

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Foundation

news 2023

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Special Thanks to the Following Donors

Academics

Francis Cerniglia.....	1
Christie and George Walker.....	2
The Triplett Family.....	4
Lee Anne and Bill Fry.....	6
FedEx Corporation.....	7
Susie and Lampkin Butts.....	8
Steven B. King.....	9
Renvy Pittman.....	10
Martin Dunagin.....	11
Insurance Industry Partners.....	12
Lacie and Joe Gorder.....	13
Wilbrod St. Amand.....	14
Doug MacEachern.....	15
North Mississippi Health Services.....	15
Donors to the Thomas Hayes May Lab.....	16
Robert Summers.....	16
Carol and Bob Dorsey.....	17
Daniel C. Hughes, Jr.....	17
Donors to the Patterson School of Accountancy's New Home.....	18

University of Mississippi Medical Center

Jean Reed Adams.....	20
Priscilla and David O'Donnell.....	21
Stephanie and Mitchell Morris.....	22
Dea Dea Adams Baker.....	23
Century Club Charities.....	24
Friends of Children's Hospital.....	25
Gwen and Dr. Wilfred Q. Cole, Jr.....	26
The Sidney P. Allen and Friends of Children's Hospital Child Life Fund.....	26
Participants in Rebelthon 2023.....	27
Hugh Carroll Smith.....	27
Mississippi Breast Foundation.....	28
Melissa and Phil Hanberry.....	28
Donors during Radiothon 2023.....	28

Ole Miss Athletics

The Rayner Family.....	29
Stephanie and John Johnson.....	30
Lisa and Ross Jessup.....	30
Donna and Mike Glenn.....	31
Terry and Charlie Gibson.....	31
GenTeal Apparel.....	31
Lori and Keith Shelly.....	32
Julie and Forrest Johnson.....	32
Patty and Mick Mauldin.....	32
Andrea and Dustin Todd.....	33
Emma Gaines and Brandon Dixon.....	33
Henry Wu.....	33

Academics

Harlene and Patrick Cavanaugh.....	34
Ginny and Bill Street.....	34
Trane Technologies.....	35
Chuck Nicholson.....	35
Evelyn and Jeff Johnson.....	35
Mary Susan and J.D. Clinton.....	36
James Stewart.....	36
Regions Foundation.....	36
The Gertrude C. Ford Foundation.....	37
Dorothy Wayne Blackwell.....	37
Donors to the Colonel Bobby A. Towery Final Mile Scholarship.....	37
Misty and Ron Feder.....	38
Mike Tincher.....	38
Janice and John Shanahan.....	38
Sandy and Vaughn Grisham.....	39
Lodge Cast Iron.....	39
Michael Metcalf.....	39
Gabriella and Marshall St. Amant.....	40
Janet and George Pilko.....	40
Scotsman Co.....	40
Participants in Giving Day 2023.....	41

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Message from the Chancellor



One hundred seventy-five years ago this fall, the University of Mississippi opened its doors with humble beginnings, featuring four faculty members and 80 students. Today, with more than 22,000 students, our university is Mississippi's flagship institution, a major research hub, a premier medical center and home to America's most beautiful campus.

Most importantly, we are thriving like never before, and we would not be where we are today without the generosity of devoted alumni and friends like you. As your chancellor, I'm deeply honored to offer my appreciation and gratitude for your loyal and enthusiastic support.

Our ambitious Now & Ever campaign, the largest in our state's history, stands at \$1.37 billion toward our \$1.5 billion goal. We're incredibly grateful for your gifts across academics, athletics and the Medical Center. These include a \$5 million gift from Christie and George Walker that will help us attract and retain top business professors and a \$2 million gift from the Rayner family that will support building first-rate facilities for our student-athletes as we seek to attract high-level talent in an increasingly competitive SEC.

Additionally, we are thankful to Jean Reed Adams who honored her late husband, Fred Rodgers Adams, Jr., with a \$10 million gift to the University of Mississippi Medical Center. This gift will be used to improve the lives of patients in Mississippi and beyond through UMMC's Memory Impairment and Neurodegenerative Dementia (MIND) Center. We all have reason to be proud of UMMC as a leader in health care, research and innovation.

Thank you for sharing your time, talent and treasure with our beloved university. Because of your outstanding commitment to our people, places and resources, the University of Mississippi is poised to start its next 175 years with tremendous momentum!

Glenn F. Boyce, Chancellor

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

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For the Love of Pharmacy and Sports

School of Pharmacy and Athletics to benefit from estate gift

The School of Pharmacy and Ole Miss Athletics stand to benefit from a gift in excess of \$4 million received from the estate of alumnus Francis Cerniglia of Cordova, Tennessee, who died in August 2022.

Cerniglia, who supported both entities throughout his lifetime, made a planned gift in 2017, designating the university as beneficiary of this portion of his estate.

The 1959 pharmacy graduate and Rebel basketball fan last visited campus the same year of his planned gift and received a tour of the Sandy and John Black Pavilion, UM's basketball arena, as a token of appreciation for his three-decade history of financial contributions to the university.

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

In 2001, Cerniglia directed the funds from his mother's estate into an endowment to reward School of Pharmacy faculty for excellence in teaching.

Barbara Wells, then the school's dean, considered the donor a friend.

"Francis Cerniglia was a kind, compassionate and generous man, and I admire him so much for these personal qualities. He cared particularly about students, faculty, quality teaching, the practice of pharmacy and the patients he served," Wells said. "This transformational gift from his own estate will bless our faculty and students in perpetuity."

Pharmacy Dean Donna Strum said Cerniglia's unrestricted gift in excess of \$3 million will make a highly positive impact on the school.

"We are extremely thankful and humbled by Mr. Cerniglia's support over the years and we offer our sincerest condolences to his family and friends," Strum said. "We understand that Mr. Cerniglia's estate gift is a testament to his love for the school as well as for the pharmacy profession.

"The support fund it establishes will be used to fulfill some of the school's greatest needs on behalf of our students and faculty," Strum said.

Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Keith Carter, who accompanied the alumnus on his Pavilion tour, said he's grateful for Cerniglia's gift in excess of \$1 million.

"It was a pleasure to get to know Mr. Cerniglia, and I extend my sympathies to his family and friends. I remember that he was eager to talk with me about Rebel basketball and, as a former player, I always enjoy visiting with such a great fan of the sport," he said.

"His gifts to our program will help keep us competitive for years to come, and we greatly appreciate his generosity and support."

After graduating from college, Cerniglia went to work for Morgan's Pharmacy in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

He later relocated to Walgreens in Memphis, Tennessee, where he worked 32 years before retiring in 1992.

Cerniglia's planned gift awarded him membership in the 1848 Society, which recognizes donors who provide for Ole Miss through planned and deferred gifts.



Francis Cerniglia (right) joined Keith Carter, vice chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics, for a tour of the Sandy and John Black Pavilion.

■ **FOR INFORMATION ON PLANNED GIVING:** Marc Littlecott, marcplan@olemiss.edu or 662-915-6625.

■ **FOR INFORMATION ON SUPPORTING OLE MISS ATHLETICS WITH AN ESTATE GIFT:** Denson Hollis, denson@givetoathletics.com or 615-957-4372.

Investment in Business Professors

Walkers make major gift to create endowed faculty positions

Christie and George Walker are helping shape the future through a transformational investment in the University of Mississippi School of Business Administration, ensuring resources are available to recruit and retain outstanding faculty members to prepare generations of students for careers and life after graduation.

The Jackson, Mississippi, couple committed a \$5 million gift to create the Christie Kirkland Walker Chair of Real Estate and the George Rea Walker III Chair of Finance. Income from the gift will provide salary supplements, research support and creative resources for specially selected real estate or finance professors.

Chancellor Glenn Boyce applauded the Walkers' significant gift.

"Christie and George Walker have made a powerful statement about the

far-reaching impact of faculty support and the importance of assuring that our students are taught and mentored by outstanding scholars.

"We deeply appreciate the Walkers' vision and trust in our stewardship of

a real estate development and management company with properties in seven states — said they had considered making this gift for a long time.

"We love Ole Miss and appreciate the preparation we received there," George

I feel we have been blessed in so many ways. Ole Miss was good to us, and I want it to help others grow. Giving back is something we just do.

these resources. The legacy they've built will help our students pursue their career dreams and establish the next generation of business leaders."

Motivated to ensure future students have the same opportunities for growth they enjoyed on the Oxford campus, the Walkers — owners of Heritage Properties,

Walker said. "I majored in finance, and my wife majored in real estate, as did our four daughters. God has truly blessed our business; the Bible is clear: to whom much is given, much is expected. We want to give back to the School of Business Administration to see it flourish for future generations.



George and Christie Walker



George and Christie Walker of Jackson, Mississippi, center have made a \$5 million gift to the University of Mississippi School of Business Administration for faculty support in finance and real estate. The Ole Miss alumni are joined here by their family, from left, Daniel and Caroline Reed with Elizabeth, Sarah Grea Walker, Lillie Walker, and Ann Elizabeth and Andrew LoCicero with Grea. Rosie, the Walkers' beloved dog, is also pictured.

“As far as the long-term impact of the gift, we hope to recruit and retain top-notch professors in real estate and finance,” Walker said. “We can’t keep the best professors without competitive salaries.”

All four of the Walkers’ daughters earned Ole Miss degrees in real estate, and their six nephews also graduated from the business school.

“Family is the root of our passion for Ole Miss,” Christie Walker said. “George and I both feel very passionate about our gift to support faculty. It’s important to us to keep the business school and the university growing.

“I feel we have been blessed in so many ways. Ole Miss was good to us, and I want it to help others grow. Giving back is something we just do.”

George Walker agreed, saying, “We’ve always tried to teach our children that you give back either your time, talent or money or some combination thereof.”

Christie Walker, a native of Jackson, and George Walker, a native of Leland, Mississippi, met as college sophomores and had classes together. They had several influential professors including Dennis Tosh, Bill Rayburn and the late Don Moak and Charles Walker.

Both felt Tosh was a “fantastic professor.” He kept up with the Walkers after graduation, providing a study guide and a source of practical knowledge to Christie when she was preparing for the real estate exam and answering questions and giving support to them during their careers.

“Professor Tosh made an important impact on my life; he was amazing and led us into our careers,” Christie Walker said. “Ole Miss professors build more personalized relationships. That’s what we want our gift to do: keep the passionate professors and bring in more of them.”

Christie Walker went into commercial leasing with the Wideman-Lafoe Co., where she worked for six years. Her work enabled George Walker to build his own company, The Grea Co., and then purchase Heritage Properties. He started buying, renovating and building properties and then bought a construction company. He now owns 12,000 apartment units.

The Walkers are parents of Caroline Reed (Daniel), Ann Elizabeth LoCicero (Andrew), and twins Lillie and Sarah Grea Walker. The Walkers are grandparents to two: Elizabeth Reed and Grea LoCicero.

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

Continuing a Legacy

Triplett Foundation's gifts benefit University of Mississippi in many areas

The Dr. and Mrs. R. Faser Triplett Foundation and individual members of the Triplett family can be credited for four generous gifts to the university in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, one of which will help construct a gleaming new alumni center on the footprint of the current one.

In 1993, Faser Triplett — a past president of the Ole Miss Alumni Association — made a major gift to the university in support of the Alumni House, and the building was renamed the Triplett Alumni Center in his family's honor. Now, the Triplett Foundation's \$4 million donation will be the lead gift in support of new construction for the \$30 million project.

"It is a continuation of my parents' legacy because they felt strongly about a place for the alumni to gather, and the alumni meant so much to my father as he attended Ole Miss," said Chip Triplett who attended Ole Miss for two years before finishing at Belhaven College.

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

Initial plans for the new, multistory building feature expansive plate-glass windows through which guests can view UM's historic Grove as they host receptions, weddings, and class and team

reunions as well as events focused on recruiting new students.

"With the construction being one of the first places for new students and their parents to visit on campus right across the Grove, we felt that it would make a great first impression," Chip Triplett said.

"It will also be one of the last places they go when they graduate from school," he continued. "Then any time they come back and as they have children of their own, they can say, 'This is the first place I came when I was on this campus, and I have great memories of it.' That's our goal for this gift."

An additional gift from the Triplett Foundation provides \$125,000 in operational support for the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy. An innovative and groundbreaking UM program helmed by an accomplished cadre of female leaders and philanthropists, the OMWC provides scholarships for tuition and books for young men and women, as well as guidance and training in leadership skills, career development and personal growth throughout the students' tenure at the university.

"I had the privilege of being good friends with Faser and Jackie Triplett and have personally known each of their children and their families. I can attest to the generous and loving nature that each of them expresses through their unique ways of giving back to the causes that are drawn to their hearts," said OMWC chair Suzan B. Thames. "It is the Triplett siblings' shared love of

The Dr. and Mrs. R. Faser Triplett Foundation is managed by siblings (from left) Lou Ann Woidtke, Diane Holloway, Chip Triplett, Liz Walker and Suzy Fuller.



the university and their common desire to give back to it that brings them together to continue their parents' legacy of loyal philanthropy and advocacy of Ole Miss.

"With this gift to support scholar programming, it furthers our work of training future philanthropic leaders through curated lecturers in leadership, communication skills, non-profit management and mentorship."

The Triplett siblings agree that Women's Council events, lectures and resources work together to create unique programming that is second to none in the nation.

"My siblings and I felt strongly that with this gift, we would be contributing to a part of Ole Miss that has an undeniable impact on students' lives," said Holloway, a 1985 UM graduate and member of the OMWC. "This program goes so far beyond financial aid. It wraps students in support and equips them with the tools to carve their own success in life. No matter from where these young men and women hail, they are a valued member of a community that wants to see them thrive.

"That approach is having singular impacts both for these individuals and for the world at large as the students make their way into it," Holloway continued. "For us, it was an easy decision to support such a dynamic, warm-hearted and effective program."

A former member of the UM Foundation Board of Directors, Holloway herself made two gifts to Ole Miss this year: a \$250,000 gift to support the OMWC's Global Leadership Circle (GLC) and a \$200,000 gift (with her husband J.L. Holloway) to help enhance the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

The GLC expands the growth and success of Women's Council scholars by underwriting national and international internships and study-abroad experiences.

"As I travel, I see things from a totally different perspective. Therefore, my appreciation for our world and the many different people in it grows," said Holloway. "The GLC is providing a foundation for future success that cannot be taught in the classroom alone; it must be lived. Traveling brings unique wisdom."

Gray duPerier of Oxford, Mississippi, a recent graduate with a psychology major and society and health minor, knows firsthand the truth in Holloway's statement. A GLC grant gave her the opportunity to live in Ireland in 2022.

"The GLC gave me the opportunity to see the similarities all people share despite very apparent cultural differences," she said. "Seeing the Irish way of living brought forth observations and questions that caused me to critically reflect on my life, which eventually

led me to know myself better. I will always look back on my time abroad as one that has fundamentally changed me as a person."

The Holloways' Ford Center gift will give the performing arts center a much-needed freshening.

Where once artists waited in a spartan room surrounded by concrete-block walls, they will now enjoy an elegantly finished lounge befitting the Ole Miss experience, complete with updated dressing rooms, upgraded cabinets and appliances, new lighting and flooring, luxurious furnishings and even a gallery of sorts: walls adorned with artwork reflecting Mississippi performers.

"The Ford Center is such a beautiful and integral part of the university," Diane Holloway said. "It adds so much to the student experience and serves as a beacon for arts and culture throughout Mississippi and beyond. Our hope is that this gift will improve the green room space so that it matches the quality, atmosphere and feeling of the rest of the building, which captivated us from the first moment we set foot inside."

The Ford Center hosts an average of 150 events annually. Prince Edward, the King of Jordan, Janet Reno, Cornell West, James Earl Jones and Thomas Friedman are among a growing list of authors and noted intellectuals that have appeared in the Ford Center.

Among the artists who have graced its stage are Morgan Freeman, Hal Holbrook, Art Garfunkel, Marty Stuart, The Blind Boys of Alabama, B.B. King, Vince Gill and Michael Bolton.

In 2018, the Triplett Foundation made a \$750,000 gift to help establish the William Magee Center for AOD and Wellness Education at the university and in 2021 it provided the seed money, \$500,000, needed to establish the broader William Magee Institute for Student Wellbeing.

In addition to supporting student wellness, the Triplett siblings directed a \$1 million gift to the Campaign for Children's of Mississippi at the UM Medical Center to support the expansion of Children's Hospital. They also helped establish the R. Faser Triplett, Sr. Chair of Allergy and Immunology in honor of their father.

