

FOUNDATION NEWS

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Ole Miss

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MESSAGE

FROM THE CHANCELLOR



UM Interim Chancellor
Larry Sparks

This edition of the Foundation News captures the spirit of our alumni, friends, faculty and students and dramatically presents the depth of commitment we have to our university — one that I have been blessed with the honor and privilege of serving.

The Foundation News is published to assure that you are aware of the myriad of ways you have supported Ole Miss this year. Your gifts are vital to maintaining the level of excellence we value, and I greatly appreciate each one.

I would like to extend special thanks to all those who participated in our first Giving Day on April 11. In addition to attracting gifts of all sizes for the 26 participating schools, colleges and programs, Giving Day succeeded in encouraging more people to become engaged in exciting developments at Ole Miss. (Please see the back cover for more details about this special day.)

While our academic programs remain strong, we are committed to increasing enrollment, specifically among students from across Mississippi, and we are allocating additional resources for communicating with prospective students while aggressively marketing our university nationwide.

Additionally, we remain committed to the growth of our medical center and outstanding children's hospital. In June, UMMC's \$180 million pediatric expansion reached its full seven-story height. The largest construction project underway in the state, this addition will more than double our pediatric hospital and clinic space. The new patient tower is at budget and on schedule to open in fall 2020, with about three-quarters of our \$100 million fundraising goal achieved.

Finally, Ole Miss Athletics has produced athletic and academic successes on and off the fields and courts of play. As several new programs have positively garnered national attention, all of our programs have continued to pursue competitive excellence having welcomed several new additions to our student body and coaching staffs. I have been encouraged to see many of our donors support Ole Miss Athletics, particularly those who have graciously made gifts to the *Forward Together* campaign at the highest levels. As new student-athletes step onto campus and become a part of the Oxford community, I am enthusiastic and ready to lock arm-in-arm with our newest Rebels!

Please know how grateful I am for your generous gifts to our Ole Miss.

MESSAGE

FROM THE FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR



Foundation Board Chair
Suzan Thames

What would the University of Mississippi be without all of you? You all are truly remarkable in your steadfast love for and, in many cases, dedication to our beloved Ole Miss. When I look through these pages and see the level of support that you have given, I am both overwhelmed with gratitude and encouraged for our future. Thank you each so much.

Special thanks also to Larry Sparks, who has proven to be a skillful and diplomatic leader in a transitional and difficult time for our university. I greatly appreciate his wisdom and guidance as we maintain our primary purpose: meeting the academic needs of our students while growing in both enrollment and national standing.

Many of you know that the University of Mississippi Medical Center is near and dear to my heart, and I am so moved by the growth I'm seeing there. The impact our health care will have on the lives of the children and families of our great state and beyond is truly significant. With this in mind, philanthropists from around the state have joined together to help fund the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, which can be viewed at growchildrens.org. More than 73 percent of the campaign's \$100 million goal has been raised toward the completion of a seven-story

children's hospital expansion at UMMC.

Thanks also to Keith Carter who graciously stepped up as a most capable interim athletics director, keeping us on a track that is ever forward together. With a heart for both sports and higher education, we are grateful to have Keith on our team.

Lastly, please join me in celebrating the outstanding career of my colleague and friend Sandra Guest (see page 21), whose longtime service to the UM Foundation has helped make our university the distinctive institution it is today. Sandra will be greatly missed by me and so many of our alumni and friends.

Despite our challenges, it has been an outstanding year for the Ole Miss family. Let's keep the momentum going.



Dr. Rhett and Elaine Atkinson

From Higher Education, Success Stems

Major Gift Honors Faculty, Supports Excellence in STEM Instruction

“Lifelong learning and education are the keys to success,” Atkinson said. “We want to see Ole Miss continue to recruit outstanding teachers who can motivate and stimulate students to be interested in learning and encourage them to do their best.”

A University of Mississippi graduate’s major gift will honor two of his favorite professors while also supporting instruction in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

With a gift of \$1.5 million, Dr. Rhett Atkinson and his wife, Elaine, established the Doctors Andrew Stefani and Eldon Miller Memorial Chair for STEM Teaching and Research Endowment.

“My wife and I strongly believe in education and academics, and we want to give back to the institution that gave me the background and the tools I needed to be successful,” said Atkinson of Sedona, Arizona, who earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mathematics from Ole Miss in 1970 and 1972 and graduated from the UM School of Medicine in 1979.

The Atkinsons’ gift will provide income to the College of Liberal Arts to support the recruitment and retention of a top-tier scholar who demonstrates outstanding teaching in STEM and is also a productive researcher in biology, chemistry, biochemistry, mathematics, physics or astronomy.

“Lifelong learning and education are the keys to success,” Atkinson said. “We want to see Ole Miss continue to recruit outstanding teachers who can motivate and stimulate students to be interested in learning and encourage them to do their best.”

The endowment honors two such teachers: the late Eldon Miller, a professor in the UM Department of Mathematics for over 35 years, who was chosen Humanities Professor of the Year in 1990 and served as department chair on three occasions. The late Andrew Stefani retired from the university in 1997 as chair and professor emeritus of chemistry.

Both professors “demonstrated the flexibility and caring that is so typical of our university,” Atkinson said. “It’s for this reason I wanted to honor them and promote education at the university by providing a STEM chair in their names.”

Income from the endowment can provide support for salary supplements, research, creative activity, programs and more.

In college, the Oxford, Mississippi, native was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, president of Sigma Nu fraternity and was named National Sigma Nu Scholar of the Year in 1970. He was also Air Force ROTC Cadet Commander and a Distinguished Cadet.

After leaving the Oxford campus, Atkinson served the U.S. Air Force until 1975 when he also earned a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Santa Clara (California). While serving in the Air Force, he met his wife, who at the time was a satellite programming engineer.

After medical school, Atkinson interned at St. Mary’s Hospital and Medical Center in San Francisco, California, where he was named Intern of the Year. He then did his residency at Stanford University Hospital and Medical Center in Palo Alto, California.

“Without Elaine, I’d be absolutely nothing; she is the love of my life. My biggest achievements are helping her raise three incredible children and practicing safe, high-quality anesthesia for 38 years at Stanford University Medical Center and in the Palo Alto, California, area,” Atkinson said.

Now, the Atkinsons enjoy outdoor activities in Sedona, including hiking and biking, both on- and off-road. Additionally, he helps the AARP provide tax services for low-income elderly.

Make a Gift: Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or dhollis@olemiss.edu.



Jodie and Dr. Bo Marsalis

Remembering *Will Marsalis*

FAMILY PROVIDES GIFT TO MEMORIALIZE SON, SUPPORT OLE MISS STUDENTS

No one dies without leaving a legacy. Going forward, the late Will Marsalis' impact will be measured through the hope, support and resources offered to students in recovery from addiction.

Will, 37, passed away on July 4, 2018, and his footprint is being expanded through a \$500,000 gift from his parents, Jodie and Dr. Wilton Lowell "Bo" Marsalis of Oxford, Mississippi. The commitment to Ole Miss will honor their son's memory and provide students increased educational benefits and wellness services, particularly through the Collegiate Recovery Community (CRC).

The Marsalis gift will close a gap in support for the CRC, which was founded in 2010 on the Oxford campus and can be key to the academic and life achievements of undergraduate and graduate students in recovery.

The atrium of Ole Miss' new South Campus Recreation Facility will be named for Will Marsalis, who was loved by his family, found great joy in his niece and nephews, and valued his friendships – never meeting a stranger.

"Will only needed to know someone for a short time before he would consider them among his best friends," said his father, Bo Marsalis of Oxford, Mississippi. "He truly loved all his friends."

Will Marsalis loved Ole Miss too. It's where he attended college, as did his dad, brother and sister. He cared so much about the university that the Marsalis family knew it was where they wanted to further his legacy.

"Will loved Ole Miss and especially athletic events. And, the fact that the new William Magee Center for Wellness Education is connected to the university made this a natural fit for our goals of honoring Will's life," his dad said. "Jodie and I see this as an opportunity to help other students and families, hopefully by preventing addiction and by focusing on support for those in recovery."

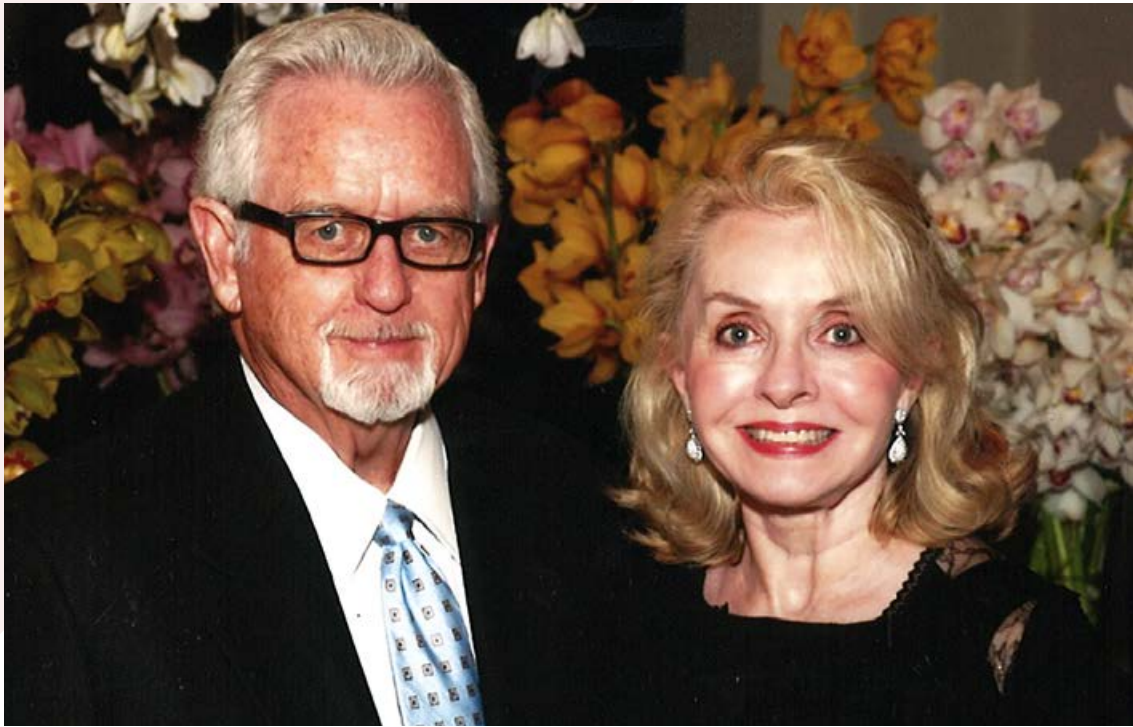
The Magee Center, which will be dedicated Sept. 6, is named for William Magee, a young alumnus who lost his life to a 2013 overdose while trying to overcome addiction. More than \$2 million in gifts and pledges of all sizes have been made to this center. The CRC will be part of the Magee Center, led by Erin Cromeans.

"Over several years, the CRC Advisory Board has discussed a strategic plan to help foster a supportive recovery community, provide opportunities for growth and ultimately impact campus culture," said Cromeans. "That's what the Marsalis family's gift will do for our program. ... These resources, coupled with the Magee Center, will enable us to hire a full-time coordinator. The Marsalis family's gift will have the greatest impact on our CRC since its inception."

Thousands of students will see the name of Will Marsalis as they pass through the atrium. One thing Jodie Marsalis hopes people will remember when they see his name is something she learned from Will.

"He taught me never to judge another person," she said. "You never know what someone may be struggling with, and anyone with addiction is struggling with some type of pain."

Make a Gift: Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or dhollis@olemiss.edu.



Gene and Kathy Bishop

Dallas Couple's Gift to Impact Mississippi's Teacher Workforce

Endowment Connects Community College Transfer Students with Teaching Careers

"We want our money to be used for something we believe in. We think this is a great idea that will really help people and communities in rural Mississippi." – Kathy Bishop

Kathy Bishop and the now late Gene Bishop of Dallas, Texas, presented a gift of \$500,000 to encourage community college transfer students to pursue degrees in education with the help of full scholarships.

The gift is directed to help fund the new Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program-Community College (METPCC), which will be integrated into UM's existing Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program and recruit top-tier community college students to study education at UM. They will begin teaching careers in rural communities throughout the state.

"We are so pleased to have this opportunity to contribute to a project benefitting teacher education," Gene Bishop said before he passed away. "We feel this particular idea of uniting motivated community college graduates with the University of Mississippi is such an appealing one. We see this as a brilliant plan to provide well-prepared teachers to classrooms in underserved areas of the state."

The Bishops are passionate about METPCC graduates working in rural communities.

"We want our money to be used for something we believe in," Kathy Bishop said. "We think this is a great idea that will really help people and communities in rural Mississippi. We're thrilled to be able to give to such a wonderful program."

The new scholarship program is expected to begin in 2020. Once participants earn their undergraduate degrees from Ole Miss, they will fulfill a commitment to teach in high-need school districts for three years. The program is designed to help address Mississippi's teacher shortage with highly qualified new teachers in rural communities.

