

FOUNDATION *News*

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR



UM Chancellor
Glenn Boyce

Inspiring. If I had to choose a word to describe this year's Foundation News, it would be inspiring. I'm inspired by the work and accomplishments that happen across the University of Mississippi every day. And I'm inspired by you, our loyal donors, whose engagement is integral to the many successes of our Ole Miss family. Thank you for your commitment to serving our students and upholding excellence on our campuses.

There have been some great developments over the past year that keep us steadfast on our path forward. We celebrated the Duff family's \$26 million commitment to our state-of-the-art science, technology, engineering and mathematics facility (see page 2). We set new records with Century Club Charities' \$1.3 million gift to Friends of Children's Hospital, which will go toward bringing the University of Mississippi Medical Center's seven-story pediatric expansion to completion. And in the fall, we all cheered "Hotty Toddy" with the hiring of Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Keith Carter and Coach Lane Kiffin.

As you are aware, 2020 also brought tremendous challenges with COVID-19, but seeing our university community step up has been amazing. We saw this in how our faculty and

staff quickly transitioned classes to online or alternative formats, never missing a beat in educating our students. We witnessed this in how our Medical Center selflessly served on the front lines, from comforting patients to spearheading free screening. And, we appreciated this same determination in the way you generously contributed to crucial services that supported our students through this crisis.

The impact of your gifts and the strength of the Ole Miss family have never been more evident. They are a big part of how we deliver life-changing educational opportunities, provide invaluable leadership experiences, field competitive athletic programs and engage in meaningful research and service that improve lives.

Thank you for all you do!



MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR



Foundation Board Chair
Suzan Thames

As I read this year's Foundation News, I'm greatly encouraged by what I see: evidence that the University of Mississippi is moving forward in the face of crisis, as it has so many times before. It is incredibly heartening to see members of my UM family continuing to support our beloved university, giving generously to establish scholarships,

improve facilities, support faculty and build new programs that will benefit our students for generations to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for Chancellor Glenn Boyce. Already, he has faced numerous challenges that have once again placed Ole Miss in the national spotlight. He has navigated each issue with valor and diplomacy. I am grateful to have someone of his caliber and expertise guiding our university and I look forward to the many positives his administration will bring. Likewise, I know you join me in my super enthusiasm for Ole Miss football with Lane Kiffin poised to lead our Rebels to victory. Welcome Coach Kiffin!

Finally, as the University of Mississippi Medical Center has impacted my life for decades, I call your special attention to pages 22-27, where you can read of the campaign for Children's Hospital and other generous gifts supporting our Medical Center. UMMC continues to be on the forefront of selfless healthcare in Mississippi. We should all be very proud of the phenomenal work our medical professionals are doing in the face of COVID-19, serving our state in nothing less than a heroic manner.

The simple words "thank you" seem inadequate in expressing the depth of my gratitude for your gifts during these uncertain times. Please know that you are greatly appreciated and that your support truly makes a difference in the lives of so many.



DUFFS MAKE \$26 MILLION GIFT

Business leaders commit to STEM education in Mississippi



Businessmen and brothers Jim Duff and Thomas Duff of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, visit with Ole Miss students about their gift of \$26 million toward construction of a new STEM facility. The Jim and Thomas Duff Center for Science and Technology Innovation has a goal of increasing the number of STEM graduates and offering outreach to K-12 teachers in STEM disciplines. Pictured front row, left to right, Chelsea Carter, Morgan Whited, Johnny Yang; second row, Matthew Knerr, Valerie Quach, Chinwe Udemgba, Thomas Duff, and Bobbie Duff; third row, Sherry Duff, Jim Duff, and Chancellor Glenn Boyce.

With eyes on increasing job opportunities and boosting the economy, business leaders and brothers Jim and Thomas Duff, of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, committed \$26 million to the construction of a state-of-the-art science, technology, engineering and mathematics facility at the University of Mississippi.

It's the top gift for the 202,000-square-foot building, which will be the largest single construction project in Oxford campus history, with a \$160 million total project budget. The Jim and Thomas Duff Center for Science and Technology Innovation is projected to be one of the nation's leading student-centered learning environments for STEM education.

"There is a critical need to increase the number of graduates in STEM fields to support growth and innovation in our state, region and nation, and strengthen the pipeline for training engineers, tech entrepreneurs, and science and math teachers," said Chancellor Glenn Boyce. "We are deeply grateful to the Duff brothers for this significant investment in our vision to produce graduates who fulfill critical needs, improve STEM teaching in our education systems and contribute as scientifically aware citizens in our society."

"Jim and Thomas are dedicated to enriching educational opportunities in Mississippi, and we guarantee that their investment will have a significant return as its far-reaching impact is felt. In the

coming years, STEM job creation will outpace non-STEM jobs, and STEM professionals earn higher salaries, yielding more attractive opportunities for our students in Mississippi and beyond."

The Gertrude C. Ford Foundation of Jackson, Mississippi, made the first commitment to the then planned science center with a gift of \$20 million. The foundation's additional gift of \$5 million for the building will be honored by the naming of the Gertrude C. Ford Way. Picking up where the Walk of Champions ends at the edge of the Grove, Ford Way will serve as the major artery through the Science District used by thousands of students, alumni and friends each year.

"Without the foresight and early commitment of the Ford Foundation, we would not be in a position to start on this important addition to our campus," said Boyce. "We are grateful for the foundation's longtime and ongoing generous support."

Thomas Duff, a member of the state Institutions of Higher Learning board – the governing body responsible for policy and financial oversight of the state's eight public universities – shared the motivation behind the gift.

"Jim and I recognize the importance of educating Mississippi students in STEM fields," he said. "It is absolutely crucial to our state's future to have an educated STEM workforce. In addition, we

want to see talented high school graduates in our state have exceptional opportunities to prepare for some of the most rewarding careers possible. It's what they deserve, and it's what Mississippi needs."

The Duff brothers contributed \$1 million previously to support UM's Flagship Constellations in memory of their father, the late Ernest Duff, who was the first in his family to pursue higher education. He earned an undergraduate and law degree from Ole Miss, where he served as the Associated Student Body president, was inducted into the student Hall of Fame, served on the Mississippi Law Journal staff and graduated first in his law school class.

In addition, Jim Duff's daughters, Margaret and Caroline, are law and liberal arts students, respectively, at Ole Miss.

"Tommy and I are impressed that part of the STEM facility's mission will involve outreach to our state's kindergarten-through-high school teachers."

Jim Duff said his family values educational opportunities and wants to expand them in Mississippi.

"Tommy and I are impressed that part of the STEM facility's mission will involve outreach to our state's kindergarten-through-high school teachers," Duff said. "We need our teachers introducing the idea of STEM fields to their students, inspiring them to major in STEM fields in college."

SUPPORT FOR STEM STUDENTS

Named endowment benefits freshmen

"This outreach will also include STEM activities for the community, improving the overall science literacy of our state and region."

According to the National Math and Science Initiative, 60 percent of jobs created in the 21st century will require skills possessed by only 20 percent of the current workforce. The United States may be short as many as 1 million skilled workers over the next decade. The nation ranks 17th worldwide for the number of science degrees awarded annually.

The additional space and technological advances offered by the Jim and Thomas Duff Center for Science and Technology Innovation are critical to serving the student enrollment.

Located in the Science District, with one side facing the Grove and another facing Vaught-Hemingway Stadium and The Pavilion, it will house lecture halls as well as chemistry, biology, physics, engineering and computer science labs. Lower student-instructor ratios will be in place, and various disciplines will be spread throughout the building to promote interdisciplinary teaching and learning.

Among other building highlights, students will enjoy technology-enabled active learning, or TEAL, labs and a visualization lab, similar to a small IMAX theater for 3D visualization. Engineering students will have access to dedicated lab spaces, including fabrication and testing equipment, for their senior design projects.

Several common areas will give students space to study, and a STEM tutoring center will provide additional support.

Such innovations appealed to the Duff brothers, who are widely known for their entrepreneurial spirit and for responding to opportunities with solutions, Thomas Duff said.

What began as a small-town enterprise quickly grew under the leadership of the Duff brothers, who saw a unique opening for the development of solution-providing companies. That forward-thinking force became Duff Capital Investors, a privately-owned company headquartered in Columbia.

DCI comprises 20 companies, providing more than 13,000 employment opportunities across the nation and exceeding \$3 billion in total revenues.

A gift to the university will provide scholarships for math and chemistry majors while memorializing the 55-year marriage of a couple who met over breakfast on the Oxford campus.

Established with \$250,000, the Millie Nichols and Orga V. Craig Memorial Scholarship Endowment will benefit freshmen seeking degrees in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) program (see opposite page).

The late O.V. Craig of Kingwood, Texas, grew up on a cotton farm as a sharecropper in Olive Branch, Mississippi — raised by his mother and step-father who struggled to make ends meet after his father had been killed in an electrical accident. College would have been unobtainable for Craig if not for the generosity of a local man who provided financial assistance to youth.

"He was always grateful, crediting that scholarship as the means to escape the extreme poverty he endured as a young man," said David O. Craig of Klein, Texas, the Craigs' elder of two sons.

"Our father was always a very generous person, both with his time and money, and he always had a special place in his heart for those who came from nothing."

As their father neared the end of his battle with Alzheimer's in December 2017, David Craig and his brother, Dr. Brian N. Craig of Beaumont, Texas, encouraged their mother to create the named endowment, enabling generations of deserving students to be able to attend UM.

"Essentially, we're hoping to give bright students an opportunity to attend the University of Mississippi who may not have the financial resources," said Millie Craig, who was raised in the Mississippi Delta.

O.V. Craig earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1957. After a stint in the U.S. Air Force at Edwards Air Force Base, he returned to Ole Miss to complete additional courses in math.

"Mom and Dad met that summer in the cafeteria while eating breakfast," David Craig said. Millie Craig earned degrees in mathematics in 1961 and 1962 respectively.

O.V. Craig began his career as a systems analyst for Gulf Oil Corp. in Port Arthur, Texas, while his wife taught school for a year before choosing to stay home when the couple's sons were born.

When her husband was transferred to Houston in 1973, Millie Craig began a distinguished career of volunteerism and community service, becoming one of the state's first volunteer female firefighters. During her tenure with the Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department and Kingwood Area Emergency Services, she served as fire chief.

Millie Craig and her Isom Hall roommate at Ole Miss, Barbara Beckmann of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, shared a friendship that endures today.

"She is smart, adventuresome, fun and loyal," said Beckmann, adding that it was "a real treat" to reconnect with Millie on campus during the Texas A&M football weekend in 2019.

During that visit, the two reminisced about their days in the residence hall, "doing a few little pranks, such as trying to make a rocket out of a cigarette and matches," she said. "It didn't work!"

What is successful, though, is Craig's endowment.

"It is a fantastic way to pay back for what we received at Ole Miss and allow others to receive the benefits of an Ole Miss education," said Beckmann, senior associate with ExxonMobil and a 1961 UM chemical engineering graduate. "I am reminded frequently how much more we received than those educated at other schools!"



Millie Craig (left) and her college roommate Barbara Beckmann enjoyed a golf-cart tour of campus during the 2019 Texas A&M football weekend.

MAKE A GIFT: Charlotte Parks

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

WILLIE MORRIS AWARDS MOVE TO UM

Gift ensures awards to be given in perpetuity



Dave and Reba White Williams established a \$3 million endowment to oversee the University of Mississippi's administration of the Willie Morris Awards for Southern Writing.

A generous New England-based couple with deep roots in the South, aware of the close relationship between a late-great Mississippi author and the Oxford community, is moving the celebrated Willie Morris Awards for Southern Writing from New York City to the University of Mississippi.

With their \$3 million gift to the UM Department of Writing and Rhetoric, Reba White Williams and Dave Williams established an endowment to oversee the administration of the Willie Morris Awards.

"From a state known for producing star-studded literary talent, Willie Morris remains a legendary Mississippi author, journalist and teacher more than two decades after his death," Chancellor Glenn Boyce said of the Williams' desire to establish the endowment.

"We are honored by Reba and Dave's gift, and we are grateful that they entrusted the University of Mississippi to serve as the steward for this literary prize," Boyce added. "We are committed to taking this award to new heights and growing the legacies created by the Williamses and Willie Morris."

Stephen Monroe, chair of the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, said the department is moving quickly to ensure a seamless transition.

"We will proudly carry on this wonderful

tradition, which celebrates contemporary writing in the South and which honors Willie Morris, one of the best editors and writers to ever come from Mississippi," Monroe said.

Morris was a colorful, renowned and respected editor and author from Yazoo City, Mississippi; he was a writer-in-residence and instructor at UM from 1980 to 1991. The youngest editor to ever lead Harper's Magazine, Morris also found great success as a writer, especially with his non-fiction works like "North Toward Home," "My Dog Skip" and "The Courting of Marcus Dupree."

The donors, now of Connecticut but originally from Mississippi and Texas, respectively, created the awards in 2008 to promote Southern writers, especially contemporary ones, while also preserving the life and legacy of Morris, their longtime family friend.

"Reba and I are very pleased that Ole Miss is taking over something we hold dear," Dave Williams said. "When we visited Oxford last spring, we were favorably impressed by the town, the department, the beauty of campus, and the enthusiasm of the leadership of the university. We think the awards have found a happy home."

To ensure that the awards can be given in perpetuity, the Williamses established the

Reba White Williams and Dave Williams Endowment with their gift.

"While the Department of Writing and Rhetoric is the leader on this project, we plan to involve faculty and friends from across our community," Monroe said.

A local advisory board is being formed now and already includes Richard Howorth from Square Books, Derrick Harriell from the Department of English, Jimmy Thomas from the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, Curtis Wilkie from the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics, Larry Sparks from the Office of Finance and Administration, Jennifer Ford from the UM Libraries, and David Crews from the U.S. District Court in Oxford.

The Morris Awards ceremony that will now be held in the Oxford-university community every fall adds to a current lineup of annual compelling literary-themed events that includes the Oxford Conference for the Book, Southern Writers/Southern Writing Graduate Conference and the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference.

The recipient of the Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction receives \$10,000 and an expense-paid trip to the awards ceremony in Oxford. The prize will be awarded to the au-



Willie Morris

thor of a book chosen for its prose, originality, sense of place and period, and the authenticity and appeal of its characters.

The recipient of the Willie Morris Award for Southern Poetry receives \$2,500

and an expense-paid trip to Oxford. The prize will be awarded to a poet for an original, unpublished poem that evokes the American South. The Willie Morris Award for Southern Non-Fiction will be added in 2021.

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ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

Planned gift will establish chair in Business Administration

Alumnus Bill Fry believes great teachers help nurture and develop great students and leaders.

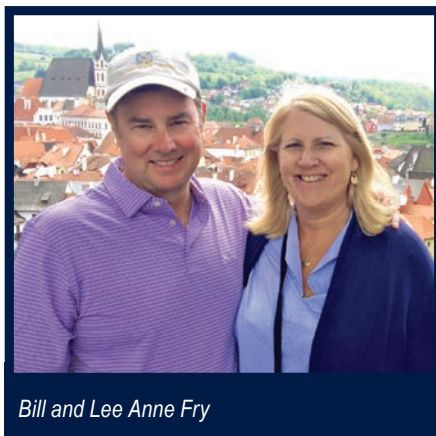
Fry, who earned his bachelor's degree in public administration from the university in 1980, and his wife, Lee Anne, designated \$1.5 million of their estate as a planned gift that will seed the Bill and Lee Anne Fry Chair in Business Administration Endowment.

The endowment will provide income for the recruitment and/or retention of an outstanding faculty member in the School of Business Administration to ensure that quality teaching, research and service will be available for future generations of students.

"We are grateful for the generosity of the Fry family and how their gift will create new educational opportunities for our business students," said Chancellor Glenn Boyce. "It's always inspiring when alumni give back because of how their degree and experiences at this university contributed to their successes. This commitment and support will help us build on the standard of excellence expected of our Business School graduates."

Income from the endowment will be used to provide salary supplements that would support the appointment of a nationally recognized scholar in the areas of strategy, leadership, operations and marketing or other support deemed appropriate by the dean.

"Lee Anne and I know that one great professor impacts so many lives," said Fry, a resident of New York, New York. "This endowed chair is a way to help generations of students who will learn from the educator named to it. We hope our children



Bill and Lee Anne Fry

will one day read success stories about this chair holder's students."

Inducted in 2012 into the Ole Miss Alumni Association Hall of Fame, Fry himself is a UM success story. He earned a master's degree from Harvard Business School in 1990. Between undergraduate and graduate schools, he spent eight years in the U.S. Navy, last serving as a lieutenant in the Nuclear Propulsion Program.

Fry joined American Securities in 2010 as one of the company's first seven partners. American Securities is a New York-based private equity fund with \$30 billion under management. Previously, he was CEO of the Oreck Corp. and has also helmed several entities owned by various private equity firms and public companies, holding positions as president of the Dixie Group, CEO of Bell Sports and Bell Riddell, and president of Easton Bell Sports.

"Lee Anne and I understand from experience the value of great teachers as instructors,

mentors and friends," Fry said. "In our own lives, Dr. Vaughn Grisham has served in that role since I graduated. There are likely thousands of untold stories regarding the tremendous impact great professors have on students."

Grisham and Fry have kept in touch through the years and are now close friends.

"Bill is simply brilliant. And he's not just brilliant, but he's just a fine human being too," Grisham said. "I make a special effort to try to get to know all of my students well, and there's no question that Bill was just a special student."

Fry's involvement as an active member of the School of Business Administration advisory board for more than 15 years has enabled him to develop close relationships with Dean Ken Cyree and a number of professors.

"In speaking with Ken, we understand that our Business School needs chairs to deliver our mission," Fry said, explaining that UM has 5 chairs in business compared to 17 chairs at LSU, for example. "Endowed chairs will enhance the dean's ability to recruit great talent in the areas of teaching and research and will help Ole Miss continue to be a leader in business education."