"By directing this gift and others to Ole Miss, we want to draw attention to the projects that we believe will improve the university we love — those that will benefit generations of students and alumni to come," said Suzy Triplett Fuller. "In raising awareness for this worthwhile project, we hope other foundations and individuals will lend their support as well."

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

It is the Triplett siblings' shared love of the university and their common desire to give back to it that brings them together to continue their parents' legacy of loyal philanthropy and advocacy of Ole Miss.

Planning for UM's Future

Frys designate \$2.5M estate gift to support athletics, business school

Since his graduation from the University of Mississippi in 1980, Bill Fry and his wife Lee Anne have frequently offered financial support to his alma mater. Now, having established two planned gifts, they will continue to give back to Ole Miss long after their lifetimes.

The New York City and Oxford, Mississippi, residents recently offered to bequeath a portion of their estate to the university. Estimated at an additional \$2.5 million, the gift will strengthen the School of Business Administration — naming a faculty chair in honor of their two grown children — and support Rebel sports programs via Forever Ole Miss, the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's planned giving vehicle.

The Frys' estate gift is also included in Now & Ever: The Campaign for Ole Miss — the most ambitious drive in UM's history and the largest ever in Mississippi higher education with a goal of \$1.5 billion.

Bill Fry said Now & Ever and Forever Ole Miss provide the perfect opportunity to add to their legacy to improve the lives of generations of UM students, professors and Rebel student-athletes.

"Lee Anne and I have been fortunate in our lives and want to be sure we give back in proportion to what we have received," Fry said. "Ole Miss has been a major part of our families, a

source of lifelong friendships and numerous memorable experiences. We are grateful for the opportunity to return our blessings and hope these gifts accelerate our Ole Miss family's impact on the world."

Ole Miss has been a major part of our families, a source of lifelong friendships and numerous memorable experiences. We are grateful for the opportunity to return our blessings and hope these gifts accelerate our Ole Miss family's impact on the world.

A graduate of the UM public administration program, he also earned a master's degree from Harvard Business School in 1990. Between undergraduate and graduate schools, he spent eight years as an officer in the U.S. Navy.

Fry joined American Securities in 2010 as one of the company's partners. American Securities is a New York-based private equity fund with over \$30 billion under management.

Lee Anne Fry is a graduate of Auburn University and worked as an analyst for the CIA in Washington, D.C., where they met. They have two grown children, Will and Katie, for whom the additional faculty chair is named.

"What better way to honor your children and tie them to Ole Miss than to endow a chair," Lee Anne Fry said.

Together, the family enjoys being part of Rebel Nation.

The Frys' estate gift to Athletics enables them to pass down priority points to their children, each receiving red points (priority seating) and blue points (parking and post-season experience priority) and thus establishing their interaction with Ole Miss Athletics.

The Frys' love of sports at Ole Miss led them in 2021 to fund a campus monument in honor of Rebel basketball legend Coolidge Ball who was inducted into the Ole Miss Alumni Association Hall of Fame the same year.

It was then the latest of many major gifts the couple has committed to the university, including a 2018 gift in support of the McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement, a 2019 scholarship in memory of their niece and a 2020 planned gift that established a faculty chair in the School of Business Administration.

■ **MAKE A PLANNED GIFT:** Marc Littlecott, marcplan@olemiss.edu or 662-915-6625.



Lee Anne and Bill Fry

FedEx Corp. Expands Partnership with UM

Collaboration grows data science learning, advances diversity and leadership programs, supports students

FedEx Corp., a longtime industry partner of the University of Mississippi, is advancing that relationship with a major new commitment that promises to have an impact across the university.

The expanded partnership established endowed funds to grow the data science program in the Department of Computer Science and support the FedEx Student-Athlete Academic Support Center; produce programs, lectures and leadership development in conjunction with the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy; and offer access to student success programming led by the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement.



Jenny Robertson, FedEx senior vice president for integrated marketing and communications, serves as an industry panelist for the inaugural IMC Connects! Conference at the University of Mississippi. Robertson and other FedEx leaders actively represent the company on campus.

“The University of Mississippi has a vital responsibility in serving this generation and the next, and our outstanding, longtime partnership with FedEx Corp. helps us strengthen our educational excellence as well as the renowned Ole Miss student experience and our university community in general,” Chancellor Glenn Boyce said.

“We are deeply grateful for FedEx’s commitment to these meaningful programs that have a transformational impact on opportunities we extend to our students. Nurturing partnerships like this is a priority for our university.”

A major supporter for nearly three decades, FedEx Corp. relies on the university as a pipeline for internships and employees and is a major employer of Ole Miss alumni. FedEx leaders participate in campus programming and partner with UM on innovative initiatives.

“At FedEx, we understand that the key to unlocking lifelong economic and career opportunities is by helping to improve the academic resources available to students,” said Ole Miss alumna Jenny Robertson, FedEx senior vice president for integrated marketing and communications. “Through our support of the Ole



Lillie Flenori, a human resources advisor with FedEx, visits with University of Mississippi students during a VIP event hosted before the STEM Career Fair by the School of Engineering. FedEx Corp. is a longtime strategic industry partner of the university.

Miss data science program, Academic Support Center, diversity programs and Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy, we are helping prepare students to successfully join the workforce.”

The endowment for the Department of Computer Science will help boost data science learning, particularly by creating a data science major to be launched in fall 2024, thanks in part to FedEx, said Greg Easson, interim dean of the School of Engineering.

“The School of Engineering and the Department of Computer and Information Science is expanding our research and education capabilities through a cluster hire of faculty in this growing discipline,” Easson said. “FedEx’s support will help the department attract and retain top talent, both faculty and students and fund data science education projects and initiatives — all positioning Ole Miss as a leader in this highly competitive arena.”

The FedEx Student-Athlete Academic Support Center opened in 2007, following a 2005 gift from the company, providing computer facilities and space for study halls and tutoring for student-athletes, as well as classrooms for all university students. In 2022, Ole Miss student-athletes set a UM record for the highest Academic Progress Rate score with a multiyear average of 992, eight points over the national average of 984.

“We appreciate the continued generosity of FedEx and its incredible support of our student-athletes,” said Keith Carter, vice chancellor for intercollegiate athletics. “Our remarkable team success in recent years has been matched by our student-athletes’ record-breaking accomplishments in the classroom. Those achievements are not possible without our partnership with FedEx, the facilities they help provide and the passionate work of our support staff.”

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Hughes Miller, hughes@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2885.



A recent major gift from Susie and Lampkin Butts will benefit the UM School of Business Administration, the Ole Miss Alumni Association and Ole Miss Athletics. Pictured are (from left) Jeremy and Stephanie Felder with their twin children, Stella and Benton; Dr. Trey and Sadie Sutton; Christie Sutton; Susie and Lampkin Butts; and Lauren and Casey Butts with their children, Case and Brooks.

Benefiting Business, Alumni and Athletics

Donor's gift is a testament to his University of Mississippi education and history of involvement

A \$1.5 million gift from the grandson of a University of Mississippi chancellor will help recruit faculty for the School of Business Administration, support the construction of the new Triplett Alumni Center and improve facilities for Ole Miss student-athletes.

"My father grew up in Oxford and lived on the campus because his father worked for the university at that time. Growing up, all I was exposed to was Ole Miss, and I fell in love with it," said Lampkin Butts, whose grandfather Dr. Alfred Benjamin Butts served as UM chancellor from 1935 to 1946.

In 2022, after a 48-year career, Lampkin Butts retired as president, COO and director of Sanderson Farms Inc., a Laurel, Mississippi-based Fortune 1000 food-production company.

Butts, a 1973 graduate of the UM School of Business Administration, credits his education for much of his success. Wanting to give back, he approached Business School Dean Ken Cyree.

"I talked to him about where this money would have the biggest impact, and he suggested faculty support — helping to recruit and retain the best minds for the school," said Butts, who with his wife, Susie, designated a third of their gift to establish an endowment.

The Susie and Lampkin Butts Scholar of Management Endowment will provide income for the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty within the Business School's Department of Management.

Lampkin Butts' parents attended Ole Miss as did his children. Additionally, he has served the university as president of the Ole Miss Alumni Association and longtime board member. For the UM graduates in their family and their affinity for the Alumni Association, the Butts designated a second portion of

their gift to help construct the new Triplett Alumni Center on the footprint of the current building.

While the Triplett Alumni Center already welcomes hundreds of alumni and friends to campus each year, its services will significantly expand in its new home and provide more opportunities to create and build relationships.

Initial plans for the multistory building feature expansive plate-glass windows through which guests can view UM's historic Grove as they host receptions, weddings, and class and team reunions as well as student recruitment events.

Retired teacher Susie Butts graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in her native Hattiesburg with a degree in elementary education. Nevertheless, she is a confirmed member of Rebel Nation because of her husband's and children's enthusiasm for their alma mater. The Grove on gameday is her happy place.

"I loved the contact with our children at our tailgate when they were in college. They were always so busy with fraternity and sorority activities, but they always came to our table because they loved to visit and they loved the food and being able to eat free.

"Then as we had grandchildren, they also are right there in the Grove, throwing footballs and just enjoying Ole Miss and all that it offers. We hope all five of our grandchildren will attend Ole Miss."

Such good times are punctuated even more by a solid win on the gridiron. The Butts hope the third portion of their gift will help the Rebels achieve many more of those.

This multipurpose donation is the latest of many gifts the Buttses have made to the university.

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

The New Climate Economy

King invests in environmental studies at the University of Mississippi

From a young age, Steven B. King of St. Louis, Missouri, has had an affinity for the natural world, and from the time he first set foot on campus, has had an affection for the University of Mississippi.

Upon discovering that Ole Miss did not offer a major in environmental studies, he set out to help make that a reality. It was the perfect fit of combining the two passions that led to a major gift from King to fund a new faculty position and support efforts to create an environmental studies major.

among young people. It is their generation that will be dealing with and bearing the burden of these issues,” King said.

“Majoring in environmental studies is an excellent way to get involved in working to solve these challenges and have a rewarding career. Companies are now attuned to environmental ramifications and are hiring people to find solutions to these problems.”

Chancellor Glenn Boyce applauded King.

“We are grateful to Steve King for

the co-directors of the current environmental studies minor and faculty in the College of Liberal Arts. The faculty will develop the major throughout the next year, then seek approval on campus and with the Institutions of Higher Learning.

Ellis said it’s important to offer the program, as climate change is determining the “very texture of our daily lives.”

“Climate change and the sixth great extinction will be the defining challenges of the rising generation. Their effects can already be felt and, over the coming decades, will continue to shape the future of human life around the world — from global health to food and water security, energy policy to financial markets, weather crises to climate migration,” she said.

Lee Cohen, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said King’s \$1.3 million gift helps answer an urgent call.

“Our planet desperately needs people prepared to interpret research data and provide innovative solutions to ongoing problems,” the dean said. “We are grateful to Steve for supporting the university and our environmental studies program. This gift will elevate our ability to train students with interests in sustainability and protecting the environment.”

King earned a bachelor’s degree in 1975. He joined his family’s Porsche and Audi dealership, ended up leading it and sold the business eight years ago.

King now enjoys maintaining purple martin houses in the Missouri Botanical Garden and in a St. Louis park. He serves on the St. Louis Zoo Conservation Council, Sierra Club and Rocky Mountain Conservancy.

He is the father to two, Andrew King and Kelly Woodsum, and the grandfather to three.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Delia Childers, dgchilde@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3086.



Donor Steven B. King of St. Louis, Missouri (left) visits with Lee Cohen, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, about his \$1.3 million gift to support an environmental studies program at the University of Mississippi. The gift will fund a new faculty position and support efforts to build an environmental studies major.

His gift has established the Steven B. King Environmental Studies Endowment, with the resources to enhance faculty strengths in teaching, research and outreach on the environment.

“There are so many challenges the planet is facing — climate change, loss of biodiversity, plastic waste, pollinator decline and more — and interest in the environment is very high, especially

providing significant resources to promote this incredibly important interdisciplinary field of study. Steve recognizes and values the expansion of our academic footprint in environmental studies. This generous gift is an investment in our students and in our future so we can better address challenges related to our ecosystem.”

Deanna Kreisel and Cristin Ellis are

A Catalyst for Change

Pittman's gift increases support for underserved students

A \$1 million private gift to the University of Mississippi is the catalyst that brings significant changes to Ole Miss Grove Scholars, enabling the program to provide a higher level of service to its students.

UM's Grove Scholars program facilitates academic success and job placement among Mississippi residents seeking degrees related to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) as well as health care.

Formerly under the umbrella of another student success program, Grove Scholars is now stand-alone, reporting directly to the College of Liberal Arts, and has a full-time dedicated director and program manager. Its independence also makes the program eligible for dedicated resources from the College of Liberal Arts and the Office of the Provost.

Because of these changes, "we now have staff members focused exclusively on the academic success and general flourishing of every Grove Scholar," said Gray Flora IV, the program's director. "We'll be better able to target resources to both the group and individual students to ensure their needs are met to be successful through their entire undergraduate experience."

Meeting those needs takes money, and that's why the recent major gift from UM alumna Renvy Pittman is crucial to the program.

All Grove Scholars' college expenses, such as tuition, room, food, books and supplies, are covered by the program for the second summer session prior to their freshman year. While the Grove Scholars' Ole Miss Opportunity scholarship covers most expenses during the fall and spring semesters, Grove Scholars continues to pay for one class every summer of a student's time as an undergraduate.

Through the program, students will now be offered such

services as increased tutoring, help finding jobs or internships, stipends for unpaid or lightly paid internships, financial assistance with fees related to graduate school and entrance exams, guidance on changing their majors and improved programmatic activities.

"Staying true to Renvy's transformational vision, we want our students to not only obtain a degree, but have an impactful, well-rounded undergraduate career that sets them up for success after college is completed," Flora said, adding that this year the number of students eligible to participate in Grove Scholars was increased from 13 to 25. "As we grow, we will need more money to cover those fees and fulfill those guarantees. We need more people to invest in the work."

Since 2014, Pittman, a Jackson, Mississippi, native now living in Los Angeles, California, has made a series of gifts to the program that total over \$2.1 million. Now she hopes her most recent gift will set an example, encouraging other UM alumni and friends to provide private support to the program.

"Gray had a big job setting this up independently and bringing 25 kids on this summer without his number two person in place yet, so we're kind of phasing the expansion," Pittman said. "I can see this getting really big. Within a few years, I fully expect we'll have 100 kids in the program."

Grove Scholars is the brainchild of Stephen Monroe, chair and assistant professor of writing and rhetoric and former assistant dean of the UM College of Liberal Arts.

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

Grove Scholars director Gray Flora IV (center with pizza) took the freshman cohort bowling to help them bond and de-stress prior to beginning their collegiate experience.



A Lasting Tribute

Dunagin's \$1M estate gift will benefit students of accountancy and law

A \$1 million bequest continues a University of Mississippi graduate's dedication to helping others succeed.

The late Martin Dunagin of Houston, Texas, and Oxford, Mississippi, wanted students in the Patterson School of Accountancy and the UM School of Law to benefit from his gift, which supplements endowments he created in 2019: the C. Martin Dunagin, Jr. Accountancy Scholarship Endowment and the C. Martin Dunagin, Jr. Oral Advocacy Team Support Endowment.

Dunagin, who earned UM degrees in accountancy and law in 1982 and 1985 respectively, died of cancer on Feb. 2, 2022, at his Oxford home. At the time, he was vice president and chief tax executive for Hess Corp. in Houston.

"We are so appreciative of Martin's generous support of our efforts in the Patterson School," said Accountancy Dean Mark Wilder. "Martin had a national reputation for his expertise in tax, and we are proud to have him as an alumnus of our program."

Of Dunagin's gift, \$175,000 will support scholarships in perpetuity and the remaining \$375,000 will help construct the Patterson School's new building.

"The scholarship is designed to target

endowment that is broadly used for business law initiatives including oral advocacy competitions, fellowships and leadership training; the remaining \$50,000 will be deposited into a restricted account to be used for immediate needs

Dallas, Texas, said Dunagin would be pleased with the ways in which his gift will benefit students.

"Martin was very good at developing, teaching and helping people advance their careers," said Jones, a 1985



Standing behind Charles and Virgie Dunagin, parents of the late Martin Dunagin, are Susan Duncan, then dean of the Ole Miss School of Law; Chris Jones, Dunagin's friend and fraternity brother; and Mark Wilder, dean of the Patterson School of Accountancy.

related to business law education.

