this time, he was highly influenced by the Civil War historian. Street and the professor just "clicked" and they bonded over their extensive interest and knowledge of Civil War history. The professor became a mentor for the sailor-turned-teacher.

Owens and his wife, MaryLou, still live in Oxford.

"Bill doing this in my name is a most gracious thing," Owens said. "This reinforces the idea that teachers count."

MAKE A GIFT: Billy Crews
(662) 915-2836 or wlcrows@olemiss.edu

Gispens' Endowment Supports Croft Institute

Though he recently retired as executive director of the Croft Institute for International Studies, Kees Gispens' interest in the institute will continue indefinitely.

Gispens and his wife, Dr. Jean Gispens, who joined the university as its employee-health physician in 2005, established the Croft Institute Enhancement Endowment, which will ultimately provide income for discretionary spending by the executive director of the Croft Institute.

The Croft Institute's rigorous, interdisciplinary curriculum is designed to prepare students to meet America's global challenges.

"My wife and I are true believers in the mission of the Croft Institute," Gispens said. "We think it is especially important that there is a program such as this in Mississippi. Our years as the stewards of the institute have been enormously rewarding, and so we decided that as a small token of our gratitude and appreciation,



Kees and Jean Gispens outside the Croft Institute for International Studies

we wanted to make this contribution."

The institute is generously supported by the Joseph C. Bancroft Charitable & Educational Fund.

"When members of our faculty have such deep passion for the university and its programs that they want to give back, it makes me proud of the academic experience that undoubtedly fosters such loyalty," former UM Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Morris Stocks said. "The Gispens have been part of the fabric of our university for decades and we are thankful for the generosity they've shown."

MAKE A GIFT: Nikki Neely Davis,
(662) 915-6678 or nneely@olemiss.edu

Sufka Funds Scholarship with Book Royalties



Ken Sufka (left) with wife, Stevi Self, and former Provost Morris Stocks

Ken Sufka, professor of psychology and pharmacology, wants students to achieve academic success, so much so that he's given them a guide that centrally involves bringing their "A" game to every class.

"From interviews with students, I discovered a set of bad student habits and poor study skills that hinder academic performance," Sufka said.

His solution? Publish a list of study strategies that would give his students a written roadmap to success. Now, Sufka's book, "The A Game: Nine Steps to Better Grades," is given to every Ole Miss student at enrollment.

From the book's increasing royalties, the

professor and his wife, Stevi Self, established the Kenneth Sufka Undergraduate Scholarship in Psychology Endowment.

"I originally wrote this book of study tips to help my students succeed in their coursework," said Sufka, who was named the Elise M. Hood Outstanding Teacher in 1996.

"Now, with the book's proceeds, we can help fund a scholarship to make college a little more affordable so that students can focus more on their academic success."

Stevi personally witnessed the book's transformative effect when a student approached her husband to say that the advice offered in "The A Game" enabled him to be admitted into the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at Ole Miss.

"It was so sweet," she said. "It took us totally by surprise."

MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis
(662) 915-5092 or dhollis@olemiss.edu

Librarian's Legacy Provides Access to Congressional Hearings and More



Laura Harper

Veteran UM librarian Laura Harper may have left campus, but her legacy remains in the form of a treasure trove of information older than the Titanic and far below the surface of Google.

Harper recently retired after 45 years at the John D. Williams Library, but she continues to have such a strong desire for students to be able to access government information that she personally paid for subscriptions to databases that contain such documents as the unpublished transcripts of Congressional hearings dating back to 1824, Congressional research from 1830 forward and interactive, digital maps of Mississippi as early as 1867 through 1970.

The recent database subscriptions plus her previous financial support for the library's Information Commons, Art Store, STUDIOone and Friends of the Library bring Harper's total

giving to Ole Miss to more than \$150,000.

Harper takes her gift in stride.

"I thought, 'Why not?'" she said.

So what's available exactly? Oliver North, Iran-Contra, the different impeachment investigations, Watergate, Supreme Court nomination hearings, and the Lincoln, Kennedy and McKinley assassinations for starters.

"Even the documentary, day-by-day, most detailed history and correspondence of the Civil War is there in full text," Harper said. "All of the words in the reports are searchable – people, places, battles. By searching the text of hearings in the early 1950s, for instance, you can trace the rise of McCarthyism...and its fall in 1954 during the historic, 36-day live telecast of the Army McCarthy hearings, when the Senator was asked by lawyer Joseph Welch: 'Have you no sense of

decency, sir, at long last?' You can also type in the names of witnesses such as Lillian Hellman, Dashiell Hammett or Will Geer, to read their testimony in earlier investigations of communism in Hollywood."

Students researching these and other topics may be tempted to turn first to Google, but they'll be hard pressed to find the most in-depth information, Harper says.

"Government documents are by their nature a sort of difficult area, requiring a little more effort to try to research them. You need to invest some time and get people to help you," she advises. "I would hope that students who graduate from Ole Miss would learn to value the library and the librarians for their expertise as professionals and that they realize they can do a better paper and learn to do their research in a more sophisticated manner if they will go and talk to a librarian."

