

THE UNIVERSITY
of MISSISSIPPI

2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR

THE **VIEW** FROM **VENTRESS**



NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS // LIBARTS.OLEMISS.EDU

From the Dean

LEE M. COHEN, PHD



Since the spring, we have been riding new waves of change on an unprecedented scale—as individuals, as members of the University of Mississippi community, and as a society. If there’s anything we’ve learned in the past few months, it’s that to advance, innovate, and create, we must simultaneously embrace and drive change.

As such, it has been a time for deep reflection and action, in the College and beyond.

In the midst of this pandemic there has been a simultaneous powerful reckoning with systemic racism and its tragic consequences on a global, national, and local scale. The College is working hard to learn, grow, and innovate in the context of these challenges so that we can become stronger than ever.

We were galvanized into action in the spring, when we had to transition to a campus that was primarily remote. This was truly an unbelievable effort that could not have been accomplished without a very strong team of individuals. I would like to acknowledge the resilient leadership of our Chancellor Glenn Boyce, Provost Noel Wilkin, and Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Larry Sparks, who have been effectively navigating a situation that none of us has ever faced and one that will likely have long-lasting implications on higher education. We are truly fortunate to have them at the helm.

It has also been inspiring to see how our talented faculty adapted curriculum and reinvented their classrooms remotely. Their message to students was simple but powerful, “We’re all in this together.” Faculty spent hours on Zoom with students leading classes, guiding research projects, and providing invaluable mentorship to give them the personal attention that has long been the trademark of our university. They maintained the strong connection with students.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the university’s IT team, led by Nishanth Rodrigues, who enabled us to keep going. Additionally, we had campus wide Keep Teaching, Keep Learning, and Keep Discovering initiatives to help students and faculty during this difficult time.

Equally essential was our Student Services Office, led by Carmen Riggan, who ensured students were prepared to

graduate. They also personally called each CLA student who was without a fall schedule or who was reported as not engaging with their virtual classes to see what they could do to help, connecting students with needed resources and lending a supportive ear.

And last but not least, our students were amazing and have proved to be adept virtual scholars. They doubled down on their coursework and surmounted countless difficulties, including family crises, to complete the spring semester successfully.

In May, we knew we’d landed on our feet as a College when 688 undergraduate and 72 graduate students earned their degree. Unfortunately, we could not celebrate their achievements together, although we were able to provide a poem written and read by Mississippi poet laureate, Professor Beth Ann Fennelly, as well as video messages of congratulations from faculty and me.

During that same month we were celebrating the achievements of our students, we also witnessed the senseless murder of George Floyd. In response, I sent a message to the CLA community urging all of us to challenge inequality and injustice in every aspect of our lives. As Dean, I reaffirm the College’s commitment to inclusivity and equity. We are working on an equity action plan deeply informed by the experiences and needs of our students, staff, and faculty. I encourage you to read the column on the next page to learn more.

I am proud to say that CLA students have been at the forefront of making our campus a more inclusive place. President of the Associated Student Body, Joshua Mannery (BA English, political science ’21), became a catalyst for positive change, launching initiatives like the Stronger Together Dialogue Series: Unpacking the Manifestation of Racism Throughout America, and the Open Doors event that brought together UM students and administration to break bread in a communal dinner and get to know each other as individuals.

As we begin the 2020–2021 academic year, we will rise to the challenge, doing so with an unwavering commitment to the dignity and wellbeing of every member of our campus community. And as creative thinkers in the Liberal Arts, we will continue to drive change for a better future. I sincerely hope that you are safe and well during this unprecedented time. 🍷

ANTI-RACISM, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND EQUITY: THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS IS COMMITTED!

We write to you in the midst of a reckoning with racism that has galvanized the nation—and the College of Liberal Arts—to create a more equitable and racially just world. As the largest academic unit at the flagship public institution in Mississippi, we feel a tremendous responsibility to lead efforts that will ensure that Black Lives Matter on our campus. Dean Cohen demonstrated his dedication and commitment to this work with the creation of the leadership positions solely dedicated to diversity, equity, and inclusion (which we currently hold). His recent letter to the CLA community following the murder of George Floyd is a call to action for systematic and ongoing change in the College.

The College of Liberal Arts has experts in many fields who study racism and anti-racism, who can help us understand the historical, cultural, symbolic, scientific, and social scientific implications of racial inequality and paths to equity. So what better place to begin an analysis of the actions that are necessary to transform the College, as a workplace and space of higher learning? As we turn a critical lens on ourselves, we need to ask what equity and anti-racism actually look like in our policies and practices? In our classrooms? In our research labs? In our departments? And in our town and state?

Taking into account conversations with faculty, staff, and students as well as years of previous reports and taskforce suggestions, we have created the “10 in 3” Equity Plan for the College—10 major equity issues that we will work diligently to “move forward” in 3 years.

The time for change is now. We will need your support and help to fully implement the 10 in 3 plan to achieve the goal of a stronger, more inclusive College. We are excited and privileged to be doing this work. We hope you will join us! Contact libarts@olemiss.edu. 🇺🇸



VALERIA ROSS, MS
PROGRAM MANAGER
FOR DIVERSITY AND
INCLUSION



KIRSTEN DELLINGER, PHD
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

“10 in 3” CLA Equity Plan

1. Implement systematic and sustained equity training and education at all levels
2. Conduct Comprehensive Equity Program Reviews
3. Create website that supports equity-minded work
4. Establish a student committee to work on diversity, equity, and inclusion
5. Support and highlight work of student-centered advising staff
6. Conduct regular meetings with CLA staff from underrepresented and marginalized groups
7. Highlight and reward faculty expertise on racism, antiracism, and social justice
8. Support more leadership opportunities for faculty from underrepresented and marginalized groups
9. Recruit and hire more Black faculty
10. Clarify mechanisms for bias reporting and ensure effective follow through

Pandemic Pedagogy

On Thursday, March 12, at 12:16 p.m. a single sentence kicked off a massive teaching effort like no other in University of Mississippi history.

“Beginning Monday, March 23, and until further notice, the university will hold all classes and related coursework online or via methods other than in-person, on-campus instruction,” read an email from the Chancellor’s Office. This missive sent 552 faculty members at the College of Liberal Arts scrambling to teach 4,266 course sections virtually. They improvised classrooms from home offices, kitchen tables, and living rooms, teaching classes varying in size from a one-student voice studio course to a 270-student Anatomy & Physiology lecture. What was it like to turn on a dime and transmogrify in-person to remote teaching? Here is just a small sample.

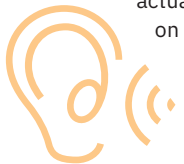


Nancy Maria Balach

► INTERIM CHAIR AND PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

VOICE STUDIO, SEVEN SECTIONS WITH ONE STUDENT EACH

Without the usual live piano accompaniment for students, I had the studio pianists prerecord music for the class. The students had to really listen to the recordings to sing with them. It improved their listening skills. Students exchanged videos of themselves singing, a new addition to the class. The final exam was a live video performance graded by faculty, so this was great practice. So many auditions are done this way now that it’s actually an advantage for students to be comfortable performing on video. We’re going to be doing a lot more of this in the future.



Mervin Matthew

► INSTRUCTIONAL ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Even though I taught a 200-person lecture, I was determined to bring continuity and community to the class and let students know that “we are separate but still together.” I uploaded lectures but made sure they weren’t just straight content delivery. I’d always joked a bit with students before the lecture started, and I continued to do that remotely so that the tone of the class was the same. My biggest concern was students who had no laptops and had to access my prerecorded lectures via cell phone or tablet. To keep them on track, I spoke to many individually on the phone, Facetimed, or Zoomed with them.



Gavin Davies

► ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

PHYSICS FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Two other professors and I—Bin Xiao and Jake Bennett—were each teaching three sections of the same class. Mine had 36 students. We had been using a flipped classroom model in the first part of the semester, and we adapted that for virtual learning. Homework was a series of interactive lessons students did before class. I gave a mini lecture on Zoom, and then students worked together in groups of six, using the breakout room function on Zoom. Afterward, they took at-home quizzes on TopHat, an online interface used with a phone or laptop. They had 30 seconds to answer questions with results given in real time. I could tell by the results what concepts had been difficult, and we clarified them before the end of class.