"We know that Martin was a businessperson and an accountant, so we're going to dedicate his gift to the Business Law Institute, which we are really proud of. We rank in the top of the nation for

graduate of the UM School of Business Administration and now chief credit officer for Texas Security Bank. "One of the guys Martin tutored and mentored started out as just a junior accountant and is now one of the deputy treasury secretaries in the U.S. Treasury. And there are many more of Martin's success stories like that.

"I spoke to the people on his team at Hess, and they all held him in such high regard and told me how much he challenged and helped develop them professionally," he continued. "So, I think that his contribution to accounting and law at Ole Miss is an extension of that trait he had of naturally wanting to help others."

■ **MAKE A GIFT TO ACCOUNTANCY:** Jason McCormick, jason@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1757.

■ **MAKE A GIFT TO LAW:** Suzette Matthews, suzette@olemiss.edu or 601-937-1497.

The scholarship is designed to target incoming freshmen and it will help us tremendously in recruiting top talent to Ole Miss.

incoming freshmen and it will help us tremendously in recruiting top talent to Ole Miss," Wilder continued. "This gift will also honor Martin's legacy through a space in our new building that will be heavily utilized by Patterson School students and faculty."

Former Law Dean Susan Duncan shared Wilder's gratitude, stating that \$450,000 of Dunagin's gift creates an

that," the former dean said.

"Our Business Law Fellows have the opportunity to work in corporations after their 1L summer. Some of them want to be the Martin Dunagin of their generation — a CEO or an entrepreneur. So, we feel that supporting these Business Law Fellows would be the best way to honor Martin."

The donor's friend and Phi Kappa Psi fraternity brother Chris Jones of

Insurance Industry Partners with UM

Firms, The Council, UM commit to grow larger, more diverse talent pipeline

The University of Mississippi has launched a new Insurance Certificate Program to provide students from historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in Mississippi with the training, networks and experience to enter an insurance industry ripe with job opportunities, thanks to a partnership with industry and The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers (The Council).

Housed within the School of Business Administration Risk Management and Insurance program's newly created Center for Insurance Transformation, the 10-week online Insurance Certificate Program and subsequent internships have the potential to change the industry and the lives of participants. Funding from founding industry partners will support the insurance industry's need to raise awareness around careers in insurance and grow a larger, more diverse workplace pipeline that better represents its customer base, said Chancellor Glenn Boyce.

"Our Risk Management and Insurance program has rightly earned a strong reputation for developing a pipeline of future industry leaders," Boyce said. "We now are focusing on our new Center for Insurance Transformation to produce solutions that address the growing talent shortage in this vital industry while introducing excellent career opportunities to HBCU students.

"We are grateful for the support of founding partners and The Council, who have provided the generous resources necessary to offer this rigorous program at no cost to participants. Students will be educated and mentored to take advantage of rewarding jobs available in the insurance industry," the chancellor said.

The founding partners include Arthur Gallagher & Co. of Rolling Meadows, Illinois; Brown & Riding Insurance Services

Co. of Dallas, Texas; Cadence Insurance of Tupelo, Mississippi; McGriff Insurance Services of Charlotte, North Carolina; and Ross & Yerger Inc. of Jackson, Mississippi. The Council worked with UM faculty over the past year to format the program, and The Council and founding partners have collectively provided \$1 million in funding to launch this initiative.

Ole Miss and its industry partners plan to fully fund the participation of 60 students, or 20 annually, as the initial cohorts of the three-year startup program. The course will be hosted during the fall semester, with students attending class two hours per week (one hour on demand and one hour live virtually). Partner firms will have the opportunity to engage with students during the live virtual meetings, and students will attend an on-campus event for founding partners to network with and recruit the students.

Over the next 15 years, 50% of the current insurance workforce will retire, leaving more than 400,000 open positions unfilled, while less than 25% of the industry is under the age of 35, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's "The America Works Report."

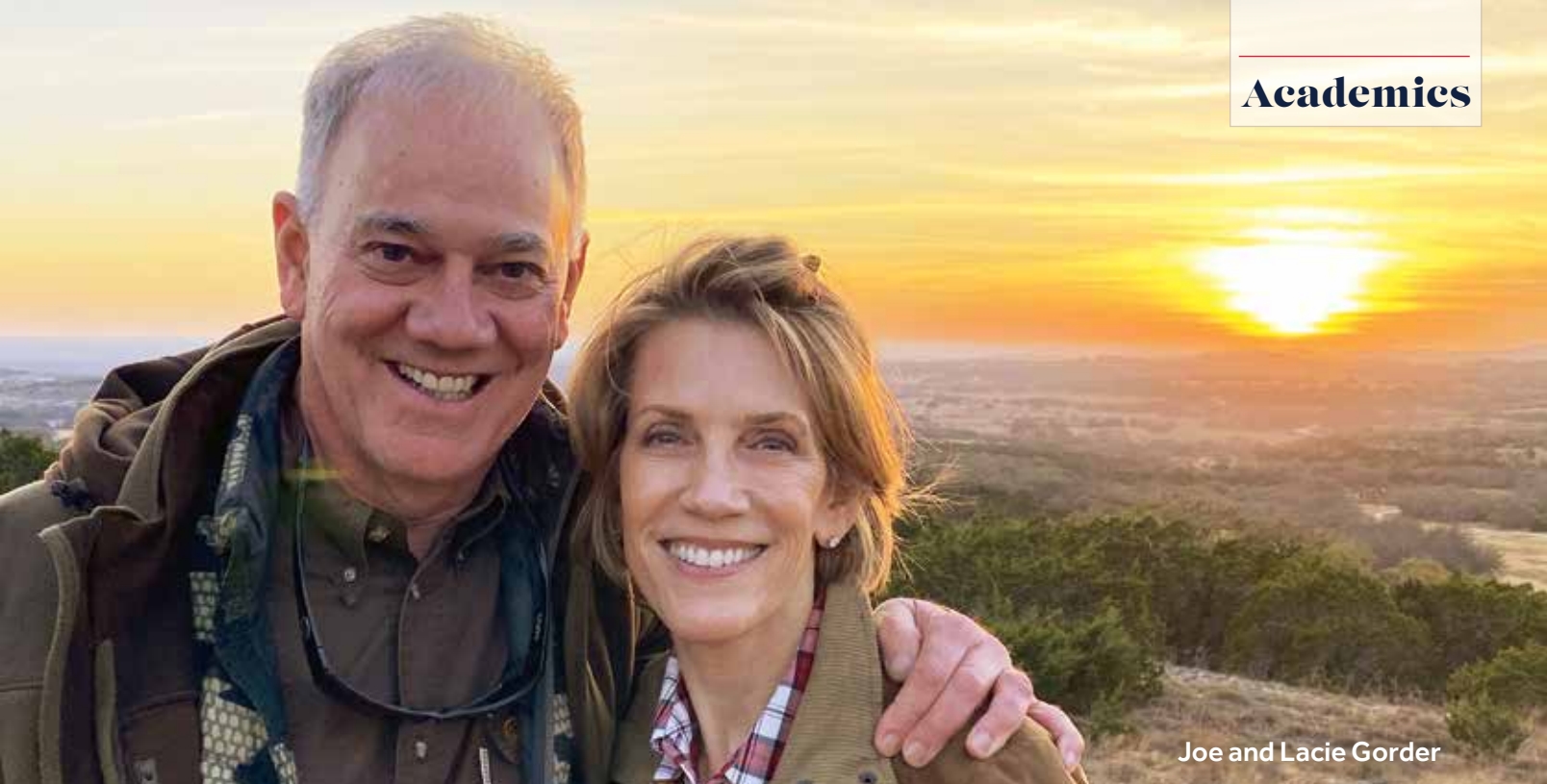
Each student will complete a paid summer internship opportunity with an industry employer to allow students to increase their insurance industry exposure and further develop skill sets. Depending on the location of the internship, a travel and relocation stipend may be provided.

Upon accepting a job offer with an employer partner, students are guaranteed enrollment in The Council's Insurance Professional School, a comprehensive nine-month curriculum that leads to the Accredited Professional in Risk & Insurance (APRI®).

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Hughes Miller, hughes@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2885.



Stakeholders in the new Insurance Certificate Program gathered recently at the University of Mississippi. Pictured here are (front row, from left) Angela Brown, senior director of development, School of Business Administration; Andre Liebenberg, Robertson Chair of Insurance and director of the Center for Insurance Transformation; Steve Fier, associate professor and associate director of the Center for Insurance Transformation; and Shawnboda Mead, vice chancellor for diversity and community engagement; (second row, from left) Jeff Rodriguez, president and CEO, Brown & Riding; David McDivitt, regional operations executive, McGriff Insurance Services; Aimee Kilpatrick, COO and executive vice president, Cadence Insurance; Scott Howard, regional operations executive, McGriff Insurance Services; Steve Shelton, director of operations, Ross & Yerger; Hughes Miller, director of industry engagement; (third row, from left) Mike Meyer, senior executive vice president, Cadence Insurance; Stephen Fountain, regional executive vice president, Arthur J. Gallagher; Markham McKnight, president and CEO, Cadence Insurance; Chris Boone, president, corporate and group solutions, Cadence Insurance; and Ken Crerar, president and CEO, The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers.



Joe and Lacie Gorder

Extending Opportunities

Gorders invest \$1 million in Ole Miss scholarships

A \$1 million gift from Lacie and Joe Gorder of San Antonio, Texas, will help shape the future careers of University of Mississippi students pursuing degrees in the dynamic, highly competitive field of fashion promotion.

The gift will support scholarships for students enrolled in the fashion promotion specialization of the integrated marketing communications major in the School of Journalism and New Media.

“My experience and education at Ole Miss were wonderful, and I want to help others enjoy the same,” said Gorder, an alumna. “My husband, Joe, and I view quality education as a ‘great equalizer’ and take great joy in helping others improve their prospects for a bright future.”

Chancellor Glenn Boyce expressed appreciation to the couple for the major gift.

“We are extremely grateful to the Gorders for their commitment to shaping how our students pursue their passions and build successful lives and careers. The Gorders’ gift is a tremendous addition to the School of Journalism and New Media and will have an immediate impact. It is rewarding to see our accomplished alumni and supporters investing in our students and in our future.”

Lacie Miller Gorder earned a degree in fashion merchandising and worked in the fashion industry in Dallas, Texas, after her 1980 graduation.

The first Gorder Scholarship will be awarded this fall, and the program will build until a minimum of 10 students will be receiving this scholarship each year.

“I hope this scholarship will make an Ole Miss education more available to students for many years to come while

reducing the financial burden on their families,” said the donor.

Andrea Hickerson, dean of the School of Journalism and New Media, shared the significant impact of the gift.

“This generous gift is transformational for our school and our students in the fashion specialization. It will help us recruit and retain top students,” she said. “It puts us on the map as a destination for students interested in fashion promotion. We will continue to build programming worthy of this honor.”

Currently, there are 67 students in the fashion promotion specialization. It was established in 2018 after the school saw student demand for topical courses related to fashion and decided to invest in it more heavily.

“The fashion specialization enables IMC students to take their core competencies in digital media content creation and strategy and apply them to a particular industry,” said the dean. “Students in the fashion promotion specialization are poised to work in advertising and public relations or as entrepreneurs. They can execute branding for existing companies or start their own.”

First preference for the scholarships goes to full-time freshmen from Texas or from Natchez, Mississippi. Gorder grew up in Natchez, and her father attended Ole Miss in the 1950s.

“I had heard so much about Ole Miss my entire life, I always thought that’s where I’d go,” she said. “I was so committed to getting my college education at Ole Miss that it was the only university I applied to.”

Joe Gorder recently retired as chair and CEO of Valero Energy Corp., a Fortune 500 company headquartered in San Antonio, Texas.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Patrick Salter, psalter@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2712.



The late Wilbrod St. Amand, a professor of biology, directed approximately \$1 million from his estate to the University of Mississippi to support laboratories, professors and instructors. He and his wife, the late Georgia Ann St. Amand, an assistant professor of biology, doted on their students and felt they were their children.

St. Amand's Legacy

Professor leaves impact with estate gift

University of Mississippi Professor of Biology Wilbrod St. Amand loved his students and recognized the importance of resources in higher education, whether they support laboratories or professors and instructors.

In his estate, St. Amand left approximately \$1 million to ensure there is support for all three: the largest part of the gift is designated for the St. Amand Biology Labs Endowment, another part is directed to establishing a new university-wide teaching award and the final part is earmarked for a laboratory teaching-assistant award in biology that he had previously created in memory of his wife, Georgia Ann, an assistant professor of biology.

"I am convinced that the most important part in any endeavor is the foundation that you have to build from. Where is the foundation in biology? To me, the foundation is in the laboratory," said St. Amand in a 2019 interview.

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Noel Wilkin said, "Science education has become more expensive to offer, and teaching efforts are bolstered by cutting-edge research in the discipline. The rising cost to excel at research and instruction is due to the rising cost of support, supplies, equipment and facilities.

"Biology is no exception. This gift will help us to continue offering high-quality education and conducting research in the field of biology."

St. Amand, who died in 2022, joined the Ole Miss faculty as an assistant professor of biology in 1958 and became a full professor, teaching until his 1984 retirement.

The St. Amand Biology Labs Endowment will provide income for annual supplies and upkeep for the department's laboratories. The St. Amand Outstanding Teaching Award Endowment will honor a non-tenure-track faculty member each year. The Georgia St. Amand Laboratory Teaching-Assistant

Award will provide a minimum of three teaching assistants each \$2,000 annually for demonstrated excellence.

"If something is done well, then I think that individual deserves recognition," said St. Amand, who in 1970, received the Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teaching Award, one of his greatest honors and the inspiration for creating the laboratory teaching-assistant award.

William Rhodes, a clinical assistant professor emeritus in UM's Patterson School of Accountancy, serves as the executor of St. Amand's estate.

"Dr. St. Amand really loved his interactions with his students. He felt that teaching was the most important responsibility of a faculty member," Rhodes said. "Dr. St. Amand believed that you should take every interaction with students seriously because you don't know what comment or kind word would light a candle — serving to build up and inspire someone.

"He loved Ole Miss, which is where he worked his entire life. Loyalty was very important to Dr. St. Amand, and his loyalty to this university could never be underestimated," he continued. "That's why the new teaching award in his name is to recognize those who have been on the faculty for at least eight years: That length of time would show loyalty to this institution."

St. Amand earned an undergraduate in zoology from the University of Maine. He then pursued master's and doctoral degrees in biology from the University of Tennessee.

St. Amand was also involved in the community and was honored in 2013 as the Citizen of the Year for Oxford and Lafayette County.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Delia Childers, dgchilde@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3086.

■ **FOR INFORMATION ON PLANNED GIVING:** Marc Littlecott, marcplan@olemiss.edu or 662-915-6625.

First MacEachern Scholarship Recipients Express Gratitude

After receiving pharmacy degrees from the University of Mississippi and the University of Tennessee, the late Jane MacEachern devoted much of her 39-year professional career to designing and implementing oncology drug trials — research that made a significant impact in the lives of cancer patients.

Now, a scholarship established in her memory is helping UM School of Pharmacy students have opportunities to make similar impacts.

With an initial gift of \$300,000 in 2020, Doug MacEachern and his son, Taylor, both of Covington, Louisiana, established the Jane B. MacEachern Memorial Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment as a tribute to their wife and mother. The MacEacherns made additional gifts in 2021 and 2022, increasing the endowment to \$900,000.

“The University of Mississippi was the enabler for Jane to reach her first goal of receiving an undergraduate in pharmacy,” her husband said. “Our son, Taylor, and I want other students to have the opportunities afforded her.



Doug MacEachern (second from left) enjoys dinner with his scholars (from left) Amy Ly-Ha, Lindsey Miller, Nason Wise and Emily Harrell.

“We want this endowment to serve as an enabler to achieve dreams and goals for students, and we want the impact to be now, so current students can benefit from it.”

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Taylor MacEachern said his mother was continually focused on service to individuals living with cancer.

“My mom was always willing to get

involved, helping to determine a course of action for those who might otherwise be lost in the nightmare of a cancer diagnosis,” he said.

At a recent dinner in Jackson, the first four scholarship recipients met their donor and expressed their gratitude in person.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Laura Gullett, laurahg@olemiss.edu or 662-915-5641.

Support of School of Pharmacy Helps Clinic Improve Care

A partnership between North Mississippi Health Services (NMHS) and the UM School of Pharmacy is giving patients at one rural clinic a higher level of health care while extending the decades-long relationship between NMHS and Ole Miss.

Tupelo, Mississippi-based NMHS’s arrangement with the pharmacy school

enables UM’s Adam Pate, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice, to work with patients two days a week as the ambulatory care pharmacist in the NMHS New Albany Medical Clinic.