Harper witnessed thousands of students succeed in her tenure at Ole Miss, which included 17 years in the Reference Department, 11 library directors/deans and six chancellors.

"When a faculty member chooses to make a financial gift to the university, it speaks volumes about their commitment to the meaningful work that we do and the endearing qualities of this institution," said Noel Wilkin, interim provost and executive vice chancellor. "For more than four decades, Laura Harper was committed to helping our students broaden their educational opportunities. Now, through her gift, she will continue to reach generations of students."

MAKE A GIFT: Angela Barlow Brown, (662) 915-3181 or ambarlow@olemiss.edu

Graduating Stamps Scholars Ready to Change the World

Funded by the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation, the Stamps Scholarships are the university's most comprehensive, full scholarship packages for in-state and out-of-state students. Each package covers the full cost of attendance, along with a generous stipend for unique educational pursuits, including study abroad, research internships and academic conferences.

Inaugural Stamps Scholars are Madeleine Elena Achgill, a Mandarin Chinese and international studies major from Indianapolis; Benjamin Carter Branson, a mechanical engineering major from Madison; Kathryn Elsa James, a public policy leadership, economics and Southern studies major from Mandeville, Louisiana; Kate Louise Prendergast, a psychology and theater arts major from Luling, Louisiana; Dylan James Ritter, a chemistry major from Somerset, New Jersey; and Eloise Wright Tyner, a public policy leadership and Arabic major from Oxford.

LEARN MORE: visit www.stampsfoundation.org



Stamps Scholars are (front, from left) Achgill, Prendergast, and Tyner, and (back, from left) Ritter, James and Branson.

McMullan Family Foundation Provides Major Support for FASTrack

Over seven years FASTrack (Foundations for Academic Success Track) has recorded exceptional results helping Ole Miss freshmen transition to college, prompting the James and Madeleine McMullan Family Foundation to increase its private support from \$50,000 to \$300,000.

FASTrack provides an enriching learning community for freshmen, many of whom are first-generation college students. Students have a trustworthy source to help them persevere and succeed in their collegiate pursuits. The past academic year saw 406 students benefit from one-on-one advising, peer mentoring and teaching in small classes.

Margaret McMullan of Pass Christian, Mississippi, said the program was a “perfect fit” for the foundation, carrying on the legacy of her father, James McMullan, a UM alumnus and education champion.

“We provide scholarships to students from my father’s high school in Newton. Upon interviewing candidates, we see students completely overwhelmed with the idea of applying to a four-year university. Some don’t even consider it because they aren’t sure if they can be successful.

“FASTrack is an amazing program that provides the needed support,” McMullan said. “We all should try harder to help students be successful. They are our future.”

Data indicates FASTrack students returned for their sophomore year at a rate of 86.6 percent as compared to 80.6 percent for other students.



FASTrack students gather outside the J.D. Williams Library.

Assistant Dean of Liberal Arts and Director of FASTrack Stephen Moore said, “We are grateful to the members of the McMullan family. Their generous gift will empower more Mississippi students to succeed at our university. This family is making Mississippi better.”

MAKE A GIFT: Nikki Neely Davis, (662) 915-6678 or nlneely@olemiss.edu

Event Planner’s Gift Pays Tribute to Meek School

In college, Meghan Cease never imagined she would become one of the most successful event planners in the Southeast. At only 32 years old, the owner of Birmingham, Alabama-based M. Elizabeth Events reached a point in her career when she felt it was time to give back to the University of Mississippi — the place she credits much of her success.

With her recent gift to UM’s Meek School of Journalism and New Media to create the Meghan Elizabeth Cease Student Experience Scholarship Endowment, Cease wants to give students the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom.

“My public relations classes in the Meek School were the ones that made me seek internship opportunities, guiding me toward a career in PR and eventually event planning,” Cease said. “With the added major of integrated marketing communications (IMC), Meek students now have even more exposure to how technology and marketing is evolving.”

Cease cites one class as a landmark in her college career: journalism instructor Robin Street’s public relations campaign class, which required an internship.



With her recent gift to UM’s Meek School of Journalism and New Media, Meghan Cease wants to give students the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom.

“As part of the internship, I was planning a variety of events, coming up with unique ideas for each,” Cease recalls. “I come back to this experience time and time again as I plan my own events.”

Cease hopes her gift will enable students to have the opportunities that shaped her own career — prestigious internships, working in public relations for top companies, and international study-abroad experiences.

Says Cease: “I want this to provide a chance for students to quit worrying about finances and to simply delve into the industry and focus on the experience at hand.”

MAKE A GIFT: Jason McCormick, (662) 915-5944 or jason@olemiss.edu

A Memorial for McClendon

MBA Board Awards Scholarship in Memory of Grad Student



Former MBA president Scott Taylor (left) awards a certificate honoring Zach McClendon to his parents, Percy and Paula McClendon.