As an undergraduate, Fry was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and the Navy ROTC. Lee Anne Fry is a graduate of Auburn University and worked for the CIA in Washington, D.C., where they met. They have two grown children.

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

Donors Help Students During Pandemic

A swift \$200,000 response came from donors who supported urgent needs related to pandemic closures, both on campus and off. In a second wave, donors added almost \$22,000 more in gifts.

The contributions gave small grants to students in good academic standing to clear the balance on their accounts and keep them enrolled.

The funds are also addressing alumni and student needs through new Career Center projects aimed at helping graduates of all ages navigate the worst job market most of them have ever faced. A new, user-friendly software platform for student, alumni and employer access was already in the works.

Since the coronavirus pandemic first hit Mississippi in March, students have applied for and received nearly all the money raised in this effort and for the Christopher C. Holman Student Emergency Fund.

In addition, eligible students in need received more than \$6.5 million in aid from the federal government through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act.

The Food Bank – a resource for all members of the university community – saw unprecedented demand. In six weeks through March and April 2020, the Food Bank provided 2,500 meals, double the normal demand in an entire semester.

University Health Services, a resource for students, faculty and staff, also prepared for increased demand by purchasing additional personal protective equipment (PPE), coronavirus testing kits and supplies. Like all health clinics and hospitals, University Health Services has stepped up safety protocols during the pandemic.

"Just like people everywhere, our students are grappling with an unknown future and have many needs," said Charlotte Fant Pegues, interim vice chancellor for Student Affairs. "No matter what the coming months hold, our university's priority is helping students have the resources and preparation necessary to enjoy meaningful careers and lives."

MAKE A GIFT: Visit <https://ignite.olemiss.edu/RebelRelief>

A GIFT FOR FUTURE ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Langmessers make major commitment to College of Liberal Arts

James Langmessenger – who, with his wife, Traute, has made a \$1 million planned gift to the University of Mississippi – becomes animated when talking about the course offerings he encountered as a student.

“It was a veritable feast to look at all the courses I could take,” said the retired military leader and business executive who has lived and traveled all over the world. “I enrolled in wonderful courses. The professors were exceptional and prepared us well.”

When the Chicago, Illinois, native took a course closer to home one summer, a fellow attending student from the University of Michigan made a condescending remark about him being from Ole Miss. In response Langmessenger decided to push the grading curve so high with his academic performance that everyone in the class would remember the quality of his UM schooling.

Near the course’s end, he shared a bus ride with the Harvard University-trained professor teaching the class. The instructor asked if Langmessenger’s academic performance would be considered normal for an Ole Miss student. His response was, “Of course.”

The 1969 graduate in English and history, also holds a master’s degree from Pepperdine University. Langmessenger chose his college home by studying catalogs to identify scholarship opportunities. Now he and his wife are paying it forward with a gift for UM’s College of Liberal Arts.

“The University of Mississippi is a place that enriched my life, and I want to help those students who follow me,” Langmessenger said.



Traute and James Langmessenger

His commitment is shared by his wife, who once shared wisdom with Ole Miss students the couple met.

“Look around – see all this,” she said referring to the academic buildings. “You didn’t build it but you are going to be responsible for sustaining it.”

Traute Langmessenger’s career was in education, serving as a principal in the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg and co-authoring a geography textbook.

Langmessenger’s first wife, Helga, was a native of Germany, and after her death, he wed Traute, also from Germany.

“I found their love of learning and belief in the power of education inspiring and encouraging. I’ve never left a visit with this couple, without a book recommendation or new knowledge,” said Nikki Neely Davis, an executive director of development. “There is no doubt that their generosity will have a positive impact on deserving students for years to come.”

James Langmessenger was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in ROTC and went on to serve top leadership positions in the U.S. Army including being stationed in Germany and with The Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

After retiring, he joined CALIBRE Systems in Alexandria, Virginia, as a principal and a director of Strategic Decision Support.

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

ADVOCATE FOR THE ARTS

Gift establishes film production studio fund



Nancye Starnes of Charleston, South Carolina, an ardent supporter of the arts at her alma mater, has created a film production studio fund to support a new facility and professional training for Ole Miss students.

A love for the arts since childhood led Nancye Starnes of Charleston, S.C., to support a new film production program that will offer high-quality professional training and a new production facility for students.

The alumna’s gift of \$200,000 establishes the Nancye Starnes Film Production Studio Fund in the College of Liberal Arts.

“I love film and storytellers! This Bachelor of Fine Arts in film production is new and exciting. It’s especially attractive to creative students and potentially career building in ways that people my age can’t begin to imagine,” said Starnes, who earned a bachelor’s degree in education.

Michael Barnett, chair of theatre and film, said the gift will fulfill

one of the program’s goals – to have a world-class production facility.

“With Ms. Starnes’ generous gift, we’re able to equip our new production facility with the latest in video and editing technology, allowing us to get our young film program off to an excellent start,” he said.

“Our students will begin working with professional equipment in their first year and when they graduate they’ll enter the job market with high-level skills.”

The Department of Theatre and Film began offering an undergraduate degree in film production as a major in the fall of 2018. Previously, students could only minor in cinema; however, Barnett said the new program offers students significantly more experience.

“We’ve already seen a lot of student success in filmmaking through the minor, with a number of students having their films accepted for film festivals, not just here but internationally,” Barnett said.

Starnes said she hopes the program and film production studio will be an inspiration for current and future students.

“I hope this program will increasingly attract creative, talented students to the Ole Miss campus both from in state and out of state. These undergraduates, with their unfolding stories, are our best promise for helping us to understand this sometimes strange, often wacky world we are all trying to live in together.

“What a marvelously instructive, entertaining vehicle for them to use to add their contributions. And, they will be doing it at Ole Miss!”

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

SUPPORTING EARLY LEARNING

Hardin Foundation bolsters excellence in child education

The Phil Hardin Foundation's \$400,000 gift to the School of Education enables the UM Graduate Center for the Study of Early Learning (GCSEL) to continue its highly successful Hardin Scholars Program.

The Foundation's gift establishes a fund that supports the program while also helping it grow to include early childhood instructors from community colleges. Additionally, the fund covers scholars' and educators' travel expenses to national conferences and help bring renowned speakers to Mississippi.

The Hardin Scholars Program began in 2016 when GCSEL Co-Director Cathy Grace realized early childhood educators in the state needed to be able to meet and collaborate regularly while receiving continuing education for professional growth.

"We are committed to respecting the rights of children to learn and grow in an environment that supports their natural ability to explore, experiment, create and wonder," Grace said. "The Hardin Foundation continues to be an outstanding partner in helping meet our goals and, for that, we are very grateful."

A simultaneous Hardin Foundation gift of \$50,000 establishes the Diversity Teacher Recruitment Initiative Fund, helping to increase diversity among Mississippi teachers to better serve the state's population.

The Hardin Foundation was created by Phil B. Hardin, an entrepreneur who built the highly successful Hardin Bakeries Corp. from a bankrupt business he purchased in the 1930s. In 1964, he founded the Phil Hardin Foundation, which is dedicated to improving education for Mississippians.



The Graduate Center for the Study of Early Learning (GCSEL) provides informed leadership, research and interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of child development and early education, impacting children from birth to 8 years old.

The Hardin Foundation is one of the three largest foundations in the state and has provided over \$3 million in support of the schools of Business Administration and Education, College of Liberal Arts and more.

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

FORD CENTER WALK OF FAME

Generous gift made to performing arts center's campaign



UM Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat (far left) talks with some of the guests he hosted in his home to promote the Celebrating the Arts campaign to boost the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts endowment.

A new Walk of Fame for supporters of the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts provides a path to the successful conclusion of the Celebrating the Arts campaign, funding a \$3 million endowment for the University of Mississippi facility.

"The magnificent Ford Center reflects our commitment to the cultural arts and provides a space where the performing arts can inspire, motivate, connect, illuminate and broaden an individual's life," said Chancellor Emeritus Robert C. Khayat, who hosted a small gathering of Ford Center supporters in his home.

"However, this facility relies upon private contributions from individuals, foundations, corporations and businesses to sustain operations and programming," he said. "By reaching our \$3 million endowment goal, we will ensure that our performing arts center will continue to offer the highest quality live shows and artists in the region."

Cheryle Sims, president of the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation Board,

surprised the group at Khayat's home by presenting a \$75,000 gift from the foundation to the endowment.

Details about the Ford Center Walk of Fame, a new fundraising initiative, were also announced by Julia Aubrey, Ford Center director and a UM associate professor of music.

The Walk of Fame will honor generous donors who provide \$100,000 to the endowment. Supporters' names will be inscribed on stars that will be permanently displayed between the columns at the Ford Center entrance, Aubrey said.

"These stars will greet theater-goers for generations and remind us of those whose enormous generosity provided the financial resources to continue hosting large-scale national touring musicals, as well as smaller, family-friendly shows and even the local productions that feature our students and members of the community."

The campaign now has to raise less than \$1 million to reach its goal thanks to the numerous gifts, large and small, that have been made since the Celebrating the Arts initiative was announced last year.

The Ford Foundation's gift was the latest made by board members who are committed to ensuring the Ford Center remains the focal point for the performing arts at Ole Miss and the region, Sims said.

"This capital campaign is just the beginning," she said. "Ongoing private support is crucial to the continued success of the Ford Center, and we, as members of the foundation board, encourage everyone who enjoys and appreciates the arts to show their support with a gift of any size."

MAKE A GIFT: Rob Jolly (662) 915-3085 or jolly@olemiss.edu

A PLACE TO THRIVE

Pittman gift sparks George Hall renovation

Every time Renvy Pittman travels to campus she makes a point to visit her favorite students – the entering freshmen selected to participate in the Grove Scholars program.

In 2014, support from Pittman – a Los Angeles, California, resident and UM Foundation board member – provided scholarships and programming to 12 students interested in pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). These students became the first Grove Scholars, and the program has been near to Pittman's heart ever since.

Now, the Jackson, Mississippi, native wants the scholars to have a space of their own. With a \$175,000 gift, Pittman enabled renovations to begin at George Hall – the newly designated home for the FASTrack Learning Community and Grove Scholars on the Oxford campus.

"My hope is that this gift will help create beautiful spaces toward which students will gravitate and feel comfortable spending time together, interacting with each other and with FASTrack and Grove Scholars staff," Pittman said, adding that offices for FASTrack and Grove Scholars staff were previously located in three buildings.

"An additional goal of the renovation is to create an optimal working environment for the staff," she said. "We feel the more time the students are close to the staff, the better we will be able to support them. In George Hall, we can bring everyone together."

The building, named for the late U.S. Sen. J.P.Z. George, was constructed in 1920 and repurposed in 1949 to be a men's dormitory. It was converted in 1973 to house the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

and the Speech and Hearing Center, which have recently relocated to UM's South Oxford Center.

"We had been waiting for a building to become available in the center of campus and George Hall fits the bill," Pittman said.

FASTrack serves over 400 students annually who benefit from smaller, enhanced classes, individualized advising and mentoring, and a community of supportive peers.

The Grove Scholars program has received support from Pittman over the past six years, serving nearly 100 students in that time. The program helps improve students' chances of graduating.

E. Gray Flora IV, director of Grove Scholars and senior academic mentor for FASTrack, said Pittman's gifts will benefit countless generations of scholars.

"Her vision and generosity are extraordinary and, quite frankly, they've been transformational in the lives of so many young Mississippians."

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



Renvy Pittman (center) with scholars and staff

WALSH LOOKS AHEAD WITH GIFT

Former alumni director includes UM in estate plans

In his 25 years with the Ole Miss Alumni Association, Tim Walsh became acutely aware of the importance of building private support in the form of endowed funds.

Having witnessed the impact of these gifts supporting scholarships, faculty programs, expansion projects and more, Walsh said making a \$100,000 planned gift to his alma mater is only natural.

"I have seen the power of endowments throughout my career. No university, no school nor department therein, will truly go to the next level without significantly increasing its endowment," said Walsh who gives regularly to a scholarship endowment established in his name by the Ole Miss Alumni Association.

"I received a solid education at Ole Miss that helped prepare me for success. To give back, I make monthly gifts to the university through the Foundation, but I also want to leave a legacy after I'm gone."

The Walsh Scholarship Endowment is awarded to graduates of Christian Brothers High School (CBHS) in Memphis, Tennessee.

"I hope it will serve as an incentive for more CBHS alumni to attend Ole Miss, and if they do, this will help defray some of the non-resident tuition," said Walsh, himself a CBHS alumnus. "I want other young people to have the same fantastic experience I had at Ole Miss."

The Memphis native now lives in Oxford — hometown of the campus he served as executive director of alumni affairs from 2008 to 2015.

Walsh said he is particularly proud of the association's record growth under his leadership.



Tim Walsh

Other highlights of his tenure include adding a dozen new clubs nationwide, enhancing communication through an expanded magazine and social media; opening the \$21.5 million campus hotel and retiring its \$400,000 bond debt four years early; and restoring and expanding the Triplett Alumni Center.

"Almost everything in my life is somehow connected to Ole Miss," Walsh said. "I have built great relationships here with alumni and I was fortunate to work with many dedicated, talented people at Ole Miss. I knew I wanted to retire here in Oxford and live in the community that has really always been my forever home."

MAKE A GIFT: Dan Wiseman, (662) 915-7601 or daniel@olemiss.edu

A WIN-WIN FOR UM LAW



The Business Law Fellowship gives Entergy Mississippi opportunities to help develop future leaders and gives law students insight into the business world during six-week internships.

In the business world, Entergy Mississippi's generous support of the University of Mississippi School of Law is called a win-win.

Entergy Mississippi is providing the Law School with gifts totaling \$125,000 to establish and contribute to scholarship endowments honoring the late U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran and Robert Grenfell. Additionally, the corporation is supporting a new partnership with the school's nationally ranked Business Law Institute.

Haley Fisackerly, president and CEO of Entergy Mississippi, says it's particularly appropriate that \$100,000 of these Entergy funds are going to support the Thad Cochran Tribute Scholarship at the School of Law.

"Throughout his lifetime, Senator Cochran represented the best of Mississippi's values, setting a great example of what it means to be a public servant and leader. This is a way for Entergy to show our appreciation for all that Sen. Cochran has done for our state, nation, company, employees and industry," Fisackerly said.

The Cochran endowment provides law scholarships, an international law fellowship, a military promise program, preservation of Cochran's collection in the University Libraries' Modern Political Archives and resources to the law dean's strategic initiatives.

"The generous contributions from Entergy 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," said Law Dean Susan Duncan.

Entergy is supporting an additional opportunity for law students with its \$25,000 gift to establish the Robert C. Grenfell Scholarship in Law Endowment, which was created to honor one of the corporation's longtime employees.

"It was an honor to work for Entergy, especially with its focus on community service. The company has such a commitment to the communities it serves and the state of Mississippi," said Grenfell, a Jackson, Mississippi, native who retired as Entergy's vice president of regulatory affairs in February 2019.

"Ole Miss Law gave me the people skills, communication skills, confidence and foundation that prepared me for the corporate world and the ability to be well-rounded to fit in any career I pursued."

Launched this summer, the Business Law Fellowship Program gave 10 first-year UM law students a rare opportunity to work in general-counsel offices and other departments of some of the nation's leading companies including Entergy.

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

A 'PERFECT' PROGRAM

Sixty years ago, Lonnie Smith of Picayune, Mississippi, earned a law degree at the University of Mississippi, marking the successful completion of his higher education journey.

Yet Smith's time at Ole Miss, which culminated in 1960, is responsible for providing 79 Mississippi students their own transformative experience at UM. With the most recent gifts totaling nearly \$150,000, his financial support for scholarships at Ole Miss has surpassed \$2 million.

Before his death in 2002, Smith set up the Smith & Waldrop Foundation to fund two programs that award annual scholarships. He created this foundation as a way to repay the scholarships that enabled him to pursue his higher education dream at UM in the 1950s.

"The awarding of these nearly 80 scholarships since the foundation was created tells me that Lonnie's plan to help other students attend his beloved alma mater and obtain a life-changing college education is working to perfection," said David Hemeter, a Smith & Waldrop Foundation trustee. "This is his way of giving back to the University of Mississippi and assisting future students."

This foundation continues to fund the two scholarship programs – one named for his father, Lonnie Smith, and another for his mother, Velma Waldrop Smith. Each of these scholarship programs fund the tuition of eight full-time undergraduates per year.



Smith & Waldrop Foundation directors (from left) are Darlene Holmes, Joseph Stewart, David Hemeter and Bryon Stockstill.

Scholarships recipients say the awards have enriched their college careers and expanded their opportunities.

"I am the first in my family to attend college and, thanks to the Velma W. Smith Memorial Scholarship, I know that I am making my parents proud and starting a legacy within our family," said Victoria Green, a senior and first-year professional student from Canton, Mississippi, who is entering the UM School of Pharmacy this fall.

"The Lonnie Smith Memorial Scholarship enhanced my overall college experience because it made a significant financial contribution toward my college education," said Angela Stephens of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics and nutrition in December.

In addition to supporting his alma mater, Lonnie Smith was active in his community, serving on the First National Bank of Picayune board of directors and representing Pearl River and Hancock counties in the Mississippi Legislature for 12 years.

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

WYATT LEGACY EXPANDS

Estate gift provides support to two UM departments



Madison Dacus of Jonesboro, Arkansas (in blue), practices an audiology exam with her classmate Emily Watkins of Pontotoc, Mississippi.

As a child, the late John Lacy Wyatt of Calhoun City, Mississippi, benefited from speech services provided by the university's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Now, a generous gift from his estate will ensure those services continue to help others in his community.

The 1964 graduate's testamentary gift recently established the John Lacy Wyatt Endowment for Communication Sciences and Disorders.

The UM Speech and Hearing Center (UMSHC), part of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, provides clinical education for graduate students enrolled in communication sciences and

disorders as well as speech-language-hearing services to patients of all ages.