Pate helps patients understand their prescriptions and enroll in medication assistance programs. He also assists physicians with complex patients who need chronic care management; interacts with patients during their annual wellness visits; confirms patients’ adherence to their medications and immunizations; and conducts telehealth, visiting with patients over the phone.

“I tell patients I’m like the person at the front desk of the hotel. You know, if you forget your toothbrush, just come down and we’ll figure it out,” Pate said. “That kind of personal interaction is what

we try to do, and it works out really well for patients overall.”

Wes Pitts, a UM School of Pharmacy graduate who serves as system director of pharmacy for NMHS, said the partnership is a win-win for both organizations.

“Ole Miss is always on the cutting edge of learning,” he said. “Likewise, we’re on the cutting edge of innovations. So that collaboration, putting those two actions together, really does help us to achieve more.”

The partnership also benefits pharmacy students who can rotate through NMHS’ post-graduate Year 1 pharmacy residency program that’s accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Hughes Miller, hughes@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2885.



Adam Pate reviews a chart at NMHS New Albany Medical Clinic with pharmacy student Carlie Stanford of Fulton, Mississippi.

Thomas Hayes Mayo Lab Established

Ole Miss student Thomas Hayes Mayo loved his friends and college life. Described as “a great friend that lit up every room he entered” by fellow students, he died April 14, 2022, from fentanyl poisoning.

“Thomas always wore a smile and appeared full of endless joy,” said his dad, Cal Mayo of Oxford, Mississippi. “He never saw a half-empty glass. He never met a stranger. He brought laughter and smiles to every group. Thomas was intelligent and took pride in his grades and academic accomplishments.”



Thomas Mayo

Now the Thomas Hayes Mayo Lab Fund is paying tribute to Mayo’s life by helping those battling substance misuse and mental health issues, including depression and anxiety. Becoming part of the William Magee Institute for Student Wellbeing, the Mayo Lab has attracted almost \$620,000 in private support.

The endowment memorializes the Ole Miss junior and Sigma Chi fraternity member. Contributions to the fund included a \$100,000 anonymous commitment, almost \$78,000 in memorial gifts, and significant gifts from his parents, Sigma Chi fraternity, Kappa Alpha fraternity and others.

“The Magee Institute and the UM Foundation isolated the (memorial) donations to use in some special manner, and after considering several ideas, we decided to use the memorials to support the Thomas Hayes Mayo Lab,” said Caroline Mayo, his mom.

“Thomas cared deeply about people, and he would want his legacy attached to a cause that helps other people navigate the difficulties life sometimes presents.”

The launch of the Mayo Lab includes projects with the potential to have a broad impact, such as the Happiness Team of peer educators for schools across Mississippi and the Mayo Lab podcast hosted by David Magee.

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



The late Thomas Hayes Mayo is being remembered through a new initiative at the University of Mississippi. Making a gift to the Thomas Hayes Mayo Lab Endowment are alumni and active members of Kappa Alpha fraternity. Parents Cal and Caroline Mayo (front row, center) are joined by KA alumni and actives (front row, from left) Pope Mallette, Andrew Cofield, Lee Baker, John Mayo, Clay Ivy, Nolan Farmer and Mike McGee; and (back row, from left) Andy Phillips, David Krouse, O’Keefe Graham, Ward Hubbell, Drew Mauldin and Randy Ivy. The KAs made a gift of \$30,000 to the Mayo initiative, which will be part of the William Magee Institute for Student Wellbeing.

Longtime Professor Honored by Assistance for Students

The late Donald Summers loved studying the universe and spent his career as a University of Mississippi professor teaching astronomy and conducting physics research. Now, a gift in his name will enable students to reach for the stars.

The \$841,000 gifts from his brother, Robert Summers of Palo Alto, California, establishes the Dr. Donald Summers Undergraduate Scholarship Endowment and the Dr. Donald Summers Graduate Student Fellowship Stipend Endowment. Summers died March 3, 2021.

“Dr. Summers was a dedicated teacher and a productive researcher who made a difference and strengthened the

academic reputation of our university. I know of no better way to pay tribute to his life’s passion than to fund scholarships in his name,” said Lee Cohen, dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Donald Summers was very charitable in his giving. His gifts of almost \$320,000 supported assistance to undergraduate and graduate students in physics, as well as other areas.

Summers joined Ole Miss in 1989 and became a full professor in 2002. The professor collaborated on high-energy physics experiments at Fermilab in Illinois and at CERN in Switzerland.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Caroline Hourin, cehourin@olemiss.edu or 662-915-6385.



The Dr. Donald Summers Undergraduate Scholarship Endowment and the Dr. Donald Summers Graduate Student Fellowship Stipend Endowment will enable University of Mississippi students to pursue work in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. The late professor dedicated his professional life to teaching and conducting research.

Dorseys Add Gifts to North Mississippi Literacy Project

A three-year pilot program established in 2021 to improve literacy in the Oxford and Lafayette County, Mississippi, school districts is proving so successful that its original donors are fueling it with additional support.

Last year, a gift of almost \$1 million from Bob Dorsey, a former UM professor of economics, and his wife, Carol, helped kickstart the North Mississippi Literacy Project. The Dorseys increased their support with a \$500,000 gift in 2022 and an additional \$520,000 gift in June.

“We always hoped our first-year results would warrant funding for two more years,” said Carol Dorsey. “We are excited by the wonderful collaboration we saw at Lafayette Elementary and in the Oxford schools.

“Watching the teachers deliver this methodology in their classrooms and seeing the enthusiastic response from the students was thrilling,” she said.

Formerly under the direction of the Grisham-McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement, the program is now supervised by the School of Applied Sciences.

Managing the program is the Shelton School of Dallas, Texas — the largest school worldwide for students with learning differences and a resource and teacher training center dedicated to making a difference by serving and empowering the lives of students who learn differently.

If all continues as expected, the North Mississippi Literacy Project will make life easier for all children, especially children with learning differences.

Under Shelton’s guidance, the districts’ 130-plus teachers of pre-K through second-grade students have learned to use the



Carol and Bob Dorsey (right) visit with Chancellor Glenn Boyce and his wife, Emily

multisensory structured language program “SEE” (Sequential English Education). This method has been used to teach children to read, write and spell, providing a solid foundation for the development of literacy skills.

With the Dorseys’ support, the program can expand to include third graders who need help enhancing their reading scores. The couple’s new gift will provide tools and resources that enable children to understand how words are put together.

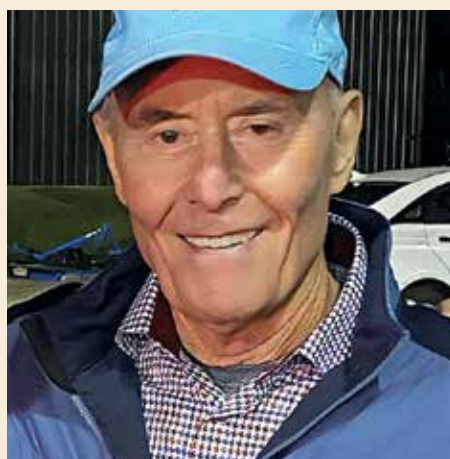
■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Charlotte Parks, cpparks@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3120.

Hughes Endows Scholarship Fund to Recreate Success for Future Generations of UM Students

A scholarship the late Daniel C. Hughes Jr. established in 1983 to honor his parents — both UM graduates — has bettered the lives of numerous students for almost four decades.

Now, newly endowed with a gift from Hughes’ estate, the Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Clyde Hughes Scholarship Endowment will continue to help students in perpetuity.

Daniel Clyde Hughes III of Oxford, Mississippi, said his father wanted to help recreate success for others: “He hoped the scholarship would go to individuals who would use their degrees to become more successful and take advantage of the opportunities the university gave them.”



Daniel C. Hughes Jr.

Upon graduating in 1965 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, the elder Hughes began his career in

Jackson, Mississippi, with the accounting firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. He later established and was CEO of his own companies in asset management, securities and property development.

He served on the School of Business Administration advisory board, the Ole Miss Alumni Association board of directors and was a past president of the UM Business School Alumni Association.

“Dad never really lost sight of what Ole Miss provided him, and it laid the groundwork for every single thing he did,” Hughes said.

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



Artist's renderings of the Patterson School of Accountancy's new home at University Avenue and Grove Loop

Building Excellence

Donors unite in support of accountancy's new home

With continuing generous support from donors, the Patterson School of Accountancy will soon have a new \$100 million home.

Located on prime campus real estate at the corner of University Avenue and Grove Loop, the four-story facility will feature 110,000 square feet of tiered auditoriums and classrooms, study areas, conference rooms, administrative and faculty office suites, outdoor terraces and balconies that overlook the iconic Grove.

Ed and Barbara Krei of Edmond, Oklahoma, have a long, generous history of supporting the University of Mississippi, especially the Patterson School.

In recent years, they established an accountancy lectureship endowment that was later elevated to the chair level. Though they've provided more than \$1.5 million to support the accountancy school's faculty and students, the couple is expanding their already impactful legacy with a \$600,000 gift to the Patterson School of Accountancy Building Fund.

"The University of Mississippi has established a world-class accountancy program with its Patterson School of

Accountancy," Ed Krei said. "A world-class school needs a world-class facility and, after reviewing the plans for the new accountancy building, I'm convinced the plans will accomplish that objective.

"When completed, the new building that has been designed for the Patterson School of Accountancy will do much to add to the success of what is already a remarkable program."

The Patterson School is the top accounting school in the SEC and has ranked among the top 10 programs nationally for more than a decade. Big4AccountingFirms.org named the Ole Miss program No. 8 in the nation in 2022. It offers a Bachelor of Accountancy degree, four Master of Accountancy degrees and a Doctor of Accountancy. The master's degrees include two in data analytics (Master of Accountancy and Data Analytics and Master of Taxation and Data Analytics).

For its \$500,000 gift to the university, one of the nation's top public accounting firms, **FORVIS LLP**, will be honored with the naming of the undergraduate and master's programs suite in the new Patterson School.

"The long-term success of our firm and profession requires a strong pipeline of talented candidates who will help us achieve our mission," said Tom Watson, CEO of FORVIS. "The graduates we hire from Ole Miss are top-notch, and we are proud they call FORVIS home.

"We are honored to support the Patterson School of Accountancy and look forward to its continued excellence in training the profession's next generation of leaders."

Future Ole Miss accountancy students will be taught in the Knighton Family Foundation Lecture Hall — a name honoring a \$400,000 gift to the new accountancy building from 1998 alumnus **Jay Knighton** and his wife, Vanessa.

Knighton said the building demonstrates that Ole Miss and the state of Mississippi are "stepping up to the present and future need for quality educated and prepared accountants."

"The IRS is hiring 87,000 new agents. The United States has more jobs for accountants than the colleges can graduate, and the industry is only growing with so many tax and accounting rules and

regulations imposed by government. This building will set the standard for accountancy education and advancement of business,” said the estate and tax attorney who lives and practices in The Woodlands, Texas.

“Dean Mark Wilder spoke with me about this new building and the future of the program. The potential impact of the Ole Miss accounting program for not only the university but also the tax and accounting profession is a bold step forward on a national level. As a family, we felt the time was right to participate in advancing that potential.”

The late **Joe Weller**, a 1961 graduate and Patterson School Hall of Fame member, agreed before his Dec. 15, 2022, passing that the time is right for UM accountancy graduates and friends of the school to unite in support for the project.

“I’ve been a supporter of Ole Miss, and we’ve been talking about the gift for the last several years; I was just waiting

Mississippi, has stepped forward with a \$200,000 gift commitment for the new building.

“The Gertrude C. Ford Foundation is proud to support the nationally acclaimed Patterson School of Accountancy,” said John C. Lewis of Jackson, vice president of the Ford Foundation. “We are grateful to have an opportunity to help continue the strong legacy of this outstanding program.”

Two study spaces in the new building will be named in honor of alumnus **Jackie Bailey** of Byram, Mississippi, showing appreciation for her \$100,000 gift.

Bailey, a 1981 graduate of the School of Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting, said she was eager to contribute to the fund, giving credit to Ole Miss for starting her on a path to success.

“My professional career was possible because of my degree and the connections I made at the university,” said Bailey, a retired CPA and former member of the Beta Alpha Psi accountancy honor society.

a resident of Bristol, Tennessee.

Stephanie Jennings Teague of Fayetteville, Arkansas, said her commitment of \$100,000 to the new building is a gift of gratitude.

“It’s a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting program,” said the alumna, who earned undergraduate and master’s degrees in accounting in 2011 and 2012 respectively. “This was a great opportunity to give back to the university and the accountancy school for something that will be around for generations to come.

“I hope the long-term impact of my gift will be that it fosters the next generation of students to have a place they can grow individually, network and go after their dreams.”

Jon Turner of Jackson, Mississippi, a 1978 UM accountancy graduate, member of the steering committee for the school’s new building and a 2021 Patterson School Hall of Fame inductee, also made a \$100,000 gift to the building fund with his wife, Pam.

“I’ve given to Ole Miss every year since my graduation, but this is a time when I wanted to step it up even more because of the huge opportunity the Patterson School has with this project,” said Turner, who serves on the Patterson School advisory council. He retired in 2018 as partner with the local office of the former BKD, LLP - CPAs & Advisors.

“Our accountancy school has become a gold standard and is perennially ranked in the top 10 nationally among higher education institutions, and No. 1 in the SEC. I believe building this extraordinary structure will push us toward No. 1 in the nation,” he continued.

“Few accounting schools have their own buildings, including the highly ranked ones, much less a building of this magnitude. So, this will really be a game changer for accountancy at Ole Miss.”

A significant number of generous donors have also supported this project with gifts less than \$100,000.

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



Projected view from the University Avenue bridge

for the right time,” Weller said of his \$250,000 donation. “We’re wanting to get the new school built.

“The accounting school has a tremendous reputation, one of the best in the country,” he continued. “We want to be sure we stay in that position. It didn’t feel like our facilities matched what our program did. It will be in a great location, and it’ll be the first building people see when they come across the bridge to the campus.”

The **Gertrude C. Ford Foundation** of Jackson, Mississippi, a longtime, generous supporter of the University of

Moreover, she said, “I’m proud of what Dean (Mark) Wilder has done with the accounting school, and I’m thrilled that we’re going to have our own building in such a gorgeous, prominent part of campus.”

Joe Macione’s appreciation for his foundation in the accounting profession led him to make a \$100,000 gift to the building fund.

“My wife, Annette, always reminds me that you share your worldly possessions with those who feed you. I consider my accounting degree something that fed me well through the years,” said Macione,



The Memory Impairment and Neurodegenerative Dementia (MIND) Center at the University of Mississippi Medical Center

Adams Honors Husband with Gift

MIND Center at UMMC receives \$10 million donation

With a \$10 million gift to the Memory Impairment and Neurodegenerative Dementia (MIND) Center at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), Fred Rodgers Adams, Jr.'s legacy of philanthropy, entrepreneurship and humility lives on. Jean Reed Adams made the donation in honor of her late husband, who died in 2020 at age 88.

This is one of the largest philanthropic gifts The MIND Center has received. "A gift of this magnitude is truly transformational," said Dr. Thomas Mosley, Robbie and Dudley Hughes MIND Center Chair and director, The MIND Center. "We are excited to share more in the coming months about how it will be used to further The MIND Center's missions. We are grateful that Mrs. Adams saw The MIND Center as a worthy recipient of such an impactful gift."

Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs, said the generous gift will boost the research mission of the Medical Center through the study and treatment of patients with memory loss and cognitive impairment.

"We are incredibly thankful for Mrs. Adams' gift, which will be used to find ways to improve the lives of patients in Mississippi and beyond. This investment in the work of The MIND Center will benefit our state both now, and in the future," she said.

A native of Macon, Mississippi, Adams founded Adams Egg

Farms in 1957, converting an old Mendenhall cotton gin into a feed mill for poultry and commercial eggs. About seven years later, he built a 1,086-acre egg production facility in Edwards, eventually merging with two other farms to form Cal-Maine Foods, the country's largest producer and marketer of shell eggs.

Now headquartered in Ridgeland, Cal-Maine, a public corporation, produces more than one-billion dozen eggs each year. Known for his generosity, Adams made sure his employees – whom he greeted by name – shared in the financial growth of the company.

After having a stroke in 2011, Mr. Adams developed expressive aphasia, and later dementia, his wife said. "He also had three siblings, two of whom had dementia or cognitive issues, so this has touched our family in many ways. I wanted to honor Fred by helping other families going through similar experiences."