In addition to full scholarships, the students will receive mentoring opportunities, professional development funding, domestic travel opportunities and more. METPCC students will also benefit from an increased level of student teaching experience while studying at UM.

Make a Gift: Billy Crews, (662) 915-2836 or wlcrows@olemiss.edu.

HISTORIC SUPPORT

*Galtneys' Major Gift to UM Museum
Will Reveal 'Hidden Treasure'*



Will and Elizabeth Galtney.

Just as opening the door to their Taylor, Mississippi, home exposes guests to original artwork, Elizabeth and Will Galtney hope their most recent gift to Ole Miss will expose campus visitors to historic pieces of “hidden treasure.”

The couple's \$275,000 gift establishes the Elizabeth and Will Galtney University Museum Greek and Roman Antiquities Fund, which supports the reinstallation and reinterpretation of the David M. Robinson Memorial Collection of Greek and Roman artifacts. The gift will be recognized with the naming of the permanent Elizabeth and Will Galtney Wing, in which the collection of antiquities will be exhibited.

“The University Museum owns this fantastic collection, one of the best in the United States, and it's just in a vault. We want to showcase this great collection – it's kind of a hidden treasure really,” alumnus Will Galtney said, adding that he also hopes this gift will expand the museum's significance for scholarly purposes.

In addition to the collection, the Galtneys' gift will support the development and implementation of a Scholars' Symposium, featuring prominent scholars, antiquities specialists, conservators and faculty, when the reinstallation is complete tentatively in 2020.

A longtime supporter of the university — both to academics and athletics — Will Galtney's first major gift of \$4 million in 2010 established the Galtney Academic Computing Center in Weir Hall. In 2011, his \$1 million gift fueled Ole Miss tennis and was recognized with the naming of the courts at Palmer-Salloum Tennis Center in his honor.

The Galtneys' support also has been directed across campus to the Alumni Association, College of Liberal Arts and the *Forward Together* Campaign for Ole Miss Athletics, which included a 2018 gift of \$750,000 to offset construction expenses of the Rebels' new indoor tennis facility, also subsequently named in Will Galtney's honor.

Make a Gift: Nikki Neely Davis, (662) 915-6678 or nlneely@olemiss.edu.

An Appetite for Excellence

*Restaurateur's Gift Will Help Ensure Longevity
of UM's Southern Foodways Alliance*

Steve Palmer owns Indigo Road Hospitality Group and, within the restaurant industry, he's renowned as a visionary who supports transformative progress where he sees a need: among his staff, on behalf of his customers and in his community — in that order.

One of his most recent investments is in the form of a \$100,000 gift to the John T Edge Director of the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA) Endowment, which supports the future of the SFA, based at the University of Mississippi.

“I grew up in the South and felt like I knew what it means to be from the South, but the SFA has taught me what it really means: It's about the history, heritage and reconciliation,” Palmer said. “I love the thought-provoking conversations the SFA inspires. Sometimes they're uncomfortable; sometimes they're conversations that challenge me to revisit old ideas. That's what I really love.”

Palmer hopes his gift will enable the SFA to continue bringing people together over meals for generations to come.

Palmer's generosity is widespread. He's on the verge of offering a tuition match up to \$20,000 per person for employees who want to go to culinary school or get a degree in hospitality management. Additionally, he covers the cost of counseling for those who want to keep their mental health in check.



Restaurateur Steve Palmer leads a presentation at the Southern Foodways Alliance 2019 Winter Symposium in Birmingham, Alabama.

In his community, Palmer is passionately involved with charities that fight hunger. Additionally, his restaurant group hosts an annual dinner, the most recent of which raised \$500,000 in one night — enough to underwrite the 2019 food budget for a Charleston soup kitchen.

Palmer also founded an addiction recovery program in the Carolinas designed specifically for restaurant workers who struggle with substance abuse. He hopes to have Ben's Friends chapters in all 50 states.

Why so much compassion?

“Gratitude,” he says. “I've been given more than I ever thought I would have, so why wouldn't I want to give back? Right? That's just natural to me. I feel sort of obligated, but not by anyone but myself. It's almost a responsibility. I want everybody to win.”

Make a Gift: Nikki Neely Davis, (662) 915-6678 or nlneely@olemiss.edu.

Remembering Mike Overstreet

Major Gift Strengthens Eight Areas of Ole Miss Important to Family



Helen Overstreet of Oxford, Mississippi, center, has made a major gift to strengthen eight areas of the University of Mississippi important to her and her late husband, Mike Overstreet. Visiting with her are (from left) Wendell Weakley, president/CEO of the UM Foundation; Mark Wilder, dean of the Patterson School of Accountancy; Ken Cyree, dean of the School of Business Administration; and Morris Stocks, the Don Jones Chair of Accountancy.

Helen Graeber Overstreet knew how her late husband, Mike Overstreet, felt about Ole Miss. When she was ready to expand his legacy, she turned to their alma mater to establish six endowments that will impact the university for generations to come.

"I knew where his heart was, and I knew where mine was, too," she said. "And I love to think that I'm continuing our story."

Mike Overstreet, a 1970 accountancy graduate, began committing private support to the university in 1988 and continued until his death in 2018.

His wife's \$550,000 gift has created the Helen and Mike Overstreet Accountancy Scholarship in the Patterson School of Accountancy and the Mike Overstreet Business Faculty Support Endowment for the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty members in the School of Business Administration.

"Ole Miss made such an impact on our lives. We would not have enjoyed the successes we did without the degrees we received in business and accountancy," said Overstreet of Oxford, Mississippi.

Two other endowments that Helen Overstreet created speak to the late businessman and health care administrator's love of music: the Mike Overstreet Memorial

Band Scholarship and Jazz Scholarship endowments. Thanks to a band scholarship, Overstreet was able to attend Ole Miss and played the trumpet in the Pride of the South marching band and in the Jazz Ensemble throughout his undergraduate years.

Another endowment, the Edgar Harold Overstreet Family Endowment for University Police Department Training, recognizes the contributions of Mike Overstreet's father, who was an officer with UPD for 17 years.

The designation for another endowment was encouraged by a friend at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art who knows Helen Overstreet and her appreciation for the arts. The Helen and Mike Overstreet Exhibition Endowment will support new exhibits at the University Museum and Historic Houses.

Part of the gift also supports the Children's of Mississippi campaign to fund dramatic enhancements to the state's only hospital for children at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and other major funds are directed to the Vaught Society in support of Ole Miss Athletics.

Make a Gift: Jason McCormick, (662) 915-1757 or jason@olemiss.edu.

A Gift for Graduate Students

Father's Major Gift Memorializes Son, Supports MBA Scholarships

A father's major gift to the School of Business Administration provides scholarships for students pursuing master's degrees while honoring the life of his beloved son.

After contributions from friends and family, Charles Imbler Sr. of Tupelo, Mississippi, completed a \$100,000 gift for the Charles V. Imbler Jr. Memorial Scholarship in Business Administration Endowment.

In the latter stages of his 11-year battle with colon cancer, Chuck Imbler of Belden, Mississippi, requested a memorial to help support MBA students from north Mississippi.

"I'm very proud of the fact that Chuck stayed at Ole Miss and received his MBA," said the senior Imbler. "We hope that this gift will help other young students reach new heights in the business world with their MBAs."



Charles Imbler Sr. (right) with (from left) Trentice Imbler, Chuck Imbler's wife, and their daughters Carrol and Mallie Imbler; and Sue Imbler, Chuck Imbler's mother.

Chuck Imbler earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration in 1979 and 1980 respectively.

After graduating, he worked in several regional offices for Navistar Corp. before serving in the company's Chicago national headquarters as director of marketing for parts. During his career, he served as the national president of both the Navistar and Idealease dealer associations.

In 1995, he returned to Tupelo to join his father in the family business, serving as president of Truck Center Inc.

Imbler served on the Tupelo Thoroughfare Committee for many years and was instrumental in improving the city's roadways. He was president of the Tupelo Kiwanis Club and a loyal supporter of Tupelo Public Schools by which he and his wife, Trentice Gooch Imbler, were honored as the Academics for Excellence members of the year.

Make a Gift: Tim Noss, (662) 915-5932 or tnoss@olemiss.edu.

When Faculty Give Back

Former Department Chair's Gift to Benefit School of Pharmacy



Mickey and Mary Smith

A former faculty member – known globally as a leading pharmaceutical marketing expert – has made a major investment in the department he once led at the School of Pharmacy, increasing educational experiences for students.

With a \$350,000 IRA transfer, Dr. Mickey Smith established a pharmacy administration endowment named for him and his late wife, Mary. The generous resources will provide funding for graduate student support, faculty development and seed funding for research projects. It will also help cover conference travel expenses and provide support for guest speakers and lecturers among other needs.

"I spent 37-plus years on the faculty and I have great loyalty to both the Pharmacy School and the Department of Pharmacy Administration, for which I served as chair for about 15 years early in my tenure," said Smith, who retired in 2003 as the F.A.P. Barnard Distinguished Professor of Pharmacy Administration and continues to live in Oxford, Mississippi. "I had great affection for the many doctoral students I directed."

Just six years after receiving a doctorate from Ole Miss in 1964, Smith was promoted to full professor and chair of the department, which he led until 1985.

Mary Smith served as school nurse for Oxford City Schools. In 1970, she earned a master's degree in home economics from Ole Miss and was named a member of Phi Kappa Phi. She also earned an undergraduate from Stephens College and a doctorate from Clayton University.

Additionally, she taught part time in the Department of Home Economics, receiving the Teacher of the Year Award.

Make a Gift: Port Kaigler, (662) 915-2712 or port@olemiss.edu.

New Scholarship Benefits Public Policy Leadership Students

Distinguished Alumnus Supports Rising Juniors with Major Gift



Dean and Linda Copeland (back row, center) enjoy special occasions with their family members – two-legged and four-legged alike.

Teaching a college course inspired alumnus Dean Copeland of Atlanta, Georgia, to provide financial support to student leaders at his alma mater.

Copeland, a former Rhodes Scholar, recently made a \$100,000 gift to establish a scholarship endowment for undergraduates in the Department of Public Policy Leadership.

“My dream is for the scholarship to grow, whether that is to benefit more than one student or to provide a student with the opportunity to have an experience abroad,” Copeland said, noting the importance of students gaining global experiences in today’s increasingly interconnected society.

For Copeland, the ideal scholarship candidate would be a student who has displayed exemplary leadership abilities, risk-taking tendencies and interest in issues that affect the future, such as technology, science, globalization, the environment and forms of government – issues covered in the course that inspired his gift.

Copeland taught geopolitics at UM and to Morehead Scholars at the University of North Carolina and is now teaching at the University of Virginia.

“The students I have appreciated the most are those who want to create change in their own communities, or on the global and national levels,” he said. “These students have been interested in areas such as public health and public education, but it is their commitment to public service that stands out most. They want to make a difference.”

In addition to the impact on the student experience, Copeland hopes his gift will encourage other UM alumni and friends to learn more about the Public Policy Leadership program and make similar investments in the future of its students.

Make a Gift: William Kneip, (662) 915-2254 or kneip@olemiss.edu.

Thought-Provoking Art

21c Museum Hotel Gift Helps Feature Works at SFA Symposia

Thanks to a \$100,000 gift from the 21c Museum Hotels, the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA) will continue to showcase contemporary artists as the centerpiece of its annual fall symposium.

Founded by Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson, the 21c Museum Hotel group was created as a new model for integrating thought-provoking art into everyday life and expanding the audience for contemporary art. Incorporating artists’ pieces and exhibits into the SFA fall symposium, which focuses on foodways of the southern region, is a perfect fit.

“Much like gathering for an incredible meal with good friends or new acquaintances, art ignites new ideas and sparks lively conversation,” said Sarah Robbins, COO of 21c Museum Hotel. “The relationship with SFA not only upholds 21c’s mission of supporting both emerging and established contemporary artists, but its thoughtful programming also provides a platform for the kind of cultural discussion and exchange of thought that we work to evoke through the experience we provide at each of our properties.”



Artist Lina Puerta’s “From Field to Table: Seven Tapestries Honoring Latino Farm Laborers from the American South” was underwritten by 21c for an SFA Fall Symposium.

A nonprofit institute under the umbrella of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, SFA began partnering in 2016 with 21c by exhibiting Arkansas-born artist Shea Hembrey, who incorporated storytelling and agricultural byproducts in his featured work, a mixed media installation titled “The Secret Ingredient.”

The following year, artist Lina Puerta focused on overlooked Latino laborers in “From Field to Table: Seven Tapestries Honoring Latino Farm Laborers from the American South.” The form and visual composition of her mixed-media works recalled Medieval-era tapestries.

Make a Gift: Nikki Neely Davis, (662) 915-6678 or nineely@olemiss.edu.

A FACULTY MEMBER GIVES BACK

Longest Scholarship Will Help Transfer Students Complete Their Degrees

Dr. William D. Longest, who taught biology at the university for over two decades, recently established a scholarship endowment to help offset tuition expenses for students who transfer to Ole Miss from a community college.