UMSHC evaluates and treats individuals' speech-language disorders including articulation/phonology; expressive and receptive language; stuttering and other fluency disorders; voice; aural rehabilitation; adult neurological rehabilitation; augmentative communication; dysphagia (swallowing); dialect reduction and literacy.

"We are so grateful that our services made a difference in Mr. Wyatt's life," said Vishaka Rawool, chair and professor of communication sciences and disorders. "We will use his gift to support our tradition of excellence in clinical education and speech-language and audiological services"

Wyatt further extended his generosity in perpetuity by establishing the John Lacy Wyatt Endowment for Health, Exercise Science and Recreation Management – providing needed support to a department centered on improving the wellness of individuals and communities. His gift will enable the department to continuously improve its teaching, research and service to benefit students in exercise science, sports and recreation administration, health promotion, and health and kinesiology.

Wyatt graduated from Vardaman High School and earned a bachelor's degree in physical education at UM.

For over 20 years, he taught physical education in Calhoun City and coached football and baseball, retiring in 1986. Shortly after, Calhoun City Schools recognized Wyatt's legacy by naming its baseball field in his honor.

MAKE A GIFT: Dan Wiseman, (662) 915-7601 or daniel@olemiss.edu

SUPPORTING RESEARCH

College of Liberal Arts receives boost to research

A recent major gift will help the College of Liberal Arts continue to attract and retain top faculty.

The stock-transfer gift of \$250,000 from donors who wished to remain anonymous supplements a faculty research grant endowment that was established in 2014. A portion of the gift also supports Ole Miss Athletics.

The purpose of the academic endowment is to provide income to fund at least three research grants annually for tenure-track faculty members with preference for at least one grant to be awarded annually to a faculty member in the departments of English or History.

"Unquestionably one of the most significant responsibilities we have as a College of Liberal Arts is to recruit, cultivate and retain faculty of the highest caliber," said Dean Lee Cohen. "How good we can become as an institution is, and always will be, driven by the quality of our faculty.

"Simply put, this gift makes us better since great faculty stimulate and support the creativity of our students as well as contribute to the research, scholarship, and creative achievements in their respective disciplines. We are very thankful to this family for their generosity and love of their alma mater."

The donor, who majored in English at Ole Miss and has an interest in history, said he hopes his gift will strengthen the university's national reputation in the area of the humanities.

"I'm impressed and encouraged by the way things are heading at my alma mater," the donor said. "By making this gift, I feel as if I'm contributing to the momentum toward excellence that is evident in the College of Liberal Arts."



Ventress Hall, home of the College of Liberal Arts

Denson Hollis, executive director of development – principal gifts, said private support such as this couple's gift is crucial to the university.

"Working closely with this family is one of the greatest joys in my role here. They are the epitome of a total university donor in that they firmly believe in supporting both academics and athletics," Hollis said. "If you look across our campus, their impact can be seen everywhere. The university and Ole Miss Athletics would not be where they are today without the amazing support of this very generous family."

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

PRESERVING HISTORY

A \$150,000 gift to the University of Mississippi has better positioned the History Department to embrace long-range opportunities, such as supporting faculty with their research and teaching goals.

The unrestricted gift, for example, may be used to offset expenses associated with faculty summer writing grants or oral history initiatives, said Noell Wilson, chair of history.

"These help raise the profile of the department nationally while also serving the state of Mississippi and our surrounding community," she said. "Gifts of this size, particularly to use at the department's discretion, are rare but hold truly transformative potential to move forward a department's research and teaching priorities."

The gift was bequeathed to the university by the late Brig. Gen. John H. Napier III, a 1949 UM history graduate.

"I think he hoped the History Department could use that money to pursue the appreciation of history and research," said Cameron Freeman Napier, the donor's wife, who maintains their home in Ramer, Alabama. "But the main thing is to advance the interests of students in the field of history."

"People don't seem to study history that much and there's a prevalence of presentism – whereby present-day thinking is imposed upon the past, rather than understanding the past and learning from it," she continued. "Young people think, 'Oh, what did the past have to do with me?' Well it has everything to do with them. The main point is that you learn from it."

A historian himself, Napier's book "Lower Pearl River's Piney Woods: Its Land and People" was published by the university's Center for the Study of Southern Culture (CSSC) in 1985. He also penned the "Air Force Officers Guide" and a history of his family. Napier and his wife both contributed a number of articles to the Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, which was developed by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at Ole Miss.

In 1989, a previous gift from Napier to the university established a scholarship to help support students from Pearl River County and surrounding counties in Mississippi.

Napier retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1977 as a lieutenant colonel and worked in intelligence and special operations. He served in Vietnam as an expert in unconventional warfare and in national security at the Pentagon, and completed his career at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. After retirement from active duty, he joined the Alabama State Defense Force in 1991 and retired as a state brigadier general in 1997.

As an Ole Miss student, Napier was a Taylor Medalist and was active in Sigma Chi fraternity, Air Force ROTC, and on the student newspaper and yearbook staffs.

"We are thrilled by the opportunities these monies will provide to expand the range of projects both our faculty and students can embrace," Wilson said. "I personally find this scale of contribution not only generous but also visionary as the Napier family could imagine the multiple ways in which private giving can change the course of individuals' lives."

MAKE A GIFT: Dan Wiseman, (662) 915-7601 or daniel@olemiss.edu

DREAMS FULFILLED

When law professor John Robin Bradley established the Medgar Evers Scholarship Endowment at the University of Mississippi a decade ago, his goal was to help future Mississippi leaders in justice find more open doors than Evers did.

Now, Bradley and his wife, Laura, are committing another \$100,000 to continue building the endowment for Ole Miss law students.

Since its inception, the Medgar Evers Scholarship Endowment, named for a civil rights activist, has grown to \$300,000 and been awarded to nine students.

"Institutionally we have to be aware of the narrative of our school and be steadfast in trying to welcome, recruit and offer the highest quality education to all students, including minority students," said Bradley, a professor emeritus of law and native of Inverness, Mississippi.



Remembered nationally as one of the most prominent civil rights workers of his time, Evers (at left) of Decatur, Mississippi, applied to the UM School of Law in 1954 but was rejected by the then-segregated university system. His initiative and work promoted him to state field secretary for the NAACP, providing a chance to assist James Meredith with enrollment at UM in 1962.



Celebrating the endowment are (seated, from left) Law Dean Susan Duncan, Laura Bradley, Kye Handy and Jeffrey Graves; (standing, from left) Warren Cox, John R. Bradley, Corrie Cockrell, Courtney Cockrell and Keveon Taylor.

On June 12, 1963, Evers, 37, was shot and killed at his Jackson, Mississippi, home.

"To me, receiving the Medgar Evers Scholarship means that I am literally living my ancestors' wildest dreams," said Conisha Hackett, a third-year law student from Summit, Mississippi.

UM alumna Kye C. Handy of Jackson, Mississippi, agreed that the scholarship was more than a financial boost.

"Receiving the scholarship meant that someone else believed in my dream as much as I did. It meant that someone other than my family recognized my abilities and wanted to foster and help me develop that potential," said Handy, a litigation associate at Balch & Bingham LLP in Jackson, Mississippi.

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

A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE

UMMC graduate's gift will meet UM's most pressing needs



Dr. Jack Hammond

Retired psychiatrist Dr. Jack Hammond spends his free time helping people recover from chemical dependency.

His service to 12-step groups in Jackson, Mississippi, is simply an extension of his 25-year career as a staff physician at the Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield. There, his practice focused on the dual diagnosis of substance abuse/dependence with other psychiatric illnesses such as schizophrenia.

The 1980 UM Medical Center (UMMC) graduate has a history of helping others and someday that will be his legacy, having recently made a \$100,000 planned gift to Ole Miss.

The Mississippi Delta native who grew up in Jackson public schools wanted his gift to be unrestricted, meaning it can be used wherever the university needs it most.

Hammond made a similar gift to Vanderbilt University where he earned his undergraduate degree in mathematics.

His desire to help others began at an early age. As a college freshman, he dropped out temporarily, suffering a bout of mental illness while also coming to terms with his sexuality. After part of the school year at home and a summer making up class hours at Millsaps University, he returned to Vanderbilt.

Back on track, he was selected for membership in Phi Eta Sigma honor society, began tutoring Nashville public school students, joined Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and graduated cum laude.

The freshman-year episode, he said, likely inspired him to become a psychiatrist and sparked his desire to help others fighting similar battles.

"I think it's what God wants us to do here on this earth: be good stewards and help others," he said.

Hammond's estate gift awards him membership in the 1848 Society, named for the year the university opened to its first students. The society recognizes generous alumni and friends who thoughtfully provide for the university through planned and deferred gifts.

MAKE A GIFT: Dan Wiseman, (662) 915-7601 or daniel@olemiss.edu

HONORING DENNIS TOSH

Gift honors favored professor, benefits students

Beth and J. Walter Michel's gift to the university benefits students and recognizes two key factors responsible for J. Walter Michel's successful career: the School of Business Administration's real estate program and its founding professor Dennis Tosh.

The Michels created the J. Walter Michel and Dennis S. Tosh Real Estate Scholarship of Excellence Fund at Ole Miss to pay tribute to the favorite professor and friend of theirs for 40 years.

Each year the \$100,000 fund will provide \$5,000 to two full-time rising seniors majoring in real estate who are Mississippi high school graduates and residents.

"Beth and I set up this scholarship as a way to show our appreciation to Ole Miss for providing me with an exceptional education and preparing me so well for the real estate profession," said Michel.

"This is also a way for us to thank my former real estate professor, Dennis Tosh, for all he taught me and to let Dr. Tosh and his wife, Beth, who live in Oxford, know how much we have appreciated their friendship for so many years."

"I can think of no better honor for professors than to have a former student think enough of them to create a scholarship in their name," said Ken Cyree, dean of the School of Business Administration. "Dr. Tosh was instrumental in starting the real estate program here and his work impacted many students."

The Michels' decision to honor Tosh and his wife with a scholarship

was unexpected and humbling, said Tosh, who added that the couple's gift reflects the Michels' philanthropic nature and their support for Ole Miss and its real estate program.

He noted that establishing a scholarship to assist students

financially and promote a vibrant real estate program at the university illustrates the admirable character of his former student.

Michel said he wants to see a new generation consider the many professional opportunities the industry segment has to offer and enjoy rewarding careers like his.

"Hopefully, this scholarship will make a difference in the lives of some UM students by assisting them financially and, perhaps, encouraging them to pursue a major in real estate, which is a very versatile major that can prepare you for a career in a variety of fields," Michel said.



Beth and J. Walter Michel

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

YOUNG ENGINEERS INVEST IN THE FUTURE

Alyssa and Jesse Revis share their success with UM family



Alyssa Revis

Alyssa and Jesse Revis know how scholarships can transform lives. Financial awards gave each of them the academic opportunities that led to their successful engineering careers.

Alyssa Smith Revis graduated with a degree from the School of Engineering in 2013. Now, she and husband Jesse have established the Revis Chemical Engineering Scholarship Endowment.

The Revises are aware that many of the rewards in their lives today grew from the generosity of others. The Houston, Texas, residents learned this lesson early and are now eager to share their knowledge and financial resources to help other students.

Having a new scholarship established that can help future engineering students is always welcomed by the Department of Chemical Engineering, but members of the department are especially pleased that this endowment was created by someone in the youngest generation of alumni.

"A gift of this size is very unusual for a recent grad of our department," said John O'Haver, director of the Center for Mathematics and Science Education and professor of chemical engineering.

O'Haver was instrumental in helping Alyssa Revis navigate one of the unexpected and potentially career-ending financial turns she encountered as a student.

An avid and accomplished soccer player growing up in Florida, Revis enrolled at Ole Miss on a soccer scholarship. Her high school's dual-enrollment program enabled her to transfer 45 hours of course credit as a freshman, placing her in some of UM's more advanced and demanding chemical engineering classes by her second academic year.

"To focus on academics, I was faced with making the extremely difficult decision of giving up soccer which I had been playing my whole life and was part of what defined me. This would mean losing my athletics scholarship," she said. "That would have made it questionable as to whether I could continue to stay in the chemical engineering program."

She met with O'Haver to discuss her options, and fortunately, the department and the school were able to provide Revis with the assistance she lost by stepping away from soccer.

"My appreciation for that generosity stayed with me and I knew at some point I wanted to give back to Ole Miss," Revis said.

The scholarship is impactful because it gives the department more options to help our students financially.

O'Haver said: "When we recruit students, we tell them, 'Welcome to the Ole Miss chemical engineering family,' and we mean it. We try to take care of our family."

MAKE A GIFT: Greg Carter, (662) 915-3087 or gjcarter@olemiss.edu

COURT NAMED IN SIGMA NU'S HONOR

Fraternity's UM chapter elevates support of Magee Center

UM's Epsilon Xi chapter of the Sigma Nu fraternity – known for having the largest collegiate Greek philanthropy in America with its annual Charity Bowl – is deepening its commitment to helping students.

The Sigma Nu chapter joined the initial grassroots movement that created the William Magee Center for Wellness Education on the Oxford campus, which counsels students with alcohol and other drugs (AOD) education and support. The fraternity has given \$100,000 to the Magee Center already and recently pledged another \$100,000 to help it grow, using proceeds from its annual Charity Bowl fundraiser.

As a result, a basketball court at the university's new South Campus Recreation Center will be named for the Sigma Nu chapter, honoring the fraternity's efforts to serve UM students now and into the future with AOD education and support.

"The need is big and the men of our fraternity recognize that leadership means caring for fellow students," said James Davis, a Peery Professor of Accountancy at the university, who serves as the fraternity's chapter adviser and has been involved with the chapter for six decades. "These young men are determined to make a difference and it's rewarding to see their work."

Named after the late William Magee – a student-athlete, Honors College scholar, Sigma Nu member and alumnus who succumbed to addiction, dying from an accidental overdose soon after graduation – the Magee Center opened in fall 2019.



Sigma Nu advisor Jimmy Davis (from left), actives Tate Fowler and Nathan Foxworth, advisor John Green and alumnus David Magee stand on the court to be named in honor of Sigma Nu.

"It means a lot to everyone in the chapter to help others," said biochemistry major Nathan Foxworth of Columbia, Mississippi, a Sigma Nu senior and 2020 philanthropy co-chair who plans to attend medical school. "We care, and this is one way to show that."

The chapter raised more than \$168,000 this year despite cancellation of the Charity Bowl due to COVID-19, contributing to the Magee Center, the Manning Fund (which benefits the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children at the University of Mississippi Medical Center) and one victim of paralysis.

MAKE A GIFT: Brett Barefoot, (662) 915-4276 or bmbarefo@olemiss.edu

REESE ESTATE AIDS STEM



Laura A. Williams and the late Doug Reese are pictured with their son Payne, a UM finance major.

An \$83,000 gift from the estate of alumnus and supporter Doug P. Reese is being directed toward the construction of the Jim and Thomas Duff Center for Science and Technology Innovation on the Oxford campus.

While it's common for alumni and friends to include UM in their estates, Reese established a planned gift to benefit the Chancellor's Trust fund while a junior at Ole Miss. The 54-year-old, 1989 alumnus died of cancer in September 2019.

Reese of Dallas, Texas, had offers to play football at smaller colleges but decided to follow his high school friends to Ole Miss and never regretted it, said Laura A. Williams of Dallas, his former spouse and UM alumna.

"Doug had the best years of his life at Ole Miss, thanks to people who took a vested interest in the students like Judy Trott, Mike Edmonds and Sparky Reardon (all former leaders in Student Affairs)," she said, "Doug struggled with dyslexia."

A member of Phi Delta Theta and an education and hospitality management major, Reese "never met a stranger and loved a good joke," Williams said.

"We are so grateful for Doug's support of the university through this gift to the Chancellor's Trust," said Charlotte Parks, vice chancellor for development. "Our leadership thought such a substantial gift would make the most impact supporting our new STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) facility."

To learn more about the Duff Center for Science and Technology Innovation, see page 2.

"Being a member of the Chancellor's Trust gave Doug perks when he was a student, like no greens fees at the golf course and all-access parking on campus, and he used both all the time," said Williams. "He especially loved to give his friends rides to class because he could park anywhere on campus."

"Doug was extremely smart in math and would be pleased that the money was going toward the STEM facility."

A room in the Duff Center will be named for Reese in recognition of his support.

"Doug had a good heart and was always willing to give a helping hand and be there for a person in need," Williams said. "It is so like him to leave a legacy at Ole Miss to thank those who did so much for him while he was there."

MAKE A GIFT: Charlotte Parks, (662) 915-3120 or cpparks@olemiss.edu

PAYING IT FORWARD

Bettie Pierce often told her daughter Susan that when you are given a gift, you should return the kindness, and the spirit of the gift.

Alumna Susan Pierce of Mandeville, Louisiana, is following that advice by creating the Bettie C. Pierce Memorial Scholarship Endowment. The new scholarship memorializes her mother and pays forward the gift of scholarship she received as a UM student.

"When you stand in front of the Lyceum and look down the line, you see that it is a path to the future. I want to support Ole Miss students preparing to be our future," Pierce said.

The scholarship will assist entering freshman from Newton County, Mississippi, and has guidelines similar to the scholarship Pierce received as a student from the Otho R. and Emily K. Smith family.

"It really meant so much to me that someone thought enough about education to support me in such a way," said Pierce, who believes in public education to strengthen the state's economy and the academic foundation students receive at Newton High School.

"Hopefully, more of the young people from Newton County will have the opportunity to continue their education at Ole Miss through scholarships like this one, and when they graduate, that there will be jobs for them in Mississippi," she said.

Pierce, the daughter of a dairy farmer from Newton County, Mississippi, learned the value of service to others from both her father, Bonnie, and mother, Bettie, at an early age. The family routinely offered extra food from their Newton County-area garden to others in the community.