Gabriel Alexander Garrido

▶ INSTRUCTOR OF MODERN LANGUAGES

INTENSIVE SPANISH II

My background in engineering served me well, and I developed audio-visual aids for colleagues and our students so they could transition to such a technology-heavy teaching

approach. I also created a YouTube channel with segments to help my students with verb forms: subjunctive, conditional, and future tense. The segments start with Spanish guitar music to get students in the mood to focus on the language. My colleagues were indispensable. As soon as we learned we were teaching remotely, we worked as a team to update our syllabi; and throughout the semester, whether it was 11:45 PM on a Saturday or 7:00 AM on a weekday, we were checking in with each other constantly.



Susan Allen

▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

FACES OF POVERTY

My experiential-learning class focused on studying and creating policies to fight poverty. For the second half of the semester, I'd set up placements at volunteer agencies across the state. Instead of jettisoning the hands-on learning, I asked students to study poverty where they were, in their hometowns. For their final project, my students produced beautiful policy briefs about addressing poverty in their own communities. It was real to them because their work was hitting home.

Lauren Cardenas

▶ ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ART

INTRODUCTION TO INTAGLIO AND SILKSCREEN

Luckily, I'd frontloaded a lot of studio work at the start of the semester. When students were home, I assigned do-it-yourself projects. You use stencils for silkscreen, so students made stencils out of things that they had at hand: wax freezer paper, an embroidery hoop, and a woman's nylon stocking were some. We also explored contemporary printmakers. I sent links for online exhibits posted by the National Printmakers in New York City. Students studied those and then took technique quizzes.



Sarah Moses

▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RELIGION, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON AGING AND DEATH; MEDICAL HUMANITIES

Both these classes had a direct and obvious connection to the COVID-19 crisis. I posted a "coronavirus" folder to Blackboard and filled it with news stories about the pandemic. For Medical Humanities, I focused on how this crisis was affecting healthcare professionals and the patient experience of being in the hospital. For the aging class, we focused on the acute crisis the virus was creating in long-term care facilities. It gave my students a very clear sense of how what we were doing in our classes and enabled them to be thoughtful citizens who could analyze current events with a new level of understanding.

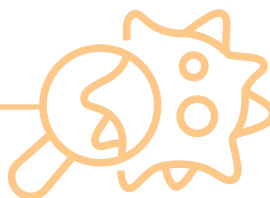


Brian Doctor

▶ INSTRUCTIONAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

INTRO TO IMMUNOLOGY AND SEROLOGY

I viewed the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to take advantage of the personal interest that the students had in this once-in-a-century (hopefully) pandemic to drive home the core fundamentals in immunology. While we still used our textbooks for the general immune response information, we also read reviews and articles about SARS-COV2. By the end of the semester the students were well versed in the immune response to viruses. Incorporating the current investigations as the story was unfolding before our eyes seemed to markedly increase the breadth and depth of the student's engagement.



Virtual Summer

Students, faculty, and alumni had to pivot their summer plans when the pandemic made travel difficult for class trips, internships, faculty research, and conference meetings. Graduates also got creative to continue their professional lives.

INTERNSHIPS

Summer internships are a regular feature of the college student experience—as seen on pages 24–27 from summer 2019. Some of those became virtual in summer 2020, if they could.



James Hirsch, an economics and public policy leadership major, interned online with the Leadership and the American Presidency program cosponsored by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute and The Fund for American Studies. He completed the American Presidency course at George Mason University, interned with the Healthcare Leadership Council, and interacted with guest speakers.

“My online internship included document review and collaboration; they used Zoom for a meeting with 50+ healthcare sector CEOs. Although we sacrificed physically visiting Mount Vernon and the Presidential Leadership Symposium at the University of Virginia's Miller Center, we gained valuable insight in other ways—specifically our ability to interact with people ordinarily unavailable.”

FACULTY TRAVEL COURSES

Randy Wadkins, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, and Jody Holland, associate professor of public policy leadership, reimagined their summer travel classes through the Study USA program.

Wadkins’ Chem 393: Science and Public Policy class was originally planned with visits to Washington, DC, and Baltimore to hear from government and healthcare leaders about how society and science are intertwined. Instead, he created opportunities to speak with scientists



Students talk with Mississippi Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann.

and leaders in Vietnam, Australia, Mississippi, and DC about their responses to the COVID-19 crisis—local, state, and federal government members, infectious disease and science experts, and hospital directors.

“This was one of my most impactful classes, even though it was different than I anticipated,” said Brittany Ferguson, forensic chemistry major. “I now know more about the science behind this epidemic, and I can use my voice to help others.”

Holland was going to introduce students to the emerging field of social entrepreneurship and innovation through PPL 491: Leadership and Social Innovation by attending Momentum Summit, a conference for mission-driven CEOs and leaders held in Portland.

“Because the conference moved online, our students had unprecedented access to major leaders. It can be difficult to have a one-on-one conversation with busy CEOs from national foundations and centers, but our students participated in small online breakout sessions. Leaders were more than willing to participate in powerful discussions with our students; they really took on mentoring roles.”

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

Online conferences made professional development more accessible due to the reduced cost and time commitment.

Nancy Maria Balach, interim chair and professor of music, and UM development officer **Brady Bramlett** (BA biological sciences '16; MS integrated marketing communications '18) presented at the virtual conference of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.



“Our presentation introduced specific ways to enhance existing music degree programs with educational experiences and career development opportunities that stimulate interdisciplinary projects, create community partnerships, open new funding sources, and prepare students for a 21st century ‘mosaic’ career in music,” Balach said.

Balach and Bramlett direct the Living Music Resource, a program that engages students in music-based projects outside the classroom, building skills for the future.

CREATIVE OUTLETS

At a time when the entertainment industry was crippled by the pandemic, two theatre alumni debuted a new play live via the internet.



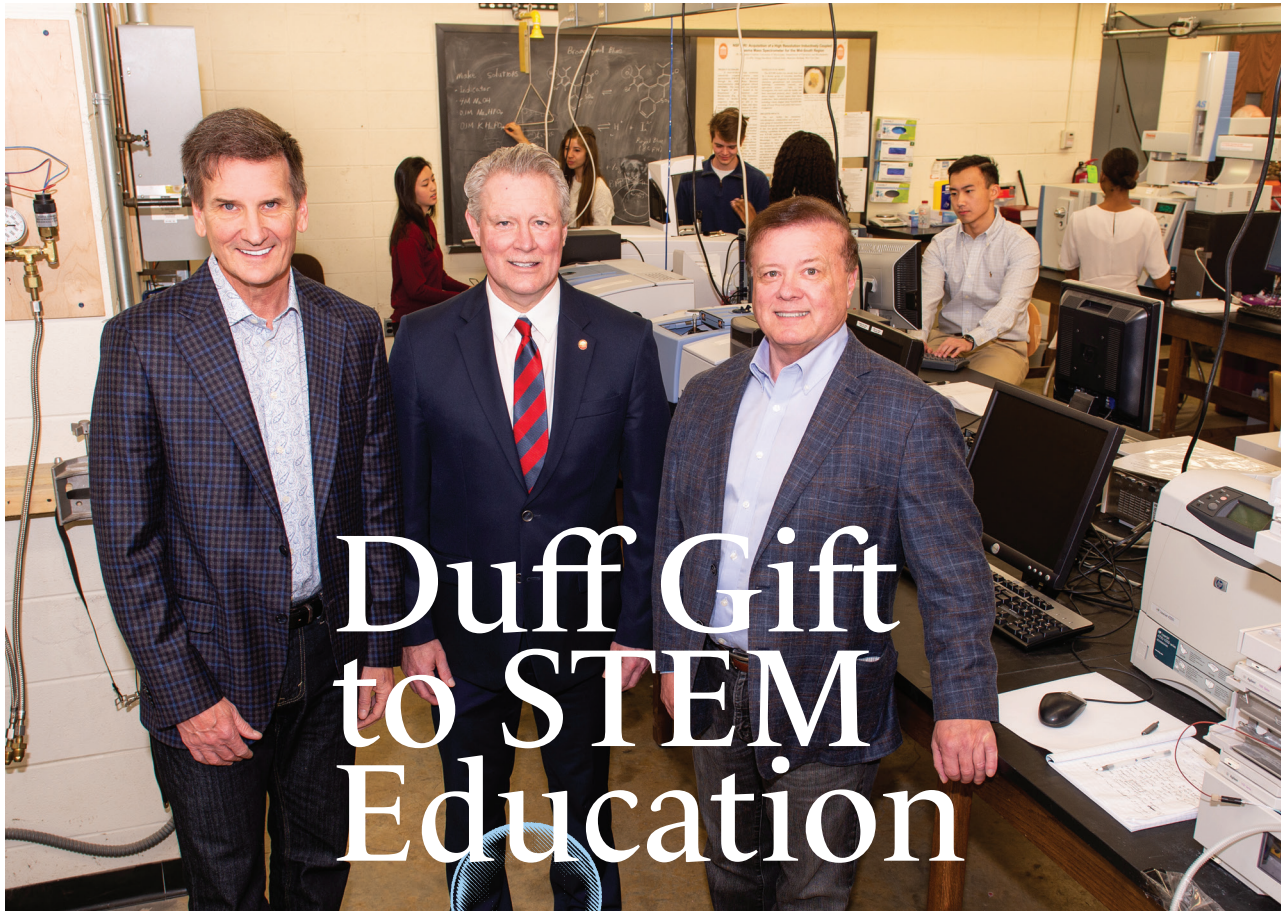
Kaleb and Tina Sade Mitchell (BFA '14; BA '15), husband-and-wife actors, performed *Partners*, a new work written and directed by N. Emil Thomas, executive artistic director of New Theatre in the Square in Marietta, Georgia. The story is about property developers and former lovers Solomon and Zenobi forced to confront aspects of their previous relationship when a crisis locks them indoors together.