Mrs. Adams' gift will support the UMMC MIND Center-Mayo Clinic Study of Aging, clinical care and each of UMMC's key mission areas. The MIND Center will celebrate the gift during a ceremony in the fall.

"I hope this donation can help The MIND Center get closer to finding a cure for these diseases," said Jean Reed Adams.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Dr. Melissa Robinson, mrobinson6@umc.edu or at 601-984-1106.

Supporting a State-of-the-Art Facility

O'Donnells make \$1.5 million commitment to renovations of Children's of Mississippi Batson Tower

After helping make the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower at Children's of Mississippi a reality, Priscilla and David O'Donnell of Ridgeland have made a \$1.5 million gift toward the renovation of the Blair E. Batson Tower.

The couple's 2017 gift of \$1 million created the Priscilla and David O'Donnell Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) Cardiac Wing located in the Sanderson Tower. The unit includes 12 dedicated cardiac beds for management of medical and surgical (including pre- and post-operative) care for children with congenital heart defects.

The O'Donnells' new \$1.5 million commitment supports the renovation of the cardiac step-down and medical-surgical floor in the Batson Tower. The tower named for Dr. Blair E. Batson, the first pediatrics chair at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, was opened in 1997 and is home to the medical-surgical units of the state's only children's hospital.

Patients are treated in the seven-story Batson Tower for many diseases and injuries, including cancer, neurological disorders, congenital heart disease, orthopedic surgical conditions, trauma, respiratory concerns and many other conditions.

"This recent gift from Priscilla and David O'Donnell continues their commitment to Mississippi children with heart conditions," said Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair and professor of pediatrics, and an expert in pediatric cardiac critical care. "The O'Donnells helped create the state-of-the-art Pediatric Intensive Care Cardiac Wing in the Sanderson Tower, and this latest gift will allow us to offer the same state-of-the-art facilities in the Batson Tower."

About one in 100 children are born with congenital heart conditions, making it the most common type of birth defect. Surgery and continuing care can allow many of those children to live a healthy, active life.

"We are happy to be blessed with the ability to contribute to such a worthy organization," said David O'Donnell, owner of the W.E. Bowers Group, a mechanical contractor in Washington, D.C.

The couple, who together have five daughters ages 25 to 34, want to ensure that families have access to world-class health care facilities and providers right here in Mississippi.

"Because I remember when the Batson Tower opened," Priscilla O'Donnell said, "I continued to think of it as new."

"After a recent visit to the new PICU wing it gave us great joy to see what the Sanderson Tower has accomplished so far in the lives of these young children. After seeing the new facility, we knew that we wanted to be continued supporters of the Children's Hospital," she said.

Dr. William Moskowitz, professor and chief of pediatric

cardiology and co-director of the Children's Heart Center, said having cardiac surgical step-down rooms near the PICU will dramatically improve care.

"Renovation of the Batson Tower and advancements for cardiac care in our medical-surgical units will make the transition from intensive care easier for patients and their families," he said.



David and Priscilla O'Donnell

A gift to the cardiac step-down was "a logical progression in the family's continued support," David O'Donnell said. "We hope that this effort will positively impact the wonderful, deserving children receiving life-saving treatment at Children's of Mississippi. Although we will not know these fortunate children personally, we know that the care they will receive will be by some of the best doctors and staff in the country and will get them on the road to recovery."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Suzanne Crell, screll@umc.edu or 601-815-8778.

Advancing Care for Children

\$3M gift creates Morris Center for Cleft and Craniofacial Research and Innovation

A \$3 million gift is making the most advanced cleft and craniofacial treatment available to Mississippi's children through the Stephanie and Mitchell Morris Center for Cleft and Craniofacial Research and Innovation at Children's of Mississippi.

"Many in Mississippi struggle financially, and despite having some of the best medical professionals in the world, Mississippi still has difficulties in being able to provide some of the services that other top hospitals in the nation are able to provide," Mitchell Morris said. "Children's of Mississippi is the state's only hospital and often the only place in the state where children can receive care and treatment for some conditions. Stephanie and I want that care to be the best possible and accessible to as many Mississippi children as possible."

The gift will fund the purchase of endoscopes to perform minimally invasive surgical procedures to treat craniosynostosis in babies. Endoscopic strip craniectomies remove a fused suture in patients. Fused sutures are joints in the bone plates

incisions, giving children a less-invasive treatment and a faster recovery.

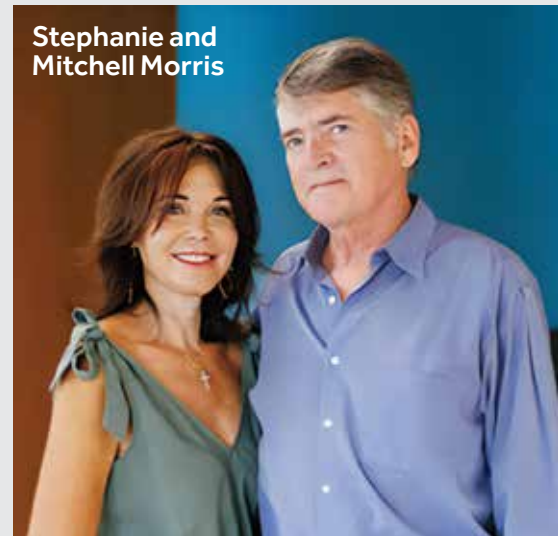
An endowment will be created to support the center and its research and care, and a genetic counselor will spend more time seeing patients of the Craniofacial Team, which, like the Cleft Team at Children's of Mississippi, is the only such program in the state with accreditation from the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association (ACPA).

ACPA certification requires access to a multidisciplinary team including surgeons, psychologists, dentists, audiologists, ophthalmologists, social workers, geneticists and genetic counselors, speech therapists and orthodontists.

In the U.S., about 7,000 babies are born with cleft lips and/or cleft palates each year. Craniosynostosis, one of the most common craniofacial conditions, affects one in every 2,500 births.

The Morris family gift includes funding for an annual event for children who experience cleft or craniofacial differences.

"This will be an event for Children's of Mississippi to give those kids the



Stephanie and Mitchell Morris

Dr. Ian Hoppe, surgeon-in-chief and leader of the cleft and craniofacial teams at Children's of Mississippi, said the creation of the Center for Cleft and Craniofacial Research and Innovation will transform care.

"The incredible generosity of Stephanie and Mitchell Morris is the catalyst for significant surgical advancements for our patients," Hoppe said. "Their gift will help children today and give Children's of Mississippi programs and technologies we can build upon to see continued improvements in cleft and craniofacial care in the future."

Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair and professor of pediatrics, said the gift creating the Stephanie and Mitchell Morris Center for Cleft and Craniofacial within the children's hospital's facilities inside the Kathy and Joe Sanderson Tower and Blair E. Batson Tower will advance the care as well as research and education.

"This center will also fuel research into cleft and craniofacial care and will provide training opportunities for the next generation of cleft and craniofacial experts," she said. "We are so grateful to Stephanie and Mitchell Morris for their philanthropy and concern for Mississippi's children."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Meredith Aldridge, mmaldridge@umc.edu or 601-815-7469.



Dr. Ian Hoppe checks the palate of patient Isla Thrasher of Madison as her mom, Whitney, looks on.

of the skull that have grown together. Normally, these sutures are not fused to allow for brain growth.

Endoscopes, thin lighted tubes with cameras and surgical tools attached, allow for surgical treatment with much smaller

chance to meet other kids who are going through the same experiences. We want these children not to feel stigmatized for their differences but to be celebrated for them," Morris said. "That part is important to me."

Mindful Giving

Baker's \$1M gift endows professorship at UMMC MIND Center

Fred Rodgers Adams, Jr., his siblings and most of his cousins developed dementia in their later years. The family connection wasn't lost on his daughter.

"Many of them died from it as the official cause of death," said Dea Dea Adams Baker of Jackson, Mississippi. "This got our attention years ago as it became apparent dementia was appearing more and more in my older relatives."

Being familiar with the Memory Impairment and Neurodegenerative Dementia (MIND) Center at the University of Mississippi Medical Center through its fundraising campaigns made the need for support very real, and Baker wanted to get involved.

Three years after Adams' death, at 88, Baker has donated \$1 million to The MIND Center, in honor of her father and mother, Dorothy "Dot" Adams, who died in 1993, and her aunts and uncles, who died of dementia.

Baker earmarked her gift for an endowed professorship because "we cannot afford to lose the contributions of these professors whose intelligence and experience have been instrumental in our research and credibility."

The Dea Dea Adams Baker MIND Center Professorship will help recruit, acknowledge and retain the best researchers



Dr. Michael Griswold is recipient of the Dea Dea Adams Baker MIND Center Professorship.

and technology core, recipient of the professorship, is among the best in his field and has significantly impacted all research

we do. He is well-deserving of this honor."

Griswold said he hopes The MIND Center's research will be seen as an enduring tribute to Baker and her family.

"It's really quite an honor, which I can only attribute to the excellence and commitment of the whole MIND Center team that I'm blessed to work with. To borrow a line Mr. Adams is reported to have treasured, 'Seems the harder we work, the luckier we get.' We're very lucky to receive this generous gift, and it will definitely help The MIND Center work to expand our Alzheimer's and dementia research programs."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Dr. Melissa Robinson, mrobinson6@umc.edu or at 601-984-1106.

We cannot afford to lose the contributions of these professors whose intelligence and experience have been instrumental in our research and credibility.

and provide a consistent source of funding to support faculty members' research.

"Dr. Michael Griswold, professor of biostatistics and data science, and director of The MIND Center's science, evidence

at The MIND Center," said Dr. Thomas Mosley, Robbie and Dudley Hughes MIND Center Chair and director, The MIND Center. "Dr. Griswold's work at The MIND Center has elevated all that



Celebrating the \$1 million gift from Century Club Charities are (from left) John Scarbrough, board chairman of Friends of Children's Hospital; Caitlin Foreman, Friends of Children's Hospital executive director; Bob "Pic" Billingsley, senior vice president and general manager of retail sales for Wayne-Sanderson Farms; Dr. JR Woodall, secretary of Century Club Charities; Hilary Burroughs, Wayne-Sanderson Farms director of marketing; Johnny Lang, treasurer of Century Club Charities; Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine; Steve Jent, executive director of the Sanderson Farms Championship; and Dr. Guy Giesecke, CEO of Children's of Mississippi.

Benefiting Health Care

Sanderson Farms Championship host organization donates \$1M to benefit Children's of Mississippi

Sanderson Farms Championship host organization Century Club Charities donated \$1 million from the golf tournament to benefit Mississippi's only hospital for children.

The \$1 million gift coupled with over \$500,000 to other Mississippi charities, including an anonymous donation of \$100,000 directly to the University of Mississippi Medical Center, takes the 2022 total charitable impact of Century Club Charities to more than \$1.5 million statewide.

"Through the efforts of our amazing tournament partners and sponsors, especially our title sponsor, Wayne-Sanderson Farms, as well as the Century Club Charities members, board and staff; tournament volunteers; The Country Club of Jackson; and the PGA TOUR, the 2022 Sanderson Farms Championship allowed us to once again make a substantial gift to Mississippi charities," said Phillip Carpenter, president of Century Club Charities. "We were very excited to host a first-class event and all the excitement fans have come to expect, and that support allowed us to reach lofty goals when Children's of Mississippi and other statewide charities are in great need."

Since Sanderson Farms, now known as Wayne-Sanderson Farms, became the Title Sponsor in 2013, the tournament and Century Club Charities has contributed more than \$15.7 million to Friends of Children's Hospital and other Mississippi charities. Since 1994, Century Club Charities has raised more than \$23 million for Mississippi charities.

Children's of Mississippi, which includes the children's hospital as well as clinics around the state, cares for nearly 200,000 children a year.

John Scarbrough, board chairman of Friends, said Century

Club Charities makes Friends' mission to support the children's hospital possible. Funds from the Sanderson Farms Championship help provide the state-of-the-art equipment and facilities for Children's of Mississippi, which is now working toward updating the hospital's Batson Tower, which opened in 1997. The children's hospital opened its seven-story expansion, the Sanderson Tower, in 2020.

"The Sanderson Tower wasn't here 20 years ago, but I was here, in room 353, where I was with my son who was being treated for cancer," Scarbrough said. "It's a full-circle moment for me to stand here in front of you today, ... with so many organizations working together to do what's right for the kids. These numbers are incredible, but at the end of the day, it's about the kids."

Bob "Pic" Billingsley, senior vice president and general manager of retail sales for Wayne-Sanderson Farms, applauded Children's of Mississippi and its mission.

"The reason I'm here today is not the reason a lot of people come to the children's hospital," he said. "I came up here to celebrate a good day. A lot of people come up here to celebrate finding hope, the hope you doctors give. ... All these mamas and daddies with these kids who drive up out here, all they want is a chance. All they want is a little hope. ... This is all Joe and Kathy Sanderson wanted. You've got a facility here that is second to none. There are doctors who are world-class. The best health care in the world, you can find right here."

The 2023 Sanderson Farms Championship is set for Oct. 2-8 at the Country Club of Jackson.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Suzanne Crell, screll@umc.edu or 601-815-8778.

Supporting Pediatric Neurology

\$1M gift from Friends of Children's Hospital creates Evans Chair

A \$1 million gift from Friends of Children's Hospital is creating a chair in honor of one of the state's leaders in pediatrics, Dr. Owen B. "Bev" Evans, and his wife, Lynn. The two were instrumental in founding the nonprofit.

Dr. Colette Parker, chief of the Division of Pediatric Neurology, will be the first to hold the honor.

Evans followed Dr. Blair E. Batson as the University of Mississippi Medical Center's second pediatrics chair following five years as chief of pediatric neurology. With the goal of building a children's hospital, Evans was one of the founders of Friends of Children's Hospital.

"Dr. Evans led the children's hospital when resources were few and the need was immense," said John Scarbrough, board chairman of Friends. "It took vision, stubbornness and his great personality during those days to seek solutions for patients. These constraints led him to founding Friends of Children's Hospital in 1989 to grow awareness, voluntarism and fundraising for the children's hospital. Now 34 years later, Friends continues our all-out pursuit of these values and the vision that Dr. Evans created for the nonprofit so many years ago."

Evans, an alumnus of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, came to UMMC in 1983 after being recruited by Batson, also a Vanderbilt graduate. "I was

so impressed with the faculty. Everyone was working hard and practicing good medicine."

He became the "chief pediatric neurologist and a faculty of one." He was on call 24/7 to care for the children in the state with neurological conditions.

By 1989, Evans was tapped to lead the Department of Pediatrics at UMMC as its chair. He and his wife, Lynn, then worked tirelessly to create Friends of Children's Hospital. From the very beginning, Lynn was instrumental at Friends of Children's Hospital and her dedication and hard work ensured the group's success.

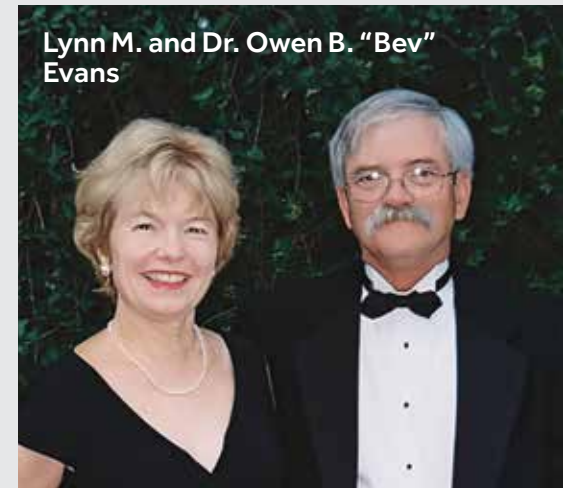
A founding member of Friends and its first treasurer, Lynn Evans launched Bank Plus Presents Light A Light, the nonprofit's first fundraiser and one that continues each December as a Christmas tree lighting for the children's hospital.

With a keen interest in politics, Lynn Evans became a lobbyist for the Mississippi Press Association, then March of Dimes. She finished her lobbying career as an advocate for the Mississippi Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She was instrumental in raising the Mississippi driver's license age to 16 and for seat belt and car seat requirements for motorists.

She served as president of the Jackson Public Schools board and was active

in the PTA. She was also president of Mississippi Common Cause.

After years of hard work and fundraising, Dr. Evans' and Lynn's dream of a new children's hospital became a reality with the opening of the five-story Batson Tower in 1997. Two more floors were added in 2004.