Susan Pierce established the Bettie C. Pierce Memorial Scholarship Endowment in honor of her mother.

Her mother had planned to attend nursing school but was unable to. This increased her resolve in later years to see her children have the opportunity to pursue higher education. Thanks to her determination, Pierce was awarded the Smith Scholarship, which provided \$500 a year – an amount that covered tuition and books.

In 1979, Pierce graduated with a degree in business administration, being part of the last class to study accountancy before the university established a separate school for the profession.

Pierce credits Carl Nabors – the former chair of the accounting department and later acting dean of the School of Business Administration – for her first job at Arthur Andersen in New Orleans, Louisiana. For the past 20 years she's been with Entergy Corp. and now serves as a senior tax advisor.

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

OUTSTANDING OUTREACH

MSPA establishes endowment to invest in youth



High school students attending the 72nd Mississippi Scholastic Press Association Statewide Spring Convention, hosted by UM, receive awards for their outstanding work.

More than 500 aspiring teenage writers, publishers and journalists shared their work and learned from high-profile communicators at the 72nd Mississippi Scholastic Press Association (MSPA) Statewide Spring Convention, hosted by the University of Mississippi.

Now MSPA Director R.J. Morgan hopes that the association's recent \$60,000 gift establishing the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association Endowment will ensure that these students and more like them will continue to enjoy robust annual conventions and other strategic support from MSPA for years to come.

"This endowment is a historic moment for us, and it comes at a critical time for both journalism and education in our country," Morgan said. "We are hoping to build a financial foundation that will allow us to continue meeting the needs of our current members while better positioning us for long-term growth and success deep into the distant future."

MSPA was founded in 1947 to support, promote and nurture journalism and marketing communications programs in the high school setting. It achieves its goals through workshops, competitions and conventions and by providing ongoing assistance and advice for teachers and students involved in producing their schools' student publications.

"The conventions are great opportunities for Mississippi high school students to get a taste of life on a college campus," said Morgan, an instructional associate professor in the UM School of Journalism and New Media. "They learn a lot while they're here – practical ideas they can take home to improve their school publications."

The spring convention's Pam Hamilton Keynote Address was delivered by Ronnie Agnew, an Ole Miss alumnus and director of Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Agnew is a veteran of the newspaper and news industry, previously serving as the executive editor of *The Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, Mississippi.

Other past speakers include award-winning author Kiese Laymon (see next page).

MAKE A GIFT: William Fisher, (662) 915-2293
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REMEMBERING JOHN COUCH

Family memorializes son with endowment, helps students

Friends and family of the late John Couch of Jackson, Mississippi, hope a scholarship will help students enjoy college life as much as he did.

"He was one of those guys – you hear about a few of them – who just had joy. He lived life to the fullest," said Tommy Couch Jr. of Jackson, who graduated from Ole Miss in 1987, two years before his little brother.

During his sophomore year in 1986, John Couch was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease, a blood cancer. He fought it for six years.

"He didn't let his illness change who he was," his brother said, adding that two years after his diagnosis, John Couch was elected president of his fraternity, Kappa Sigma, and led by example. "He would come back from receiving his chemo treatments and be the first one out hauling huge truckloads of trees to build South Sea Island (the fraternity's spring event venue)."

With gifts totaling more than \$65,000, Tommy Couch and a few others recently established the John B. Couch Scholarship Endowment as both a memorial and a way to provide income to full-time juniors in Kappa Sigma.

"We chose to do it for juniors because that's when we would be able to identify someone who has really shown a lot of leadership within the fraternity," Tommy Couch said. "We hope the scholarship will give them the financial freedom to stay involved and contribute even more to the fraternity like John did."



Recipients will have demonstrated high personal standards, loyalty, friendship, leadership, achievement and a competitive spirit.

"I love the fact that this scholarship is not necessarily set up for somebody with the best grades or somebody who has the most accomplishments on paper, but it's for the student whose heart is big for others. That's how John lived, and I think it's how we should all live," said Ouida Lawrence of Auburn, Alabama. The two high school sweethearts dated through college and married after they graduated from Ole Miss in 1989.

"I miss him every day and I know that he would be so honored that he's being remembered this way."

Jackson attorney Mike Malouf Jr. is John Couch's first cousin. Moreover, the two were good friends and fraternity brothers. Now Malouf serves on the selection committee that will choose the Couch Scholar.

"John was one of those people you just want to be around and learn from. That's really what drew me to him and made me want to be more like him."

"I think John would want this gift to encourage somebody to be the best they can be," he said. "If this can inspire someone to use all of their assets and abilities to be a better person, that's what he would want."

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



HONORING A VISIONARY

OMWC creates endowment for Rolfes



Ellen Rolfes (seated, second from right) has been honored as the creator of the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy with an endowment in her name.

Ellen Rolfes has always taken her crayons and colored outside the lines, so to speak.

In her vision for the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy (OWMC), she saw a need for a University of Mississippi scholarship program that would provide students with mentors, leadership development and cultural experiences, as well as give a voice to women philanthropists.

Now the OMWC is thriving with a scholarship endowment of \$17 million, and the scholarship awards have grown to be among the largest on the Oxford campus at \$40,000 each. During this, the OMWC's 20th year, council members created the Ellen Robinson Rolfes OMWC Rose Garden Endowment to honor the program's pioneer.

"I have always said innovators are those kids in kindergarten who color outside the lines because they see a different picture than what was drawn there. I have been guilty of that all my life," said Rolfes of Memphis, Tennessee.

The endowment will fund programming for male and female students selected for OMWC scholarships. Programming and experiences offered increase scholars' self-awareness and their awareness of others.

"They can begin to see through the lens that people different from them use to see the world," Rolfes said. "By virtue of the leadership, scholarship and mentorship experiences, our students are called to shape a more caring and ethical society and, in doing so, they must gain a grasp of all perspectives."



On hand to celebrate Rolfes and the 20th anniversary of the OMWC are (from left) Rachel McPherson, Patrick McMullan III, Rolfes, Kathryn Brewer Black and Rex Brunt.

At right, Rolfes expresses her appreciation for the tribute given to her during the 20th anniversary celebration.



Rolfes, philanthropy strategist, had joined UM as an academic fundraiser when she envisioned the OMWC. It became a new institutional model that included women from diverse geographic, economic and racial backgrounds.

"Together we have reshaped the university's culture by bringing parity to the philanthropy table," Rolfes said. "Council members have gone on to serve in top alumni leadership roles throughout the university and especially on the UM Foundation board of directors," she said.

Edith Kelly-Green of Memphis, Tennessee, led the OMWC as its founding chair and witnessed Rolfes at work.

"While I was the inaugural chair of the Ole Miss Women's Council, it was Ellen Rolfes who had the vision and it was her tenacity that

convinced me that the council could be of great value. It was her enthusiasm and energy that made the other 23 inaugural board members commit to an idea that has made such an impact on this university – an outcome seen by the 157 scholarships we now have awarded.

"Many of our scholars would not have been able to attend college without the assistance of our major scholarship awards," Kelly-Green said. "Our scholars who have graduated are making a difference in their communities, cities, nation and the world. Ellen surely deserves to have an OMWC endowment in her name and much, much more."

MAKE A GIFT: Suzanne Helveston,
(662) 915-2956 or shelveston@olemiss.edu

BOGENS PROVIDE HOPE FOR STUDENTS

Council scholarship honors alumna, benefits students



Patsy and Josh Bogen

"Hope lifts her maiden finger pointing to the eternal Home on whose portals they linger looking back for us to come."

Though that's the epitaph on a headstone marking the grave of the late Patsy Moore Bogen's great-great grandfather, friends and family say the sentiment could easily apply to her.

"Patsy lived that hope throughout her life," said Mary Sharp Rayner of Oxford, Mississippi, who was Bogen's college roommate and lifelong friend.

The Patsy Moore Bogen Ole Miss Women's Council Scholarship will benefit entering male and female freshmen. Each student receives \$10,000 per academic year to defray tuition expenses. Council scholars are expected to participate in leadership, scholarship, mentorship and stewardship.

Bogen, a 1965 University of Mississippi graduate and resident of Oxford, Mississippi, died in May 2019 after a long illness. Her husband, 1966 graduate Josh Bogen practices law in Oxford.

The couple, longtime supporters of both university academics and athletics, had planned to honor Patsy Bogen's life with a named scholarship ever since she joined the council shortly after its inception in 2000.

"Patsy enjoyed what they were doing. She greatly enjoyed mentoring the students who were assigned to her," said Bogen who established the endowment with a \$125,000 planned gift to the university. "In my mind, it was a long-term plan to create this scholarship in honor of Patsy but subsequently it became in memory of her, I guess you'd say. So that was

our plan all along. We were going to do this together."

Echoing Rayner's comments, Bogen shared, "I think she would hope ... that's an interesting word: hope. ... I think she would want hope itself for the students who benefit from the scholarship and that they pass on to other students hope for the future."

At Ole Miss, as a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, Patsy Bogen became friends with Meredith Creekmore. Years later, they would serve on the Women's Council together.

"I think she enjoyed the interaction with our scholars most of all," Creekmore said of the friend she misses every day. "We all loved her so much. She was just sweet and kind and just a very good friend. She would be very humbled by this honor."

Bogen graduated in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in business and moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where she briefly worked for MP&L before enrolling at Belhaven College to earn a graduate degree in education.

Prior to their marriage in 1967, Patsy Bogen taught in the Brandon, Mississippi, public school system before moving to Oxford where Josh Bogen was pursuing a law degree. She taught eighth-grade math to some of Oxford's brightest future leaders.

After law school, the couple moved in 1969 to Leland, Mississippi, where she continued her teaching career at Solomon Junior High School, was active in her church and community, and was devoted to her children, Josh Bogen III and Hayes Bogen, both now residents of Belmont, North Carolina. In 1998, the Bogens purchased a second home in Oxford, which ultimately became their primary residence.

"She is smiling now, knowing that her scholarship will educate, support and nurture many students in the future," Rayner said.

MAKE A GIFT: Suzanne Helveston, (662) 915-2956 or shelveston@olemiss.edu

AUCTION FINDS SUCCESS

Funds will benefit student programming

A lively auction of bucket list-type experiences attracted almost \$130,000 to expand programming for OMWC scholars. The auction was part of the Council's 20th anniversary celebration.

Auction proceeds will fuel the new Ellen Robinson Rolfes Ole Miss Women's Council Rose Garden Endowment, with the annual income supporting a variety of enriching activities for students. (See opposite page).

Among the live auction items to command the largest bids were:

- \$41,000 for the ultimate tailgating experience.
- \$40,000 for an evening with legendary entertainer Dolly Parton.
- \$15,000 for an exclusive dinner experience with Archie Manning.
- \$7,000 for an entertainment-filled, four-night VIP trip for four to CMA Fest.

At its founding the OMWC had a goal of

enhancing its scholarships with benefits beyond financial awards. Council members help develop students outside the classroom by providing leadership training, career and life mentors, cultural and travel experiences, and support to pursue study abroad and internships on the national and international level.

"From the very beginning of this initiative, I compared our vision to a three-legged stool with the legs representing leadership, scholarship and mentorship – all three crucial to the stool's balance. We focused on scholarships first because a lack of finances often will not allow future students and leaders the opportunity to attend school," said Edith Kelly-Green of Memphis.

The OMWC scholarships are among UM's top awards at \$40,000 each. A total of 157 male and female students have benefited from the program.

The awards can be created for \$125,000 for a general scholarship or \$250,000 for a scholarship



Enjoying the 20th anniversary celebration are council member Martha Kirkley (from left) of Columbus, Mississippi; Lindsay Kirkley Clemons of Columbus, who has been honored with the creation of an OMWC scholarship; and council member retired Judge Patricia Wise of Jackson, Mississippi.

designated for a particular major. Each scholarship is recognized with a dedication ceremony in the OMWC Rose Garden on campus.

MAKE A GIFT: Suzanne Helveston, (662) 915-2956 or shelveston@olemiss.edu

COMING FULL CIRCLE

New council scholarship benefits nursing students



OMWC mentor Stephanie Barrett (left) stands with her student, Amelia Dewitt.

In a way, Stephanie Barrett's life has come full circle.

Raised in Starkville, Mississippi, by her widowed mother along with the help of her maternal uncle and both grandmothers – strong and dedicated family members who became her role models while supporting her financially – Barrett is now helping shape the lives and future career paths of University of Mississippi students.

With a \$250,000 gift to the university, the Oxford, Mississippi, nurse practitioner and co-owner of Oxford Urgent Care Clinic estab-

lished the Stephanie Gibson Barrett Ole Miss Women's Council Scholarship Endowment.

Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy (OMWC) scholarships, at \$40,000 each, are now among the top awards at Ole Miss. A total of 157 male and female students have benefited from the program.

"I am the first person in my family to graduate from college," said Barrett, who earned her nursing degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) in 1995. "Because I was that nursing student struggling financially and working multiple jobs to get through college, I decided to give this endowment to help others like me in the world."

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.

Barrett is one of those women. In 2016, she volunteered to help guide young people the way her matriarchs mentored her.

"Through a lot of prayer, time spent with my mentee and, after reflecting on my career and profession, I realized how important it is to establish this endowment," Barrett said. "I hope it will help instill the qualities I've gained through my experience in the nursing profession into other young men or women who will then go on to do great things."

In addition to financial assistance, Barrett's mentees gain clinical experience and self-confidence working in her clinic.

"I learned so much and gained such valuable experience in this role that I have been able to apply as a student nurse," said Amelia Dewitt of Alexandria, Louisiana. "Stephanie helped me feel prepared and confident to begin nursing school, and I am so grateful for the time and effort that she invested in me."

Dewitt graduated from Ole Miss with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts, having majored in psychology. Now living in New York City, she credits the OMWC program and her relationship with Barrett for giving her the opportunity to pursue a nursing degree at New York University.

"Stephanie is more than just a mentor to me; I consider her a part of my family," Dewitt said. "She helped me grow into the person I am today. Stephanie is extremely generous and unbelievably kind, and she knows how to brighten anyone's day. Her selflessness is so inspiring, and I look up to her as my biggest role model."

"Stephanie is a nurse practitioner, business owner, mentor, donor, mother and wife, and I can only hope I can become half the woman she is one day."

Women's Council endowments can be created for \$125,000 for a general scholarship or \$250,000 for a scholarship designated for a particular major.



MAKE A GIFT: Suzanne Helveston, (662) 915-2956 or shelveston@olemiss.edu

OMWC Reschedules Legacy Award

Dolly Parton's visit to accept the prestigious Legacy Award from the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy (OMWC) will take place early next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The C Spire Foundation will be the Presenting Sponsor of the event held April 11, 2021, at The Jefferson Oxford.

Earlier that day, Parton will read to children at a literacy event at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. This presentation will be sponsored by Regions Bank as a part of the OMWC Rose Garden Literacy Project.

"For the 20th anniversary year of the Ole Miss Women's Council and the 10th anniversary of the Legacy Award, we are honoring Dolly Parton

who has a national and international reach," said Mary Donnelly Haskell, the event chair. "When I think of the positive influence Dolly continues to have on her home state of Tennessee, as well as children and adults around the globe, it is clear she is a perfect choice for this distinguished award."

One focus of the popular entertainer's philanthropy is her Imagination Library, which has provided over 140 million books to children around the world.

Platinum Sponsors are Sanderson Farms, Cooper Communities Inc. and Regions Bank. Gold Sponsors are the FedEx Corp. and MTrade.

Silver Sponsors include Bank Plus, Date Line Technology, Gertrude C. Ford Foundation,

Nicholas Air, Diane and Dick Scruggs, The Jefferson, UM Foundation, Jane Claire and Nason Williams, and Yates

Construction. Bronze sponsors are recognized at <https://omwc.olemiss.edu>



MAKE A GIFT: Suzanne Helveston, (662) 915-2956 or shelveston@olemiss.edu

THINKING AHEAD

California couple's estate gift to fund John T Edge SFA Endowment

Roger and Rebecca Emerick of Hillsborough, California, want their planned gift to extend the mission of the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA), an organization they applaud for its compelling storytelling and inclusive takes on cultures and people.

The Emericks included the SFA in their estate plans, committing to give \$1 million to the John T Edge Southern Foodways Alliance Director Endowment, named in honor of the SFA's current and longtime director.

"John T is really brave, and I hope the SFA can continue to be that way after he's no longer there," said Rebecca Emerick, who learned of Edge and his work after reading the organization's magazine, *Gravy*. "He's keeping the faith on Southern food, promoting the work of those who are expanding the repertoire – everything from jambalaya to jollof rice – into the future. He's fighting for those who deserve a place at the table."

The purpose of the Edge endowment is to ensure succession when Edge retires and position the SFA for success in its third decade.

"One of the things that's deeply important for an academic institution is to receive money from people who share your values, who believe in your mission, whom you're proud to dine at a table with. The Emericks embody that. They care about the longevity of the SFA. Their gift is transformative," Edge said.

Rebecca Emerick said, while they both wanted to contribute to the endowment, her husband deserves the credit for the support: "This is really his gift."

In 1982, Roger Emerick became CEO and board chair of LAM Research Company – a corporation that manufactures and sells the semiconductor processing equipment used to fabricate integrated circuits. As of 2018, it was the second largest manufacturer in the San Francisco Bay area after Tesla. He retired in 1997.

The company was failing when it hired Roger Emerick, his wife recalled. "So he raised money and kept the payroll going," she said. "Within two years, he took LAM public."

According to the Chip History Hall of Fame, "Roger Emerick is unique in his ability to build a company that is a joy for its customers and a joy for its employees. The value of this strategy is that it has made LAM Research Company a consistent leader."

Rebecca Emerick is a member of the American Society of Interior Design (ASID). She and her best friend established their own design studio and practiced together until 1984. Her pursuits have also included riding show horses -- she is a world champion equestrian -- and volunteering for



Roger and Rebecca Emerick

local charities. She also created an auxiliary that built and equipped a veterinary surgical unit in a no-kill animal shelter and has received U.S. Congressional recognition for service to her California community.