The play was scheduled for its live-audience premiere until the pandemic silenced theaters. But for the two-person play starring actors already sheltering in place together, all they needed was a camera and an internet connection to make it work.

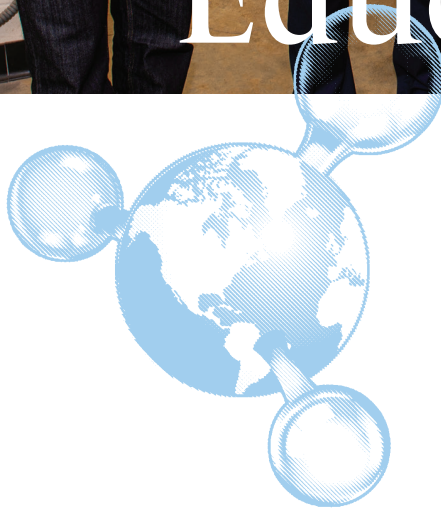
Transitioning a work of theatre from live to livestream—especially during the time of social distancing—required adjustments to nearly every aspect of the play: the set design, the lighting, the blocking, and, of course, the rehearsals. 🎬

// FOR MORE ABOUT THEIR PRODUCTION,
VISIT VFV ONLINE.

Jim Duff (left) and Thomas Duff (right) with Chancellor Glenn Boyce



Duff Gift to STEM Education



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

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



“We are deeply grateful to the Duff brothers for this significant investment in our vision to produce graduates who fulfill critical needs, improve STEM teaching in our education systems, and contribute as scientifically aware citizens in our society,” said Chancellor Glenn Boyce.

Thomas Duff, a member of the state Institutions of Higher Learning board, shared the motivation behind their gift. “Jim and I recognize the importance of educating Mississippi students in STEM fields. It is absolutely crucial to our state’s future to have an educated STEM workforce. In addition, we want to see talented high school graduates in our state have exceptional opportunities to prepare for some of the most rewarding careers possible. It’s what they deserve, and it’s what Mississippi needs.”

The building will house lecture halls and labs for science, math, and engineering departments, a 3-D visualization lab, tutoring center, study spaces, and engineering design labs for senior projects.


The planned UM science, technology, engineering, and mathematics building will be an important tool to bolster science literacy in Mississippi by providing active learning classrooms and state-of-the-art labs to prepare STEM majors and K-12 teachers of those subjects.



Laura Williams (left) and Doug Reese (right) visit with their son Doug Reese, a UM finance major.

There are many naming opportunities inside the building, such as the room named for alumnus Doug P. Reese created by a \$83,000 gift from his estate.

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

“We are so grateful for Doug’s support of the university through this gift to the Chancellor’s Trust,” said Charlotte Parks, vice chancellor for development. “Our leadership thought such a substantial gift would make the most impact.” 

FOR MORE ABOUT THESE GIFTS AND HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BUILDING CAMPAIGNS IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS’ HISTORY, VISIT VFV ONLINE.

As the events of Black Power at Ole Miss came to a close, returning alumni, administration, faculty, staff, and students gathered at the steps of Fulton Chapel.



Then and Now

In a series of events intended to remember, reckon, and repair, the university welcomed many of the Black students arrested on campus 50 years ago during one of the most challenging moments in its history.

On February 25, 1970, 60+ students from the Black Student Union staged a nonviolent protest objecting to their treatment on campus by marching to Fulton Chapel, where the international music revue *Up with People* was performing. Invited onto the stage, the protesters gave the Black Power salute while *Up with People* sang “What Color Is God’s Skin?”

When the protesters left the building, they were arrested, along with other Black students elsewhere on campus. Some of the 89 protesters were sent to the Lafayette County

jail in Oxford. Others were bused to the Mississippi State Penitentiary.

“We remember what happened that evening,” said retired Maj. Gen. James E. Donald, who was later inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame. “It did not derive from some special strategic plan. It was not devised as a conspiracy by somebody, as it would be suggested. We were young, 18, 19, 20 years old. We were a little upset after visiting our chancellor and presenting what we thought were very reasonable demands, demands that in the subsequent years have created a beautiful menagerie of leadership around the campus.”

In 2020, a luncheon and panel discussion at Fulton Chapel were part of a larger program titled “Black Power at Ole Miss,” designed to “remember and honor the activism and sacrifice of Black students, reckon with the harm and trauma caused by the actions of the university and federal and state law enforcement, and seek reparative solutions grounded in truth-telling and justice.”

Garrett Felber, assistant professor of history, and history graduate students spearheaded the planning efforts. Event sponsors were the College, Arch Dalrymple III Department of History, and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture with support from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement and the Office of the Provost.

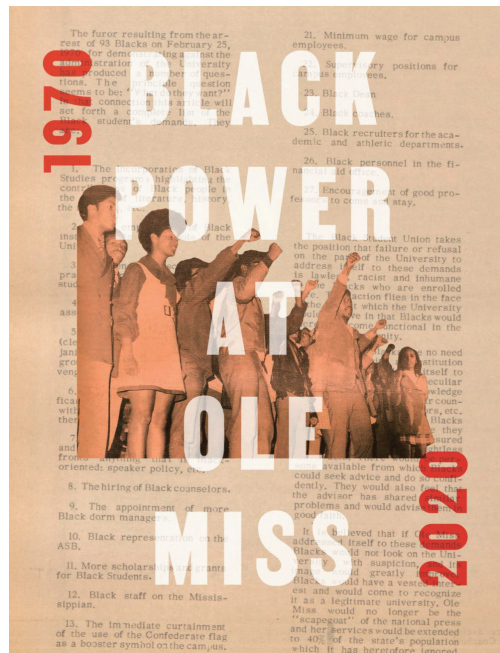
Donald Cole, one of the students expelled, returned to UM in 1993 and served on the mathematics faculty, as assistant provost, and assistant to the chancellor for multicultural affairs before retiring in 2018. He was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame in 2019.

Cole described the 2020 events as the beginning of a new relationship with the university and the students. “I want to thank the individuals who came

back. You didn’t have to. But we’re not through with you. Coming back one time—we can’t apologize enough. So, we’re going to continue to work toward that end.”

As they shared personal remembrances and observed how things have changed for the better, each returning student took care to point out that progress only happens when people continue to fight for the fair and equitable treatment of everyone. 🗣️

“Black Power at Ole Miss” event poster



The commemorative events from Black Power at Ole Miss: Remembrance and Repair at 50 Years are available on eGROVE, an institutional repository providing free online access to the intellectual output of researchers at the university and promoting its dissemination in an archive. Black Power content includes photos, a staged reading, a documentary, oral histories, and more. See <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/blkpower/>.

Milestone

Created from a generous \$60 million donation from the Joseph C. Bancroft Charitable & Educational Fund, the Croft Institute for International Studies celebrated its 20th year.

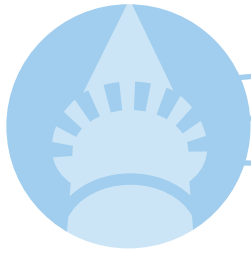
Students select a regional focus from East Asia, Europe, Latin America, or the Middle East; study a language spoken in that region; and select a thematic concentration from global economics and business, global health, international governance and politics, and social and cultural identity. They take at least one significant study abroad experience to solidify their language skills and deepen content knowledge, often using that opportunity to prepare for the last stage of the degree. The capstone senior thesis pulls together students’ knowledge and skills in communication, creative and analytical thinking, and perseverance.