Lynn M. and Dr. Owen B. "Bev" Evans

Today, the Division of Pediatric Neurology includes eight board-certified pediatric neurologists, each of whom has had at least part of their medical training at UMMC. The division cares for more than 1,100 a month at the Sanderson Tower clinics, with hundreds more getting diagnostic tests at the division's electrophysiology lab in the Batson Tower.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Suzanne Crell, screll@umc.edu or 601-815-8778.

Dr. Colette Parker shares memories after being presented with the Dr. Owen B. and Lynn M. Evans Chair of Pediatric Neurology.



Support for UM’s Medical Center, Oxford Campus

A longtime Jackson, Mississippi, physician and his wife left an estate gift of \$640,000 to the University of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) to provide library resources, support the training of pediatricians and strengthen allergy-immunology education, patient care and research — all of which will have a long-lasting impact.

The late Dr. Wilfred Q. Cole Jr. found studying medicine to be intellectually stimulating, and the “soft spot in his heart for children” led him to specialize in pediatric allergy. Gwen Cole was a faithful supporter of her husband’s career, which was largely spent at UMMC.

A total of \$10,000 of the gift is designated for the R. Faser Triplett Sr., MD Chair of Allergy and Immunology, with the balance divided between endowments for the Department of Pediatrics at UMMC and the J.D. Williams Library

on the Oxford campus.

“Both my parents were firm believers in higher education and giving back to their state universities and their alma mater,” said Dr. Wilfred Cole III, an



Dr. Wilfred Q. Cole Jr. and Gwen Walker Cole are pictured in 1948 at the Delta Delta Delta sorority house at the University of Mississippi. The two met on the Oxford campus, and now they have contributed support to the university and its Medical Center through an estate gift.

allergist-immunologist in Alpharetta and Marietta, Georgia.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Jane Harkins, jcharkins@umc.edu or 601-984-4468.



Dr. Wilfred Q. Cole Jr. and his wife, Gwen, are pictured here in 1998. Their estate gift of \$640,000 will have a far-reaching impact on the University of Mississippi and its Medical Center, where the physician spent most of his medical career.

Caring for Children

The state’s only children’s hospital child life program will bring more smiles to Children’s

of Mississippi patients thanks to the Sidney P. Allen and Friends of Children’s Hospital Child Life Fund, which has

reached a total of more than \$1.1 million.

The fund is a memorial to Allen, a successful businessman, entrepreneur and philanthropist as well as board chairman of Friends of Children’s Hospital, who died Nov. 10, 2018.

A check presented by Friends of Children’s Hospital for \$392,181.36 brought the fund’s total to seven figures. The fund will generate about \$70,000 for Children’s of Mississippi’s child life program each year.

The Sidney P. Allen and Friends of Children’s Hospital Child Life Fund supports child life, which helps patients and families cope with stress or other issues related to treatment and their time in the hospital. Child life professionals soothe patients with therapeutic play and help them and their families prepare for procedures, reducing fear, anxiety and pain.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Suzanne Crell, screll@umc.edu or 601-815-8778.



Celebrating the Sidney P. Allen and Friends of Children’s Hospital Child Life Fund are (from left) businessman and philanthropist William Van Devender Sr.; Friends of Children’s Hospital executive director Caitlin Foreman; Josh Odom; Rachel Allen Odom; Kristin Kappler Hardy, Children’s of Mississippi’s director of quality and clinical support services; Deborah Allen; Sidney Allen Jr.; Kristin Allen; Dr. Mary Taylor, Suzan B. Thames Chair and professor of pediatrics; Ellen Hansen, Children’s of Mississippi chief nursing and clinical services officer; and John Scarbrough, board chairman of Friends of Children’s Hospital.

RebelTHON 2023



After a decade of raising money to support Children's of Mississippi, RebelTHON 2023 continued its string of successes by securing more than \$200,000. Some 1,130 students registered for the event, which took place from noon to midnight Feb. 25 in the Ole Miss Student Union. At the conclusion of this year's event, organizers and participants celebrated another year of fundraising success for Children's.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Matthew Brazier, mbrazier@umc.edu or 601-984-2300.

A Wish-Inspired Gift

Ernestine Smith worked as a nurse's aide in Brookhaven but wished she had become a nurse. That dream inspired an endowed scholarship from the

estate of her son, Hugh Carroll Smith, to the School of Nursing at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The estate bequest, expected to total

\$350,000, will endow three \$5,000 Ernestine Price Smith Scholarships for registered nurses in the RN-to-BSN program at UMMC.

"We wanted this to help nursing students who are older than traditional freshmen and want to advance in their nursing careers," said Karen Thompson, executor of the estate and a first cousin of Smith who cared for him in his later years.

Hugh Carroll Smith died Nov. 4, 2022.

After marriage in the 1940s, Ernestine Smith worked in manufacturing before becoming a nurse's aide in a long-term care home in Brookhaven.

The \$5,000 scholarship will be life-changing for students as the complete cost of the RN-to-BSN program is about \$11,000.

■ **MAKE A PLANNED GIFT:** Jane Harkins, plannedgiving@umc.edu or 601-984-4468.



Ernestine Smith (far left) is pictured with her siblings. Her dream to become a nurse was the inspiration for a scholarship for students in the RN-to-BSN program at UMMC.



Char Williams (from left) Neal Holcomb, Dr. Robert L. Elliott, Dr. Mary C. Elliott and Zack Odums stand in front of Kent Wyatt Hall at Delta State University in 2016.

Fighting Cancer

The Rolling Fork-based Mississippi Breast Foundation, run by CPA Neal Holcomb, has given \$200,000 over the past year to the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) to fund breast cancer research.

“The Mississippi Breast Foundation has invested in breast cancer research since 1996,” said Holcomb, who started the foundation after losing both parents to cancer. “We’re pleased that UMMC is giving focus to the health care needs in the Mississippi Delta.”

Chronically underserved when it comes to access to health care options, the Delta has been cited in comprehensive studies as being a hotspot for breast cancer mortality, especially for Black women. The state’s age-adjusted rate of 23.5 female breast cancer deaths per 100,000 people was second-highest in the nation as of 2020.

Hernando-based Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi (CFNM) functions to support efforts to improve the health and education of those living in their 11-county oversight area, which includes the Mississippi Delta.

Funds are being administered by the CFNM and are in memory of Dr. Robert L. Elliott a 2013 UMMC Medical Alumni Chapter Hall of Fame inductee, and his wife, the late Dr. Mary C. Elliott, both of whom dedicated their lives to cancer research.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Lee Pharr, lpharr@umc.edu or 601-984-1114.

Giving Grace

Maggie Hanberry’s valiant fight against stage IV colon cancer is the inspiration for a memorial that will match gifts for renovations to the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children’s of Mississippi.

Maggie’s parents, Phil and Melissa Hanberry of Hattiesburg, offered to match gifts to the center’s renovation fund up to \$100,000 through the Giving Grace Fund they started in their daughter’s honor.

“We are fulfilling a promise to Maggie to offer support to the clinic,” Melissa Hanberry said.

More than \$4 million of the \$6 million project funding goal has been raised for the renovations. The project will update

the 32-year old center, nearly doubling the number of exam rooms to 14. The center’s infusion room, currently an open space for eight, will be enlarged to house 20 semi-private infusion bays.

Each bay will have an infusion chair, guest chair, and electronics to give patients and their families more space, privacy and entertainment.

The Hanberry family experienced Maggie’s care at Children’s for four and a half years following her diagnosis a month shy of her 16th birthday.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Suzanne Crell, screll@umc.edu or 601-815-8778.



Dr. Anderson Collier, D. Jeanette Pullen Chair of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at UMMC, former division chief and director of the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children’s of Mississippi, thanks Melissa and Phil Hanberry for the Giving Grace Fund’s donation toward renovations of the center.

Radiothon

Twenty-four hours of broadcasting added up to \$401,703 raised during the 22nd annual Mississippi Miracles Radiothon. Here, Children’s of Mississippi patient De’Nahri Middleton of Jackson talks with on-air personalities during the event.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Jennifer Hospodor, jhospodor@umc.edu, or Kathyne Lewis, kjlewis@umc.edu, at 601-984-2300.





The Rayner Family's recent major gift to the University of Mississippi supports academics and athletics. Pictured (from left) are Ole Miss Head Baseball Coach Mike Bianco, Jenny and Bradley Rayner, Kip Crawford, Dr. Whitney Rayner, Dr. Jim Rayner, Mary Sharp Rayner, Roane and Robert Grantham, OMAF CEO Denson Hollis, and Keith Carter, vice chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics.

All in the Family

Rayners hope gift will keep Rebels competitive and inspire fan support

The Rayner Family Gate is now the primary entrance to Oxford-University Stadium, named in honor of the Oxford, Mississippi, family who made a \$2 million gift to the University of Mississippi. Of the gift, \$1.5 million is designated for CHAMPIONS. NOW., the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's (OMAF) fundraising campaign focused on improving facilities for student-athletes, and \$500,000 supports academics at the university.

Siblings Roane Rayner Grantham, Bradley Rayner and Dr. Whitney Rayner, along with their parents Mary Sharp and Dr. Jim Rayner, hope their gift will help Ole Miss teams remain competitive and encourage other families to support the university.

"Going to Ole Miss sporting events is always something we've done as a family, so we chose to give as a family as well," said UM alumnus Bradley Rayner, who earned a degree in business in 2000 and a second degree in management information systems in 2002.

"I hope our gift will help provide what the athletics department needs to continue to compete at the highest levels," he continued. "Improvement to facilities is something that the University of Mississippi has committed itself to. It has a direct impact on our current and future student-athletes and gives our coaching staffs an additional edge in the recruitment process."

His sister shared a similar sentiment.

"Our hope for this gift is to enable student-athletes to have everything at their disposal to achieve their maximum potential which will in turn allow Ole Miss Athletics to compete at the highest level," said Grantham, who earned a bachelor's degree in accountancy from UM in 1990.

Though her sister Whitney Rayner has degrees from Vanderbilt University and Mississippi State Veterinary Medical School, she has been a lifelong Rebel fan.

"Some of my fondest memories with family and friends have been entwined with Ole Miss sporting events — the most recent of which would have to be getting the opportunity to be in Omaha to watch the baseball team capture the national title," Whitney Rayner said.

"The Ole Miss student-athletes have always given me so much to look forward to each year and giving back to them is a priority for me," she continued. "I love Ole Miss through the good and the bad and am always proud to be an Ole Miss Rebel!"

Their recent gift to CHAMPIONS. NOW. and academics is the latest of many gifts of both time and resources Mary Sharp and Jim Rayner have made to the university.

"Giving back to the university is almost like an obligation for us because of what Ole Miss has done for us," Jim Rayner said. "We just want to help Ole Miss any way we can and want to encourage other people to do the same."

In addition to their financial support, they have also given of their time — one or both serving on the OMAF Board of Governors as well as the boards of the UM Foundation and the Ole Miss Alumni Association.

"The more you get involved with something, the more you're going to give of your money, your sweat, your tears," said 1964 graduate Mary Sharp Rayner who served as president of the Ole Miss Alumni Association and as chair of the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis,
denson@givetoathletics.com or 615-957-4372.

Johnsons Fuel Momentum for Ole Miss Athletics

John Johnson was 13 years old in 1983 when he witnessed a miraculous event that gave the Ole Miss Rebels a victory over rival Mississippi State, salvaging a 6-5 season record and keeping the team's postseason bowl hopes alive.

It was at that moment — when a wind-driven field goal deflection gave the Rebels a 24-23 win — that Johnson decided the University of Mississippi would one day be his alma mater.

Now the 1992 UM graduate is vice president and chief financial officer for Hood Companies Inc. of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. And he continues to support the Rebels.

Johnson and his wife, Stephanie, recently made a major gift in support of CHAMPIONS. NOW., the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's fundraising campaign focused on improving facilities for student-athletes.

That infamous Egg Bowl of 1983 was played at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium in Jackson, Mississippi, the site of many such gridiron competitions in an era when Ole Miss' other home stadium on the Oxford campus had limited seating capacity for fans of larger conference opponents.

Through the years, Johnson has seen the difference private support has made for the team he loves. Thanks to gifts like his and those of other Rebel fans, Ole Miss can now play all its games in Oxford.

"I love telling my kids about seeing Vaught-Hemingway's



The Johnson family's gift will support improved athletics facilities for University of Mississippi student-athletes. Pictured (from left) are Jon Brent, John, Ally, Stephanie and Anna Lea Johnson.

current press box and its original west side sky boxes under construction during one of my first Ole Miss campus orientation visits in 1988," said Johnson, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from Ole Miss.

"I've told them about the excitement, during my junior year at Ole Miss, of the first night game played in a newly lit Vaught-Hemingway Stadium against Memphis on a 1990 September evening. It's hard for them to imagine the Vaught without lighting, enclosed end zones and the giant, high-definition video boards."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Matt McLaughlin,
matt@givetoathletics.com or 662-915-7894.

Jessups Make Major Gift to CHAMPIONS.NOW. Campaign

Ross Jessup, a 1985 graduate of the University of Mississippi, and his wife Lisa have made a major gift to CHAMPIONS. NOW., the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's (OMAF) campaign to improve facilities for student-athletes.

The Jessups live in Austin, Texas, where he and Lisa, have raised four sons — all of whom played various team and individual sports.

Having witnessed the influence of sports on his own children, Jessup believes athletics provides youth an outlet for activity and entertainment while helping them learn valuable lessons like teamwork.

"Being part of a team shapes young people in many ways,"



Lisa and Ross Jessup (center) enjoy dinner in Italy with their sons (from left) Griffin, Alex, Pierce and Chase.

Jessup said. "They learn the importance of working together and helping each other. They learn how to handle failure, grow from it and do better next time. They begin to understand that many of the lessons sports teaches, such as discipline, dedication and practice, can be applied to all areas of their lives."

The Jessups hope their gift to Ole Miss Athletics can similarly help shape student-athletes on the collegiate level. Their desire to help the youth develop into young adults is evident in their history of giving and service. Ross Jessup has provided leadership on several non-profit boards including Westlake Pop Warner, 12 Fields Foundations, Shoot on Cancer, the local Boy Scouts of America chapter and others.

Although Jessup started his career in public accounting in Dallas in 1985, the entrepreneurial spirit took him elsewhere.

In 2000, he co-founded Open Lending, which went public in 2020 and ranked No. 2 behind DraftKings in most successful stock launches that year. He retired in October 2022 but remains active as a strategic adviser to the CEO and CFO.

In their free time, the Jessups enjoy the outdoors at their ranch in the Texas hill country, as well as tennis and golf with friends and family.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis,
denson@givetoathletics.com or 615-957-4372.

Glenns' Support to Campaign Invests in Rebels' Success

When Rebel football players leave the locker room for practice, they'll pass through a foyer honoring one of many donors to CHAMPIONS. NOW., the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's fundraising campaign focused on improving facilities for student-athletes.

The Donna and Mike Glenn Walk-Off Foyer honors the Eads, Tennessee, couple's \$350,000 gift to the university.

"A successful athletics program, as is often said, is the front porch to the university. When athletics programs are

successful, enrollment increases as does awareness of our great university and this helps accomplish academic goals," said Mike Glenn, a 1977 UM graduate and former FedEx executive.

Last summer, Glenn witnessed the Ole Miss baseball team win the College World Series.

"I had the opportunity to attend, along with my son, and it was a memory of a lifetime," said Glenn, adding that he hopes his gift and those from others will enable such celebrations to continue for the Rebels and their fans. "You simply cannot



Mike (left) and Donna Glenn are joined by Ole Miss Athletics Foundation CEO Denson Hollis.

compete at a championship level without private support from alumni and friends."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, denson@givetoathletics.com or 615-957-4372.



Pictured (from left) are Keith Carter, vice chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics, Charlie Terry, Charlie IV, Charles III, Bo, Hendrix and Alexia Gibson, with Matt McLaughlin, chief development officer.

Gibson Gift Names Gate 32

Alumni Terry and Charlie Gibson's \$250,000 gift is being honored with a lasting family tribute.

The Oxford, Mississippi, couple's name adorns Gate 32 of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium, representing the family's desire to strengthen athletics facilities and help recruit student-athletes.

"Our hope for the gift is to be a part of the university's vision to equip our student-athletes, coaches and all support staff with what's necessary to compete at the highest levels," said Charlie Gibson, retired executive vice

president for Family Dollar.

When the Gibsons decided to move to Oxford, "Matt McLaughlin (chief development officer) was instrumental in getting us plugged in, and over the last year we met several others from the athletics department," he continued. "We really appreciated their commitment to the student-athlete and pursuit of excellence. This gave us the desire to support the program."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Matt McLaughlin, matt@givetoathletics.com or 662-915-7894.