The first and current recipient of the Longest Scholarship, Hunter Robertson, an accountancy major from Gore Springs, Mississippi, said, "I was very thankful to receive the scholarship. Any help is greatly appreciated in college, and this actually helped give me a full ride to Ole Miss."



Dr. William D. Longest enjoys a quiet moment of reflection at his home in Oxford, Mississippi.

Longest, the son of a dairy farmer, enrolled at Northwest Mississippi Junior College (now Northwest Mississippi Community College) in 1946 but soon enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. After four years of military service, he continued his higher education to become an educator.

The majority of Longest's teaching career was devoted to Ole Miss, where he was a biology professor for 24 years.

He and his wife of 57 years, the late Catherine Taylor Longest, had no children of their own. But Longest considers many of his students like family.

Oxford cardiologist Mark Strong is one.

"Dr. Bill Longest was a gentle giant, a very animated instructor and a very kind man," said Strong, who graduated from Ole Miss in 1991 with a degree in biological science and from the UM School of Medicine in 1996. "He took me under his wing as a sophomore biology major and his confidence in me gave me confidence in myself. Now 20 years into a medical career, I owe a significant part of my success to Dr. Longest."

Make a Gift: Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or dhollis@olemiss.edu.

Pharmacy Gets a Booster

Malones' Major Gift to Help Pharmacy Students Attain Degrees



Pictured are (from left) Percy Malone, Arkansas First Lady Susan Hutchinson, Christa Neal, director of the Percy and Donna Malone Child Safety Center, and Donna Malone.

A new scholarship endowment is poised to support students from impoverished areas who dream of becoming pharmacists.

With a \$100,000 gift to the UM School of Pharmacy, Arkansas State Sen. Percy Malone and his wife, Donna, of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, created the AllCare Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment.

"I decided to establish this scholarship so under-served students would be able to pursue their dream of becoming a pharmacist without worrying about the financial stress of continuing their education," Percy Malone said.

"The Ole Miss School of Pharmacy gave me the education I needed to achieve my goal of becoming a pharmacist," the 1965 graduate said. "I would like for others who want to become pharmacists to be able to attain their degree from Ole Miss as well."

In April, Malone was named the School of Pharmacy's 2018 Alumnus of the Year. He has spent his career fighting to represent the interests of those who may be otherwise overlooked: namely, children, sick or incapacitated people and those living below the poverty line.

Malone is one of Arkansas' top pharmacy innovators. He founded AllCare Pharmacy in 1972, which has grown to more than 17 community pharmacies across the state. He also had one of the first pharmacy computer systems in Arkansas and expanded his business to fill prescriptions for long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities and correctional facilities, as well as specialty prescriptions for complex diseases.

In an effort to do more for patients, he ran for state government, and in 1995, began his first of three terms as an Arkansas state lawmaker, helping to pass legislation that improves healthcare practices.

Additionally, he and his wife helped expand the Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas, where children can go to report abuse.

Make a Gift: Port Kaigler, (662) 915-2712 or port@olemiss.edu.

Gifts for Their Service

FedEx Makes Major Gifts in Honor of Longtime Leaders



Jim Barksdale (left) chats with Douglass Sullivan-Gonzalez, director of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, and 2016 graduate Sierra Mannie.



Mike Ducker with wife Cheryl and daughter Rachel

“Any support like this is going to benefit students and should help prepare them for a brighter future.” - Mike Ducker

With two \$250,000 gifts, FedEx Corp. honored Ole Miss alumni Jim Barksdale and Mike Ducker for their years of service to the global shipping company's leadership team.

“Jim was an innovative leader during his tenure at FedEx and went on to serve as an outstanding board member for almost two decades,” said Frederick W. Smith, Chairman and CEO. “We at FedEx are pleased to honor him for his great contributions to our company.”

Likewise, “Whether in Europe, Asia or the Americas, Mike Ducker always answered the call when FedEx asked him to lead in a variety of roles,” Smith said. “This gift honors his immeasurable contributions to our company and his commitment to Ole Miss.”

Barksdale served 13 years in various senior management positions at FedEx Express, including executive vice president and chief operating officer. He also provided leadership on the company's board of directors for 19 years.

“I was quite honored in receiving such a wonderful gift from FedEx and was very excited, as was my family,” said Barksdale of Jackson, Mississippi. “FedEx was and is a part of my life. I am glad to be appreciated in this way.”

Ducker had similar sentiments: “It's a great honor, and I am deeply humbled by the generosity of the company and my boss and mentor Fred Smith.”

Ducker, an active member of the UM Foundation Board of Directors, retired from FedEx in 2018. At retirement, he was CEO of FedEx Freight. Previously he served the company as COO from 2009-2014, having worked his way up through the ranks since his employment began in 1975.

FedEx asked both leaders to choose where to direct the gifts.

Barksdale chose for his gift to support the STEM Building Fund to supplement construction of the university's new 204,000-square-foot building dedicated to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Ducker designated half of his gift to academics and half to athletics.

“Any support like this going to benefit students and should help prepare them for a brighter future,” said Ducker, “It's an opportunity they may not have had without some assistance and that's the mission: to give back to young people.”

Make a Gift: Charlotte Parks, (662) 915-3120 or cphparks@olemiss.edu.

Impressive UM Graduate

B&R Insurance Inspired to Hire Others,
Support RMI Program



Ole Miss alumni and current B&R employees at the Atlanta location are (back row, from left) Trevor Boling, Robert Alvarez, Walker McKenzie, Collin Nichols, Zac Bryant, Kyle Armitage and Beau Cantrell; and (front row) Dalton Young, Mary Catherine Hodgson, Taelor Rubin and Emily Chrismer.

A UM graduate's resume not only resulted in Brown & Riding (B&R) Insurance hiring the applicant and but also ultimately sparked the company's interest in making a \$250,000 gift to support its programs.

In 2010, then-recent Ole Miss alumnus George Sella attracted the attention of B&R's president and CEO Jeff Rodriguez, which led to Sella becoming the company's first employee from the Risk Management Insurance (RMI) Program in the School of Business Administration.

Rodriguez, who had never visited Mississippi, decided to participate in B&R's inaugural Ole Miss recruiting trip later that year.

"I was very impressed with the school on that first trip," said Rodriguez, "and the result was that Brown & Riding ended up making a number of new hires, including interns and full-time employees. My relationship with Ole Miss began quite by accident due to receiving that first resume from George."

Since that time, the company has expanded to 17 offices across the country. Sella's employment has led to over 50 current employees from Ole Miss, making B&R the largest employer of RMI graduates.

Now B&R's major gift furthers its relationship with the university by establishing the Brown & Riding Faculty Support Endowment, which will provide income for the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty members in the RMI program.

Make a Gift: Angela Brown, (662) 915-3181 or browna@olemiss.edu.

Supporting Education

Ririe Gift to Benefit UM Business
Administration Students

Like so many students, Mike Ririe fell in love with Ole Miss during a campus visit.

As a high school junior in 2004, the St. Louis, Missouri, native and his dad, Scott Ririe, attended their first Rebel football game preceded by festivities in the Grove and a campus tour.

"We never visited another school after that day," said Scott Ririe, founder and co-president of Control Technology and Solutions, an energy service company based in St. Louis.

Mike Ririe has since graduated from Ole Miss with a bachelor's degree in business administration and is a commercial real estate agent in Chicago, Illinois. His brother, James Ririe of St. Louis, is on track to graduate from the School of Business Administration in 2020.

The Ririe brothers' love for their university spread to their parents who recently made a \$300,000 gift to establish the Ririe Family Scholarship Endowment, which will award \$6,000 a year for up to eight semesters to two St. Louis freshmen in the School of Business Administration.



Shelley and Scott Ririe (center) recently honored their sons James (left) and Mike (right) with a \$300,000 gift to the UM School of Business Administration.

The Riries designated the scholarship for students in their area because "the amount of local groundswell to attend Ole Miss in the St. Louis area is growing," Scott Ririe said. "We viewed this as a way to give more kids the opportunity to attend the university when they may not have had the chance due to their financial circumstances."

Make a Gift: Tim Noss, (662) 915-5932 or tnoss@olemiss.edu.

Endowment Honors Longtime Friendship

Law School Classmate Establishes Scholarship for Davidson



Judge Glen H. Davidson

A special bond led Elliott H. Loden to establish the Judge Glen H. Davidson Scholarship Endowment with a gift of \$100,000. The endowment recognizes their friendship while paying tribute to Davidson's successful career as a U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

"Glen has done so much for Mississippi and I want to honor all that he has accomplished," Loden said. "It's also a small token that I can give back to the great institution that allowed me to practice in three areas of law."

The first step in Florida native Loden's law career began in 1963 when he enrolled in Robert J. Farley's class at the University of Florida. Having then recently retired as UM law dean, Farley told Loden about the classes Ole Miss offered on the oil and gas industry and tax law.

"I transferred to Ole Miss because of Dean Farley guiding me in that direction and took a summer course that year in which Glen Davidson was also enrolled," said Loden, who earned his law degree in 1965 and now practices in Honolulu, Hawaii. The two became fast friends.

After their graduation in 1965, they both moved to the West Coast and visited each other often. Loden began his career as an IRS estate tax attorney in Los Angeles, while Davidson was commissioned as a Judge Advocate Corps captain at nearby Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Davidson, who had earned an undergraduate degree in 1962 and a law degree in 1965 from Ole Miss, returned to practice in Tupelo, Mississippi. The former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi, who was appointed to the bench in 1985 by then-President Ronald Reagan, said the scholarship endowment came as a complete surprise.

Make a Gift: Suzette Matthews (662) 915-1122 or suzette@olemiss.edu.

A FATHER'S INSPIRED CAREER

Gift Creates the Lilly INSPIRE Awards for UM School of Education

Alumnus Tom Lilly and his wife Connie, both of Oxford, Mississippi, have established the Sale Trice Lilly Sr. Education Inspire Awards Endowment with a gift of \$116,000 to the UM School of Education to recognize a deserving School of Education student who demonstrates a strong commitment to teaching underserved populations in Mississippi.

"We want to do something special to honor, recognize and support those who, like my father, have chosen as their life's mission to help educate the children of Mississippi and instill in them a love of learning," Lilly said. "In doing so, we believe we have honored my father and what he stood for."

Born in 1906 in Pontotoc County, Mississippi, Sale Lilly attended Ole Miss on an athletic scholarship from 1925-1928, playing both halfback and quarterback positions on the football team as well as baseball and track. He married his high school sweetheart, Margaret Butt of Montgomery County, Mississippi, in 1928, which caused him to lose his scholarship.

Needing employment, Lilly began a lifelong career in education in 1928, taking a position as coach, athletic director, principal and math teacher at Winona High School. He returned to Ole Miss to complete his bachelor's and master's degrees in 1930 and 1931, before returning to a career in education at Belzoni.



Tom and Connie Lilly

Lilly served as president of the Mississippi Literary and Athletic Association and chairman of its executive committee. As such, he was Mississippi's representative in the National Federation of High School Associations. He also served as superintendent of schools in Charleston, after which he returned to Belzoni where he served as Assistant Superintendent of the Humphreys County Public Schools and director of Title I, ESEA.

Make a Gift: Billy Crews, (662) 915-2836 or wlcrows@olemiss.edu.

Scholarship Honors Williston's Memory

Generous Gift Will Support Education Majors



Elsie and Ed Williston

Many college students struggle to make ends meet from one semester to the next. A new gift to the School of Education will help remove some of students' stress while honoring the life and memory of longtime Oxford, Mississippi, resident Elsie Wells Williston.

A much beloved spouse, mother, grandmother and friend, Williston passed away in May 2018 after a year-long battle with cancer. She was a 1969 Ole Miss graduate and physical education major with strong ties to the community.

While still a student at Oxford High School, Elsie Wells met her future husband Ed Williston, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Ole Miss in 1970. During 48 years of marriage, the two were inseparable. And, although the Willistons first met in high school, Ole Miss is where their relationship strengthened.

"Elsie was a much better student than I was," said Ed Williston. "She put herself through school with work-study and school loans. That's the reason we wanted this scholarship to be need-based. There are students who have the potential to go on to become really good teachers and maybe don't qualify for a lot of scholarships. We want to support those young people."

Longtime UM donors, the Willistons previously supported Ole Miss Athletics, the Ole Miss Fund, Friends of the Library and numerous academic units.

This new major gift will be used to honor Elsie Williston's memory in the School of Education's 1903 Society, a pooled academic enhancement endowment that seeks to help the school establish its first \$1 million endowment, with annual income serving strategic needs. Posthumously, she will become one of 100 charter members of the society and be permanently recognized with a metal etching displayed outside the dean's office in Guyton Hall.

"We lost Elsie far too soon. Her light shined bright as a friend, neighbor, mother and spouse," said Billy Crews, development officer. "She will be influencing teachers and students because of this generous scholarship endowment gift from her adoring family."

Make a Gift: Billy Crews, (662) 915-2836 or wlcrows@olemiss.edu.