In its 20-year history, 520 students have graduated from Croft, and no two graduates are the same. They work in the US and abroad, for a variety of public and private organizations in almost every sector of the economy. 🗣️

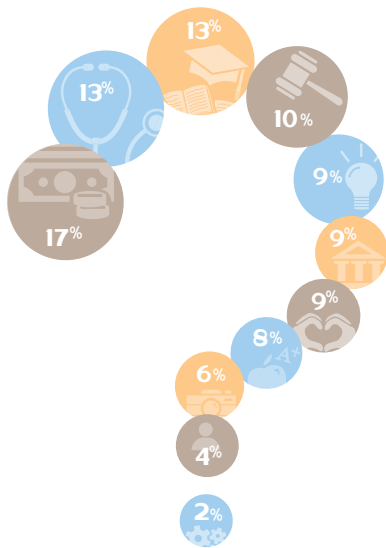
FOR A WEBPAGE FEATURING MANY CROFT ALUMNI, AND A BOOKLET COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROFT INSTITUTE, VISIT VFV ONLINE.



FOR MORE ABOUT THIS EVENT, PLEASE VISIT VFV ONLINE.



WHERE ARE OUR ALUMNI WORKING



Business & Finance	17 %
Healthcare	13 %
Higher Education	13 %
Law	10 %
STEM	9 %
Government, Military, & 1st Responders	9 %
Community Services & Non-Profit	9 %
K-12 Education	8 %
Arts, Culture, & Media	6 %
Hospitality & Personal Care	4 %
Trades, Agriculture, & Transport	2 %

College alumni are working in every sector of the economy.

They have the capabilities that are in demand by employers today: clear communication in writing and speaking, critical thinking and analytical skills, leadership, ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds, and understanding the world around us. Studying liberal arts isn't learning a trade. It's trading on what you've learned to launch a career that inspires you.

Our graduates are successful in establishing a wide range of careers and becoming leaders of their organizations because of the core set of skills at the heart of our liberal arts education. It's all well and good to discuss the broad values of a liberal arts education, but where are our alumni working?

Of the ~30,000 living undergraduate alumni of the College of Liberal Arts, we have identified the occupation information for 70% of them. This infographic (left) shows that occupation information by identifying the sector of the economy for their employer.

We've provided a few alumni examples here to showcase that variety of career paths. Visit [View from Ventress](#) online to read their full profiles!



Ashley Chaffin McGehee

BA Art History '11

► SENIOR MASTER PLANNER, WALT DISNEY IMAGINEERING

“My foundation in art history and liberal arts is invaluable. The core of art history is communicating ideas, history, theories, and vision of a culture—skills applicable in all professions and daily life.”

During graduate studies in historic preservation and urban/regional planning at U. of Florida, McGehee chose internships and projects to explore all facets of city planning. As a Senior Master Planner with Walt Disney Imagineering, she focuses on predevelopment and real estate efforts for Walt Disney Parks, Experiences, and Products.



David Freeman

BA History '01

► FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

“In many countries around the world, history is not an abstraction, but an ever-present force working on society, and understanding local history is a crucial part of operating effectively as a diplomat.”

During his junior year abroad in France, Freeman discovered a love of travel, an affinity for languages (he studied French, Spanish, and Japanese), and foreign affairs. He taught English in China and worked in sales with a Taiwanese trading company before joining the State Department in 2011. Freeman has worked in Mexico, China, Iraq, the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs in Washington, DC, and is preparing for a post to Berlin.



Demondes Haynes, MD, FCCP

BA Biological Science '95

► ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ADMISSIONS, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE; PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, DIVISION OF PULMONARY & CRITICAL CARE, THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

After completing medical school, an internal medicine residency, and a pulmonary and critical care medicine fellowship at UM Medical Center, Haynes joined a private practice with Jackson Pulmonary Associates. However, he returned to his first love of academia as a faculty member in medicine at UMMC. Beyond his work as a practicing pulmonary and critical care physician, his role with medical school admissions gives Haynes a profound impact on the future of healthcare in Mississippi.

“Liberal arts education is an approach to learning that **empowers individuals** and prepares them to deal with **complexity, diversity, and change**. It provides students with **broad knowledge** of the wider world (e.g., science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest. A liberal arts education helps students develop a sense of **social responsibility**, as well as strong and transferable **intellectual and practical skills** such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, and a demonstrated **ability to apply knowledge and skills** in real-world settings.”

—AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



Melody Frierson

BA African American Studies and Psychology '11

- ▶ SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT AND COO, NEW AMERICA

“I found incredible diversity in my double major. In psychology I learned from and worked with clinicians and behavioral scientists while digging deep into social and multicultural psychology. My African American Studies major made sure I knew how to dig deep into the historical archive, understand Black feminist theory, and think like a social scientist.”

Since earning her master’s degree in African American Studies from UCLA, Frierson has been working in the world of nonprofits. She created programming around social justice and leadership for young people across Mississippi with the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation at UM and has moved to the national stage with New America, a nonprofit think tank dedicated to public problem solving, located in Washington, DC.



Ronny Frith

BA English '74

- ▶ ATTORNEY, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES OFFICE, MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

“Use your time as an undergraduate to develop your writing skills and vocabulary, and take as wide a variety of courses as you can to expand your knowledge.”

As a lawyer for the Legislative Services Office of the Mississippi House of Representatives, Frith drafts the bills and amendments that will be presented during each legislative session. Every word and punctuation mark come under his scrutiny. He prepares and scours documents, checking ambiguity and potential loopholes, all the while ensuring that the writing is accessible to his audience—from the state’s highest judges to county clerks, police officers, and the general public. Frith credits his English major as laying the groundwork for a lifetime of skill in writing: from college to law school to the legislature.



Stephen Gent

BA Political Science '99

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE; DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL

“One of the things that I most valued at Ole Miss was the opportunity to make connections with top-notch faculty members who were dedicated to getting to know you as a student and as a person. Ole Miss really felt like a community.”

Gent earned his MA and PhD in political science from the University of Rochester, then became a faculty member at UNC-Chapel Hill with a specialization in international conflict.

“Understanding how political processes work is essential for citizens to be able to navigate the world. In addition to being a better-informed citizen, studying political science provides you with valuable analytical and writing skills that are useful in a wide range of career paths.”



Adrian Wilson Cartier

BA '02, MS '04, PhD Mathematics '06

▶ VICE PRESIDENT OF DATA SCIENCE, OCELOT CONSULTING

Cartier is an expert in data science, with a career that has included mathematics faculty at the University of Montevallo, founder and principal of WEC Analytics Group, Geospatial Analytics Lead at Monsanto, Data Science and Engineering Director at Bayer, Assistant VP of Data Science at Enterprise Holdings, and now VP of Data Science at Ocelot Consulting.

“The advantage of studying at Ole Miss is the close relationships with faculty and peers. Often, at large universities, you are just a number amongst a sea of other students. At Ole Miss, you have the opportunity to develop personalized relationships with the teachers and the content that makes for a more intimate experience with mathematics.”



Jamie Young

BM Music '94 and MM Music '97

▶ DIRECTOR OF BANDS LAKE CORMORANT HIGH SCHOOL

A transfer student from Holmes Community College, Young played baritone saxophone in the wind ensemble under the direction of David Willson and performed with the Mississippians Jazz Band under the direction of John McCauley when the group won most outstanding ensemble at a national jazz festival in New Orleans.

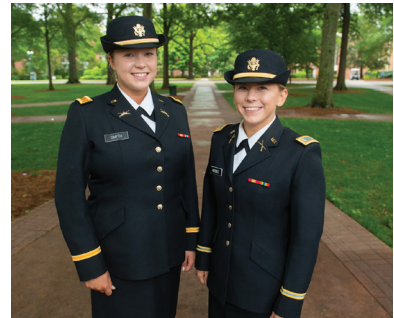
“I received a quality education with topnotch educators whose main goal is for students to succeed and reach their full potential. I am thankful for my years at Ole Miss and the bridges I built with friends and teachers. I still call on those mentors for help and advice.”



We need to hear from you!

We need alumni to update their occupation and address information in the Alumni

Database. We want more complete/ accurate information to share with young people the variety of opportunities they can pursue. Please take five minutes to answer a few questions about your career path: olemissalumni.com/update-your-info/



Katie Smith (left) and Lakoda Kissee

Female Combat Officers

Lakoda Kissee and Katie Smith, both criminal justice majors, made university history when they became the first two female UM Army ROTC cadets to be commissioned into roles as combat arms officers for the Mississippi Army National Guard.