"The first time I ever saw *Gravy* magazine, I was knocked out by the accuracy of the writing and here's what I really like about it: I like the way it's not formulaic, professional Southern cornpone-for-the-soul stuff," she said. "It's the real story of what really happened. You're telling it like it was."

A fifth-generation native of southern Arkansas, Rebecca Emerick is a recipient of the esteemed Arkansas Traveler award, an honorary title given to individuals who, through their actions, serve as goodwill ambassadors for the state. The honor was awarded after she and her husband underwrote the construction of a Victorian bandstand in her hometown. Other recipients include such notable individuals as Muhammad Ali and Maya Angelou.

"It's a quirky little award," she said, "but it's their highest civilian honor. I'm really proud of that."

She and her husband have supported the SFA as members of its Order of the Okra for many years.

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

Flashback: Remembering the 2019-2020 Donor Events



Trevin Dye, (from left) Cheryle Sims and Kay Castellow McKnight enjoy an Atlanta reception focused on support for the Gertrude C. Ford Center.



Susan Meredith, (from left) Rex Brunt, and Dr. Jim Rayner visit during a Celebrating the Arts dinner to raise endowed funds for the Ford Center.



Development staff Katie Morrison (left) and Hughes Miller (right) greet Steve Blake of Philadelphia and Barbara Humphreys of Holly Springs, Mississippi.

See more flashbacks on pages 36 & 37.

CATHEAD MAKES MAJOR GIFT TO SFA

Gift honors efforts on behalf of restaurateurs during pandemic

The Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA) received a major gift from the founders of Mississippi-based Cathead Distillery, whose efforts during the COVID-19 crisis made state-wide impact.

The \$75,000 gift from Cathead owners Austin Evans and Richard Patrick will support the writing, editing and sharing

of 15 essays on the contemporary South from members of the creative community and the food and beverage industry.

"We strongly value the work of the SFA and what it does for the Southern community," Patrick said. "We hope our gift will help achieve long-term sustainability and overall increased knowledge about the industry."



Above: Oxford Mayor Robyn Tannehill distributes Cathead hand sanitizer.



Right: Cathead founders Austin Evans (left) and Richard Patrick

These essays will stare down the realities of life in the contemporary South and gesture to the future of the region, said SFA director John T Edge.

"Writers will not sidestep the pandemic and its effects, but they will also tackle other issues and highlight bold solutions," he said. "We intend to do work that makes clear what's at stake. And what's possible."

The SFA had announced its 2020 focus – to document, study and explore the future of the South – even before the region began to struggle against the pandemic.

"Now, more than ever, conversations around the evolving South are important," Patrick said.

Edge agreed: "This is a moment for narrative – for telling stories about who we were, where we have been, and what we will become. The SFA is uniquely qualified to play that role in the recovery of this region and in the recovery of the food and drink industry."

"Cathead's desire to support our mission at this critical time inspires us," he continued. "From the launch of their company, Richard and Austin and the Cathead team have invested generously in the cultural assets of Mississippi, and SFA has benefited greatly from their philanthropy. In this trying time, their new commitment signals that the documentary and narrative work SFA does will endure. For that we are thankful."

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

A WELCOME TABLE

Fellowship fund furthers SFA research for graduate students

The work of the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA) sets a welcome table where all may gather to consider the history and future of the South with respect and reconciliation.

The work pursued by the SFA, a member-supported organization based at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, inspired longtime supporter and SFA advisory board president Jay Oglesby to establish the Jacqueline and Jay Oglesby SFA Graduate Fellowship Fund with a gift of \$50,000.

"The opportunity to be in a university environment where one can devote time to explore history and issues is a luxury; there is a cost to it but it shouldn't be preserved only for people with wealth," said Jay Oglesby, who lives with his wife Jackie in Birmingham, Alabama.

"By bringing in new and diverse voices to the discipline, it becomes more powerful. Jackie and I thought this fund was a way to do that."

The inaugural fellows benefiting from the Oglesby gift are Carlynn Crosby of St. Petersburg, Florida, and Olivia Terenzio of Jackson, Mississippi, both pursuing a master's degree in southern studies.

"As a member of the SFA, I was fascinated by the way food opened up conversations about class, race, gender, labor and place," said Crosby. "The SFA played a key role in getting me to start thinking about food as a lens through which to explore society and culture."

Terenzio agreed that the fellowship is a tremendous privilege.

"The fellowship allows me to support and learn from a team I admire, and to explore and champion new scholars and areas of study within



Ole Miss graduate students find a sense of community sharing meals together

foodways. It also lets me engage with this smart and energetic community working to rethink and reshape the South through a myriad of creative avenues," she said.

Oglesby said that, through films, scholarship, visual art and performance, SFA amplifies the lives of people who grow, prepare and serve food. Doing this, SFA starts cultural conversations that matter.

"Sharing a meal gives you time to pause and think about each other's experiences," he said. "It builds empathy and allows one to gain an appreciation for the complexity of the South. And, I think, hope for its future."

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

A NATURAL FIT

Tony Chachere's funds SFA documentaries on hero home cooks



Tony Chachere

Tony Chachere's gift to UM will fund the creation of three film documentaries over the next three years by the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA).

Based out of Opelousas, Louisiana, the corporation's \$90,000 gift will allow the SFA to produce and direct short documentaries focused on hero cooks who serve their communities.

SFA director John T Edge said, "Tony Chachere's generous support

ensures that we can fulfill our mission to document, study and explore this place we call home. The company's belief in our work inspires us."

Tony Chachere's Creole Foods began in 1972 as a retirement hobby for south Louisiana native Tony Chachere and produces signature Creole seasonings, marinades, dinner mixes, roux and gravy mixes, and more. Chachere published "Cajun Country Cookbook," fulfilling a lifelong dream to record the recipes of his beloved south Louisiana.

"His fishing and hunting camp on Bayou Big Alabama, in the Atchafalaya Swamp near Opelousas, was legendary as a gourmet haven where his culinary talents delighted palates from all over the U.S., Mexico and Canada," according to the company's history.

When Chachere headed to his kitchen, his trademark shout "Tonight, I'm gonna make 'em cry!" promised culinary delicacies. Chachere was honored in 1995 as the inaugural inductee into the Louisiana Chefs Hall of Fame, but died shortly after receiving the honor and just months before his 90th birthday.

"We love everything SFA stands for, so this partnership is just a natural fit for us," said Celeste Chachere, his great-granddaughter and director of marketing. "Tony Chachere's rich history is indelibly stamped on the company, just as that history stamps the hearts of Louisianans.

"Without its unique place in the cultural history of Louisiana, Tony Chachere's would be just another brand. Instead, it is so much more, embodying the spirit of the people of Louisiana and our joyful way of life. Mr. Tony's family wants to make sure those stories are never forgotten."

The member-supported SFA collects oral histories, produces films and podcasts, publishes great writing, sponsors scholarship, mentors students and stages events that serve as progressive and inclusive catalysts for the greater South.

"We are grateful for Tony Chachere's generosity, which will allow the SFA to honor these cooks through film. Together we aim to inspire communities to invest in their culinary cultures and share their stories," said Claire Moss, associate director of development.

MAKE A GIFT: Claire Moss, (662) 915-3086
or claire@southernfoodways.org

HOT TAKE

TABASCO sponsors virtual tour of Cajun Country

McIlhenny Company, maker of TABASCO® Brand sauces is a long-time partner of the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA). This year, the duo collaborated on a first-of-its kind virtual tour of Cajun Country, a destination the TABASCO folks know well and are proud to celebrate, as every bottle of TABASCO Sauce is made amidst the old oaks on Avery Island in south Louisiana.

"Popular perceptions of Cajun Country are often outdated and grounded in folksy stereotypes that don't always reflect the dynamic community we live in today," said McIlhenny CEO Harold Osborn. "While the gumbo, seafood stews and fried everything remain important staples of the Cajun diet, the food culture landscape has greatly evolved thanks to the people that call Acadiana home today.

"Over the years, we've welcomed communities from diverse cultural backgrounds who have married their African, Latin American, Middle Eastern and Asian traditions with our local methods and flavors. The result is a truly unique – and seriously delicious – food landscape that we want to share and celebrate with the rest of the world," he said.

Thanks to McIlhenny Company, SFA members and guests got a digital taste of Cajun Country this summer via a virtual field trip that included five new episodes of the SFA podcast, Gravy, and 10 new oral histories. On July 1, the new SFA Stories app for Android and iOS phones debuted. The app showcases SFA documentary work and is searchable by keyword, as a trip builder or as a browser for SFA films, podcasts, and oral histories.

"We are grateful to the SFA for doing the hard work of documenting the food culture – past and present – in our own backyard and beyond," Osborn said. "We are inspired by the entire SFA team's talents and eagerly devour all the stories they tell through their oral histories, podcasts, films and events. So, I guess the relationship between TABASCO and the SFA is an intuitive one and one that is destined to be long and happy."

McIlhenny Company products were first enjoyed by Southerners in the late 19th century. The 152-year-old company makes a line of pepper sauces, including its world-famous TABASCO Sauce, that are sold in 195 countries and territories.

"SFA is honored to call the McIlhenny Company a supporter, and to call Harold Osborn a colleague and friend," said SFA director John T Edge. "We take great pride in our long association, which gained traction in the years after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005, and has grown stronger and more impactful since."



MAKE A GIFT: Claire Moss, (662) 915-3086
or claire@southernfoodways.org

BENEFITING CHILDREN

Sanderson Farms Championship host breaks giving record

For the sixth year in a row, Century Club Charities has set a record in philanthropy, announcing a \$1.3 million donation to Friends of Children's Hospital from the 2019 Sanderson Farms Championship.

The tournament host presented a check to Friends, the fundraising organization dedicated to supporting the University of Mississippi Medical Center's pediatric health care mission, including the state's only children's hospital.

"Spoiler alert: It's another record year," quipped Pat Busby, Century Club Charities president.

The record-breaking donation from the 2019 Sanderson Farms Championship follows the \$1.25 million raised in 2018. With the 2019 gift, Century Club Charities has given more than \$7.6 million to Friends since 2013, the first year Sanderson Farms became the title sponsor.

Those donations help children across the state live healthier lives, Busby said. "Children's of Mississippi treats 150,000 to 175,000 children per year from every city and county in the state of Mississippi. The \$1.3 million contribution today is a Mississippi statewide event."

The donation to Friends of Children's Hospital will go toward bringing UMMC's seven-story pediatric expansion to completion. In 2016, Friends made a \$20 million pledge to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, the philanthropic effort to raise \$100 million to fund the project.

Sanderson Farms CEO and board chairman Joe Sanderson Jr., who chairs the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi with his wife, Kathy, said the funds raised through the state's only PGA TOUR event will benefit families today as well as in the future.

"The opening of this building will be transformative for pediatric care in Mississippi and the surrounding region," he said.

The Sandersons launched the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi in 2016 with a \$10 million personal donation.

With this donation, Friends has surpassed the halfway point in reaching that \$20 million goal, said Melanie Morgan, Friends of Children's Hospital board chair.

"Every child deserves a future, and that future can begin here with Children's of Mississippi and continue through that child's life," Morgan said. "We want to see children back on the playground, back in their schools and communities and living lives of joy and happiness."

The Sanderson Farms Championship was honored for a second consecutive year by the PGA TOUR with its "Best Charity Integration" award, which recognizes the tournament that best incorporates its charity and theme into all facets of the event.

Children's of Mississippi, UMMC's pediatric arm, is highly visible during the Sanderson Farms Championship, with patients, doctors and nurses greeting tournament spectators. Likewise, PGA TOUR players



Celebrating the record-breaking Century Club Charities donation to Friends of Children's Hospital are (from left) Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair, professor and chair of Pediatrics; Children's of Mississippi patient Felton Walker; Sanderson Farms Championship Executive Director Steve Jent; Friends of Children's Hospital Board Chair Melanie Morgan; Century Club Charities President Pat Busby; Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine; Sanderson Farms CEO and Chairman of the Board Joe Sanderson; Children's of Mississippi patient Tiana Rollins; Sanderson Farms Director of Marketing Hillary Burroughs; and Children's of Mississippi CEO Guy Giesecke.

and members of the PGA TOUR Wives Association stop in to visit patients and families at Children's of Mississippi during tournament week.

"It's really rewarding for the tournament to set another record for our annual donation to Friends and Children's of Mississippi," said Steve Jent, the tournament's executive director. "I'm really excited for our staff, volunteers, sponsors, and, more importantly, the patients at Children's that our first year as a stand-alone event was so successful."

The work of so many to help children get a healthy start in life through Children's of Mississippi is humbling, said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

"We are so thankful for our partners and their generosity," Woodward said. "Their dedication to pediatric health will benefit children now and into the future. We are honored and grateful to have, as supporters, people who have such a heart for children and families."

The new pediatric tower will be home to 88 private neonatal intensive care rooms, 12 additional operating rooms, 32 pediatric intensive care rooms, an imaging center designed for children, 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.

Under construction since early 2018, the Children's of Mississippi expansion will open in the fall.

"Our Children's of Mississippi experts offer world-class care, and soon we will have a children's hospital facility that matches their skills," said Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair, professor and chair of Pediatrics.

The 2020 Sanderson Farms Championship will be held Sept. 28-Oct. 4 at the Country Club of Jackson.

MAKE A GIFT: Visit growchildrens.org

A PLACE TO PLAY

Benson Charitable Foundation makes \$1M gift to Children's



Dr. LouAnn Woodward, left, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, applauds the \$1 million gift from the Gayle & Tom Benson Charitable Foundation as Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair, professor and chair of pediatrics, and Gayle Benson, right, owner of the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans, look on.

A playground at the University of Mississippi Medical Center's seven-story pediatric expansion will be a reminder of the generosity of two organizations: The Gayle & Tom Benson Charitable Foundation and Sanderson Farms.

UMMC announced a \$1 million donation from the foundation to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, the philanthropic effort to bring the children's hospital expansion to completion. The gift will also create The Gayle & Tom Benson Charitable Foundation Playground in honor of Sanderson Farms.

"This gift is just phenomenal," said Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair, professor and chair of pediatrics at UMMC. "Children's of Mississippi cares about the health and welfare of all of the children in the state, and a big part of children's health is play. This new playground will give the children who come to our hospital and clinics a space where they can have fun."

Gayle Benson, owner of the New Orleans Saints and New Orleans Pelicans, said joining Children's of Mississippi in the organization's goal of helping all of the state's children reach their full potential was a choice she was happy to make, noting the "tremendous support from our teams' fans in Mississippi."

Benson chose to honor Sanderson Farms in the naming of the playground because of the dedication of its CEO and board chairman Joe Sanderson Jr. "His dedication to the community and especially its children is truly inspiring," she said.

In 2016, Sanderson and his wife, Kathy, launched the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi with a \$10 million personal gift. The Campaign, which they chair, has raised more than 80 percent of its \$100 million goal.

Sanderson Farms is the title sponsor of the Sanderson Farms Championship, held at the Country Club of Jackson. Through the PGA TOUR event, more than \$6.2 million has been raised to benefit Mississippi's only children's hospital since the company's commitment to the event in 2013.

Sanderson thanked Benson for the gift as well as for her "dedication to the growth and enhancement of the Gulf South region."

Children's of Mississippi patients, many of them wearing New Orleans Saints jerseys, and their parents were in attendance, which included unveiling an architect's rendering of the playground to be located between the expansion's outpatient clinic and the new 517-space parking garage.

"A playground is everything to a child," said Megan Bell of Pearl, whose daughter, Avery, is a Children's of Mississippi patient. "This incredible gift will make our hospital more enjoyable for patients and families and will make us feel more at home. We are so grateful for the generosity shown to our children today."

Avery was born with the chromosomal condition Turner's syndrome, and shortly after her birth in 2009, a congenital heart defect was detected. She had corrective surgery through Children's of Mississippi when she was a week old, and since then, Children's specialists have been keeping her healthy.

"Avery is super excited to visit the playground when she comes to the new specialty clinic," Bell said.



"A playground is everything to a child."

This incredible gift will make our hospital more enjoyable for patients and families.

We are so grateful..."

~ Megan Bell



The expansion will include a clinic area for specialists and the Children's Heart Center, a pediatric imaging center, additional surgical suites and more intensive care rooms. Two floors of the tower will be dedicated to private neonatal intensive care space so families will be able to stay with their babies.

Guy Giesecke, CEO of Children's of Mississippi, the arm of UMMC that includes the children's hospital as well as clinics around the state, said the \$180 million expansion is within budget and on schedule to open in the fall.

MAKE A GIFT: Visit growchildrens.org

A GIFT FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

\$1M child life endowment is memorial for Friends chair

When children being treated at the state's only children's hospital play as part of the healing process, it will be in memory of Sidney P. Allen, the Friends of Children's Hospital board chair who died Nov. 10, 2018, after a brief battle with cancer.

A \$1 million commitment to the Child Life program at Children's of Mississippi from Friends of Children's Hospital and the Allen family was announced at the Trustmark Children's Hospital Pro-Am Sponsor Party at the Country Club of Jackson, Mississippi.

Friends of Children's Hospital helps raise funds to support the University of Mississippi Medical Center's pediatrics arm, including Batson Children's Hospital, the state's only pediatric hospital.

"The gift recognizes Sidney's exceptional life, his genuine compassion for others and the profound impact he had on the lives of children and families through his commitment and leadership of Friends," said Melanie Morgan, Allen's successor as chair of the nonprofit.

Proceeds from the Sidney and Friends Child Life Fund will support Child Life and other similar pediatric programs that help patients and families cope with stress or other issues related to treatment and their time in the hospital.