A Gift for Grad Students

John and Janice Shanahan want to help business students now and for generations to come.

The Lakewood Ranch, Florida, couple's recent gift establishes a scholarship endowment for the School of Business Administration. The Shanahans plan to increase their endowment each year, ultimately bolstering it with part of their estate.

"In the process of resolving our estate plan, we decided to start right away with an endowment to help deserving students from Mississippi who want to pursue graduate studies within the Business School," said Shanahan who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Ole Miss in 1969 and 1970 respectively.



Janice and John Shanahan

"We anticipate the endowment could reach around a million dollars and fund scholarships in perpetuity," he said. "I am pleased to have discovered this means of paying forward the assistance I received from the university."

"I have no doubt that my career success can be traced to my diligence in high school and college, and more specifically, to the MBA program at Ole Miss," the Vicksburg, Mississippi, native said.

After college, Shanahan served on active duty at Patrick Air Force Base in Florida and then began a marketing career with Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati, Ohio. He rose to the position of brand manager for the Pringle's snack chip line and subsequently joined Borden Foods in Columbus, Ohio.

Work took the couple to Dallas, Texas, and the Southland Corp., where he worked as advertising and promotion manager for all domestic 7-Eleven stores. From Dallas, they moved to San Francisco, California, where he worked as vice president of marketing for a tech company before buying and managing a local graphics business. His wife joined him once the venture became profitable, and they worked together for nearly 10 years, before selling the business in late 2000.

Now actively retired in Florida, he spends time both reading and writing novels while she enjoys creative arts and crafts. They also are involved with a guide-dog service organization, frequently fostering dogs and supporting the program financially.

Make a Gift: Tim Noss, (662) 915-5932 or tnoss@olemiss.edu.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Private Gift Protects Ambiance of Faulkner's Home

Rowan Oak

Sandy Black sits in the office of William Faulkner's home.

William Faulkner's desk, typewriter and resting bed are fixtures in the office of the late Nobel Prize-winning author's Oxford, Mississippi, home. Peering in, it's easy to imagine the writer, pipe in hand, contemplating his next sentence.

Now, one of his biggest fans is preserving that ambiance.

"I can't imagine that the university didn't already own all of this furniture and it was just a shock to me that it could leave, that the owners could just pick it up in a truck and take it away. I had no idea," said Sandra Miller Black of Madison, Mississippi, whose recent \$500,000 gift helped the university ensure that all of Faulkner's furnishings would remain in the home.

Faulkner's house, outbuildings and land, affectionately named Rowan Oak by the author himself in 1931, were purchased by the university in 1974 and added to its University Museum and Historic Houses. But all furnishings remained the property of Faulkner's extended family.

Until now.

"My husband has been very generous in giving me monthly allowances. With these, I bought the children's birthday gifts, household supplies and paid some bills, that kind of thing," said Black, who is married to John Black, a UM Foundation board member.

"But I always had a nice amount left over and I invested it early on in Apple, Google and Amazon. It grew and grew, and I was able to accumulate enough money to be able to make this gift."

Black fell in love with Faulkner's home in 1989 when she and a group of friends began attending the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference — a celebration of the author's work that draws hundreds of visitors to Oxford, Mississippi, from all over the world. Annually, Rowan Oak draws upwards of 25,000 visitors to its house and grounds from all 50 states and more than 50 foreign countries.

Of all his books, some of which she has read several times, her favorites are "Absalom Absalom," "Go Down Moses" and the Snopes trilogy.

"I love his work. It seems to me that he writes like all of us think. It's spidery and it goes off in all sorts of directions at the same time," said Black, who has lectured on Faulkner to freshman English students at Holmes Community College in Mississippi.

Make a Gift: Rob Jolly, (662) 915-3085 or jolly@olemiss.edu.

An Upper-Level Gift

Former UM Band Member's Gift to Help Construct New Tower

A private gift is expected to help take the Ole Miss band program to a new level — literally.

Sumner Spradling of Greensboro, North Carolina, gave the university \$100,000 to establish the Band Director's Tower Fund, an account designed to support the construction of a new director's stand overlooking the practice field of the "Pride of the South," UM's acclaimed marching band.

"I hope the tower will enable the band director and staff to observe the marching band in a safe environment while also helping to move Ole Miss practice facilities into a competitive position," said Spradling, a Clarksdale, Mississippi, native who graduated from Ole Miss in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in music education; he later earned a master's degree in music education from the University of South Carolina.

Because of his lead gift, the tower will bear Spradling's name.

"Sumner stood beside me in Jazz band decades ago and is a great musician, composer and better person," said Ole Miss band director David Willson. "He contacted me and asked what he could do to help the band. He offered to sponsor it and do more, wanting nothing in return but the good feeling it gave him to serve the institutional band that served him.

"Now he is the leader in kicking off our field renovations and we are very thankful for his generosity and leadership in this important campaign."

Make a Gift: Ron Wilson, (662) 915-1755 or jrwilso3@olemiss.edu.



UM alumnus and former band member Sumner Spradling has made the lead gift that will help begin construction of a new director's tower that will bear his name. Pictured are (from left) Matt Louis of Corinth, Mississippi, Ole Miss band director David Willson, Matt Smith of Flowood, Mississippi, donors Risa and Sumner Spradling, Wil Stacy of Southaven, Mississippi, Francena Sekul of Biloxi, Mississippi, UM development officer Ron Wilson, Richard Springer of Biloxi, and Max Warren of Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

Celebrating the Arts

Campaign Building Endowment for Performing Arts



The Celebrating the Arts campaign is making exciting progress toward its goal of building a \$3 million operations endowment for the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

Boosting both fundraising efforts and alumni and friend engagement this year was the "Boots and Bling" event, which honored Chancellor Emeritus Robert C. Khayat and his role in establishing the Ford Center at the university. Khayat performed with Grammy-winning Marty Stuart and The Fabulous Superlatives at a concert kicking off the event, which was emceed by HGTV's "Home Town" stars and Ole Miss alumni Erin and Ben Napier.

The campaign goal is approximately \$1.2 million from completion, said Julia Aubrey, director of the Ford Center and an associate professor of music. A large bronze tree sculpture was unveiled in the Ford Center lobby as part of the "Boots and Bling" festivities. Donor names have been engraved on parts of the tree, with spaces available for future donors.

Major donors whose names grace the tree trunks are the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation of Jackson, Mississippi; Mary and Sam Haskell of Oxford, Mississippi; and Nancye Starnes of Charleston, South Carolina.

To make a gift visit online at www.fordcenter.org/celebrate or contact Rob Jolly, (662) 915-3085 or jolly@olemiss.edu.

Triplett Foundation Supports Ole Miss Students

Major Commitment to Benefit Magee Center Efforts



The Triplett siblings (from left) are Lou Ann Woidtke, Liz Walker, Suzy Fuller, Diane Holloway and Chip Triplett.

Alcohol and drug education programs will be expedited with a generous gift to the William Magee Center for Wellness Education Endowment.

"We believe there are a lot of students affected by substance abuse, whether that is personal use or suffering with family members' or friends' addictions. We must help them and their families obtain current information on the effects and consequences of alcohol and drug abuse," said Chip Triplett of the Dr. and Mrs. Faser Triplett Foundation.

The Triplett Foundation awarded the center \$750,000 to support the hiring of a health-education specialist, fund the planning of a national symposium at Ole Miss and cover expenses associated with the startup.

The foundation, named for the late Jackie and Faser Triplett of Jackson, Mississippi, is now managed by their children: Chip Triplett and Diane Holloway of Ridgeland, Mississippi; Suzy Fuller of Greenwood, South Carolina; Liz Walker of Jackson; and Lou Ann Woidtke of Madison, Mississippi.

Private giving in excess of \$2 million helped establish the Magee Center, which is a tribute to William Magee, an Ole Miss Honors College alumnus who lost his life at 23 years of age to an overdose in 2013.

"Substance abuse is a national problem, and we want those who come here to be cared for in the best possible way," Triplett said. "We know the Magee Center will reach young students at Ole Miss and guide them in a positive direction so they'll become the best young adults they can be."

To reach students, the center will use a portion of the Triplett Foundation gift to hire a certified health-education specialist who will oversee two graduate assistants. This team of three new staff members, working in conjunction with current wellness staff, will be responsible for managing the center's alcohol and other drug (AOD) prevention, intervention and outreach.

The team also will help facilitate RebelADE, a program for students who have been sanctioned due to a substance abuse violation. Additionally, it will manage a student organization of wellness ambassadors trained to help their peers understand issues related to AOD, physical and sexual health, nutrition, and more.

Another portion of the Triplett Foundation gift will be used to implement and host a biannual national symposium designed to enable institutions of higher learning across the nation to exchange ideas regarding substance use, prevention, intervention and recovery.

This recent gift to alcohol and drug education reflects the Triplett family's strong commitment to improving the lives of others. Last year the siblings directed a \$1 million gift to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi at the University of Mississippi Medical Center to support the expansion of Children's Hospital. They also helped establish the R. Faser Triplett Sr. Chair of Allergy and Immunology in honor of their father.

Make a Gift: Brett Barefoot, (662) 915-2711 or bmbarefo@olemiss.edu



HONORING EXCELLENCE

Sturdivant Family Bolsters Journalism Award Fund, Honors Matriarch



Ygondine Sturdivant today (top) and being crowned Miss Ole Miss (above)

A major gift will bolster the Sturdivant Journalism Award Endowment Fund, created in 2010 to recognize students poised to graduate with highest honors from the School of Journalism and New Media.

The Sturdivant family made the gift in honor of their matriarch, Ygondine Walker Sturdivant, a former Miss Ole Miss who earned a bachelor's degree in English and psychology in 1948.

"This is a lovely surprise and one that I appreciate. I have been very blessed with a wonderful family and that they would make this gift in my name makes it even more meaningful to me," said Sturdivant of Glendora, Mississippi.

The gift also represents Sturdivant's respect for Will Norton, dean of journalism and new media.

"I think he's done such a wonderful job. I am a great admirer of his work with the School of Journalism and New Media," Sturdivant said. "He's given excellent leadership since he has been at Ole Miss, and I feel confident that his continued leadership will accomplish great things for the school."

Norton said he feels honored by the gift.

In college, Sturdivant was president of Chi Omega sorority, a member of the Glee Club and a participant in campus religious organizations. She played the clarinet in the marching band and was one of its two baton twirlers. She also received academic honors and was inducted into the student Hall of Fame.

After graduating, Sturdivant married the now late Mike Sturdivant, a leader in the Mississippi and U.S. agriculture industry, a participant in the early growth of the Holiday Inn hotel chain and a two-time candidate for Mississippi governor.

Make a Gift: Charlotte Parks, (662) 915-3120 or cpparks@olemiss.edu.

American Politics

Donors Provide Resources
for Barbour Center



A recent Washington, D.C., reception celebrated \$1.73 million in gifts contributed to establish the Barbour Center for the Study of American Politics in the UM Department of Political Science. The new initiative honors Mississippi's two-term governor and national political leader Haley Barbour.

On hand to pay tribute to Barbour (*far left*) were U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, Erskine Wells and Loren Monroe. Among major donors to the center are Chevron, General Atomics, Huntington Ingalls Industries, Nissan North America, Inc., David Nutt, Sanderson Farms, Southern Company Charitable Foundation, Toyota Motor North America, Inc. and the Barbour, Griffith and Rogers Foundation.

"Gov. Barbour has enjoyed a long and distinguished career and obviously has many more contributions to make," said John Bruce, chair of political science. "From his start working in the 1968 presidential election through his two terms as governor of Mississippi, Gov. Barbour has been an example of what people can do in the political arena."

Bruce was joined by Tom Becherer, chair of the Political Science Alumni Advisory Board, and Lanny Griffith, chair of the BGR Group, in hosting the event.

Make a Gift: Denson Hollis, (662) 915-5092 or dhollis@olemiss.edu.

Late Sen. Cochran's Legacy Expanded

Donors Join to Build Resources for Scholarships and Archives



The life of the late U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, who earned undergraduate and law degrees at UM, is being honored with the Cochran Endowment in the School of Law. The Thad Cochran Research Center, where the National Center for Natural Products Research is housed, is in the university's Science District. The senator's efforts helped strengthen UM as an international leader in natural products research.

The university lost one of its strongest voices of support with the passing of U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran in May, but his legacy continues to expand as an endowment in his name provides scholarships and other opportunities.

The Cochran Endowment provides law scholarships, an international law fellowship, military promise program, preservation of his collection in UM's Modern Political Archives and resources for the School of Law's strategic initiatives.

Law Dean Susan Duncan said the endowment supports areas of great importance to Sen. Cochran who earned both undergraduate and law degrees from Ole Miss and was the nation's 10th longest-serving senator.

"The generous contributions of alumni and friends to honor Sen. Cochran will change the lives of so many students who wish to pursue legal careers and help current and future generations understand American history."

Scholarships from the Cochran Endowment help Mississippi residents earn law degrees at Ole Miss while the Thad Cochran International Law Fellowship gives students opportunities to study abroad. The Thad Cochran Military Promise Program provides law scholarships for veterans and students seeking military careers.