“Kissee and Smith gave the MSARNG the opportunity to accept two outstanding women as combat arms officers, and they gave the UM Army ROTC program the opportunity to commission the university’s first female infantry and armor officers as well,” said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Douglas.

“But of more significance, they both have the responsibility to show that this is not a change to be afraid of—whether that’s the Army changing its policy to allow women in these jobs, or showing other young women that they can perform these jobs if they want. To me, that’s the greatest significance, that they have the opportunity to dissuade the fear, while encouraging others.”

Kissee explained: “The ROTC program is phenomenal. The cadre instills leadership and discipline while encouraging us to become the best version of ourselves.”

NEW FILM DEGREE

Film is about visual storytelling, and Mississippi is famous for its storytellers.

The Department of Theatre & Film created the first film production program in Mississippi, initially as an emphasis within the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts and now as a stand-alone degree.

“Our BFA students make their own films beginning first semester, which distinguishes us—the only intensive film production program in this region of the country—from most top-tier film schools,” said Alan Arrivé, associate professor of theatre & film and head of the program.

The curriculum is a mix of filmmaking skills—screenwriting, directing, cinematography, lighting, sound, and editing—alongside the development of the individual’s artistic expression. Seven practicum courses have students on a film set, advancing from support roles to leaders of departments on set, allowing them to create demo reels for securing internships and employment.

Situated within the Department of Theatre & Film, the program has yet another unique advantage. According to Michael Barnett, chair and professor of theatre & film, “Students of acting and design study and create with film students, collaborating on projects throughout their time here. Designers, actors, and filmmakers learn and grow together as they hone their crafts and create professional portfolios.”

In Fall 2020, the film program moved into a state-of-the-art film production complex.

“To have a space solely intended and facilitated for creating films aids students in creating better projects and learning how to better navigate a set in a real job situation,” said Tony King (BFA film production). “Editing rooms and a sound recording studio increases the quality of our projects and sets the program apart from others.” 🎬

The **6,000-square-foot film production complex** at the UM South Oxford Center features:

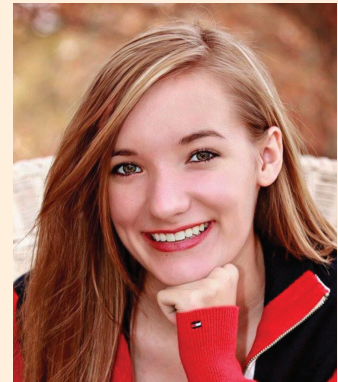
two sound stages, including an infinity wall/green screen

a video editing lab

two private editing rooms

a sound recording (Foley) studio

rooms for actor preparation, production meetings, and classes



Meet Film Program Student Ambassador Taylor Middleton

A member of multiple honor societies including Phi Kappa Phi, Taylor Middleton is the president of the student-run film club, Oxford Reels. She writes and produces her own films, including one for the 48-Hour Film Competition, challenging students to create a movie within 48 hours.

Tell us about the faculty in the film program.

“The professors take students seriously as filmmakers. I’ve given my professors scripts and films I’ve created outside of class and they always take the time to give support and detailed feedback very quickly. My professors keep me in the loop for upcoming internships and job opportunities, too.”

Career goals?

“I’d like to write and direct for a studio in California, New York, or Atlanta.”

Why study film production at UM?

“The film production program is very close-knit. The amount of support and guidance from professors and classmates is out of this world! I felt like I belonged when I joined the film family here.”





NEW ENGLISH EMPHASES

Beginning Fall 2020, English majors have two new emphasis options in addition to the existing emphasis in creative writing.

The **Editing, Writing, and Publishing emphasis** helps students navigate current practices and trends in literary and other publishing fields. Through hands-on practice, they gain skills and experience in editing, including for digital production.

Coursework for the **Literature, Justice, and Society emphasis** prepares students for a diverse and increasingly global future. They read, write, research, and think critically about the historical and contemporary perspectives of people from multiple backgrounds and cultures. They learn about the many ways people have used literature to express their experiences and views as well as to imagine and demand change. 📖

NEW POLITICAL SCIENCE EMPHASES

Political science alumni work in many fields, and the department created four emphasis areas for majors to tailor their coursework to career choices.

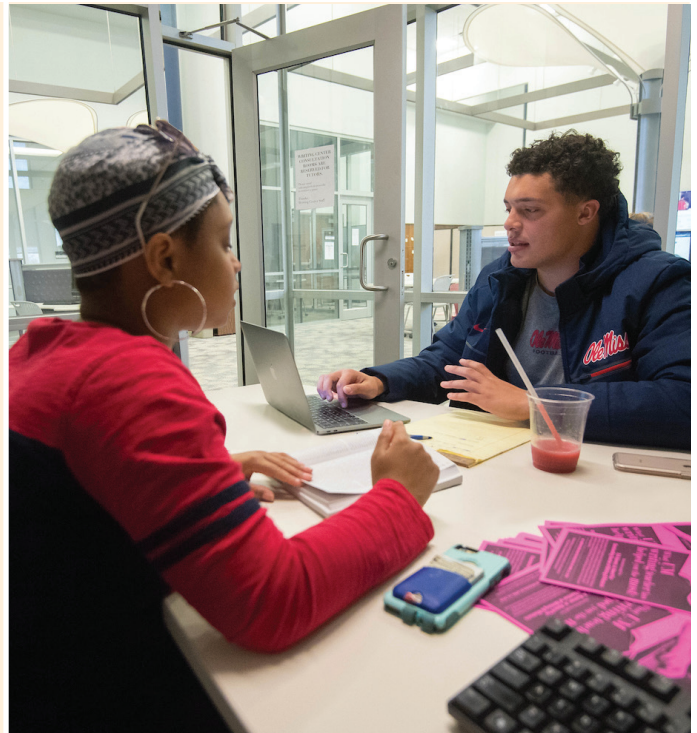
The **Campaigns and Elections emphasis** is for those who wish to work in politics and supports the new Haley Barbour Center for the Study of American Politics.

International Conflict and Cooperation emphasis provides a deep grounding in the nature and causes of conflict and terrorism.

For the many prelaw students in political science, the **Law and Courts emphasis** gives an outstanding foundation.

The **Politics of the Developing World** allows students to become well-versed in region-specific issues, particularly in East Asian, Europe, and Latin America.

“Across the four options, our students can find an emphasis that advances their knowledge and prepares them for the next step.” said John Bruce, chair and associate professor of political science. 📖



Students work together in one of the Writing Center's group collaboration rooms.

NEW RHETORIC DEGREE

Successful communication rests on effective rhetoric, the use of words to inform and persuade. The Department of Writing and Rhetoric is offering a new BA in Rhetoric, one of the original liberal arts.

The rhetoric major will give students skill and confidence in presenting ideas in speaking and writing—abilities that are in demand by employers in diverse sectors, including law, business, and education.

Rhetoric is a flexible major that allows students to individualize their education by pairing the major with others, including humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, applied sciences, business, accountancy, and engineering. Courses can be grouped around specific topics, like communication in STEM fields or grant writing.

“The BA in Rhetoric will offer students practical lessons in professional writing and speaking,” said Stephen Monroe, chair and assistant professor in writing and rhetoric. “It will prepare graduates for employment across sectors of the US economy because they will learn to think critically, organize ideas, and present them forcefully. These abilities will bring tangible benefits to students throughout their lives.” 📖

NEW MINORS


Making the most of a liberal arts education means connecting ideas and knowledge between disciplines, each area of study enriching the other.

The **Ethics and Values minor** includes a broad range of philosophy classes from a list of 21 approved courses including Biomedical Ethics, Environmental Ethics, the Philosophy of Film, and Feminist Philosophy.

“We’ve seen an increasing number of students across majors wanting to place their studies within an ethical framework,” said Deborah Mower, associate professor of philosophy and the Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hume Bryant Lectureship in Ethics. “This kind of knowledge will be of especial value to students when they enter the workforce. Employers want to know that students have thought about the ethical dimension of their work.”

Jennifer Meyer, instructional assistant professor of physics and astronomy, heads the **Astronomy minor**. Astronomy is a popular introductory-level class because “it’s very accessible,” Meyer says. “Students can look up at the sky and see the planets and stars they are studying. They can connect astronomy to their everyday lives.” Meyer sees astronomy as being tied to philosophical thinking about who we are as humans and our place in the universe. Courses include Astral Photography, where students learn to make images of space.