Exclusive Apparel Line, GenTeal, to Support Athletics

A gift from two faculty members will create a win-win scenario for their business and for Rebel fans this fall.

GenTeal Apparel is providing an exclusive line of shirts valued at \$156,000 that will be given to new Vaught Society members.

"The university has been very good to us since we started our business," said alumnus Blake Dubinski, GenTeal's co-founder and adjunct instructor of management.

"When OMAF staff initially proposed the idea, I recognized the opportunity to establish a mutually beneficial partnership. It enables us to build more brand awareness

and it saves Athletics time and money spent going somewhere else for the product."

GenTeal, with its flying duck logo, has literally soared since Dubinski and his business partner, biology professor Brice Noonan, started the company in 2016.

"We hope our gift allows the Athletics Foundation to allocate additional funding to facilities that give our student-athletes and coaches the best opportunity to succeed on and off the field," Noonan said.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** William Fisher, fisher@givetoathletics.com or 662-915-7159.



GenTeal founders Brice Noonan and Blake Dubinski (second and third from left) are greeted on campus by Ole Miss Athletics Foundation staff members Javon Patterson (left), associate director for former student-athlete relations, and William Fisher (right), director of development.

Supporting Student-Athletes

Former Rebel basketball player Keith Shelly's gift to Ole Miss Athletics will help student-athletes keep their head in the game.

Shelly and his wife, Lori — residents of Oxford, Mississippi — gave \$125,000 to the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's (OMAF) CHAMPIONS. NOW. campaign. To honor their gift, the Shelly name adorns a counseling room within the Olivia and Archie Manning Athletics Performance Center.

"Both Lori and I worked in mental health most of our adult lives and are passionate about Ole Miss student-athletes having access to quality care in a safe, comfortable environment that prioritizes their emotional health," said Keith Shelly.

Now, student-athletes can meet one-on-one confidentially with a mental health professional in the Manning Center.

"I love that the

Shellys are aware of how important mental health is for our student-athletes," said Josie Nicholson, assistant athletic director for sport psychology. "When we help improve their overall wellness by removing obstacles to both mental health and sports performance, it puts a better product on the field."

The Shellys are pleased to have their names attached to the counseling center: "It gives us immense joy to know so many of our student-athletes will be beneficiaries of the great work that will be accomplished there," said Keith Shelly.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, denson@givetoathletics.com or 615-957-4372.



Ole Miss Athletics Foundation CEO Denson Hollis (left) with Lori and Keith Shelly



The Johnson family, Julie, Forrest and Mary Blair are greeted by Matt McLaughlin (left), chief development officer, and Blair Griffith (right), assistant director of development for the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation.

A Gift Now for Champions

Family lineage and a love for Ole Miss inspired a University of Mississippi graduate to make a major gift to CHAMPIONS. NOW., the fundraising campaign focused on improving facilities for student-athletes.

"We're excited about the momentum that the athletics programs have built and developed, and we want to lean into it. We're glad to be a part of it," said Forrest Johnson of Natchez, Mississippi, a 2003 graduate of the School of Business Administration. "We want to make sure Ole Miss has the resources to build facilities that the programs need to compete for championships."

Giving back to Ole Miss is important to Johnson because of his family's generational loyalty to the university. His grandfather, the late Forrest Allen Johnson Sr., attended Ole Miss on the GI bill after World War II, studying law; his father, the Hon. Forrest "Al" Johnson Jr., graduated from Ole Miss with degrees in political science and law; his late uncle John Johnson earned a journalism degree in 1969.

It's also where Forrest Johnson met his wife, Julie Manning Johnson, when they literally bumped into each other at a party.

"Between myself, Julie, our family including cousins, siblings and their spouses, more than 16 of us went to Ole Miss," Johnson said. "Ole Miss has always been special to my family."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Blair Griffith, blair@givetoathletics.com or 615-957-7008.

Mauldin Gift in Honor of UM Baseball Will Benefit Facilities

Ole Miss alumnus Mick Mauldin and his wife, Patty, made a \$125,000 gift to CHAMPIONS.NOW., the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's fundraising campaign focused on improving facilities for student-athletes.

"Patty and I love Ole Miss baseball," Mick Mauldin said. "We went to Omaha this past year for a couple of the College World Series games and, like most Rebel fans, were incredibly excited when Ole Miss won the NCAA National Championship. This inspired us to want to do something to honor Coach Mike Bianco's baseball program."

In addition to honoring the baseball team, making a



Mick and Patty Mauldin

tax-deductible donation appealed to the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, couple who said they enjoy knowing their gift will be used to support such improvements as the construction of a baseball performance center that will enable student-athletes to practice during inclement weather.

"This will help the Ole Miss baseball

program keep pace with other schools when Coach Bianco goes recruiting," said Mick Mauldin, a Laurel, Mississippi, native who earned bachelor's and juris doctor degrees from UM in 1970 and 1973 respectively.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Matt McLaughlin, matt@givetoathletics.com or 662-915-7894.

An Affinity for Ole Miss Athletics

A young graduate's desire to give back to his alma mater was borne from a myriad of experiences, including memorable football games he attended growing up, involvement in campus politics as a college student and family ties to Ole Miss.

Dustin Todd, a 2007 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts with a bachelor's degree, majoring in political science and history, made a major gift to CHAMPIONS.NOW., the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's (OMAF) campaign to improve facilities for student-athletes.

"College sports and college football are going through a sea-change at the moment," Todd said. "Ole Miss is lucky

to have leaders like Coach (Lane) Kiffin and AD (Keith) Carter who understand we have to evolve if we want to compete and continue on our strong trajectory.

"I want to support their efforts, ensure we have best-in-class facilities, recruit and retain top coaching talent, and build a base of student-athletes who know when they come to Ole Miss, success on and off the field will be a part of their legacy."

A native of Tupelo, Mississippi, Todd lives in Potomac, Maryland, and is vice president and head of government affairs for Synopsys, the 14th leading software firm in the world.

"While I want to give back to my alma mater, I also want to see Ole Miss



Matt McLaughlin (left), chief development officer for the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation, greets (from left) Andrea, James, Dustin and Louise Todd at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium on the University of Mississippi's Oxford campus.

continue to build and be successful on the national stage. For me, that starts with a world-class athletics program."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Quinn Kavanagh, kavanagh@givetoathletics.com or 662-832-5241.

Shaping Champions

Alumni Brandon Dixon and his wife, Emma Gaines, hope their gift to Ole Miss Athletics will help give student-athletes the extended knowledge they need to proactively navigate life after graduation.

"Think about this: our university will give an academic

scholarship to help someone who has great capability in music cultivate that talent. I view athletes the same way. These young men and women have amazing abilities, so let's cultivate those talents and give them the skills and education they'll need later in life," said Dixon, who earned a master's

degree in educational leadership from Ole Miss in 2003. Gaines earned a bachelor's degree in biological science in 2016 and a nursing degree in 2018.

The Oxford, Mississippi, couple recently made a gift of \$125,000 to CHAMPIONS.NOW., the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's (OMAF) campaign to improve facilities.

Dixon, a tax attorney and principal of Trust Point Capital Partners, LLC, has a history of making opportunities happen for himself and he wants student-athletes to have similar advantages.

"For instance, let's build up their athletics careers now and help them understand the value they should get out of it. Then, give them the skills they'll need to manage their future finances and their health down the road, to work with PR and the public, to manage their image and to understand branding and strategies for making opportunities happen for themselves."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** William Fisher, fisher@givetoathletics.com or 662-915-7159.



Brandon Dixon and Emma Gaines

Texas Bank Honors Ole Miss Baseball Program

To help the Ole Miss Rebel baseball team continue its success after winning the 2022 NCAA National Championship, American First National Bank of Houston, Texas, has given \$100,000 in support.

"As a player on baseball teams from elementary school through college, I know the Ole Miss baseball program needs a lot of efforts including financial support to continue building

a strong, winning team," said Wen-Lung Henry Wu, chairman of the American First National Bank Board and an Ole Miss School of Engineering graduate. "When the baseball team won the NCAA championship, I decided to make this gift."

"We are immensely grateful to Henry Wu and American First National Bank for their generous gift in support of our program," said Head Coach



Henry Wu

Mike Bianco. "Contributions like theirs give us the opportunity to keep Ole Miss baseball competing at a national-championship level while providing a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our student-athletes."

In addition to Wu, several alumni provide leadership at American First National Bank, including two of its directors, Ray Chang and Paul Cheng.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, denson@givetoathletics.com or 615-957-4372.

Cavanaugh Scholarship Will Help Promote Innovative Programming in School of Business Administration

Patrick Cavanaugh of Denver, Colorado, a 1970 School of Business graduate, established the Harlene and Patrick Cavanaugh BASE Scholarship Endowment.

The school launched BASE connecting faculty expertise, student learning and industry interests around the growing wave of analytics. The BASE acronym reflects baseball while encompassing three ways the industry grows: First base represents “sales,” second base is “supply chain” and third base is “marketing analytics.”

The BASE “home run” occurs when innovative technology revolutionizes the typical business cycle of product sales and delivery.

“When you combine the business analytics and supply



Harlene and Patrick Cavanaugh

chain, it’s going to require extensive expertise and understanding new product development,” said Cavanaugh. “These products are going to require people who understand what they are, what they do and why they do it.

“When you put them all together, that BASE program just nailed my idea of what the future is going to look like. The exponential growth of technologies is going to need people who understand how technology improves business efficiencies.”

With the assistance of private support, BASE will develop a learning facility that includes a sales laboratory and interview cubicles for role-plays and mock interviews.

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

Streets Commit Estate Gift to School of Education

A man whose first academic experience at the University of Mississippi did not end well has committed a \$300,000 estate gift to

School of Education scholarships as a nod to second chances.

In 1967, after three unsuccessful semesters, Bill Street withdrew and joined

the U.S. Navy. After six years in the service, he wrote the university and asked if he could return as a student.

“They said ‘Yes!’” Street recalled. The motivated student made a 4.0 GPA on his first four classes and completed his academic career with 26 A’s and 6 B’s.

“This university gave me a second chance and you don’t get many of those,” the Alabaster, Alabama, resident said. “My Ole Miss education gave me a foundation for the rest of my life. It gave me a work ethic and taught me how to focus on priorities. If you really want to know why I love the place, that’s it.”

Street and his wife, Ginny, established the Dr. Harry P. Owens Secondary Education Opportunity Scholarship Endowment to honor Street’s mentor, the now-late history professor. Their estate gift will grow the endowment, which has already awarded four scholarships.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Kelly Smith Marion, ksmith13@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2007.



Bill and Ginny Street (left and center) with David Rock, dean of the School of Education

Ole Miss, Trane Partnership Enters New Phase

The University of Mississippi and Trane — by Trane Technologies are investing in a more sustainable future by supporting educational initiatives and entering the next chapter of a large-scale energy savings project.

As the university's energy services provider, Trane began assessing and implementing opportunities for energy savings and building systems improvements in 2022. As a result, the university anticipates a 9.2% reduction in annual energy usage, which equates to more than \$690,000 in energy savings per year.

Trane's on-campus engagement with students and faculty has also led to a new initiative that will promote STEM learning, provide professional development and experiential

learning for students, and grow the university's environmental studies program.

Trane has quickly become one of the most-engaged industry partners on campus. Its employees have visited campus frequently to mentor student capstone projects, provide case studies and participate in panels.

This shared interest in STEM learning and career readiness culminated in a \$300,000 grant made in part by the Trane Technologies Foundation to begin a multi-year educational initiative targeting K-12 students and Ole Miss students alike.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Hughes Miller, hughes@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2885.



Chuck (left) and Lisa Nicholson with Emily Boyce and Chancellor Glenn Boyce

Nicholson Honors Wife with METP Scholarship

Chuck Nicholson, the president/CEO of Community Bancshares Inc., honored his wife, Lisa, with a School of Education scholarship in her name. The \$250,000 contribution was a surprise to Lisa Nicholson, a former teacher.

The Lisa Ikerd Nicholson Elementary Education Scholarship Endowment is for elementary education majors in the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program, an honors college-style program that produces educators to address the teacher shortage. Each participant commits to teaching at least five years in Mississippi.

"To choose the School of Education, where I graduated, and name the scholarship for me is really an honor. We've always been taught to give back — it's a quality that's been instilled in both of us," Lisa Nicholson said.

The Brandon, Mississippi, couple met at Ole Miss where she graduated in 1982 in elementary education; he earned a business degree in 1981.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Kelly Smith Marion, ksmith13@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2007.

Johnsons Make Gift in Honor of Their Graduates

Evelyn and Jeff Johnson of Monroe, Louisiana, are honoring their children's collegiate experience with a \$200,000 gift to Ole Miss, which will be divided to equally support programs within the schools of Applied Sciences and Engineering.

The couple's gift established the Abigail Johnson Dietetics and Nutrition Support Fund and the Drew Johnson Center for Manufacturing Excellence (CME) Support Fund.

"Both of our children were blessed with a great education and wonderful experiences at Ole Miss," said Jeff Johnson. "Drew always spoke fondly of his time at the CME and Abigail is most passionate about nutrition. It just made sense to donate to these entities.

"We hope these gifts will allow both programs to continue — and even expand — the education and experience Drew and Abigail received."

Drew Johnson earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the School of Business Administration in 2017 and 2021, respectively. He now works as an analyst for the PEER Committee of the Mississippi State Legislature.

Abigail Johnson, a 2019 graduate, is working toward a doctorate in curriculum and instruction at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, where she also serves as an academic adviser for undergraduate students.

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



Evelyn (left) and Jeff Johnson's recent gift honors their children, Abigail and Drew.



Mary Susan Gallien Clinton with her family (from left) son Denver; husband J.D., who is the INSOUTH Bank board chair; and son Hurst.

Clintons Create Scholarship with Internship Component

Mentoring young people has been at the forefront of Mary Susan and J.D. Clinton's lives for years, and now that opportunity is being expanded thanks to an Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy scholarship at the University of Mississippi.

A \$165,000 gift from INSOUTH Bank — a family-owned business and Tennessee's oldest chartered bank — increases the Mary Susan Gallien Clinton Council Scholarship Endowment to almost \$288,000. The Clintons made this the first OMWC scholarship endowment to include a paid internship at INSOUTH Bank.

The Clinton Council Scholarship is designed for business or accountancy majors who are chosen on academic ability, leadership potential and financial need.

"Anytime I see an opportunity to help someone, whether its mentoring or otherwise, I want to do it. Philanthropy is planting a seed and creating a root. You want to give from the heart," said alumna Mary Susan Clinton, an OMWC member. "And I don't ever want that to end, even when I die. I plant seeds along the way so that other people will carry on what I have started."

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

Support Fund Strengthens UM Biomedical Engineering

James Stewart's gift of \$100,000 to the University of Mississippi will establish the James C. Stewart Biomedical Engineering Program Support Fund.

Stewart of Houston, Texas, who earned a UM degree in electrical engineering in 1984, seeks to enable a state-of-the-art Department of Biomedical Engineering that creates jobs and expands business opportunities in Mississippi and beyond.

"My degree allowed me to be a very successful businessperson," said Stewart. "I want to give back to the engineering school because they've started an innovative program, and I've always been interested in leading-edge medical technology."

UM's Biomedical Engineering Program combines the design and problem-solving skills of engineering with medical and biological sciences to advance healthcare treatment.

"I think the University of Mississippi has a leading-edge biomedical program that attracts top students, so I want to help provide all the things that are needed to be able to sustain a first-class, top-tier biomedical program," said Stewart.

The alumnus advises private equity investors on upstream oil and gas investments and serves as a director of NexTier Oilfield Solutions, which he co-founded in 2011, formerly serving as chair and CEO from 2011-2019.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Greg Carter, gjcarter@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1849.



UM Foundation CEO Wendell Weakley (left) with James Stewart

Regions Foundation, UM Join Forces to Support Delta

The Regions Foundation and the Mississippi Small Business Development Center (SBDC) established the Mississippi Delta SBDC to encourage entrepreneurship and small business success specifically in the Delta region.

The Mississippi Delta SBDC is housed within CompuRecycling Center Inc., in Greenville, Mississippi, and began serving small-business owners and entrepreneurs in the 10-county Delta region in 2022. The Mississippi SBDC is headquartered at the University of Mississippi.

The Regions Foundation is an Alabama-based nonprofit that is funded primarily by Regions Bank. The foundation has

now provided a \$150,000 grant to expand the Mississippi Delta SBDC's offerings, which include free one-on-one counseling and technical assistance for small-business owners.