In 2017, Sen. Cochran donated more than 3,500 linear feet of physical records and five terabytes of electronic records from the last 45 years of his career. This collection housed in the University Libraries will serve as a resource for researchers who can explore correspondence, reports, photographs and recordings of significant political events.

Many thanks go to donors who honored Sen. Cochran with gifts of all sizes. Those who made major gifts include:

- Southern Company Charitable Foundation
- Entergy Corp
- C Spire Foundation
- Sanderson Farms

Other major gifts include Airbus Group, Altria Client Services LLC, Boeing, H.F. McCarty Jr. Family Foundation, Huntington Ingalls Industries, John N. Palmer Foundation, Leidos, Inc., Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman.

Make a Gift: Suzette Matthews, (662) 915-1122 or suzette@olemiss.edu.

Scholarship Honors Longtime Leader

Guest Retires After Helping Build The University of Mississippi Foundation



Sandra Guest (front row, center) is surrounded by members of the UMF Foundation staff. They are (front row, from left) Christi Bland, Lee Ann Cooper, LaRhonda Harris, Guest, Caroline Heuer, Maggie Abernathy and Teresa Williams. On the second row (from left) are Hesham Baeshen, Evan Greene, Tiffeny Owens, Abigail Robbins and Donna Patton. Back row (from left) are Lance Felker, Anna Langley, Ron Guest, Bill Dabney and Wendell Weakley.

Almost every morning of her tenure as vice president of the University of Mississippi Foundation (UMF), Sandra Guest walked the grounds of the Brandt Memory House, tending a plant, watering a fern or envisioning a new way to add beauty to her surroundings.

Her dedication to UMF was evident in the way she cared for its home. As meticulous as she was about its landscape, Guest – in her 42-year career – was equally thorough in building resources for her beloved Ole Miss. It was her way of giving back to the institution that enabled her to earn a college degree.

Engaged in every fundraising campaign in UM's history, Guest helped grow the university endowment from \$2 million to \$723 million. She was the university's first female director of development and UMF's first female officer. For 20 years – first as secretary/treasurer and then as vice president/secretary – Guest helped lead UMF and served on the Joint Committee on University Investments.

As an Ole Miss Women's Council founding member, Guest saw \$15.5 million secured in scholarship endowments. In her honor, UMF board members, other alumni, colleagues and friends contributed \$156,000 to create the Sandra McGuire Guest Council Scholarship.

"I'm a first-generation college graduate, and the only way I was able to complete my degree was with scholarship support. Knowing this scholarship will assist deserving students at my beloved Ole Miss makes it a perfect gift," said Guest.

Don Frugé of Oxford, Mississippi, former UMF president and CEO, said he met Guest in 1984 when then-Chancellor Gerald Turner asked him and Robert Khayat (now Chancellor Emeritus) to oversee the inaugural campaign. The endowment was just over \$8 million, and the foundation had about \$500 in unrestricted cash.

"The foundation staff no longer has to answer the question: Why should I give privately to support a public university? Every donor knows their gift is important in making Ole Miss better for our students, faculty and staff and the UM Foundation is trusted to spend those gifted dollars as intended and wisely," Frugé said.

Khayat gave Guest credit for nurturing growth.

"I have long believed that the seeds planted under Gerald Turner's years blossomed and grew under Sandra's steady, kind and thoughtful guidance. While chancellor, I knew Don and Sandra were taking care of the foundation's business and were making immeasurable contributions to the well-being of the university.

"Sandra ... was able to work with donors of different ages, levels of wealth and personal interests."

Suzan Thames of Jackson, Mississippi, chair of the UMF Board of Directors, said Guest has a deep commitment to UM.

"Sandra has always been motivated by doing the very best for our university. She has used her positive, enthusiastic attitude to encourage all those around her to pursue their goals. She has a place in the hearts of all who know her."

Thames and Wendell Weakley, current foundation president and CEO, orchestrated the scholarship plans to honor Guest.

"Sandra has provided outstanding service to our foundation and to the Ole Miss family," said Weakley. "She has exemplified the high standard we strive for in donor service and university private support. We look forward to working with her in a consultative role now with our communications."

The UMF operated out of the Alumni House until Louis Brandt of Houston, Texas, gifted the Memory House property.

"When the foundation and development offices moved into their first independent location, a caretaker of the building and grounds was needed. Sandra volunteered to take that job in addition to her 'day job' as foundation vice president," said Brandt, a former chair of the UMF board.

"She is truly the 'keeper of the springs' at the Brandt Memory House, maintaining and adding to its great beauty each year. We are all extremely grateful for Sandra's commitment to excellence in everything she has done."

Guest points to teamwork, collaborations and donor generosity that made UMF successful and her career possible.

"I am humbled and grateful for the last 42 years. This university changed my life and the lives of my husband, Ron; my children, Brandy, Claire and Sam; and my son-in-law Jody Lowe."

Make a Gift: Wendell Weakley at wendell@umfoundation.com or 662-915-5944.



Guest's service is recognized by Foundation Chair Suzan Thames (left).

For Research and Development Mississippi Pharmaceutical Company Supports UM with Major Gift



Provost Noel Wilkin welcomes (from left) Phlight Pharma's Clark Levi and Marc Fluit with Pharmacy Dean David Allen.

"We were impressed by the international expertise the center has regarding natural products," Levi said. "We have a dream that we can find a natural product that ultimately can be grown, processed and distributed as a prescription product — all within the state of Mississippi."

- Clark Levi

Impressive work by the School of Pharmacy and the National Center for Natural Products Research (NCNPR) inspired a pharmaceutical company to make a major gift.

Clark Levi, owner of Phlight Pharma of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and Marc Fluit, head of Strategic Initiatives, presented a \$200,000 gift to the university, half of which will be used at the pharmacy dean's discretion; the other half is designated to help discover medicinal properties in plants.

Neither executive has direct ties to Ole Miss but both are familiar with the caliber of students the pharmacy school produces and with the quality of research being conducted by scientists within the NCNPR on the university's Oxford, Mississippi, campus.

"We were impressed by the international expertise the center has regarding natural products," Levi said. "We have a dream that we can find a natural product that ultimately can be grown, processed and distributed as a prescription product — all within the state of Mississippi."

Additionally, the company wants to help bolster education for pharmacy students.

Created in 2016, Phlight Pharma markets a prescription product, Allzital, for tension headaches, and Synderm, a medical device designed to help relieve the discomfort of various skin diseases.

The NCNPR at Ole Miss conducts basic and applied multidisciplinary research to discover and develop natural products for use as pharmaceuticals, dietary supplements and agrochemicals, and to understand the biological and chemical properties of medicinal plants.

Make a Gift: Port Kaigler, (662) 915-2712 or port@olemiss.edu.

Supporting Special Education New UM Program to Equip Students to Teach Autistic Children

With the help of a \$470,000 gift from Parker Life-share Foundation of Jackson, Mississippi, the School of Education is designing a program to address the specialized needs of children across the autism spectrum and prepare the education professionals who will teach them.

According to the Mississippi Autism Advisory Committee Report (2018), the dramatic growth in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) constitutes a public health crisis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one in 59 U.S. children have been diagnosed with ASD, while data from the U.S. Department of Education reveals that the number of Mississippi students with ASD receiving special education services from 2014 to 2017 has risen from 4,027 to 5,179, a 28.6 percent increase over three years.

The gift enables the School of Education to hire a board-certified behavior analyst-doctoral (BC-BA-D) faculty member to develop the curriculum and coursework needed for a comprehensive program in Applied Behavior Analysis. It is most commonly used in special education classes to treat behavioral challenges among special needs students, specifically those identified as ASD.

The program will prepare graduate-level students to successfully complete requirements necessary to become board-certified and licensed behavior analysts.

Make a Gift: Billy Crews, (662) 915-2836 or wlcrows@olemiss.edu.

Elevating Engineering Corporation Awards School of Engineering \$3.1M Software Gift

The Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute (MMRI) at the University of Mississippi has been gifted with the Petrel Exploration and Production software platform from the Schlumberger Corp.

This software donation, valued at \$3.1 million over a three-year period, provides MMRI researchers and geology and geological engineering students with the same cutting-edge software used by the majority of the world's major oil and gas companies.

The software also provides faculty and students the full range of tools used to investigate complex geological challenges such as oil and gas exploration, neotectonics studies and groundwater flow modeling.

Make a Gift: Greg Carter, (662) 915-3087 or gjcarter@olemiss.edu.



Lyt Harris

Back to Business

Alumnus Designates Estate Gift to
UM Business Scholarships

About 12 years ago, Harris funded a similar scholarship program at Northwood University in Michigan, an all-business education university, where he received an honorary doctor of laws degree and served on the board of trustees. He and his late wife, Venita, contributed to the fund regularly.

After completing graduate school at Louisiana State University in 1963, Harris rose through the ranks of Scott Paper Co. where he became project manager for the first disposable diapers, taking them from test market to national distribution. Later, he joined a large division of Hunt Wesson Foods as director of marketing and was instrumental in propelling the Orville Redenbacher popcorn brand to its leading U.S. status.

Harris, a master at recognizing the potential in people like Redenbacher, hopes his scholarships will help students fulfill their own potential, building on their higher educational foundations to become successful in business.

After Hunt Wesson, Harris worked several years as a senior executive in the banking and finance industry before moving to Houston in 1982 to become president and eventually CEO of Southwest Management and Marketing Co. There, he met his wife in 1984 at an art exhibition; both were avid collectors.

Harris sold his company and retired in 2004. He now serves as managing partner of the Harris Investment Partnership, specializing in venture capital investments including specialty foods, residential real estate, senior living facilities, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers, and other projects.

Always active in civic and charitable activities, Harris also enjoys spectator sports, swimming, hiking, biking and traveling by cruise ship; he will celebrate his 100th voyage early in 2020 with a cruise from Bangkok to Hong Kong.

At Ole Miss, he was a member of the University Players theater company, Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity and Sigma Alpha Epsilon social fraternity.

A longtime mentor to students of all ages, Lyt Harris has expanded his legacy by committing a major estate gift to support the School of Business Administration.

The estimated \$2.5 million planned gift will be added to the existing Lyttleton T. Harris IV Scholarship Endowment after his lifetime. With this planned gift, Harris is awarded membership in the 1848 Society, which is named for the year the university opened its doors to the first students and recognizes those who provide for UM through deferred gifts.

Harris has served as a mentor for MBA students at Ole Miss and was named an Otho Smith Fellow in 2008. He has also served as a mentor for middle and high school students in the Spring Branch Independent School District in Houston, Texas, where he lives.

But first, he was a student.

"I enjoyed the whole college experience and being in such a beautiful setting as Ole Miss and the Oxford area. It was a great environment for learning, going to school and enjoying a large variety of activities," said Harris, a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and 1962 graduate of the UM School of Business Administration.

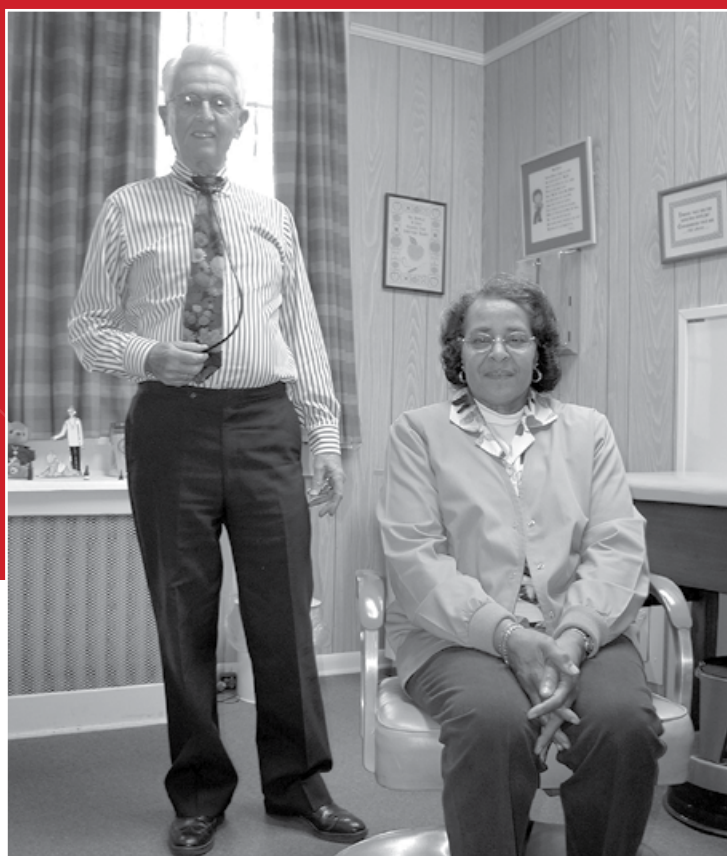
He hopes his gift will help future generations of business students have a similar positive experience at Ole Miss. The Harris Scholarship is available to full-time juniors or seniors who are marketing majors in the business school and maintain a minimum 3.0 grade-point average.