A **Museum Studies minor** is a collaboration between the UM Museum and five departments: Art and Art History, Classics, History, Sociology and Anthropology, and Southern Studies. It will prepare students to work in places of public history and cultural heritage, including historic sites, research libraries, and national parks, as well as museums.

“Museum studies is an entryway to a career as a curator, archivist, conservator, or educator—among other professions,” said Kariann Fuqua, a visiting assistant professor of art and art history and director of museum studies. 



MINOR IN MUSEUM STUDIES

Curious about what really happens in a museum?

Interested in what kind of jobs museums offer? From art and culture to history and science, museum studies is an interdisciplinary field that explores the world of museums and all they encompass: collections, exhibitions, education, archives, research, and more.

Includes courses related to museums and their functions from Art and Art History, Anthropology and Sociology, Classics, History, and Southern Studies and a partnership with the University of Mississippi Museum.

Contact Kariann Fuqua
Director of Museum Studies Minor
Meek Hall 118A
kfuqua@olemiss.edu
662-915-5015
www.museumstudies.olemiss.edu

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Inaugural Playwriting Resident

The Department of Theatre & Film, in partnership with the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies and the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, debuted the Emerging Women's Playwriting Residency.



Anne Marie Cammarato

The first artist invited to create a new theatrical work to share with the community was playwright and director Anne Marie Cammarato. She spent three weeks working on a play that was further developed via coursework with students to be performed at the local arts center.

Cammarato's play *Hazel* is, broadly, about climate change, denial, and "what happens to a normal family when the world starts blowing up around them."

The residency idea was conceived by Rhona Justice-Malloy, professor of theatre arts, who was inspired by her work with professional organizations such as the National Theatre Conference, where she serves on the Women Playwrights Initiative Committee.

"Statistics show that women playwrights rarely have the opportunity to develop new works through multiple readings and productions. New voices can greatly benefit from support that allows them the time to think, rest, write, and research—and Oxford is the perfect place to do just that. I wanted to support an emerging playwright—a woman, transgender inclusive. The whole idea is promoting new voices in theatre."

The Sarah Isom Center partnership seemed natural: Justice-Malloy was in the inaugural class of Isom Center fellows to support faculty research in the area of gender and sexuality, resulting in more gender studies courses. 📖

Comicana

With funding from the Mississippi Humanities Council, the departments of art & art history, classics, English, philosophy, and writing & rhetoric teamed up to create Comicana: Comics & Graphic Novels Across the Humanities. Exploring a range of aspects of the human experience through sequential art, the full week of programs included book club discussions, printmaking workshops, panel discussions, and anime film screenings. Using the unique narrative power of comic art—comic books, graphic novels, cartoons, comic strips, manga, children's books, and storyboards—participants explored themes in religion, martyrdom, gender studies, and Southern culture. 📖





Enthusiastic Emissaries

CLA Ambassadors Give the Skinny to Student Visitors

When you're a high school student on a college tour, who are the people you trust to give you the lowdown on what a college experience is really like? College students! With that universal truth in mind, Holly Reynolds, associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts, created the CLA Student Ambassadors program in fall 2019.

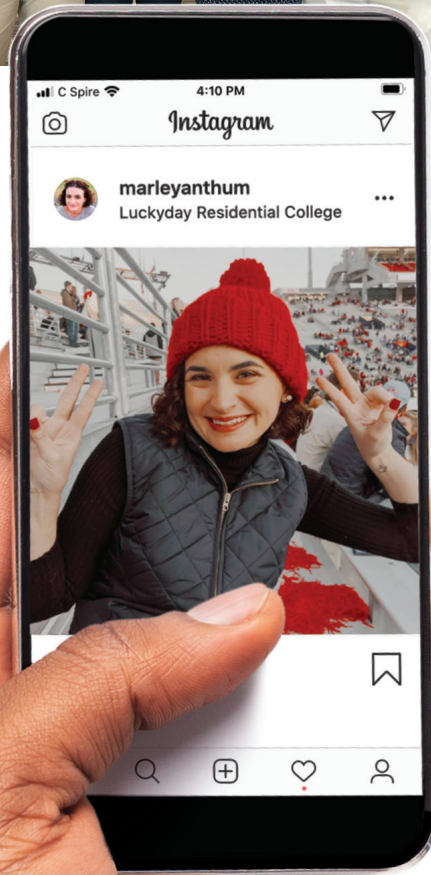
She solicited student recommendations from department chairs and recruited 20 of the best and brightest.

The ambassadors chatted up prospects at recruitment events, gave them and their parents detailed information about their departments, and answered questions. They invited prospects to follow them on official ambassador Instagram accounts, where they documented their daily lives on campus, including up-close views of department events and classes. Collectively, the ambassadors gathered hundreds of followers.

"I wanted the in-person recruitment events to be the *beginning* of a relationship with prospective students, not a one-off," said Reynolds. "Via social media, ambassadors interacted with prospects for months after they'd visited the campus. And when the students arrive in August, they already know someone at UM."

// **HERE'S A SAMPLING OF AMBASSADOR INSTAGRAM POSTINGS.**

Shade Smith (biological science) from left to right, Kristen Malloy (forensic chemistry), Madison Carr (psychology), and Joshua Mannery (English and political science) represented the College at recruitment events.



15 likes
OCTOBER 19, 2019

marleyanthum Sometimes you just have to finish a paper before you can go to the game. 🍷

35w

shadebioum Oxford Fencers Club



Liked by **umlibarts** and 6 others
FEBRUARY 6

rachelfilmum Day 1 of shooting my final project called "Blight"! One scene down, nine to go 🤔😬

25w

vanessamrivera Are you going to post it anywhere? I'd love to watch!

24w Reply

parkermusicum Ole Miss Department of Music

Liked by **umlibarts** and 44 others
DECEMBER 15, 2019

parkermusicum The University of Mississippi saxophone studio with Dr. @mattyounglove at his masterclass, yesterday! pc: Dr. @estes.adam2019

43w

wildaparker 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌

43w 1 like Reply

Liked by **umlibarts** and 14 others
FEBRUARY 13

shadebioum As I sit here studying for Microbio, I can help but feel so thankful that Ole Miss offers classes like beginners fencing for a guy like me who usually has little to no outlet for letting off steam. I can decompress and exercise in a contest of skill with instructors and classmates that are very safety oriented as well as enthusiastic about teaching the sport. As a biology student with a full schedule, the idea that I can branch out and take, what to me is such an exotic class, is one of the coolest things about Ole Miss. I also get a whole credit hour just for having fun! Meme included on the back. #olemissrocks #fencing #grindneverstops

tharangiclasum

Liked by **umlibarts** and 12 others
MARCH 18

tharangiclasum On Monday of our Greece study abroad we had the chance to visit the Parthenon and the New Acropolis Museum. The weather wasn't ideal for our first full day but everything was still as magical as I thought it would be! I can't thank the classics department enough for helping me achieve this dream of mine through advice and scholarship!

taylorphysicsum Shoemaker Hall

Liked by **umlibarts** and 27 others
FEBRUARY 24

taylorphysicsum Update on the bacterial transformations lab from last week: WE HAVE CULTURES !! Swipe to see the bacteria that are actively expressing the pGLO gene! (fun fact: this gene comes from jellyfish!) #biologymajor #physicsmajor #biologyfun

28w

simmypsychum

Liked by **umlibarts** and 9 others
SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

simmypsychum As a psychology student, there are so many opportunities for research. For my senior thesis for the Honors College, I am focusing my research on embodied creativity: how physical movement influences cognition. If you are interested in conducting your own research, the psych department hosts multiple events over the year in which you get to present your work!

nitikavasal Awesome work 🙌

38w 1 like Reply

orjahistum • Follow
The University of Mississippi - Ole Miss

The Road to Truman Finalist

The selection of Joshua Mannery as finalist for a Truman scholarship—the prestigious national award supporting graduate school for future public service leaders—affirmed his passion for creating a more inclusive and accessible campus, community, and country.

As Associated Student Body director of campus outreach, Mannery coplanned the Open Doors event welcoming 200 students into the Lyceum to meet with university leaders for dinner and conversation in January. He also worked to find money in the ASB coffers to create a textbook scholarship for students in need. His commitment to campus resulted in his election as ASB President.

This summer Mannery helped organize UM’s Stronger Together Dialogue Series: Unpacking the Manifestations of Racism Throughout America designed to help the community heal, learn, and take action.

“There isn’t a lot that you can do to combat national police brutality, but we can address the inequities on our campus,” said Mannery, an English and political science major. “I think something positive will come from the dialogue, and I’m excited to see what that positivity shapes up to be.”