"Dad spent 25 years working on behalf of Friends of Children's Hospital to support vital programs at Children's of Mississippi and more specifically, Batson," said Allen's son, Sidney Allen Jr. "When he passed away last year, mom, Rachel and I asked that donations be made to Friends instead of flowers or other such memorials. Through those very generous donations from many of our friends and family members, we were able to consider a way to permanently remember his service to Friends and the hospital."

The Child Life program has been the designated beneficiary of the Pro-Am for many years. Child Life was also the first program supported by Friends in 1990, when the nonprofit donated \$5,000 toward the hospital's activity room fund.

"Working with Melanie Morgan, my wife Kristin, the board of Friends, and the development team at UMMC, we settled on the idea to establish the Sidney and Friends Child Life Fund so the Child Life program can be permanently endowed," Allen said. "We are excited to begin this journey with Friends and UMMC so the Child Life program will be able to grow as Children's of Mississippi grows."

This endowment is the only one of its kind for Child Life, providing annual income for a program that relies on philanthropic support. In efforts to grow the fund, Friends will continue fundraising to ensure Child Life specialists have the resources needed to provide patients with therapeutic play, preparation for procedures and education to reduce fear, anxiety and pain.

"This endowment will provide for our Child Life needs at a time when Children's of Mississippi is growing," said Guy Giesecke, CEO of



Madeline Wilson, Children's of Mississippi Child Life specialist, laughs with Keidron Hall of Gulfport during his hospital stay.

Children's of Mississippi. "We are grateful for the care that this endowment will help provide to our patients and their families."

Child Life care helps in healing, said Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair, professor and chair of Pediatrics. "By offering our patients opportunities to play, Child Life specialists are helping them learn, grow and heal."

Laurie Heiden-Izard, Hospital School and Child Life coordinator, said the endowment will fund the needs of Child Life, providing patients with much needed resources and services.

"We are so thankful to have the support of Friends of Children's Hospital in this mission," she said.

Child Life specialist Tiffany Key said the endowment will provide comfort for patients and families when it is needed the most.

"This endowment will ensure that Child Life care here will grow as our hospital does," she said.

The endowment comes as Children's of Mississippi is expanding the children's hospital through construction of a seven-story tower. The addition will include two floors of private neonatal intensive care rooms, a dozen state-of-the-art surgical suites, larger spaces for pediatric intensive care, an imaging center designed for children and an outpatient specialty clinic.

"As our hospital expands, this endowment will support a program that is at the heart of Children's of Mississippi," said Meredith Aldridge, director of development for Children's.

Donations can be made to Friends of Children's Hospital, Sidney and Friends Child Life Fund (memo line), mail to 3900 Lakeland Dr., Suite 205, Flowood MS 39232 or online at friendsofch.org by adding "Sidney and Friends" under additional information.

To support the University of Mississippi Medical Center, visit <http://www.umm.edu/givenow/> or contact Meredith Aldridge, associate executive director of development, at 601-984-2841 or mmaldridge@umc.edu.

MAKE A GIFT: Visit growchildrens.org

CELEBRATING HEALTH

Bancroft Fund gives \$1M to create Bird Discharge Lobby



The Children's of Mississippi seven-story expansion will include the Bob Bird Discharge Lobby, thanks to a \$1 million gift from the Joseph C. Bancroft Charitable and Educational Fund.

Thanks to a \$1 million gift from the Joseph C. Bancroft Charitable and Educational Fund, patients of Children's of Mississippi and their families will receive a send-off as hospitable as their welcome to the state's only children's hospital.

The seven-story children's hospital expansion at the University of Mississippi Medical Center will now include the Bob Bird Discharge Lobby, a place where families can prepare comfortably for going from hospital to home.

"One of the Bancroft Fund's core values is improving the health of Mississippi's children," said Gerald M. Abdalla, director of the McComb-based nonprofit. "This gift will honor one of the Bancroft Fund's leaders, Bob Bird, as well as help families heading home from the hospital with a transition space that will give a good start to their children's follow-up care."

The Bob Bird Discharge Lobby will be a comfortable spot where discharged patients can wait for transportation, medications, car seats or other needed equipment before going home.

Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, said the Bancroft Fund's donation to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi will make the new children's hospital tower a much more accommodating space for patients and their families.

"Mississippi is known for its hospitality," Woodward said. "In the Bob Bird Discharge Lobby, our patients and their families will be able to transition to going home with the comfort and reassurance they need."

A patient's care at Children's of Mississippi includes clinic visits and care instructions for home as well as inpatient care, said Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair, professor and chair of pediatrics.

"Going home from the hospital is as much a part of a child's health care as their treatment in the hospital," Taylor said. "We want families to leave with the confidence they need to administer medications, take their children

to follow-up visits with specialists and help their children get well soon. The Bob Bird Discharge Lobby will give us the space for this to happen."

Children's of Mississippi is the pediatric arm of UMMC that includes the state's only children's hospital.

The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi was launched in 2016 to help bring the \$180 million expansion to completion. The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi has reached more than 80 percent of its \$100 million goal.

The expansion will include two floors with private neonatal intensive care rooms where families can bond with their critically ill newborns. A dozen state-of-the-art surgical suites and 32 private pediatric intensive care rooms will be available for patients at a moment's notice. An imaging center designed for children and a pediatric outpatient specialty clinic are also included in the tower, and a 517-space parking garage will be located conveniently nearby.

Under construction since early 2018, the children's hospital expansion will open this fall.

The building of a tower that will more than double the space devoted to pediatric care at UMMC is a cause that aligned with the Bancroft Fund's history of philanthropy.

"The Bancroft Fund has been heavily involved with Children's of Mississippi during the past 24 years," Abdalla said. "This included the Fund's \$2.5 million gift to renovate the Croft Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in 2009, which provides care to the state's most critically ill and injured children."

The Bancroft Charitable and Educational Fund was formed in 1996 upon the death of Joseph C. Bancroft, founder of Croft, LLC, a manufacturer of vinyl and aluminum windows and doors. The McComb-based nonprofit supports charitable and educational programs by offering financial support, leadership and guidance to qualifying organizations within the state of Mississippi.

Bob Bird has been involved with Croft since 1985, when he was an audit partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers. For 11 years he was in charge of Croft's annual audit. After Bancroft's death, Bird became chairman and president of the Joseph C. Bancroft Charitable and Educational Fund. He continues to serve today as a director of the Bancroft Fund.

"Bob's service to Croft and the Bancroft Charitable Fund spans 35 years and is ongoing," Abdalla said. "His name being given to an area where children will transition to home from a hospital stay is an honor that reflects his values."

To support the University of Mississippi Medical Center, visit <http://www.umm.edu/givenow/> or contact Meredith Aldridge, associate executive director of development, at 601-984-2841 or mmaldridge@umc.edu.

MAKE A GIFT: Visit growchildrens.org

A BOOSTER FOR NURSING

Students benefit from Mississippi Board of Nursing scholarships

This year, 85 nursing students will benefit from scholarships from the Mississippi Board of Nursing's Office of Nursing Workforce.

The Board of Nursing awarded \$75,000 to students in all four nursing programs at the UM Medical Center. While UMMC has received funds the past two years, this is the largest amount to date.

The funds, which have also been awarded for the next academic year, are especially helpful to students who are working while in school. The same is true for students pursuing advanced degrees, which often carry more expensive price tags and few opportunities for financial aid.

Dr. Mary Stewart, director of the Ph.D. in Nursing program and nurse educator on the Board of Nursing, said 12 students from the Ph.D. and the D.N.P. programs each received \$2,500.

"Our Ph.D. students are usually working full time while in school and, at the same time, carry a heavy responsibility for their families," said Stewart.

"So additional support for them, like the Office of Nursing Workforce funds, provides them with the added opportunity to attend nursing research conferences, conduct their dissertations and disseminate their research."



Deidra Morgan, currently in the fourth year of the D.N.P. program, is using the scholarship to support her project on asthma management in schools.

Deidra Morgan of Clinton is one of those students. She is in her fourth year in the D.N.P. program, attending school part time and working as an assistant professor in the School of Nursing full time.

She is using the funds to support the research for her D.N.P. project on asthma management in schools, in addition to attending the Society of Pediatric Nursing Conference in California.

"This conference will help me grow in my role as an assistant professor and a pediatric nurse here at UMMC," she said. "This conference offers a wide variety of information about pediatric nursing on a national level, which is excellent for incorporating into education and practice."

Since 2017, the Board of Nursing has given out more than \$2.5 million in scholarship funds to nursing schools in the state.

"Educational scholarships are a valuable tool, and the board realizes that nursing scholarships

are essential in developing a competent nursing workforce while supporting continuous learning," said Dr. Melissa King, president of the Board of Nursing.

RADIOTHON RAISES \$441,057

Patients and families broadcast the difference Children's of Mississippi has made in their lives during the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals fundraiser. To join in the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, visit growchildrens.org.



Gerica Hill tells Q101's Ryan Johnson of his daughter Gracen O'Harrell's medical journey.



Jordan Morgan (right), a former Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Champion, tells his story to US 96.3 hosts Hef and Traci Lee.



Children's patient Griffin Threatt of Clinton kicked off the 19th annual Mississippi Miracles Radiothon with an interview with Ryan Johnson of Q101.



Magnolia Jones of Bogue Chitto, a Children's of Mississippi patient, talks with Y101's Megan Macko as Magnolia's mother, Emily Jones, observes.

MIND CENTER HONORS PHYSICIAN



Dr. Thomas and Emily Mosley (center) joined Dr. Tommy Prewitt (right) and his wife, Cissy Primos Prewitt (left). Tommy Prewitt was honored at an Oct. 17 event that raised support and awareness for the MIND Center at UMMC.

The MIND Center at UMMC, a national leader in Alzheimer's research and clinical care, hosted "A Night with Beautiful Minds" to honor Dr. Tommy Prewitt, a retired physician who is battling early onset dementia.

The Oct. 17 event highlighted Dr. Prewitt's love of art by featuring visual, culinary, musical and performing artists while raising awareness and over \$225,000 to support the MIND Center's mission to stop Alzheimer's.

Dr. Prewitt received his doctoral degree in 1988 from UMMC. He served the medical center and its community for many years as an associate professor of surgery and director of health policy, practicing as a breast surgical oncologist, an educator and a health policy adviser to the chancellor.

MAKE A GIFT: Visit https://umc.edu/Office_of_Development/Give_Now.html

REBELTHON RAISES OVER \$250,000



Ole Miss students raised \$252,571 for the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital over the past year, culminating in the annual RebelTHON dance party Feb. 15 at Tad Smith Coliseum.

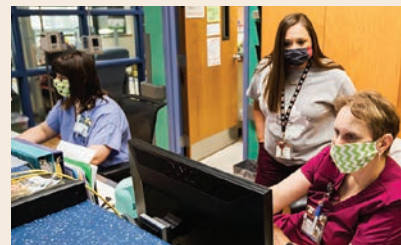
During the 12-hour dance party, miracle families – those children who have received treatment from Children's and their families – took the stage each hour to pump up fundraisers.

Amid the lights, music and dancing, a gong rang out more than 600 times in steady intervals as students celebrated each new \$50 raised.

Student donations from RebelTHON have made a significant impact. Over the course of nine years of fundraising and eight dance marathons, RebelTHON donations have supported the hospital's AirCare Flight Team and helped upgrade patient and family areas.

The more than \$750,000 raised over the past three years has contributed to the new pediatrics tower being built at UMMC.

Regions Bank Helps in Pandemic



Wearing masks while working to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are (from left) Hannah Alfonso, nurse; Jennifer Smith, social worker; and Tammy Roberts, nurse.

Those who gave toward the Medical Center's efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic had a partner.

Regions Bank announced matched donations dollar for dollar – up to \$50,000 – for pandemic relief efforts at the Medical Center, which took a leading role in fighting the spread of the novel coronavirus in Mississippi.

The COVID-19 Recovery Support Fund helped provide for immediate needs related to pandemic response across the Medical Center. From provider equipment to technology assisting patients and families, the fund helped meet needs as they arose.

"Every day, around the clock, the physicians and staff of UMMC are meeting urgent needs and providing guidance, care, comfort and support for people and families from across our state," said Robert Leard, Metro Jackson market executive for Regions Bank.

"We are proud to support their work through this donation, and we encourage others to consider how they can contribute to these efforts as well. Indeed, we are facing an unprecedented challenge in the form of COVID-19. But we are also seeing unprecedented collaboration as people and organizations come together to support each other during a very difficult time."

Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs, said that, in times of crisis, having partners in the community is vital.

MAKE A GIFT: Visit https://umc.edu/office_of_Development/Give_Now.html

OLE MISS ATHLETICS FOUNDATION

Promising 2019-20 season cut short



Above: Student-athletes, led by members of the football program, participate in a Unity Walk on campus to advocate for social justice. Above right: New Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Keith Carter chats with donor J.L. Holloway at a Nashville reception. Right: new Head Football Coach Lane Kiffin is welcomed by Rebel fans upon his arrival in Oxford.



The COVID-19 pandemic brought an early end to a promising 2019-20 academic year for Ole Miss Athletics, but despite the premature conclusion, there was still plenty of on-field success had by the Rebels – and even more excitement going into 2020-21.

In the fall, the men's cross country team defended its Southeastern Conference title, giving Ole Miss Athletics five SEC championships in the last four years. On the gridiron, the Rebels entered a new era, hiring Lane Kiffin as the leader of the program. With Kiffin at the helm, the young Ole Miss squad returns three Freshman All-Americans and enters the 2020 campaign as one of college football's most talked-about teams.

In the spring, numerous teams were off to an outstanding start before the COVID-19 pandemic prematurely ended their seasons. Ole Miss baseball closed with the nation's best record at 16-1, as well as its longest winning streak – 16 games and counting. Mike Bianco became the first Rebel baseball coach to be named National Coach of the Year. Women's golf was ranked just outside of the top 10 nationally thanks to a program record four tournament wins. Kory Henkes earned SEC Coach of the Year honors, though her squad didn't have the opportunity to defend its SEC title. Men's and women's tennis were both ranked nationally as well with 10-4 and 9-4 records, respectively. Men's and women's track and field combined for eight All-Americans during the indoor season and were poised for outdoor success as well before spring athletic competitions came to an early end.

With their teams sidelined due to the pandemic, Rebel leadership has continued to impact the community. Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Keith Carter, as well as head coaches Kiffin, Bianco, Kermit Davis, Yolette McPhee-McCuin and Connie Price-Smith, successfully lobbied state legislature to change the state flag in June. Earlier that month, Ole Miss student-athletes, led by members of the football program, organized a Unity Walk on campus to advocate for social justice.

Ole Miss Athletics continued to succeed in the classroom as well, breaking the department record for highest APR score yet again with a multi-year average of 911. Ole Miss recorded a single-year APR score of 986 in this latest report from the 2018-19 school year, and its new multi-year score of 991 sits eight points above the national average of 983. Within the 16 sports at Ole Miss, the Rebels hold a cumulative average of plus-8.4 points ahead of the national average score, including a sizable plus-14.6 points ahead in men's sports. The football program ranked No. 3 nationally with a 997 APR, while nine other programs posted a perfect 1000 APR. Ole Miss led or tied for the SEC APR lead in six sports.

Under new leadership with Fowler Staines promoted to chief executive officer and chief financial officer, the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation received \$27 million in donations for the 2020 fiscal year, with much appreciation to the continuously generous supporters of Ole Miss Athletics. The donations were largely designated toward Annual

Giving and the Vaught Society. As the Forward Together campaign nears its completion, the athletics department continued its widespread facility upgrades, including the ribbon cutting ceremony for one of college golf's premier practice courses, the Tosh Family Short Course.

All of the progress is happening under the watch of Carter, who was promoted from the interim athletics director position in November. Carter quickly tapped Kiffin to lead the Ole Miss football program into a new era, as well as two other new Rebel coaches who will look to do the same. Kayla Banwarth will bring U.S. National Team experience to the volleyball program. Meanwhile, Jamie Trachsel takes the reins of the softball program after leading Minnesota to the Women's College World Series in 2019.

Whether programs are starting anew under fresh leadership or simply looking to finish what they started in 2020, excitement and energy abound for each Rebel athletic program.

MAKE A GIFT: Visit give.toathletics.com/donate

CRUNKS SUPPORT ATHLETICS WITH MAJOR GIFT



Gina and Chip Crunk (center) are greeted at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium by Matt Mossberg (left), former associate athletics director and chief development officer, and Keith Carter, vice chancellor for intercollegiate athletics.

Chip Crunk is no stranger to the University of Mississippi campus.

"I'm up here at least once a month trying to give back, trying to do the right things and help young people better themselves," said Crunk, president and CEO of the RJ Young Company of Nashville, Tennessee.

The 1987 graduate and his wife, Gina, made a \$500,000 gift to Ole Miss Athletics, the latest of many gifts to his alma mater.

"That's the reason you work hard — so you have the ability to give back to help young people have better opportunities to attend college and be proud of what the university has to offer," Crunk said. "I want to see young people have the opportunity to better themselves."

Crunk is also no stranger to hard work. He started his career with RJ Young at age 14, cleaning bathrooms, sweeping, mopping and taking out the trash.

After graduating from Ole Miss, Crunk returned to the company as a sales representative. He became director of sales in 1989, then executive

vice president and chief operating officer. In 1995, he took the reins and led RJ Young to see double-digit annual growth.

Providing technology services and office solutions for small- to enterprise-level businesses across every industry, the multimillion-dollar company now ranks as the largest, privately held dealer in the Southeast and one of the largest in the nation. Crunk oversees an operation that covers eight states and employs more than 650 people in 30 locations.

"We are so grateful to Chip and Gina for their commitment to the University of Mississippi and specifically to Ole Miss Athletics," said Keith Carter, vice chancellor of intercollegiate athletics. "This type of leadership gift shows the Crunks' commitment to helping us make a difference in the lives of our student-athletes."

"Gifts like these are inspiring to others who may be considering whether the timing is right to give back to Ole Miss," Carter continued. "Other potential donors will see Chip and Gina leading the way toward increased support and hopefully feel that they want to contribute too."