Harris originally established his UM endowment in August 2016 with a \$27,000 gift. He later pledged to increase the endowment to \$100,000, allowing the business school to award scholarships from it in perpetuity.

Make a Gift: Tim Noss, (662) 915-5932 or tnoss@olemiss.edu.

Continued Caring

Passion for Education, Love for Granddaughter
Inspire Doctor's Estate Gift



Dr. Carl Bernet is pictured here with his longtime assistant and nurse, Thelma Hester. Photo courtesy Greenwood Commonwealth

Seeing the impact a scholarship made on his granddaughter's education inspired a longtime pediatrician to bequeath part of his estate to the School of Engineering.

A \$100,000 gift from the estate of the late Dr. Carl P. Bernet Jr. of Greenwood, Mississippi, has bolstered the Elsie and Harper Johnson Jr. Scholarship Endowment, which provides academic awards to engineering students from Leflore and Tate counties.

Bernet's youngest grandchild, Ole Miss junior Taylor Bush, is a recipient of the scholarship.

"Dr. Bernet was a very compassionate and charitable man as was his wife, Janet," said Floyd Melton III of Greenwood, the attorney for Bernet's estate.

"He directly saw the benefit of the scholarship for our small community and wanted to show his appreciation for the Johnsons' generosity and to further ensure that future students from this area are allowed to reach their goal of becoming engineers."

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Bernet received his medical degree in 1950 from the University of Cincinnati Medical School and interned at the University of Indiana. He completed his pediatric training in New Orleans, Louisiana, and later was recruited to work for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia.

During his time with the CDC, Bernet was one of the first investigators to study germ warfare after World War II. Additionally, for a time, he performed research alongside Dr. Jonas Salk, the inventor of the polio vaccine.

In 1955, he moved to Greenwood, where he cared for area children for more than five decades, retiring in 2010. Additionally, during the 1960s and 1970s, Bernet taught one day per month at the UM School of Medicine in Jackson.

His daughter Nan Bernet Bush said she often saw her father diagnose a child's illness even before running the first test.

"After treating kids for about a 50-mile radius of Greenwood for 55 years — often three generations — he became a most respected and admired doctor for the Mississippi Delta."

A testament to such admiration is the fourth floor children's wing of Greenwood Leflore Hospital, named in Bernet's honor.

Make a Gift: Greg Carter, (662) 915-3087 or gjcarter@olemiss.edu.

Daughter's Gift to UM Honors Beloved Couple

Studio Theatre, Scholarships Carry Names of Mobley and Collins

The first Mississippian to wear the Miss America crown, the late actress Mary Ann Mobley and her husband, the late actor Gary Collins, will have their legacies expanded at the University of Mississippi with the naming of a studio theatre in the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts and the university's first-ever theatre and film scholarships.

Their daughter, Clancy Collins White, of Los Angeles, California, has directed more than \$1.6 million from Mobley's estate to her alma mater, where she was the inaugural recipient of the prestigious Carrier Scholarship, an Associated State Body officer, major-ette in the band, Miss Ole Miss and Miss University.

"At a time when our world is in such disarray and all we've held dear seems to be in jeopardy, there is such an incredible power in storytelling – the power to inform, educate and most importantly transform," said White, a senior vice president with Warner Bros. Television.

"My parents were huge believers in the power of the arts to impact people's lives and make them feel. And they felt as though performing is the greatest expression of love."

Additionally, "my mother credited Ole Miss with changing her life," she said.

Recognized humanitarians, Mobley and Collins also supported "Mississippi Rising," the Hurricane Katrina benefit hosted at Tad Smith Coliseum in 2005, as well as countless other events and initiatives designed to build resources for Ole Miss and the state.



Gary Collins and Mary Ann Mobley Collins

The 130-seat Mary Ann Mobley Collins and Gary E. Collins Studio Theatre has been dedicated inside the Ford Center, which will benefit from half the gift.

The Mary Ann Mobley Collins Theatre Arts Scholars – the first endowed scholarships in the department's history – will assist students who want to pursue careers in the performing arts.

Make a Gift: Rob Jolly, (662) 915-3085 or jolly@olemiss.edu.

Making a Real Difference

Professor Debbie Bell's belief in the value of the Law School's 10 legal clinics inspired her planned gift to support the program that gives students real-world experience representing clients.

"The clinical programs have been my passion at the law school. Starting and participating in them is the one thing of which I am most proud," Bell said. "Our law students make a real difference – whether keeping a client safe from domestic violence or saving someone from an eviction. The clinics help fulfill a need in Mississippi and give the students an opportunity to serve."

Since 1992, Bell has dedicated countless hours to the clinical programs, from obtaining the grants that started the Civil Legal Clinic to serving as the first associate dean of clinical programs.



Students prepare for a class in the Robert C. Khayat Law Center.

"A planned gift seemed the next logical step. It was a way to continue to support the professors who are carrying on the work and the students who will come through the clinics."

After earning an undergraduate degree at Mississippi College, Bell chose Ole Miss for law school. Afterward, she moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where she clerked and then practiced law with the Legal Aid Society. Soon, a teaching position at the law school called her back to the state.

Make a Gift: Suzette Matthews, (662) 915-1122 or suzette@olemiss.edu.

Belief in Lifelong Learning Inspires Gift

Stewarts Establish Endowment
for UM School of Education



Mike and Cathy Stewart are pictured here with a portrait of Wildrose Drake, the first Ducks Unlimited mascot trained by Mike.

Mike and Cathy Stewart's belief in encouraging literacy and lifelong learners led the Oxford, Mississippi, couple to commit an estimated \$500,000 in their will to the School of Education.

The Stewarts want their gift to be used to reward teachers who share their devotion to promoting reading.

"Reading is the key to success in so many areas," said Cathy Stewart, a retired teacher. "If students are avid readers, they can find books on whatever subject interests them and learn about that subject."

For Stewart, who established the World Class Teaching Program at Ole Miss and was active in the National Board Certification Mentoring Program, giving back to the university through the School of Education was a natural decision.

"Mike and I hope some of our success will help others become great teachers and love what they do as much as I enjoyed being a teacher," she said. "I hope this endowment rewards those who have a passion to ensure kids become lifelong learners."

The donors have strong ties to the community. Mike Stewart served as chief of the University Police Department, keeping the campus safe for over 18 years, while Cathy Stewart taught first and second grade for 20 years and was for four years an adjunct instructor in the School of Education.

The couple's time is now devoted to their business, Wildrose Kennels, the oldest trainer and breeder of imported British and Irish Labrador dogs in North America.

"Mike and I don't have any children, so we want to support things that made us successful and happy in life, and my school work certainly did that for me," said Cathy Stewart, who completed her undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees at UM in elementary education. Mike received his bachelor's in public administration and master's in criminal justice.

The planned gift will establish endowments for three areas: the Dr. Cathy Ward Stewart Literacy and Lifelong Learning Scholarship, the Dr. Cathy Ward Stewart Outstanding Literacy Teacher of the Year Award and the School of Education Academic Enhancement Endowment.

Make a Gift: Billy Crews, (662) 915-2836 or wlcrows@olemiss.edu.

Helping Students Earn College Degrees

Estate Gift to Assist
Sunflower County Students

A couple defined by service to their communities designated an estate gift specifically for students from Sunflower County, Mississippi.

The \$300,000 planned gift from the Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT) of the late Norma and Celian Lewis establishes an endowment, which will honor the couple in perpetuity while also helping offset college expenses for selected scholarship recipients.

The Lewises spent most of their married life — 38 years — in Sunflower County (Indianola, Mississippi), where they owned Lewis Grocer Co. There, they raised three children: Karen, Richard and Bill.

"Parts of Sunflower County, like other areas of the Mississippi Delta, are impoverished, meaning if kids in those areas want to go to college, they often need financial assistance. My parents wanted to help make college a possibility for students from the community they loved," said Richard Lewis of Atlanta, Georgia.



*Celian and Norma Lewis
Photo courtesy of Delta State University, which also received a similar gift from the Lewises.*

Celian Lewis, a native of Lexington, Mississippi, was the first president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Indianola. Later, he would become president of the Chamber of Commerce. He was also a Rotarian for 57 years.

During military service in the South Pacific he met Norma Thompson, a native of Sydney, Australia, who was to become his wife. After retiring from the grocery business at age 65, he led a marketing group, promoting the catfish industry nationwide.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Camille, the Lewises set up a food distribution center on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. In 1985, they retired to Destin, Florida, where they worked with the Chamber of Commerce and delivered Meals on Wheels for 20 years among many other service activities.

Make a Gift: Byron Liles, (662) 915-7601 or byron@olemiss.edu.

Honoring Family and Friends

Wilsons' Planned Gift Will Benefit Honors College



Ron and Jody Wilson (from left) have made a gift to the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College in honor of Mary Lou and Harry Owens. Representing the Honors College is the dean, Douglass Sullivan-González.

Ron and Jody Wilson, of Oxford, Mississippi, want their planned gift to help generate more courses that will challenge students for generations to come.

The Wilsons included Ole Miss in their estate plans, offering the university their home as a way to pay tribute to their late son and honor two close friends.

The gift establishes the Harry and Mary Lou Owens Excellence in Teaching Endowment, honoring the UM history professor who retired in 1998 and his wife. The endowment's earnings will support the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College (SMBHC).

"We hope the endowment will create super-interesting, intriguing and demanding classes for these students to enjoy," said Wilson, a development officer for the College of Liberal Arts.

The Wilsons wanted to support higher education because it was important to their son, Matthew Wilson of Birmingham, Alabama, who held three degrees from Samford University.

"We decided that since we don't have a family member to leave our home to, we would invest in the lives of Ole Miss honor students, pay tribute to Harry and Mary Lou, whom we have come to love, and also benefit Douglass Sullivan-González (dean of the SMBHC), a very dear friend of ours."

The endowment is designed to support quality teaching, research and service by providing salary supplements and covering expenses associated with research and travel for faculty.

The Wilsons hope the endowment will inspire faculty members to develop extraordinary classes similar in academic quality to one that Owens taught, examining lives and work of Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud and Charles Darwin.



Matthew Wilson

Giving in Perpetuity

Couple Planned Gift to Support Two UM Endowments

Lynne Ann DeSpelder and Albert Lee Strickland of Capitola, California, have partnered on many projects throughout their lives and someday, even in death, their collaboration will continue.

The couple will leave an estimated \$1 million from their estate to Ole Miss, half to the John T Edge Director of the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA) Endowment and half to the Center for the Study of Southern Culture's (CSSC) Music of the South Endowment.

Other donors might find it morbid to speak of their death, but much of this couple's work has focused on human mortality.

Realizing that their unique interests meshed — Strickland is a writer, DeSpelder a teacher — the two co-authored the college textbook "The Last Dance: Encountering Death & Dying." Additionally, they are members of the International Work Group on Death, Dying and Bereavement.

The gift will honor their parents, all four of whom valued education.

The appreciation for music that Strickland inherited from his father and the CSSC publications, *Rejoice!* and *Living Blues*, contributed to his desire to support the Music of the South Endowment, which is designed to ensure excellence in teaching subjects related to the influence of music on Southern culture.

"I was raised with Southern gospel music, as well as Southern foods, despite being a native Californian," said Strickland who, starting at age four, performed gospel music with his parents.



California couple Lynne Ann DeSpelder and Albert Lee Strickland are including in their estate plans support for two endowments.

A shared interest in Southern culture led the couple to Ole Miss, where they became friends with SFA Director John T Edge.

"Albert Lee and I have long been interested in the intersection of food and culture," said DeSpelder, also a native Californian, who once spent a year exploring foods internationally and writing a weekly column about her discoveries for *The Detroit News*.

Make a Gift: Anthony Heaven, (662) 915-3083 or alheaven@olemiss.edu.

Make a Gift: Nikki Neely Davis, (662) 915-6678 or nineely@olemiss.edu.

Planned GIVING

Estate Gift to Benefit Law Students, Pay Tribute to Bell

Law students will benefit from a new scholarship made possible by a planned gift that the late alumna Barbara Bell designated in memory of her husband, Thomas A. "Tommy" Bell.

Bell's estate gift of \$546,000 establishes the Thomas A. Bell Scholarship Endowment, which will fund an academic scholarship that will provide support to entering law students. It further honors in perpetuity her late husband, Tommy, who was a founding partner and president of Daniel Coker Horton & Bell, P.A. in Jackson, Mississippi, and a UM law alumnus.

Barbara Bell earned a bachelor's degree in education from UM in 1948. During her time at Ole Miss, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Following graduation and her marriage to Tommy Bell, she and her husband moved to Oxford, Mississippi, where she was a teacher at Oxford High School. The couple relocated to Jackson in 1963, where she remained active in her church and community.

Tommy Bell was a member of the Hinds County, Mississippi State, Federal and American Bar associations, and served on the board of Bar Commissioners. In addition, he taught in the Jackson School of Law, now the Mississippi College School of Law, for 14 years.

The Grenada, Mississippi, native was a B-17 pilot in World War II, serving in the European Theater. He was recalled during the Korean War and served in the U.S. Army JAG Corps. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1969 as a lieutenant colonel.