Founder of Cover to Cover student organization for English majors, he has served as an orientation leader, Black Student Union director of elections, Men of Excellence vice president, and Liberal Arts student ambassador. His nonprofit, Anybody Can Be President, brings together students from Mississippi’s eight public colleges and universities to identify areas in the state that lack resources.

“Public service is something I’ve always wanted to do,” said Mannery, who plans to pursue a law degree and specialize in civil rights law.

He hopes his selection as a Truman finalist inspires other students. “I want to encourage people who don’t normally have their stories elevated. I needed motivation because I didn’t think my story was important enough.” 📖



Heart Scholar

Cellas Hayes (BA biological science '19), a pharmacy PhD student, is one of eight doctoral students from four Mississippi universities selected for the second cohort of the Robert Smith, MD Graduate Scholars Program as part of the Jackson Heart Study Graduate Training and Education Center at the UM Medical Center.

Part of the broader National Institutes of Health-funded Jackson Heart Study, the largest community-based study of cardiovascular disease risk factors in African Americans, this two-year research training and mentoring program is designed for doctoral and health professional students considering careers in cardiovascular health sciences. 📖

Cultivating Leaders

The Stamps Foundation provides a full scholarship to students with academic merit, strong leadership potential, and exceptional character. Students also have funding to engage in internships, study abroad, research, or other professional development activities.

Chinese major Brendan Ryan used his Stamps support to travel in Asia. “The Stamps scholarship allowed me to find nontraditional paths to my education in the context of a traditional university. It allowed me to take control of my education, both academically and personally.

“My freshman year, I took eight months to participate in a program



in Xi'an, China, where I deepened my relationship to and interest in Chinese culture. I saw the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang and the crowded streets in Hong Kong. I also helped teach a 9-unit lecture course on American culture that forced me to view my background through the lens of an outsider.

“Later in my college career I started down a YouTube rabbit hole on Singaporean English (Singlish) and Malaysian culture and became determined to visit these two countries. That dream became realized when I took a 10-day trip and witnessed phenomena I had seen only through a screen in my dorm room. This blending of life and learning is what I envision to be the perfect college experience. Stamps has played an essential role in allowing me to shape my experience and guiding me towards new and exciting places.” 📖🌍



Brendan Ryan

Portz Scholar

Forensic chemistry major Kennedy Dickson is a 2019 National Collegiate Honors Council Portz Scholar.

One of only three recipients nationwide, Dickson presented her honors thesis, “Cannabinoid Conundrum: A Study of Anti-Epileptic Efficacy and Drug Policy,” last November at the NCHC conference in New Orleans.

Dickson’s thesis validated the efficacy of cannabidiol, known as CBD, a nonpsychoactive chemical in the cannabis plant, in the treatment of Dravet syndrome, an intractable form of epilepsy. She then described the central issues surrounding marijuana legality and provided potential policy reform options.

“We conducted this research using a zebrafish model with the same gene mutation that occurs in 80% of Dravet syndrome patients. The gene causes the zebrafish to have phenotypically similar seizures to human patients. My goal with this thesis was to demonstrate the therapeutic potential of the drug, as well as to describe its complicated legal status.”



Kennedy Dickson

As a summer forensic science intern, Dickson job-shadowed analysts in the Orange County Crime Laboratory in California. She also completed her own research comparing two analytical techniques for detecting opioids in blood samples. “With growing concern of opioid use and misuse in the US, the lab wanted additional validation that their analytical techniques could accurately detect opioids at low concentration in case blood samples. I expanded my knowledge of the role of chemistry in a legal context.”

Dickson’s goal is to be an attorney and focus on drug patents and policy. 📖🌍



Beyond the Classroom

During breaks in the academic year, students expand their academic and professional experiences across campus, the state, the nation, and the globe—excavating caves in Italy, fundraising for national political organizations, engaging in community service, strategizing to grow local economies, doing medical research, and enriching their education in scores of internships and projects to lay the groundwork for careers. Employers aren't looking only for a high GPA. They want to hire people who can collaborate with diverse groups of people, problem solve, and bring value to the workplace with hands-on experience.

Curtis Hills

For Curtis Hills' summer internship with M Partner, a UM community engagement effort to improve quality of life in partner cities of Charleston, Lexington, and New Albany, he provided resume and career-building workshops for youth. Returning to his hometown of Lexington, Hills' presence as a university student sent an important message to set high expectations, but the expectations went both ways.

"The students taught me the value of building community," he said. "A conversation can't travel far without trust, and I was humbled that the students insisted I gain their trust."

Hills taught professional skills for more competitive applications for scholarships, colleges, and jobs. The workshops engaged students in resume building, critiques, mock interviews, and encouraged them to consider how their skills and passions align with different careers.

LeMarcus Echoles

As a Ronald McNair Scholar, LeMarcus Echoles joined a neuroscience research lab in the Department of Biology. The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program funds first-generation, low-income

students for six-week intensive research projects on the UM campus, with the goal of increasing their success rate in graduate school. Guided by professor-mentor Lainy Day, associate professor of biology and director of the neuroscience minor, Echoles, a biological science major, used zebrafish to study the role of sex hormones in the healing of brain lesions. The goal: to understand the interplay of hormones and biological processes at a cellular level.

His summer experience, "helped me prepare for more challenging coursework and gave me greater confidence in my abilities as a researcher," he said.



Curtis Hills (third from left) with participants in a resume-building workshop at the Nollie Jenkins Family Center in Durant.



Greta Koshenina

The classics major knew becoming an archaeologist meant getting her hands dirty. Last summer, Koshenina joined the Poggio Civitate Archaeological Project in Vescovado di Murlo, Italy as part of a group excavating an Etruscan site—a project she independently found through the American Institute of Archaeology. She worked on her applications for the program and funding with Jacqueline Dibiasie Sammons, assistant professor of classics.

“Through the financial support of the classics department, and other UM resources, I was fully funded for the summer and learned things that will be essential to my career, like the reconstruction of artifacts using a 3-D printer,” she said.



Greta Koshenina

Olivia Jaramillo

A student in the Croft Institute for International Studies, Olivia Jaramillo is primarily interested in Latin America, a perfect fit for Social Science Field School in Bolivia. The program, led by Katherine Centellas, Croft associate professor of anthropology, combines a class, Politics & Culture of the Andes, with training in intensive research methods.

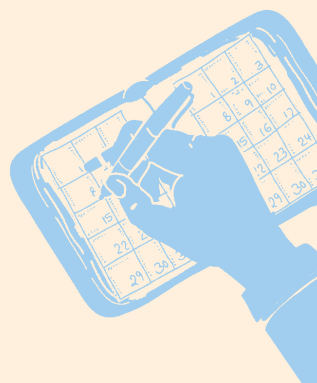


“I came to know Professor Centellas from taking one of her classes, Latin American Studies, during the school year,” said Jaramillo. “She encouraged me to study with her in Bolivia.”

Jaramillo lived with a host family during the week and traveled on the weekends. “It was a challenging but rewarding experience,” she said.

There are many breaks throughout the academic year.

Yes, it takes advanced planning, but out-of-classroom learning can be a rewarding part of earning an undergraduate degree.



Katie Howell

See the World. Sociology major Katie Howell learned about the Holocaust and took in the sights during her winter break in Germany at the CIEE Global Institute. She used a US Department of State Gilman Scholarship to support her short-term study abroad experience, which fit her college plan because of time and cost limitations. The Gilman Scholarship enables a wide range of American students to gain proficiency in diverse languages and cultures—skills critically important to academic and career development.

Cady Cooper

A major in the Department of Public Policy Leadership, Cooper interned in the finance division of the Republican National Committee in DC. She landed the gig because UM Associate Director of Admissions Martin Fisher (BA '11) knew staffers at the RNC.



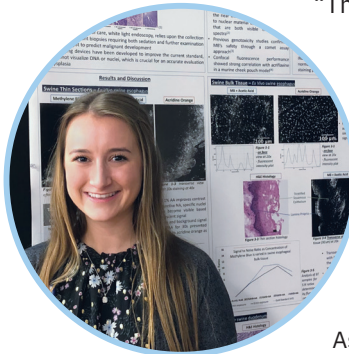
“In the finance division alone there were three or four UM alums,” Cooper said. “The chief of staff was even an UM alum.”

Her work put into action the theory she learned in her Public Policy Leadership classes. The internship provided a launchpad for a career in politics, which she’s now pursuing after graduating in May.