If you could ask Zach McClendon the secret to success, he might have said something like, “Be who you want to become.” Before his life was taken, the University of Mississippi graduate student wanted to be CEO of his own neurosurgery practice and he dressed the part every day.

Now, a private gift will honor McClendon’s memory. Members of the MBA Board of Directors worked with the UM Foundation to establish the Zach McClendon Memorial Assistantship Endowment, which will provide scholarships to students in the Master of Business Administration program.

Percy and Paula McClendon, Zach’s parents, thanked the MBA Board, the dean, faculty and staff of the Business School for the legacy the endowment gives their son: “You’ve given us the opportunity to see life in others who are pushing that same pedal to succeed in life and to be the best of the best.”

Zach McClendon, a Gulfport, Mississippi, native had a plan for his life — a life cut short when he was shot during a December 2013 robbery of his residence outside of Oxford. He had just finished his first semester at Ole Miss, pursuing an MBA degree to understand the business side of medicine. He planned to further his education at the University of Mississippi Medical Center campus in Jackson.

MAKE A GIFT: Tim Noss, (662) 915-5932 or tnoss@olemiss.edu



For the sixth year in a row, generous giving enabled UM faculty and students to participate in a human relief effort. The Ole Miss chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) continued its work, helping the people of the West African nation of Togo build a sound infrastructure. This year the team completed a deep-water well for a rural village. With help from more than 100 donors through a successful crowdfunding campaign on Ignite Ole Miss, the group surpassed its goal for the effort. The EWB-Ole Miss team made a long-term commitment in 2012 to work with rural villages in Togo to improve community infrastructure and health care. In addition to the well, the EWB-Ole Miss team has built a school that provides a safe setting for dozens of children to learn and build better futures.

A Benefactor for Business

Years ago, after spotting the potential for great success in a small-town popcorn grower, University of Mississippi

alumnus Lyt Harris helped make Orville Redenbacher a national sensation.

Today, recognizing the same potential in business students, Harris of Houston, Texas,



Lyt Harris

has established endowments at Ole Miss and three other universities that he trusts will help his scholarship recipients achieve success.

“I’m just looking forward to getting the endowed scholarship program moving forward at Ole Miss and especially hearing from, and hopefully meeting, some of the students who receive the scholarships,” said Harris, a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and 1962 graduate of the UM School of Business Administration.

Harris originally established his UM endowment in August 2016 with a \$27,000 gift. He recently pledged to increase the endowment to \$100,000, allowing the Business School to award scholarships from it in perpetuity. This gift designates Harris as a charter member of the 1917 Order, created this year and named for the year the Business School was founded. The order recognizes generous donors who thoughtfully provide for the school through major giving.

After college, Harris rose through the ranks of Scott Paper Company where he became project manager for the first disposable diapers, which he took from test market to national distribution. Later, he joined a large division of Hunt Wesson Foods as director of marketing, where he helped make Orville Redenbacher a household name.

MAKE A GIFT: Tim Noss, (662) 915-5932 or tnoss@olemiss.edu



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UM Alumni, Friends Provide \$153.6 Million in Support

Private investments enhance academics, research, health care, athletics

With generous private support and a strong market, FY 2017 saw the University of Mississippi's endowment climb to approximately \$675 million — an increase of 12 percent. The stellar year of philanthropy is reflected in private gifts from more than 25,000 donors that total \$153.6 million, marking the sixth consecutive year donors gave in excess of \$100 million.

UM Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter thanked donors while pointing to private support as a key to ensuring a margin of excellence expected of a nationally and internationally recognized educational and research institution.

"The University of Mississippi has truly become a great American public university and a strong international research university due to the extraordinary investments of alumni and friends and the dedicated efforts of faculty, staff and students," the chancellor said. "We are grateful for the commitment to excellence that permeates our university family. While all great institutions share many fantastic attributes, none is more primary than the continual drive to get ever greater — to desire more, to give more, and to be more."

Private giving at UM provides scholarships for students, resources for faculty members and other researchers, funds for new programs and program expansion, investments in health professionals' educational preparation and health-care services for Mississippians, capital for facility construction and renovation, support for Ole Miss athletic programs, and more.

"We are humbled and proud to continue recording hundred million-plus gift totals and are constantly inspired by the involvement and service of our stakeholders," said Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the University of Mississippi Foundation.

"In a year of incredible university achievements, we are particularly proud of the growth of our endowment. We enjoyed a double-digit rate of return on investments, which are successfully managed by our diligent Joint Committee on University Investments. In addition to generous donors, the foundation benefits from the leadership of a deeply committed UM Foundation Board of Directors. We are honored to be entrusted with generous gifts and are constantly aware of our serious responsibility to steward them. With all of our continued, combined efforts, we can ensure this flagship university will continue to benefit generations to come."

PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

\$ 94.2	million cash and realized gifts
\$ 36.6	million new pledges receivable in future years
\$ 22.8	million in deferred and planned gifts
\$ 153.6	MILLION TOTAL PRIVATE SUPPORT