In addition to his interest in opportunities for student-athletes, Crunk said he is equally determined to see the School of Business Administration grow in national stature. A longtime member of the Business School's Advisory Board, he now serves as president.

Crunk is also a member and past president of the Copier Dealers Association, along with serving on both the Canon USA and Ricoh Corp. copier dealer councils. He is active in church, community and civic organizations and enjoys flying, boating, golfing and cheering for the Rebels and Tennessee Titans.

The Crunks live in Brentwood, Tennessee, and have two children: Trey, a first-year student at Ole Miss and Caroline, an Ole Miss alumna.

MAKE A GIFT: Visit give.toathletics.com/donate

A PLACE FOR PAYNE

Abb Payne's University of Mississippi roots go way back. In fact, his grandfather played football for Ole Miss in the late '20s, worked with the campus grounds crew to pay tuition and even planted many of the trees in the historic Grove.

Now, just as those mighty oaks have grown from saplings to stanchions of strength, Payne of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, hopes his gift to Ole Miss Athletics will help its programs grow into national powerhouses.

"We also hope it solidifies our appreciation to the Ole Miss family as a whole. Several generations of Paynes have attended Ole Miss, and we all reconnect around our love of the university and the great memories we have," said Payne, a UM Foundation board member.

"Athletics plays such a crucial role in the love you have for a school and provides a great reason to stay engaged over decades. Ole Miss Athletics does that for our family."

For his generosity, the Payne name will adorn the Hill Drive entrance of the Pavilion at Ole Miss, UM's premier basketball arena. But to Payne, the honor goes beyond sports.

"Of course, the Pavilion is state of the art and should be a wonderful facility for the university for decades in sports as well as for so many other events, like commencements or concerts, so it was a great fit for us because we're Ole Miss fans in all respects," he said.

A 1998 graduate of the School of Business Administration, Payne is president and CEO of The Payne Companies, employing thousands in various health care-related entities.

Additionally he is the founder of InfusionPlus, a company that administers highly complex intravenous therapies across Mississippi.

Payne and Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Keith Carter



Abb and Jennifer Payne with their children (from left) Arden, Ford and Duke.

attended Ole Miss together. While Payne said he appreciates Carter's "great momentum," Carter expressed gratitude for Payne's support.

"For generations, the Paynes have been prominent on this campus. I'm proud to see that the Payne name now has a permanent home here," Carter said. "We greatly appreciate Abb's longtime support of our programs and we look forward to the achievements his gift will help us win."

Payne holds master's and juris doctor degrees from Florida State University and is an attorney, real estate developer, property manager and forester.

Five years ago, he and his dad began a mission to see a game in every SEC football stadium.

"Ole Miss has really been our conduit to accomplish most of that, and it's been a great way for us to share that together," Payne said. "We've got one stadium to go."

MAKE A GIFT: Visit give.toathletics.com/gates

KNIGHT'S GATE



Alex and Amy Knight

Their recent \$250,000 gift gives Amy and Alex Knight of Germantown, Tennessee, a lasting family tribute while honoring a beloved fallen Rebel.

The Knights' name adorns Gate 38 of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium, representing the family's desire to help improve athletics facilities and recruit student-athletes to campus.

"We believe that modernized facilities help land top recruits that lead to winning seasons, so it seemed logical to focus our support in that direction," said Alex Knight, executive vice president of analytics and an owner of Citizens Rx, a national full-service pharmacy benefit-management provider for public and private companies.

"In selecting Gate 38, we wanted to honor Chucky Mullins' spirit and courage," said Amy Knight, who received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Patterson School of Accountancy in 2000 and 2001 respectively.

The late Roy Lee "Chucky" Mullins, a Rebel defensive back from Russellville, Alabama, died on May 6, 1991 – 19 months after the Ole Miss homecoming game in which he sustained a devastating football injury that left him a quadriplegic. After the injury, Mullins witnessed an outpouring of support nationwide.

The Knights' gift is part of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's drive to honor donors with naming opportunities for each entrance gate at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

"We are so grateful to Alex and Amy for participating in our gate naming initiative, which is the first of its kind and will play an integral role in completing the \$200 million Forward Together campaign," said Keith Carter, vice chancellor for intercollegiate athletics. "This type of leadership gift shows the Knight's commitment to helping us make a difference in the lives of our student-athletes."

Forward Together gifts have most recently supported the William F. Galtney Indoor Tennis Center and renovations to Oxford-University Stadium.

"We hope other young alumni, family, friends and fans of Ole Miss, especially those in the Memphis, Tennessee-area will consider enhancing their philanthropic giving to Ole Miss Athletics," Alex Knight said.

His wife agreed: "It's never too early to focus on giving opportunities for which you feel passionate about and have a personal connection."

MAKE A GIFT: Visit give.toathletics.com/gates

A NAME FOR NINE

Dr. Spencer Lee and his extended family have come and gone from the University of Mississippi over four generations, but the Lee name will soon be a permanent fixture on the Oxford campus.

Lee, a retired dentist from Pickwick Lake, Tennessee, and his wife, Rebecca, recently made a \$250,000 gift to the Forward Together campaign for Ole Miss Athletics, which bolsters facilities and programs for student-athletes. In recognition, the Lee name will be added to the Gate 9 entrance of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

"All our parents were graduates of Ole Miss; thus we have always been Rebel fans and have enjoyed many fall days in the Grove with family and friends before and after ballgames," said Lee, who attended UM's pre-dental program until 1965; he completed his degree in 1969 at the University of Tennessee.

"We've also had four children graduate from Ole Miss along with several of their spouses," he continued, adding their grandson — also named Spencer Lee — is a junior in the School of Engineering. "Needless to say, we all enjoy Ole Miss athletics and our gift represents our support for Rebel sports."

Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Keith Carter expressed gratitude to the Lee family.

"We are extremely grateful for the Lees' support and their desire to see our student-athletes succeed in their particular sports, in the classroom and in life beyond college."

Lee retired in 2015 after 46 years of practicing dentistry in Corinth,



Dr. Spencer Lee (at right), his wife Rebecca Ramer Lee and grandson Spencer Lee, a senior general engineering major from Corinth, Mississippi, are welcomed to campus by Ian Sadler, director of development for major gifts.

Mississippi. During his career, he was active in leading many professional organizations, including the American Dental Association.

Rebecca Ramer Lee earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in library science from Ole Miss in 1972 and 1975 respectively. She retired after 40 years as a librarian and teacher with the Corinth School System.

When they're not watching Rebels play, the Lees enjoy traveling and spending time on their boat at Pickwick Lake.

The Lees' gift is part of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's drive to honor donors with naming opportunities for each entrance gate at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

Forward Together's final phase saw the opening of the William F. Galtney Indoor Tennis Center and completed renovations to the Tosh Family Short Course and Oxford-University Stadium.

Naming opportunities remain available.

MAKE A GIFT: Visit give.toathletics.com/gates

JERSEYS TO SUITS



Rebecca and Billy Long

An act of kindness given years ago by his mother and a recent tour of UM's FedEx Student-Athlete Academic Support Center inspired Dr. Billy W. Long to make a gift that could help Ole Miss athletes win jobs.

Long's \$125,000 gift will support the university's Jerseys to Suits Networking Night by providing student-athletes with a new business suit to wear to the event and then keep for job interviews.

The Jerseys to Suits Networking Night is part of the NCAA's Life Skills program – a collaboration between the national office, the 1,200 member institutions, the affiliate organizations and conference offices. The program is committed to the early and total development of student-athletes, preparing them with "life skills" that are useful throughout college and after graduation.

"When we're preparing our graduating senior athletes for their professional career, we want them to be able to make a great first impression with potential employers," said Jennifer Saxon, associate athletics director for student-athlete enhancement.

"Part of that process is looking their best. So we always have a real need for support in this area."

Long, a retired gastroenterologist from Madison, Mississippi, and a 1973 UMMC graduate, said he considered a different designation for his gift – an international travel stipend for student-athletes who want to study abroad.

But meeting with Saxon jogged a memory that changed Long's mind: his mother once donated one of his suits to a high school student who needed proper attire for graduation.

"When Jennifer brought up this need, it just struck a chord with me," Long said. "It's not going to get me a seat on the 50-yard line or anything, but it's a real need."

Long's wife, Rebecca, said they wanted to help student-athletes in particular because they know first-hand the level of intense commitment students give to their sports. Their son, David, played football at Stanford University, graduated from Ole Miss Law School in 2012 and later obtained a master's degree in business administration from Vanderbilt University. The Longs' older son, Scott, attended Pepperdine University, took classes on UM's Oxford campus and graduated with a degree in medicine from UMMC in 2010.

"It's not just 40 hours a week; it's even more, counting their rigorous academics," she said. "We wanted this to be a gift that would not only affect the students' lives once but would also be a long-term benefit for them."

MAKE A GIFT: Visit givetoathletics.com/donate

RENEWED COMMITMENT

Guy and Lucy Moore of Pascagoula, Mississippi, believe their financial commitment to Ole Miss Athletics will help the Rebels compete in the Southeastern Conference and ultimately at the national level.

The Moores, who are members of the Vaught Society – an honorary designation for those who make annual gifts to Athletics of at least \$5,000 or more – renewed their commitment to the Forward Together campaign with a \$125,000 gift.

"It's important for our teams to be competitive and to do so, especially in the SEC, requires commitment, including financial support, to provide the necessary infrastructure and facilities to go along with the dedication and talent of the student athletes, coaches and staff," said Guy Moore, a 1972 accountancy graduate.

"Gifts to the Forward Together campaign through membership in the Vaught Society are one way to show that commitment and support, and we are pleased to continue our involvement."

The \$200 million Forward Together campaign is the largest and most ambitious fundraising initiative in Ole Miss Athletics history. Today's total of \$186 million is the result of philanthropic giving and donations related to priority seating. Over 400 commitments from Vaught Society members are directed toward the campaign.



Guy and Lucy Moore

"The university has a rich history of exciting and successful athletic programs," said Moore, a UM Foundation board member. "We believe that athletics programs are an integral part of the experience of students, alumni and friends, and are important in binding us together in our connection with Ole Miss."

The Moores also have a history of support for academics at the university. Most recently, the couple established an endowment that provides tuition support for students transferring from community college into the Patterson School of Accountancy.

Additionally, the Moores have included the university in their estate plans, naming UM a beneficiary of two trusts that will support all of their existing endowments.

Moore retired from Deloitte LLP and Deloitte & Touche LLP in 2012 after 40 years, including 30 as an active partner.

Guy Moore was named to the Patterson School of Accountancy Hall of Fame in 2013. While at Ole Miss, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity, Omicron Delta Kappa honor society and the Beta Alpha Psi accountancy fraternity.

MAKE A GIFT: Visit givetoathletics.com/donate

PLANNING AHEAD



Scholarships help student-athletes whose days are filled not only with class, but with training (below) and other obligations, like SEC Media Days (above).

By the time most students are eating breakfast, many Ole Miss student-athletes have already put in a couple hours of training.

"We were required to be up at 5 a.m. for a run or for weight training every day," said UM alumna Kie Purdom, former golf team member. "And that workout came in addition to the specific training we did in practice. Trying to balance the requirements of our sport with classwork and any other extracurricular activities was super difficult."

Having a job, she says, would be nearly impossible for student-athletes.

"There's just no time for that."

Which is why athletic scholarship endowments, like one recently established with a \$375,000 planned gift, are so important. The gift's donors asked to remain anonymous, but said they simply felt led to give back to the university that had done so much for them.

"Scholarships enable our student-athletes to focus on school and on their sport without having to worry about covering the cost of tuition, books, housing and many other expenses," said Keith Carter, vice chancellor of intercollegiate athletics. "Student-athletes who don't have those added pressures perform better on our teams, ultimately making Ole Miss more competitive."

This latest testamentary gift earmarked for Ole Miss Athletics will provide scholarships to student-athletes participating in any NCAA-sanctioned sport.

For information on including Ole Miss in your estate plans, contact Dan Wiseman, at 662-915-7601 or daniel@olemiss.edu.



MAKE A GIFT: Visit give.toathletics.com

A NAME FOR GATE 7

A St. Louis, Missouri, couple's gift to Ole Miss Athletics will benefit student-athletes while also honoring their sons, who are University of Mississippi alumni.

Scott and Shelley Ririe made a \$250,000 gift to the Forward Together campaign for Ole Miss Athletics, which bolsters facilities and programs for student-athletes. In recognition, Gate 7 entrance of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium will be named the Ririe Family Gate.

"We love athletics and we especially love college football," Scott Ririe said. "After our first son enrolled at Ole Miss in 2007, we fell in love with the Grove and all of the traditions. We donated to the athletics program to help perpetuate those positive traditions."

The Riries said they also hope their gift will enable the university to continue developing the brightest and best student-athletes.

"You have to have first-rate equipment and facilities to attract high-level talent in a very competitive Division 1 atmosphere," said Scott Ririe, who was introduced to Ole Miss in 2005 when he visited the Oxford campus with his son, Mike – then a junior in high school. The two enjoyed a campus tour, a Rebel football game and festivities in the historic Grove.

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



Shelley and Scott Ririe (from left) with their children: Elise, Mike, Andy and James

Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Keith Carter expressed gratitude to the Ririe family.

"We love families like the Riries, whose love for Ole Miss Athletics grew from their sons' passion for and loyalty to their alma mater," Carter said. "We are so grateful to Scott and Shelley, especially during these uncertain times."

Mike Ririe graduated from Ole Miss in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and is a commercial real estate agent in Chicago, Illinois. His brother, James, is a 2020 graduate of the School of Business Administration.

Inspired by the brothers' affection for their alma mater, Scott and Shelley made a \$300,000 gift in 2018 to establish the Ririe Family Scholarship Endowment, which awards \$6,000 a year for up to eight semesters to two St. Louis freshmen in business school.

"Our family has become attached to Ole Miss through our boys and their love and loyalty to the university," Shelley Ririe said.

MAKE A GIFT: Visit give.toathletics.com

A GIFT FOR FUTURE JOURNALISTS



Dub Shoemaker

A gift from the estate of the late W.C. "Dub" Shoemaker will provide students in the School of Journalism and New Media a capstone experience.

A longtime friend of the School of Journalism and New Media, Shoemaker established the endowment in his name with a \$54,000 estate gift; the total bequest has since exceeded \$600,000.

UM journalism students have produced depth-reporting multimedia projects since 2009, as they travel to areas and conduct thorough investigations of an issue. Several of the depth reports have garnered prestigious awards.

A respected journalist, businessman and philanthropist, Shoemaker was the 1986 Silver Em Award honoree, the university's highest journalism award.

"Dub was part of many important and historic events in Mississippi and was consistently well respected by his fellow journalists and by sources whose trust he earned by being a truth-teller," said Charlie Mitchell, associate professor and, like Shoemaker, a former president of the Mississippi Press Association. "As a businessman, he was wise, practical, innovative and, most of all, fair."

Shoemaker, a native of Simpson County, Mississippi, began his reporting career in 1949 as an office boy at the Jackson Daily News, where he quickly rose to the position of reporter. During his career, he covered many of the state's well-known civil rights cases.

In 1965, Shoemaker and partner George Keith bought The Star Herald in Kosciusko, Mississippi. He also owned Mississippi newspapers in Pontotoc, Starkville, Forest, Morton, Mendenhall and Madison.

MAKE A GIFT: William Fisher, (662) 915-2293 or wjfisher@olemiss.edu

REVISITING THE RENAISSANCE



Dennis Schrock

Thanks to a gift provided by an anonymous donor, a new UM symposium will bring the enchanting, but seldom-performed music of the Renaissance back to life.

"When we host the symposium, 'Performing Renaissance Music,' it will be unlike anything that has ever taken place here or in the region," said Donald Trott, director of choral activities and professor of music.

"What also makes this event exceptional is that Dr. Dennis Shrock, the foremost authority of historical performances of Renaissance music, will

be our guest conductor," Trott said. "We are grateful for the generous donor who made this possible."

While the first symposium will feature music created and performed during the Renaissance era, two more will focus on music of the Baroque-Classical period and the Romantic era.

Large sums of money are routinely spent on efforts to restore Renaissance paintings, sculptures and buildings, yet the music has either been ignored or not accurately presented, Shrock said.

"This symposium is an effort to bring attention to the music and its restoration, with the hope that the music will be seen – heard – as comparable in artistic stature to the other creative works of the time," he said. "The music will be performed as originally intended and presented by high-caliber musicians, including Via Veritate, a 16-voice ensemble of the finest choral singers in the United States."

A noted choral-scholar and the author of several books on historic performance and repertoire, Shrock has held faculty positions and residencies at numerous universities and frequently serves as a guest conductor and lecturer across the country.

MAKE A GIFT: Ron Wilson, (662) 915-1755 or jrwilso3@olemiss.edu

Tech for Teaching

A technology gift from the ARGUS/Altus Group of Houston, Texas, to the School of Business Administration gives students the opportunity to experience software they may ultimately use in their careers.



Sergio Gárate, assistant professor of real estate, said his students who learn to use the ARGUS technology will enter the industry with a competitive edge.

The gift, valued at more than \$330,000, is intended to train UM real estate students to use the same data and analytic software used daily by commercial real estate professionals.

"We want to ensure that students are prepared with the knowledge they need to enter the industry with the understanding of our software and how it's used in different roles," said Kari Mayfield, education coordinator for Altus Group. "Learning it while still in school creates a relationship with the students early on that sticks with them when they become the decision-makers of tomorrow."

Mayfield said Altus Group also hopes the gift will facilitate a connection between the company and students.

"Many of the students we train become our industry clients and we get to maintain this relationship throughout their careers. That's what we hope to continue accomplishing."