"While we all recognize you need education, workforce, housing and health care, we also must recognize you can't have a thriving community without small business. But even more than that, micro and small businesses that are locally owned generate more wealth for the community, employing and investing in their community," said Marta Self, executive director of the Regions Foundation.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Hughes Miller, hughes@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2885.

Student Union Name Dedicated, Concerto Award Presented

The University of Mississippi formally dedicated the new name of the Ole Miss Student Union, paying tribute to late Gertrude C. Ford and her foundation that continues to have a transformative impact on the Oxford and Medical Center campuses.

A dedication ceremony was held in the Gertrude C. Ford Ole Miss Student Union. At a dinner hosted the same day by the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts, the inaugural Concerto Awards were presented to the Ford Foundation and Chancellor Emeritus Robert C. Khayat. The Ford Foundation's support totals more than \$67.8 million.

"The Ford Foundation board members have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to helping meet the needs of our university, with the overarching mission of making a meaningful impact throughout our state, region and far beyond," said Chancellor Glenn Boyce.

The Student Union experienced a major expansion and renovation project that began in 2015 and opened with the 2019 fall semester. More than 173,000 square feet were added to the facility. Larger spaces were needed to better serve the growing student population.

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



Retired Teacher Leaves Gift to Help Education Majors

Teaching and learning were Dorothy Wayne Blackwell's lifelong passions.

The daughter of educators, it came as no surprise that Blackwell pursued a teaching career. Neither was it a surprise that she chose to leave an estate gift of more than \$153,000 to the University of Mississippi School of Education, where she earned a master's degree in special education.



Dorothy Blackwell

R. Vance Blackwell of Paris, Kentucky, her nephew, said the estate gift, directed largely to scholarship support, "made perfect sense."

"Her life was one of servitude, gifting others with the skills necessary to take the next steps in life. If she could help others realize their potential and financial hardships were a roadblock, she would want to remove such barriers," he said.

Dorothy Blackwell's career spanned three decades, primarily in Mississippi and Florida, teaching students with learning disabilities.

More than \$78,000 of the gift goes to the Transfer to Teach Endowment, which awards scholarships to community college transfer students. Another \$50,000 provides resources to address School of Education needs. The remaining \$25,000 goes to the Education Equity Undergraduate Scholarship Endowment.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Kelly Smith Marion, ksmith13@olemiss.edu or 662-915-2007.

Col. Towery Memorialized with Fund for Army ROTC

The late Col. (Ret.) Bobby Towery, 59, ran his final mile Oct. 26, 2019, like he lived his life: supporting and encouraging others.

Towery of Oxford, Mississippi, died of a heart attack hours after finishing the eight-mile Chucky Mullins Great 38 Race, raising funds to help students with physical disabilities attend the University of Mississippi.

Now the Colonel Bobby A. Towery Final Mile Scholarship Endowment will extend his life's work, which was to make a difference in the lives of others. His mom, Kaye Bryant of Oxford, gave \$100,000 to establish the scholarship, which will assist senior Army ROTC cadets with financial need, helping them complete their degrees and receive commissions.



Kaye Bryant with her late son, Col. Bobby Towery

Towery was commissioned as a U.S. Army Armor 2LT in 1983 from UM, where he was a distinguished military graduate. The 30-year veteran with a decorated career, Towery is described as a "soldier's soldier,"

a "servant leader" and a "compassionate mentor."

"To know him was to love him," said Bryant about her son. "I hope this scholarship inspires young men and women to finish school and become servant leaders themselves."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Delia Childers, dgchilde@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3086.

Feders Recommit to Oxford Conference for the Book

Ron Feder and his wife, Misty, recommitted their support of the Oxford Conference for the Book (OCB) with a \$100,000 gift, matching 2012 and 2002 gifts to the same program.

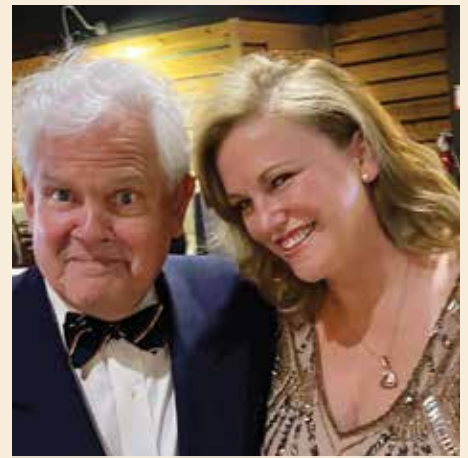
The conference is hosted by UM's Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

"We are committed to supporting the work of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. The Conference for the Book is a favorite of ours because its purpose is to encourage new writers to tell their stories about the South," said

Ron Feder of Ocean Springs, Mississippi. "Particularly, the Conference for the Book is about telling the untold stories of the South in the 21st century.

"Oxford and the university have long nurtured aspiring writers," he continued. "The Conference for the Book is just one more opportunity to celebrate creative regional storytelling in this amazingly fertile literary space."

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Claire Moss, ccmoss1@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3380.



Ron and Misty Feder

Tincher's Gift Pays Tribute to Wife's Life



Mike Tincher (right) visits with Caroline Hourin, associate director of development for the College of Liberal Arts.

Ami Moore Tincher's interests in life were focused on film and theatre, music and art — the areas highlighted by the Institute for the Arts at the University of Mississippi. Mike Tincher committed an estate gift of \$100,000 to create an endowment in his wife's name to support the work of the institute.

"To me, the next All-American doesn't have to be from the football or baseball fields; the 'star' can be out of the music, film or art departments," Tincher said. "I've listened to some of the students perform, and they are incredible. The quality of instruction at Ole Miss is wonderful."

Tincher — a founder of an international consulting and educational firm headquartered in Chicago — told his wife she could choose anywhere for them to retire, and she chose Oxford, Mississippi, in part because of arts events hosted at Ole Miss. Weeks after the couple moved into their new home, Ami Tincher passed away unexpectedly.

Mike Tincher now serves on the Institute for the Arts' advisory board, which highlights the departments of Art and Art History, Music, and Theatre and Film.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Caroline Hourin, cehourin@olemiss.edu or 662-915-6385.

Couple Gives Back to Business

John Shanahan, who graduated from the School of Business Administration with bachelor's and master's degrees in 1969 and 1970 respectively, recently added an additional \$100,000 to a scholarship endowment he established in 2019.

The John and Janice Shanahan Scholarship Endowment is designed to help MBA students get the same foundation for a successful career in business that he did.

"About five years ago, we were doing some estate planning, and the

endowment program appealed to me because of the long-term nature of it," Shanahan said. "I want to build it up to \$250,000, and then add additional funds through an estate gift. It's a way to help students in perpetuity."

When the Vicksburg, Mississippi, native applied for graduate school, the university offered him a fellowship to offset tuition expenses.

"That's one of the reasons I wanted to pay the school back with my gift," Shanahan said. "They helped me at a time when I needed it."



Janice and John Shanahan

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

Transforming Lives

Vaughn Grisham, professor emeritus of sociology, believes his life's purpose is to raise the quality of life for others, so much so that he founded an institute focused on that.

This year, the former McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement, housed on the university's Oxford campus, was officially renamed to honor Grisham.

The Grisham-McLean Institute partners with Mississippi communities to fight poverty and transform lives through education, innovation and entrepreneurship.

A \$100,000 planned gift from the professor and his wife, Sandy, will help the Grisham-McLean Institute continue its work for generations to come.

"I know the faculty at the Grisham-McLean Institute quite well and have enormous confidence in them," said

Vaughn Grisham, who retired after 50 years of teaching more than 30,000 students in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. "They're going to help build a better Mississippi and so that's most important."

Grisham hopes his gift will inspire others to support the Grisham-McLean Institute and the mission he started there in 1984. Under his direction, the Grisham-McLean Institute became a national leader in the field of community development.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Delia Childers, dgchilde@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3086.



Sandy and Vaughn Grisham



Lodge Cast Iron Gift Supports SFA Work

Lodge Cast Iron, a family-owned cookware company based in South Pittsburg, Tennessee, is strengthening the mission of the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA) with an unrestricted gift of \$150,000.

Lodge Cast Iron cookware can be found in many kitchens across the South, where it's used to make regional dishes — old and new — that SFA's work highlights.

"Grandma's skillet is part of the fabric of the South — there is no one better at collecting and preserving the stories of the South than SFA," said Mike Otterman, CEO and president of Lodge Cast Iron. "Oftentimes those stories touch on cornbread or other favorites that are made in a well-seasoned skillet."

Based at UM's Center for the Study of Southern Culture, SFA works to document, study and explore the diverse food cultures of the American South. Thanks to Lodge Cast Iron's generous continued support of the SFA, more students can learn about the South's foodways.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Claire Moss, claire@southernfoodways.org or 662-915-3380.

Metcalf Provides Resources for Language Immersion

Michael Metcalf — who devoted much of his more than 30-year career to promoting foreign language and culture studies — is ensuring University of Mississippi students have opportunities to achieve high levels of language proficiency by studying abroad.

The former executive director of the university's Croft Institute for International Studies has contributed a \$200,000 gift establishing a study abroad scholarship endowment. It will provide scholarships to rising junior and senior international studies majors, enabling those with financial need to immerse themselves for a semester or an academic year in the language they are studying.

"I was motivated to designate this gift for study abroad



Michael Metcalf

because extended time in another country is so important for the acquisition of advanced proficiency in a foreign language, which is an important goal for all international studies majors," Metcalf said.

The Croft Institute, founded in 1998 with a \$60 million gift from the Joseph C. Bancroft Charitable and Educational Fund, focuses on teaching students how to thrive in a global community. Overall, the almost 700 Croft alumni have studied one or more of 16 different languages and studied abroad in 51 countries.

■ **MAKE A GIFT:** Brady Bramlett, bradyb@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3081.

St. Amants Envision Covering Study-Abroad Expenses

With a \$100,000 gift, Gabriella and Marshall St. Amant of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, established endowments for the Croft Institute for International Studies and the Department of Classics.

The endowments memorialize Gabriella St. Amant’s mother who died in June 2022. The gifts also honor the educational experiences shared by the couple’s children: Bella, a 2020 Croft alumna, and Marshall, a 2023 graduate who majored in biochemistry and classics.

Funds from the endowments will support unexpected or ancillary expenses incurred by students traveling abroad.

Gabriella said her parents were very well-traveled.

“They instilled in us a sense of the importance of discovering other cultures,” she said. “My husband is the same way, and we have tried to do that with our kids as well.”

Bella St. Amant is now a master’s student at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England; her brother is attending the University of Georgia to earn a master’s in classical language.

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



Gabriella and Marshall St. Amant (middle) with their children, Marshall (left) and Bella (right).



Janet and George Pilko visit with Ethel Scurlock (center), dean of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.

Creating Leaders at UM

Inspired by opportunities she received as a college student, Janet Jones Pilko of Houston, Texas, and Park City, Utah, takes her role seriously as a University of Mississippi alumni leader and donor.

Pilko, with her husband, George, established the Excellence in STEM Scholarship Endowment for Honors College students with a \$100,000 gift. They are also co-chairing the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College steering committee for Now & Ever: The Campaign for Ole Miss, the university-wide comprehensive fundraising effort.

MAKE A GIFT: Brady Bramlett, bradyb@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3081.

From Campus to Kitchen

Keepsake serving boards crafted from the discarded floor of a University of Mississippi gymnasium will soon be used in kitchens across America. And Ole Miss students stand to benefit.

Alumni Erin and Ben Napier — the Laurel, Mississippi, couple who became famous for taking old things and making them new — have done it again along with their business partners at Scotsman Co.

The company bought the wood from an Ole Miss ball court to construct a custom table for its HGTV show “Home Town.” With more than enough left over, the partners decided to fashion the extra flooring into serving boards, promote them on the show and sell them.

Proceeds will establish a \$50,000 endowment to fund scholarships for Ole Miss CME students from Mississippi.

To purchase a serving board, visit laurelmercantile.com.

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



Scotsman Co. founders Josh Nowell (from left), Jim Rasberry and Ben Napier take a look at Ole Miss-branded serving boards.



Giving Day 2023 a Success!

Chancellor thanks alumni, friends for \$6.83 million in support

When the last online donation came in April 5 for Giving Day 2023, the University of Mississippi's donors had united to set an unprecedented fundraising record.

This year, Ole Miss students, parents, alumni, friends, faculty and staff members enthusiastically came together to contribute 2,399 gifts totaling more than \$6.83 million — the most ever for Giving Day — bolstering vital resources to strengthen the student experience, academic programs and community offerings.

“Thank you, Ole Miss family, for your enthusiastic and generous response to Giving Day,” Chancellor Glenn Boyce said. “Coming together in the spirit of giving really boosted the energy and excitement of this annual event. We are thrilled to receive two seven-figure gifts.”

“Christie and George R. Walker III of Jackson, Mississippi, gave \$5 million to establish two chairs in finance and real estate in the School of Business Administration. A \$1 million gift from Lacie and Joe Gorder of San Antonio, Texas, establishes scholarships in the School of Journalism and New Media.”

The social media-driven Giving Day 2023 launched April 4 and continued for 1 day, 8 hours and 48 minutes in honor of the university's founding year of 1848. Besides attracting gifts of all sizes for the 27 participating schools, colleges and programs, the event encouraged alumni and friends to become

engaged in developments at Ole Miss.

All funds raised are part of the historic Now & Ever: The Campaign for Ole Miss, which has a goal of securing \$1.5 billion to enhance the university for future generations.

Notable contributions among many included \$100,000 from Mike Tincher of Oxford, Mississippi, for UM's Institute for the Arts in memory of his wife, Ami. A \$100,000 gift from American First National Bank and its chairman Henry Wu in Houston,

Texas, directed to the Ole Miss baseball program celebrated the 2022 NCAA National Champions.

A record-breaking more than 80 challenge gifts from alumni and friends kept the momentum running high throughout the Giving Day campaign. Among these challenges was one from Melinda and David

Swenson of Alexandria, Virginia, who gave \$50,000 to invest in opportunities for third-year School of Law students interested in pursuing careers in international law. Lisa and Chuck Nicholson of Brandon, Mississippi, made a \$50,000 gift to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the School of Education.

The top performer according to the most dollars raised was the School of Business Administration. The leader in having the most donors was the School of Education.

■ **FOR MORE INFORMATION** on ways to support the university, go to nowandever.olemiss.edu.

Ole Miss
GIVING DAY
2023

Message from the Foundation Board Chair

Welcome to the 2023 *Foundation News*! On behalf of the UMF Board of Directors, we sincerely appreciate your contributions to fostering our university's growth. Your support propels our ongoing quest to expand the boundaries of knowledge with impressive outcomes and global influence.

Explore a few highlights of the intriguing impacts of your gifts:

- Our School of Law stands proud as the nation's only American Bar Association-accredited air and space law concentration.
- The state-of-the-art Jim and Thomas Duff Center for Science and Technology Innovation reinforces our commitment to nurturing pioneers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- Our Declaration of Independence Center for the Study of American Freedom testifies to intellectual vigor and open-minded inquiry.
- Ranked No. 1 in the SEC and No. 8 nationally, the Patterson School of Accountancy epitomizes forward-thinking education in accountancy, data analytics and taxation.
- The Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College cultivates intellectual curiosity, research proficiency, leadership skills and service.
- Three schools' unique collaboration with the Haley Barbour Center for Manufacturing Excellence, a program only offered at Ole Miss, provides unmatched exposure to modern manufacturing practices for business, accountancy and engineering majors.
- Our Integrated Marketing and Communication degree immerses students in the dynamic world of strategic messaging, social and digital landscapes, cultivating a focus on influencing the shifting terrain of corporate, entrepreneurial and non-profit sectors.
- Our School of Pharmacy and Medical Center are pursuing critical strategic work on cancer, cardiometabolic disorders, neuroscience/drugs of abuse, infectious disease and medication optimization.
- The Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy, the nation's only prototype, fosters student excellence through philanthropy, leadership development, scholarships and mentorship.
- The new William Magee Institute for Student Wellbeing transforms lives and communities by supporting students as they maximize their potential through holistic well-being.
- And let us rejoice in the Pride of the South Marching Band's newly gifted practice field, a token of unity and spirit, as we cheer on our coaches and teams to victories on a national stage!



Under Chancellor Glenn Boyce's exceptional leadership, your university embodies the spirit of excellence in academic diversity and collaboration. Such incredible progress is made possible by your generous gifts that continually steer our university toward unparalleled innovation and shared knowledge. Now and Ever!

With gratitude,

Mary Susan Gallien-Clinton, Chair, Board of Directors
The University of Mississippi Foundation