Make a Gift: Suzette Matthews, (662) 915-1122 or suzette@olemiss.edu.



Law students (from left) TreMarcus Roseman, Catherine Norton and Allison Bruff deliver a presentation at the School of Law.

Planned Gift Benefits Pride of the South

Major Gift Supports Band Practice
Field Renovation



The late Cora Mitchell (second from left) is surrounded by friends and family at an Ole Miss football game: (from left) son Lance Mitchell, the donor, sister-in-law Helen Thomasson, family friend Marion Brown and niece Pat Thomasson.

The late Cora Mitchell was part of student-led efforts to bring the Pride of the South Marching Band back to Ole Miss during World War II. Now, a planned gift she established pays tribute to her involvement in the band.

Mitchell's gift of \$100,000 established the Cora T. Mitchell Fund that will support efforts to renovate and maintain the band practice field, where upon completion, Mitchell's name will be featured on the sideline.

"She never left a game at halftime," said Pat Thomasson, Mitchell's niece. "She wanted to be there to watch the band."

A devoted sports fan, Mitchell was known to attend high school games on Friday and Ole Miss games on Saturday and then make it to New Orleans for a Saints game on Sunday.

Mitchell and her brother, Hugh Thomasson, were part of a key group of students who were instrumental in reuniting the marching band. After a successful meeting with administrators, the students were granted permission to go forward with their plans.

Affectionately referred to as "Knootsie" by family and friends, Mitchell was born in DeKalb, Mississippi, where her mother, a teacher, emphasized the importance of hard work and education. Mitchell graduated from Ole Miss in 1946 with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Following in her mother's footsteps, she then worked two decades as a math teacher in the Kemper County School System before teaching business at East Mississippi Community College for another 20 years.

Make a Gift: Ron Wilson, (662) 915-1755 or jrwilso3@olemiss.edu.

Supporting STEM

Estate Gift to Support Active Learning Facility



Participants in the Mississippi Bridge STEM Program take notes in a class led by UM mathematics instructor Kelvin Holmes.



Maurice Lucas Kellum

A recent unrestricted gift from the estate of Maurice Lucas Kellum of Tupelo, Mississippi, is being directed to support construction of a leading student-centered science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) building on the Oxford campus.

University leaders have a vision for the 200,000-square-foot-plus building to be an important tool to bolster science literacy in Mississippi by providing active learning classrooms and state-of-the-art labs to prepare STEM majors and K-12 teachers of those subjects. The building will help address the critical need to increase STEM graduates and support economic growth in the state, region and nation.

Kellum's gift of \$187,025 will help offset building costs associated with the \$150 million project, which is poised to be the crown jewel of the university's Science District along University Avenue.

Kellum, who died in October 2017, was married for 56 years to the late Dr. William Carl "Bill" Kellum Sr., a 1950 UM graduate. He was the first board-certified internal medicine specialist in Tupelo and served as the chief of staff of the North Mississippi Medical Center. He was also a U.S. Army veteran who served in World War II.

Maurice Lucas Kellum dedicated her life to her family and her church. The Kellums had six children, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren – several of whom are Ole Miss graduates.

Make a Gift: Charlotte Parks, (662) 915-3120 or cpparks@olemiss.edu.

Benefiting Banking

Estate Gift Supports UM Banking and Finance Program



Students visit with School of Business Administration Dean Ken Cyree outside Holman Hall.

Banking and finance students in the School of Business Administration will benefit from strengthened faculty and program support thanks to an estate gift from the late Ted Cunningham, a longtime banking professional.

The Phoenix, Arizona-resident – a frequent supporter of the school's banking and finance program throughout his lifetime – bequeathed \$550,000 to the Frank R. Day/Mississippi Bankers Association Chair of Banking Endowment. The 1961 graduate earned a bachelor's degree in banking and finance.

"I recall Ted's pride in his involvement in the Financier's Club when he was a student, and his strong desire for other students to benefit as he had at Ole Miss. He was an avid supporter of our efforts to educate and graduate the best and the brightest banking and finance students, whom we hope will enter the field with transformative influence," said Ken Cyree, chair of banking and dean of the School of Business Administration. "We are extremely grateful for Ted's legacy of generous support."

The Day Chair of Banking Endowment provides salary support for the chair holder and additional funds for support staff, travel, commodities, contractual services and other expenditures of the banking and finance program.

A native of Lewistown, Pennsylvania, Cunningham was a charter member of the Financier's Club, Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Chancellor's Committee of 100 and the Concert Singers.

Upon graduation he became a field examiner for the FDIC and then joined Louisiana National Bank in Baton Rouge. In 1965 he began working for Arizona Bank in Phoenix, which ultimately became Bank of America.

Cunningham retired in 2002 after 38 years in banking.

Make a Gift: Tim Noss, (662) 915-5932 or tnoss@olemiss.edu.

SUPPORTING



As a Campaign for Children's of Mississippi Steering Committee member, Alon Bee regularly visits UMMC facilities, including the NICU.

PEDIATRICS

Alon Bee to Honor Wife's Memory with Naming of Private NICU Room

Families, children and health care were always close to Vicki Randle Bee's heart.

A gift from her husband, Alon Bee, and children, Blake Bee and Paige Bee Dodgen, will honor her memory by creating a private neonatal intensive care room in her name in the new pediatric expansion at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. The amount of the gift is undisclosed.

Bee, who was named Student of the Year in 1980 for the School of Nursing at UMMC, died in 2005 after a brief illness.

Starting her nursing career in the Medical Center's NICU, Bee went on to care for patients with special needs while raising a family.

She "embodied the spirit of nursing," Alon Bee said, "and she had a heart for children. Vicki would have been so excited about this expansion of children's health care in Mississippi."

The Bee family's gift to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi will help fund the completion of the seven-story expansion, which will more than double the square-footage of the state's only pediatric hospital.

Studies have shown that private NICU rooms where parents can help nurture their children result in better outcomes for babies and their families. Research from Cornell University published in the *Journal of Intensive Care Medicine* shows that babies heal faster and have shorter hospital stays when in private single-family rooms.

"Giving parents a place where their baby can heal and grow and where they can bond as a family is the best way we could remember Vicki," Bee said. "She would be so happy to see babies having a place where they can get the best start in life."

The current NICU was built for the care of 30 babies in an open bay, but nearly 100 babies receive care there. It is the state's only Level IV NICU, the highest, most comprehensive level of care.

Bee, who serves on the campaign's steering committee, is a faithful philanthropist to UMMC and the University of Mississippi, funding the Vicki Randle Bee Scholarship in the School of Nursing and an endowment benefiting the College of Liberal Arts.

Chosen as one of Mississippi's top CEOs for 2017 by the Mississippi Business Journal, Bee is chairman of the Jackson Advisory Board at Regions Bank. Having joined Regions in 1978, he has held various management posts at the bank and now serves as consultant to Commercial Banking, Private Wealth and Trust.

He serves as president and CEO of the Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce and is on the advisory board of the Madison County Business League and the board of directors of the Mississippi Heritage Trust, which works to preserve historic structures around the state.

Make a Gift: Visit growchildrens.org.

Major Gift Benefits Batson

fingerprints

Lead to \$1M Children's Expansion Campaign Donation



Susie and Lampkin Butts witness pediatric expansion construction for Children's of Mississippi.

Children do tend to leave fingerprints here and there.

After raising three children and now welcoming five grandchildren as regular guests, Sanderson Farms COO Lampkin Butts and wife Susie were accustomed to wiping away sticky fingerprints and admiring finger paintings.

After visiting Batson Children's Hospital each year as part of activities related to the Sanderson Farms Championship "the children there left their fingerprints on our hearts," Susie Butts said.

After learning more about the mission of the state's only children's hospital, the couple made a \$1 million gift to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, the philanthropic drive to help pay for expansion of the University of Mississippi Medical Center's pediatric facilities now under construction adjacent to the Batson Tower.

Touring Batson as part of the Sanderson Farms Championship, said Lampkin Butts, "just opened our eyes to what this hospital means to the state of Mississippi and to the children."

The couple learned that many children rely on Children's of Mississippi for life-saving treatment, Susie said, "and we met the staff and saw the love they have for their patients. It's such a special place."

The new, \$180 million, seven-story tower, expected to open in 2020, will include 88 private neonatal intensive care rooms, 10 surgical suites, additional space for pediatric intensive care and an imaging center designed for children. A pediatric outpatient clinic will feature specialties including neurology, cardiology, pulmonology, urology, gastroenterology, orthopaedic care and more in one location.

The contributions Sanderson Farms has made to the hospital through the Championship, Mississippi's only PGA TOUR event, have been gratifying, said Lampkin. "It is great to see this project underway and to know that

Sanderson Farms and Joe and Kathy (Sanderson) have had a part in making this happen.

Since Century Club

Charities, host of the Sanderson Farms Championship, announced Sanderson Farms as the tournament's title sponsor in 2013, more than \$5.5 million raised through the event has been donated to Friends of Children's Hospital, a nonprofit group that raises funds for the state's only children's hospital.

Make a Gift: Visit growchildrens.org.

Record Giving

Championship Host Awards \$1.25M gift to Children's Hospital



Celebrating a \$1.25 million donation from Century Club Charities are (from left) Children's of Mississippi patient Jordan Morgan, Steve Jent, Melanie Morgan, Guy Giesecke, Dr. LouAnn Woodward, Jeff Hubbard, Dr. Mary Taylor, Sanderson Farms CEO and board chair Joe Sanderson Jr. and patient Felton Walker.

For the fifth year in a row, Century Club Charities has broken its own record, announcing a \$1.25 million donation to Friends of Children's Hospital from the 2018 Sanderson Farms Championship.

Century Club Charities presented a check to Friends, the fundraising organization dedicated to supporting the University of Mississippi Medical Center's (UMMC) pediatric health care operation, including Batson Children's Hospital.

Since tournament host Century Club Charities announced Sanderson Farms as the tournament's title sponsor, more than \$6.2 million has been donated to support Mississippi's only children's hospital. This is the fifth consecutive year Century Club Charities has donated more than \$1 million to Friends.

The gift will go toward the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, the philanthropic effort that's helping fund a \$180 million pediatric expansion at UMMC, \$100 million of which will be through private donations. In two years, the campaign has raised more than \$70 million.

The seven-story expansion, now under construction, will be home to 88 private neonatal intensive care rooms, 10 additional operating rooms, more pediatric intensive care space, a pediatric imaging center, a specialty clinic and a new lobby. The Children's Heart Center, representing the Medical Center's pediatric cardiovascular program, will also call the new building home.

Also announced during the event was a \$125,000 donation in memory of the late Friends of Children's Hospital board chairman Sidney Allen. A Friends board member for 22 years, Allen died in November 2018.

Make a Gift: Visit growchildrens.org.

A Powerful Gift

Entergy's \$500k Donation Helps Power Children's Campaign



Holding a ceremonial \$500,000 donation check to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi are (from left) Entergy Mississippi president and CEO Haley Fisackerly, Dr. Mary Taylor, chair of pediatrics, Guy Giesecke, CEO of Children's of Mississippi and Jonathan Wilson, UMMC Chief Administrative Officer.

Entergy Mississippi has invested in the families they serve through a \$500,000 donation to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi.

"Children's health care is important to any company," said Haley Fisackerly, president and CEO of Entergy Mississippi, "and we are proud to partner with Children's of Mississippi and serve this new facility."

Entergy Mississippi serves about 449,000 customers in 45 of Mississippi's 82 counties. Entergy companies employ some 2,200 Mississippians, and more than 1,200 Entergy retirees live in the state.

The energy provider's philanthropic focus is to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves.

The \$100 million pediatric expansion adjacent to the state's only children's hospital, Batson, includes 88 private neonatal intensive care rooms. The current neonatal intensive care unit at University of Mississippi Medical Center was built for about 30 babies but routinely offers care to three times that number.

Also included is additional space for pediatric intensive care and for surgery.

"We are caring for the state's smallest and most medically fragile newborns and are seeing outcomes similar to the nation's top children's hospitals in a hospital that we've outgrown," said Dr. Mary Taylor, the Susan B. Thames Chair, professor and chair of pediatrics. "This expansion will provide us with a new facility that will match the skills of our expert caregivers."

When Batson patients need CT scans and MRIs, they use an imaging center designed for adults. In this new construction, a kid-friendly imaging center will be available. Additionally, an outpatient specialty clinic will be close by, placing pediatric experts in one location on the UMMC campus.

Make a Gift: Visit growchildrens.org.

A Landmark Season

The continued support of Rebel Nation led to yet another landmark season on the field for Ole Miss Athletics. The Rebel men's cross country and women's golf teams each secured the first Southeastern Conference titles in their history, giving Ole Miss four team SEC titles over the past three seasons. A total of 13 Rebel sports competed in NCAA Postseason action in 2018-19. The Rebels earned 48 All-SEC selections and 33 All-America selections, while 15 Rebels were chosen in professional drafts.