ARGUS allows developers and investors to evaluate, analyze and gauge the risk of an investment as well as facilitate the transaction of properties. Investors then use the information provided by the Argus analysis to keep track of their budgets and benchmark performance of multiple assets in a simple and visible way.

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

Chair Honors Donor's Legacy



Kiese Laymon has been named the inaugural holder of the Hubert H. McAlexander Chair of English created by the late Lester Glenn 'Ruff' Fant and his wife, Susan.

Lester Glenn "Ruff" Fant III and his wife, Susan, of Washington, D.C., established the Hubert H. McAlexander Chair of English with a \$1.5 million gift to honor Ruff Fant's lifelong friend and professor emeritus of English at the University of Georgia, Hubert H. McAlexander. The two men bonded over chess games as young boys growing up in Holly Springs. Fant passed away in May 2019.

"It's a cause for great celebration that Kiese Laymon will be the first to hold this professorship. As a Mississippian who has, in his work, explored some of the most challenging ideas of our time, including racism and Southern Black life, he is recognized throughout the nation as one of the most valued voices in today's literary landscape," said Chancellor Glenn Boyce.

The Fants established the chair as a tribute to McAlexander, who received his undergraduate and master's degrees and was a graduate instructor in English at UM. An inspiring educator who won almost every teaching award given by the University of Georgia, McAlexander is a celebrated scholar and Pulitzer Prize-nominated writer whose career spanned more than 50 years.

Laymon, likewise, has garnered international acclaim for his writing.

"The generous gift from the Fants helped make it possible for us to retain an excellent faculty member who has been recruited by several other universities," said Lee Cohen, dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Laymon joined the faculty in 2015 as a John and Renee Grisham Visiting Writer in Residence.

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

AWARDING EXCELLENCE

An art history professor is the first recipient of a new research award that is already garnering global recognition for the College of Liberal Arts.

Nancy Wicker used the gift in September to offset expenses associated with her participation in the annual meeting of the Association of European Archaeologists in Bern, Switzerland.

"At this venue, I reported on my latest research to members of this foremost international group of scholars who study the art and archaeology of Europe," said Wicker, whose work focuses on the art of Scandinavia during the Early Medieval Period, from the Migration Period of the 5th and 6th centuries through the Viking Age.

With a recent \$50,000 gift to the university, alumni Rusty and Missy Hensley of Memphis, Tennessee, established the Hensley Family Senior Professor Research Award Endowment.

"Our hope is that this award will serve as a respectful way to thank those outstanding professors who are contributing to research and the sharing of ideas," said Rusty Hensley, CEO of the Hartwell Foundation Corp. "We further hope that over the long term, the College of Liberal Arts will be able to attract outstanding professors to educate our students by inspiring thoughtful, relevant conversations."

Wicker expressed her gratitude to the Hensleys.

"In this time of chronic underfunding of the art and humanities, it is critical to have gifts that recognize that research is a priority of excellence at the University of Mississippi and that faculty members here can and do make a mark internationally with their research," she said.

After graduating in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in political science, Rusty Hensley earned a juris doctorate in 1982 from the University of Memphis School of Law. Missy Hensley graduated from Ole Miss in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in applied sciences.



Nancy Wicker

MAKE A GIFT: Ron Wilson, (662) 915-1755 or jrwilso3@olemiss.edu

A GIFT FOR FUTURE JOURNALISTS

Colleagues of the late Trey Jordan of New Orleans, Louisiana, describe the UM alumnus as the consummate professional, an outstanding leader and great motivator who was honest, sincere and compassionate.

He was well-rounded, they said, and fun – even at work for Northrup Grumman Corp., where he served as an information technology professional for 17 years.

Jordan's wife, Lyn Kieltyka, said her husband would give credit to Ole Miss for building his knowledge base and strengthening the social skills his colleagues found so appealing. He passed away in 2018 after a lengthy illness.

"The great people Trey met at Ole Miss and the life-changing experiences he had shaped him into who he was," said Kieltyka, who recently made a \$50,000 gift to the university, finalizing her husband's desire to fund a scholarship at his alma mater.

"Ole Miss was where he found himself, and the university remained a major part of his life. He hoped and wanted to encourage other Ole Miss students to have a similar experience."

The Robert Clark Jordan III Memorial Scholarship honors Jordan and provides income to support qualified students in the School of Journalism and New Media.

Jordan earned a bachelor's degree in business and journalism from the university in 1997. In 2003, he completed a master's degree at Tulane University in New Orleans, where mutual friends introduced him to the woman he would marry.

"Trey was an extremely giving person," Kieltyka said. "He always wanted to encourage everyone to reach their full potential. He believed by creating this scholarship, he could help do that while also easing the tremendous financial pressure many college students find themselves under."

UM Foundation president and CEO Wendell Weakley said scholarships like Jordan's give students more time to focus on academics, open opportunities for involvement in campus activities, lessen the impact of rising tuition costs and decrease the need for student loans.

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

A MOTHER'S MEMORIAL



Above: Pick and Jody Scruggs; Below: Ruth Simpson Shelton



scholarship is open to all students in the College of Liberal Arts, Scruggs said her mother would be pleased that many recipients have been theatre and film students.

Jody Scruggs of Oxford graduated with a liberal arts degree from Ole Miss, an accomplishment Ruby dreamed of doing herself.

"My mother wasn't able to attend college because of the Depression years, but she definitely passed on to me her love for her Mississippi family, which led to my choosing Ole Miss," Scruggs said.

Michael Barnett, chair and associate professor of theatre and film, said scholarship endowments like the one in memory of Shelton will make the dream of college a reality for students.

"The more we are able to ease students' financial burdens through scholarship support from donors like the Scruggs, the freer they are to take advantage of the wide range of enriching opportunities available both through our department and in the community."

MAKE A GIFT: Ron Wilson, (662) 915-1755 or jrwilso3@olemiss.edu

BUILDING A STRONG DEFENSE

Recent gifts to the School of Law could prove to be instrumental in sparing a man's life.

Vital Projects at Proteus, a donor-advised fund, made a \$50,000 gift to the law school's George C. Cochran Innocence Project to be used in the ongoing defense of Curtis Flowers — a Mississippi man accused of multiple murders.

"We oppose the death penalty and give grants to help end it. We are very proud to support the University of Mississippi's work on this case," said David Menschel, the fund's advisor.

After over 20 years in the state penitentiary, Flowers, who has never been acquitted of the crimes, is free on bond and waiting for the state to decide if it will try him for a seventh time.

"We represented Curtis Flowers in the post-conviction piece of the case," said Tucker Carrington, a UM law professor and director of the Innocence Project, one of nine clinics designed to give law students real-world experience.

In Flowers' case, Carrington and his students worked with Washington, D.C.-based law firm Hogan Lovells to gather evidence of the prosecutor's racial bias, which the U.S. Supreme Court would ultimately review in making its decision to overturn the case.

The Innocence Project also received an additional \$25,000 from an anonymous donor.

The State vs. Curtis Flowers is just one of about a dozen cases that the Innocence Project is working in active litigation.



UM students being sworn into limited practice by Carlton W. Reeves, U.S. District Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi

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

Sharing Art with Others

Art collectors Melody and John Maxey of Oxford gifted a prized watercolor — "Signs of the Times" — by renowned artist Dean Mitchell to the university.

Mitchell, an African-American artist, has been honored with numerous awards for his work. He has been applauded by art critics and publications, including the New York Times.

"Mr. Mitchell's career and body of work are highly distinguished, so the addition of a piece by this brilliant painter adds considerable artistic value to our collection and to its educational mission in service to the community and the curriculum," said Robert Saarnio, director of the University Museum and Historic Houses.

For the Maxeys, the gift is a way to share their passion for the arts.

"We think it's important to support the arts, any kind of art, whether it's music, painting or sculpture, and to share the arts," said Melody Maxey, who, along with their daughter, is an artist as well. "Art is a language that we have in common with everyone, regardless of where they live in the world."

"We hope that people who see this work will appreciate the beauty of the art and the message it sends, which is that, as Mississippians, we can all learn to live together in peace and harmony."

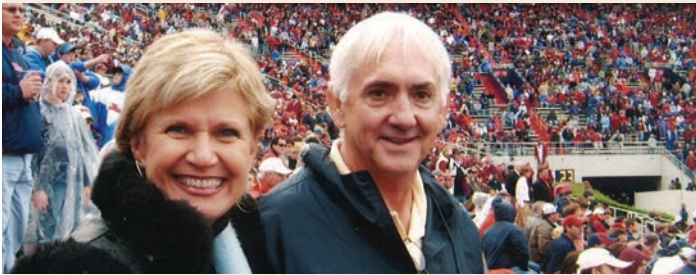
The Maxeys were introduced to the world of art collecting when they were Ole Miss students. Now, they have a lengthy history of supporting the arts in Mississippi. They've given seven paintings to the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson by Mississippi artists such as Sanders McNeal, Glennray Tutor, Miriam Weems, Kenneth Humphrey and William Dunlap.

A graduate of the School of Law, John Maxey retired after a half century of practicing law, and the couple returned to Oxford.



MAKE A GIFT: Ron Wilson, (662) 915-1755 or jrwilso3@olemiss.edu

HONORING A HUSBAND



Allen and Doug Cunningham

The late college and pro football player Doug Cunningham enjoyed a life defined by his affection for his family and friends, his alma mater and his two restaurants. But there was something else – the great value he placed on education, which inspired a scholarship in his name.

“Doug loved Ole Miss and for as much as he loved athletics, education was of primary importance to him and our family,” said his wife, Allen Cunningham of Jackson, Mississippi. “While playing football, Doug majored in pharmacy which is an academically rigorous field of study. Creating a scholarship to assist students in obtaining a college education would make him very happy.”

Cunningham, who passed away in 2015, attended Ole Miss on a scholarship offered by legendary Coach Johnny Vaught, playing half-back, wingback and kick returner. In 1966, he led the Rebels to an 8-3 record and was named All-SEC. He played professionally for the San Francisco 49ers and the Washington Redskins.

Cunningham was as revered off the field as on it. The student body elected him Mr. Ole Miss.

“Doug was a Rebel to the core. He loved Ole Miss and Ole Miss loved him back,” said Allen Cunningham, a UM alumna who funded the Doug Cunningham Memorial Scholarship Endowment.

“I hope future recipients will know that Doug was a popular and funny student in his day. He was a spectacular college athlete – fast as lightning – and a successful professional football player. He became a noted restaurateur in Jackson after his NFL days were over. Doug worked very hard and strived for excellence.”

Cunningham was inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and the Ole Miss M-Club.

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

GIVING BACK



The Nance family (from left) are Graham, Robert, Jane Kerr and Bob.

A gift from alumnus Bob Nance will provide a new meeting space for Beta Alpha Psi students in the Patterson School of Accountancy. Beta Alpha Psi is an international honor society.

The 1978 graduate’s \$50,000 gift established the Robert B. Nance III Family Suite Fund, which will underwrite construction of the conference room.

Nance of Oxford is now a principal owner and partner with Tommy Peters (BBA '77) of Beale Street Blues Co., a Memphis, Tennessee-based company that owns and operates 12 restaurants.

Named to Beta Alpha Psi as an undergraduate, Nance said he hopes his gift will help build facilities that will enhance the accounting program for its students.

“The education I received through the accountancy school was really a tremendous foundation that provided me guidance for business success,” Nance said. “Earning a degree in accounting, obtaining the CPA and having an Ole Miss background opened a lot of doors for me. It gave me credibility, especially at a very young age trying to explore the opportunities in the marketplace. I hope today’s students will have a similar experience.”

During his student days, Nance was a campus standout. Perhaps nothing is more memorable, though, than his time in Conner Hall.

“The accountancy school is near and dear to my heart not only because of the friends I made there but also because of my professors, especially Jimmy Davis and (the late) Gene Peery who took me under their wings, recognized my potential and guided me — almost as a parent would — throughout my college career,” said Nance, adding that he has since honored Davis and Peery through frequent financial support to both of their chairs and scholarship endowments.

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

Flashback: Remembering the 2019-2020 Donor Events



J.L. Holloway (left) and Bruce Moore connected at the Nashville donor reception, hosted at the Moore home.



Ole Miss Women's Council member Edith Kelly-Green (right) visits with Alexandria Seals at the annual Mentor Reception.



Parham and Polly Williams (from left) enjoyed a chat with Bo and Jodie Marsalis at the 2019 Donor Reception in the new South Campus Rec Center.

BRANDT'S SERVICE TO UM EXPANDED

Foundation names inaugural emeritus board member



Louis Brandt, center, has become the inaugural emeritus board member of the University of Mississippi Foundation (UMF), an honor that reflects his longtime service to and support of his alma mater and the foundation. With him are, left, Wendell Weakley, UMF president and CEO, and Suzan Thames, UMF board chair.

Business leader and philanthropist Louis Brandt of Houston, Texas, has been named the inaugural emeritus board member of the University of Mississippi Foundation, reflecting his longtime contributions to the organization and his alma mater.

Brandt was elected to the honorary position by other board members to recognize his 30 years of involvement and alumni leadership with the UM Foundation and the impact he has made through his support of university programs.

Suzan B. Thames of Jackson, Mississippi, chair of the UM Foundation board of directors, said, "Louis Brandt has demonstrated extraordinary commitment from playing a pivotal role

in providing the UM Foundation's physical home to supporting academics and athletics.

"As a UM Foundation board member, he provided knowledgeable, wise and thoughtful guidance as the foundation grew to support a major university. Honoring him with emeritus status is one way of thanking him for the significant contributions he has made."

Brandt provided the funds in 1992 to purchase Memory House from the John Falkner family of Oxford. After renovations, it was renamed Brandt Memory House in his honor in 1995. The facilities are utilized daily for UM Foundation business, university meetings, donor events and university-wide activities.

"My association with the UM Foundation and its staff over the years has been the highlight of being an Ole Miss alumnus, and this emeritus honor is the capstone," Brandt said. "This, in addition to having my name associated with the Memory House, the foundation's home, has made me very proud."

Among Brandt's service commitments to the UM Foundation, Brandt was chairman of the board, as well as a member of the Joint Committee on University Investments and the foundation's Executive Committee.

A former UM tennis team member and mathematics alumnus, Brandt practically grew up on campus with his dad on the faculty. He and Lucia, his wife, provided a gift that helped jump-start construction on the \$11 million, 52,000-square-foot Galtney Indoor Tennis Complex dedicated in 2019.

The Brandts' commitment to his alma mater has permeated many areas, including the schools of Engineering and Business Administration, Chancellor's Trust, Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Triplett Alumni Center, Paris-Yates Chapel, Residential College, Pride of the South Band, Concert Singers, Friends of the Library, University Museum and Historic Houses, Carrier House and more.

The Brandts also have committed a \$1 million planned gift directed to a faculty support endowment and an unrestricted endowment for Ole Miss Athletics. The third portion of the planned gift will expand the existing Louis K. Brandt Memory House Endowment, created in 1998 for preservation of Brandt Memory House.

Brandt was inducted into UM's Alumni Hall of Fame in 1993 and is the father to three sons.

Flashback: Remembering the 2019-2020 Donor Events



Shirley Crawford (from left), Lawrence and Jan Farrington, Bruce Livingston and Philip Jackson enjoy the Celebrating the Arts event on campus.



Heber Simmons (left) and Doug Minor catch up at a reception for donors in Nashville.



Robert Collins (left) and William Seibels visit with Chancellor Glenn Boyce at the Nashville reception for donors.



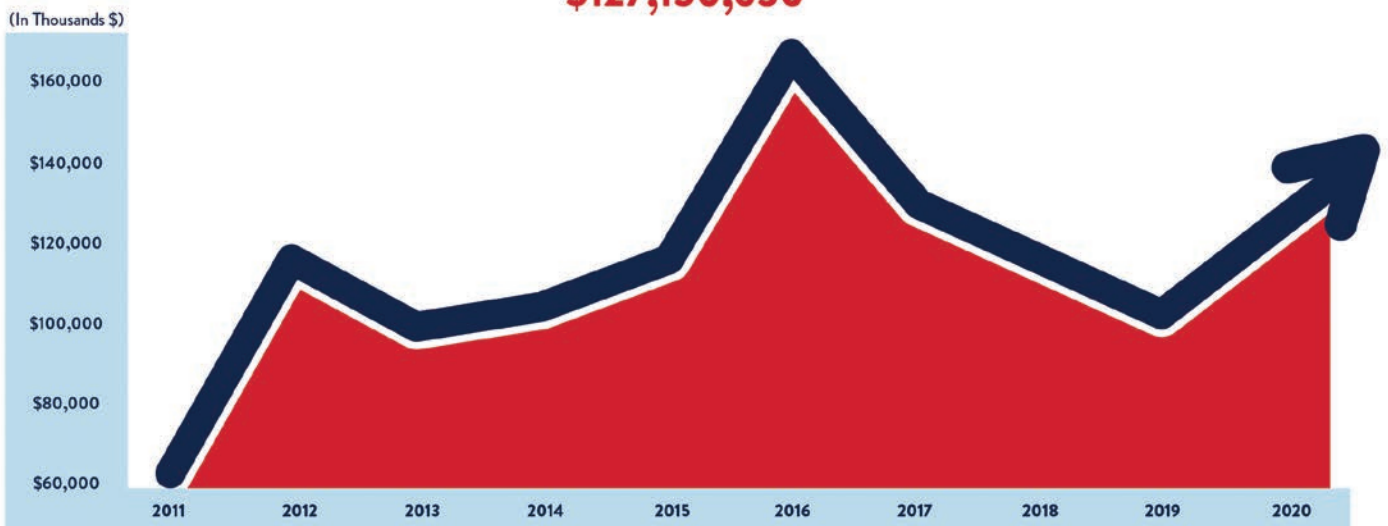
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\$127,150,630



Fiscal Year Private Support	(In Thousands \$)									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	\$61,149	\$116,701	\$100,148	\$105,176	\$116,371	\$167,550	\$132,107	\$116,591	\$102,813	\$127,151