In addition to the success on the field, Ole Miss student-athletes had a benchmark year in the classroom. Ole Miss recorded the highest APR score in program history with a multiyear average of 990, seven points above the national average. For the fifth straight season, the Rebels broke the department record for Graduation Success Rate at 85 percent, including five sports with a perfect 100 percent GSR. Rebel student-athletes also notched the highest cumulative departmental GPA in history at 3.032. Two Rebel student-athletes were named Taylor Medal recipients, and a total of 228 student-athletes were named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll, in addition to 55 national academic honorees.

While the Rebel student-athletes continue to raise the bar, the Ole Miss Athletic department has done the same, earning awards for excellence in video productions, publications and more, highlighted by the 2019 Technology Innovation Award for Athletics Departments, bestowed by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics and CDW-G.

The Ole Miss Athletics Foundation received \$29.3 million in total cash for the 2019 fiscal year, thanks to its continuously generous supporters. To date, the *Forward Together* campaign has totaled \$181.7 million of its \$200 million goal for capital improvements to facilities for student-athletes.

"The support provided by the friends and family of Ole Miss Athletics this year has been nothing short of remarkable," said Interim Athletics Director Keith Carter. "Thanks to the generous and selfless contributions made by our donors and supporters, Rebel Nation has persevered and achieved success even in a challenging time. As we begin the 2019-20 school year with those challenges in our rearview mirror, we can now move forward and continue to build this great athletic department and this great university together."

The athletic department now closes the book on a spectacular 2018-19 season and looks forward to the next chapter. The football program recently completed a \$1.2 million renovation to the Manning Center training room. With a bowl bid in its sights, the Ole Miss football program opens 2019 play with a nearby road matchup at Memphis on Aug. 31. Just one week later, fans will fill The Grove once again when SEC football returns to Vaught-Hemingway Stadium on Sept. 7. Matt Luke and the Rebels begin conference play and their seven-game home schedule, hosting the Arkansas Razorbacks. On the gridiron and off, the Ole Miss athletic teams are brimming with excitement as they look forward to more triumphs and postseason successes on the horizon.

BAND OF BROTHERS HANKINS GIFT

Supports Ole Miss Athletics



JD, David and Harold Wayne Hankins (seated, from left) love to support the Rebels. Joining them are (standing, from left) Jordie Kindervater, associate director for development; Matt McLaughlin, associate director for development; Beverly Hankins, Rita Hankins, Patsy Hankins, and Interim Athletics Director Keith Carter.

The Hankins name is stamped on every piece of lumber that leaves the family's Ripley, Mississippi, mill.

"It represents that our family believes in the quality of the product we produce," said David Hankins, a registered forester and the eldest of three brothers.

Soon, the Hankins name will appear on Gate 15 of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium and will represent the family's support for Ole Miss Athletics.

David and Rita Hankins, J.D. and Beverly Hankins, and Harold Wayne and Patsy Hankins recently made a \$250,000 gift to the Forward Together campaign for Ole Miss Athletics, which bolsters facilities and programs for student-athletes.

The brothers and their wives rarely miss a game. They sit together in the stands; they laugh and cheer together; and they're best friends.

J.D. Hankins, a 1976 graduate who earned a bachelor's degree in accounting with an emphasis in marketing, credits that relationship and the family's faith — both nurtured by their mother — for the financial success that enables them to give back.

"It wasn't a gravy train; it was a battle all the way," he said. "We've really been blessed through it all. God really took care of us."

In 1988, the brothers decided to sell their interest in a previous lumber business and start the Ripley company by purchasing an existing sawmill. Now, the mill has a production capacity nine times that of its first year.

The Hankins' gift is part of the Athletics Foundation's drive to honor donors with naming opportunities for each entrance gate.

Make a Gift: Visit <http://givetoathletics.com/gates>.

Forward Together

Friou's Gift Strengthens Ole Miss Athletics



Just prior to choosing their gate at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium, Susie and Roger Friou enjoyed a visit with Interim Athletics Director Keith Carter (left) and Matt Mossberg (right) associate athletics director for development.

New signage at Gate 14 of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium will serve as a lasting tribute to alumnus Roger Friou and his wife, Susie, who recently made a major gift in support of Ole Miss Athletics.

"The NCAA issue really impacted our program, but we're gradually coming back. We must have resources for scholarships. So that's the purpose of my gift: to help the program continue to award scholarships and improve what we're doing," said Roger Friou, who graduated with a bachelor's and master's degree in accountancy in 1956 and 1959 respectively.

The Ridgeland, Mississippi, couple's \$250,000 gift is part of the Athletics Foundation's drive to honor donors with naming opportunities for each of the stadium's entrance gates.

Friou might have attended a different university, except his mother, Annie Belle H. Friou of Tupelo, Mississippi, sought the advice of a family friend on the best accountancy program available for her only child.

In turn, Friou assures many young people also enjoy the benefits of his alma mater's accountancy program through scholarships and other support, as well as utilizing his accountancy background through alumni service to strengthen the overall university.

A past chair of the UM Foundation, Friou served the UMF Investment Committee as chairman of its audit committee, the Accountancy Advisory Board and the Ole Miss Alumni Association.

"I would hasten to tell alumni that without private gifts, Ole Miss would not be the university we know. Our future is unlimited as far as continually moving ahead, but resources are an absolute requirement."

Friou began his career at Standard Oil (now Chevron) and retired as vice chairman and CFO of Jitney Jungle Stores of America in 1997.

Make a Gift: Visit givetoathletics.com/gates.

Paying It Forward

Planned Gift Establishes Unrestricted Scholarship

Andy Prefontaine built bridges in the summertime to pay his way through college.

"At that time, the interstate was being built in Connecticut, and my oldest brother was a foreman," recalls Prefontaine of Indianapolis, Indiana. He also took out a student loan. He knows there's value in hard work but admits a scholarship would have helped.

Now, as CEO of Family Leisure — a multistate retailer of pools, furnishings and recreation equipment — Prefontaine wants to pay his blessings forward by including Ole Miss in his estate plans. His unrestricted gift, with an estimated value of \$423,000, establishes the Andy and Deborah Prefontaine Scholarship Endowment.

He also made a \$250,000 gift to Athletics, which will be recognized with his family name displayed on Gate 6 of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.



An avid sports fan, Andy Prefontaine enjoys spending time on campus with Interim Athletics Director Keith Carter (left).

"I came from a very humble background: first-generation American parents who were textile workers," Prefontaine said. "I grew up with very little. I know life can be challenging. God blessed my work, so I feel like I have an obligation to pay it forward."

An avid follower of collegiate sports, he became a Rebel fan when his son, Kevin, attended UM in the mid-1990s.

"I just fell in love with everything that goes on. Over the years, people assumed I went to Ole Miss and I got tired of telling them I didn't, so I enrolled," said Prefontaine, who took a Russian history class. "Now I can truthfully say I went to Ole Miss!"

Make a Gift: Visit give.olemiss.edu.

A Surprise Gift

Friends Establish Scholarship to Honor Women's Council Chair



Friends of Mary Susan Gallien-Clinton, chair of the Ole Miss Women's Council (OMWC), surprised her with a \$125,000 scholarship endowment in her name.

"This generous family has afforded tremendous opportunities and created a legacy that will live on through our scholars' lives," Clinton said. "These scholarships will fuel the passion within these scholars to continually strive for success in their areas of strength, while exposing them to new experiences and opportunities."

In addition to their academic pursuits, scholarship recipients are given the opportunity to participate in leadership development and mentoring that includes internship support, workshops, networking and travel, both nationally and abroad.

Clinton began her career after Ole Miss as a stockbroker with Morgan Keegan before founding Gallien Global Vision — an award-winning, international wildlife documentary company. She also is founder of the medical skin care line Renaitre and is active on a number of civic boards and capital campaigns.

Now in its 19th year, the OMWC has built a scholarship endowment totaling approximately \$15.5 million, one of the largest on campus.

Make a Gift: Suzanne Helveston, (662) 915-2956, shelveston@olemiss.edu.



Mary Susan Clinton (fourth from right) visits with OMWC scholars at the council's 2018 Christmas party at the home of Mary and Sam Haskell. Scholars are (from left) Colton Terrell, Samantha Simpson, Francena Sekul, Meagan Harkins, Alexis Rose, Alexandria Seals, Amelia DeWitt, Mikayla Johnson and John Marquez.

Celebrating 20 Exceptional Years, OMWC to Present 2020 Legacy Award to Dolly Parton



The roses — or students — of the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy (OMWC) are thriving, as the groundbreaking program celebrates its 20th anniversary and makes plans to present its 2020 Legacy Award to entertainer and philanthropist Dolly Parton.

A Feb. 14, 2020, dinner-dance on the group's actual anniversary will highlight generous scholarship, Global Leadership Circle and Rose Society donors, while seeking to raise more funds for programming through an auction of exclusive opportunities.

On April 18, 2020, the OMWC Legacy Award will be presented to Parton — the first country music legend to be named MusicCares Person of the Year (2019) and founder of the Imagination Library, My People Fund and the Dollywood Foundation. An event is being planned to let children hear Parton read from her favorite books, and the Legacy Award recipient will be honored at a dinner later that day. For sponsorship information, contact Meg Sinervo at meg@olemiss.edu or 662-915-7273.

The OMWC began with a group of dedicated women committed to promoting philanthropy to sponsor innovative programs that would attract and develop students through leadership, scholarship and mentorship.

The OMWC's endowed scholarship funds now total almost \$15.5 million. The scholarships — among the top awards at Ole Miss at \$40,000 each — have supported 149 male and female students to date. Scholarship recipients benefit from life and career mentors, leadership training, and cultural and travel opportunities.



Hollingsworth Honors Sisters with Scholarship Naming

Ole Miss Women's Council Scholars to Benefit from New Endowments



Dr. Gerald M. "Doc" Hollingsworth committed a \$500,000 planned gift to establish two scholarships in honor of his sisters Ida Jo Gallant (left) and Billie Nell Jensen.

Dr. Gerald M. "Doc" Hollingsworth and his siblings have always been close.

Growing up in Centreville, Mississippi, his sister, Jo, two years his senior, considered herself literally her brother's keeper. In turn, Hollingsworth would dote on his baby sister, Billy Nell.

"They're very sweet sisters. I guess mainly they remind me of my mother — the sweetest woman I ever knew," said Hollingsworth, a 1953 UM graduate who has committed a \$500,000 planned gift to establish two scholarships in honor of his sisters.

The Ida Jo Gallant Ole Miss Women's Council Scholarship Endowment and the Billie Nell Jensen Ole Miss Women's Council Scholarship Endowment will support full-time entering freshmen with proven academic ability and leadership potential. In addition to their studies, recipients will be expected to participate in mentoring and leadership development programs sponsored by the OMWC.

"I hope the scholarships will give students the same opportunity I had when I went to Ole Miss and make it possible for them to get out of a life of financial struggle and become productive citizens and good members of their community," Hollingsworth said.

"We are just so happy and feel so honored he would do this for us," Gallant said. "It was really kind of a surprise. We are just so happy he thought enough to honor us in his donation."

Hollingsworth has devoted a lifetime to taking care of his patients, monitoring the health of high school athletes, championing competition for intellectually challenged youth and providing major resources for his alma mater's athletic programs.

Make a Gift: Suzanne Helveston, (662) 915-7273 or shelveston@olemiss.edu.

Remembering Lori



New Scholarship Honors Late Alumna's Favorite Professor



Members of Lori Sneed's family (from left) brother Johnny, mother Patti, and father Shorty Sneed — are joined by honoree Colby Kullman (right) at a recent OMWC Rose Garden Ceremony.

As an Ole Miss student, the late Lori Sneed almost instantly formed a special bond with English professor Colby Kullman, and soon the feeling was mutual. Now, the two "great friends" will be linked in perpetuity by a new Ole Miss Women's Council (OMWC) scholarship endowment bearing their names.

The \$250,000 Lori Sneed Council Scholarship Endowment in Honor of Colby H. Kullman, Professor Emeritus was established as a gift to the university by Sneed's parents, John B. "Shorty" and Patti Sneed of Gulfport, Mississippi.

The scholarship's recipients will be entering freshmen who are English majors chosen by financial need, academic ability and leadership potential. In addition to their academic pursuits, the scholars will be expected to participate in leadership development and mentoring sponsored by the OMWC and the Lott Leadership Institute.

"We are deeply honored that Colby allowed us to honor him along with Lori because he was her favorite teacher, without a doubt," Shorty Sneed said.

Lori Sneed, who died of liver cancer in July 2017 at age 44, suffered a paralyzing spinal cord injury in a 1991 car accident during her freshman year. After months of rehab, she returned to the Oxford campus to complete her degree.

At Ole Miss, Lori Sneed was a campus Favorite, member of Pi Beta Phi, member of the Committee on Disabilities and a two-time winner of the Most Beautiful Eyes on campus contest. After graduation, she moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where she worked in public information for CNN from 1997 to 2006.

Make a Gift: Suzanne Helveston, (662) 915-2956, shelveston@olemiss.edu.



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