Mallory Loe

Loe was selected for the Health Sciences & Technology-Wellman Summer Institute for Biomedical Optics, a collaboration between Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, allowing eight to 12 undergraduate students to pursue full-time laboratory research.

Loe, a chemistry major, worked in a lab run by Guillermo (Gary) Tearney, the Remondi MGH Research Institute Chair, professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School, and affiliated faculty member with Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology. Loe met Tearney during Honors College Junior Quest when she traveled to Boston to interview professionals and gather information for her honors theses. At the lab, Loe was part of a research team leading the medical field in using high-resolution optical imaging modalities to diagnose disease rather than taking tissue from the body for biopsies, resulting in a diagnosis without an invasive procedure.



Dyamon Brown

A psychology major, Brown recorded and measured patient brain waves at Synapse, an Atlanta-based biomedical company specializing in neuroscience. Brain waves are patterns of electrical activity in the brain that can be measured using specialized equipment, such as an electroencephalogram (EEG). Researchers have found detectable differences when looking at the brain wave patterns of people with mental health disorders compared to brain wave patterns observed in healthy individuals.

The Synapse opportunity came from a UM alumna who activated her professional network to help Brown.



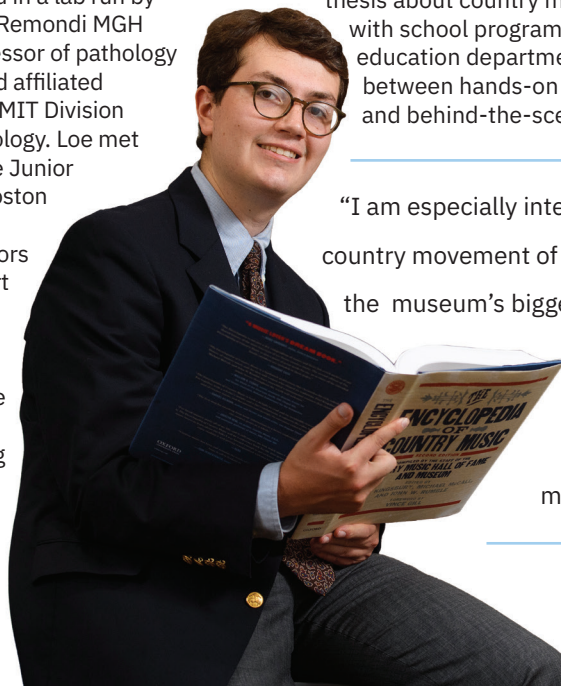
“This internship opens my options in the field of psychology. It also gives me a better idea of what a psychologist does on a day to day basis and makes me feel ready for the real world, for the adult world of work.”

Liam Nieman

As an intern at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, Tennessee, the English and Southern Studies double major wrote his honors thesis about country music. Nieman worked with school programs, part of the museum’s education department, splitting his time between hands-on programming for students and behind-the-scenes research.

“I am especially interested in the outlaw country movement of the 1970s and one of the museum’s biggest temporary exhibits

was *Outlaws & Armadillos: Country’s Roaring '70s*. It was a mecca for my research.”





Gianna Schuetz

A double major in theatre arts and finance, Schuetz worked as a business management assistant in the finance office of the Williamstown Theatre Festival, a Tony Award-winning company in Massachusetts known as one of the nation’s top training and professional development programs for new generations of aspiring theatre artists and administrators.

“Williamstown was life-changing.

Surrounded by amazing artists—

Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Uma

Thurman, Mark Feuerstein,

Jane Kaczmarek, and many

others, I experienced the

creation of productions such

as *A Raisin in the Sun* and the

company’s summer programs.” 📸

UM students involved in the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience program (from left) John Hendershot, Madison Dacus, Rachael Pace, Madison Morrow, Jacqueline Knirnschild, and Joshua Smith.



UM-Funded Research Program

Six undergraduates spent the summer of 2019 immersed in academic exploration with faculty through the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience program funded by the UM Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. Four of the students were in the College of Liberal Arts.

Jacqueline Knirnschild, an English major with an emphasis in creative writing, worked on her honors thesis with mentor Beth Ann Fennelly, professor of English and Mississippi poet laureate. Through essays to unravel the elaborate complexities of human vulnerability, Knirnschild covered topics from YouTubers’ influence on adolescent girls to expat nightlife in Shanghai and volunteer-tourism in Ghana. She wanted readers to “understand that the ability to be vulnerable is a strength, not a weakness.”

Madison Morrow, a theatre arts and business major, conducted an analysis of the women leaders of the major avant-garde theatre movements of the 20th century with Jeremy Meuser, assistant professor of management. “This project advances my artistic career goal of creating my own production company because I believe theatre has the power to make true social change a reality. I appreciate how women created impactful art in spite of a society in which they were marginalized.”

Anne Cafer, assistant professor of sociology, assisted **Rachael Pace**, a biochemistry major, with her exploration of how information flows from health care providers to parents and ultimately impacts child health outcomes. There remains a gap in research on how healthcare provider education is perceived by parents and how that information, when relayed to children, is perceived.

Biology major **Joshua Smith** worked with Susan Balenger, assistant professor of biology, on immunity and stress-level response in Eastern bluebirds to test his hypotheses that (1) vaccinated individuals will contain higher levels of corticosterone than nonvaccinated individuals and (2) vaccinated individuals given a corticosterone supplement will generate more antibodies than individuals only given the vaccination. “Since the admission process for medical school is holistic, a unique project such as this proposed study could make me stand out.” 📸

Who Im Is, Vitus Shell



Of a New Cool

Vitus Shell's exhibition with photographer L. Kasimu Harris (MA journalism '08) explored the South's relationship to Blackness last autumn at Southside Gallery in Oxford.

Shell (MFA art '08) showed work from his Slim Crow series, large scale paintings geared toward the Black experience, giving agency to people from this community through powerful images deconstructing, sampling, and remixing identity, civil rights, and contemporary Black culture. He experimented with portraiture, acrylic paint, oversized photocopies of early 20th-century vintage advertisements, and the incorporation of a foam-cut printing technique.

"My layered, mixed media painting examines parallels between present-day behaviors and attitudes that date back to African roots," Shell said, and added that his work exudes the hip-hop lifestyle with a Southern vernacular.

The mixed-media collage painter lives and works in Monroe, Louisiana. He has been in residence at the Sam and Adele Golden Foundation for the Arts, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Crosstown Arts, Anderson Ranch, Hermitage Artist Retreat, Center for Contemporary Arts, Mass MOCA, Joan Mitchell Center, Skowhegan School of Art, and Masur Museum of Art. 📍

Rural Physician Scholarships

Four students and two recent graduates have been selected to participate in the undergraduate portion of the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program.

Created in 2007, MRPSP offers undergraduate academic enrichment and a clinical experience in a rural setting to college sophomores and juniors demonstrating the necessary commitment and academic achievement to become competent, well-trained rural primary care physicians in the state.

Upon completion of all medical school admissions requirements, participating students can be admitted to the UM School of Medicine in Jackson or William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Hattiesburg.

The MRPSP provides a means for rural Mississippi students to earn a seat in medical school and to receive MCAT preparation with a \$120,000 medical school scholarship in return for four years of service in a clinic-based practice in an approved Mississippi community of 15,000 or fewer population located 20+ miles from a medically served area.

Additional benefits include personalized mentoring from practicing rural physicians and academic support.

Upon completion of medical training, MRPSP scholars enter a residency program in one of five primary care specialties: family medicine, general internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, or pediatrics.



Theatre's Full Season of ASL Performances

Summer Chappell (left), access services coordinator and interpreter for UM's Office of Student Disability Services, and Corey Blount, assistant director, provide American Sign Language interpretation for *The Wolves*.

Beginning with the 2019-20 season, UM has the only theatre in the state offering a full, regular schedule of American Sign Language-interpreted shows. The first Saturday matinee of each production was interpreted and had real-time open captioning services.

According to the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey of 2017, an estimated 4.1% of Mississippi's 2.5 million residents—some 119,000 people—live with a form of hearing loss.

While the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act requires movie theaters and other public venues to make films accessible by providing enhanced audio technology and captioning devices, there is no such requirement for live events.

Opening performances to a wider audience—despite not being required to do so—is a no-brainer. “Diversity and inclusivity are core values of the theatre broadly and of our department,” said Michael Barnett, chair and professor of theatre & film. “It just makes sense.”

When the department began looking into ways to make theatre performances more accessible, the addition of ASL interpreters was initially chosen over captioning services because they provide a more engaging experience for audience members who need the service.

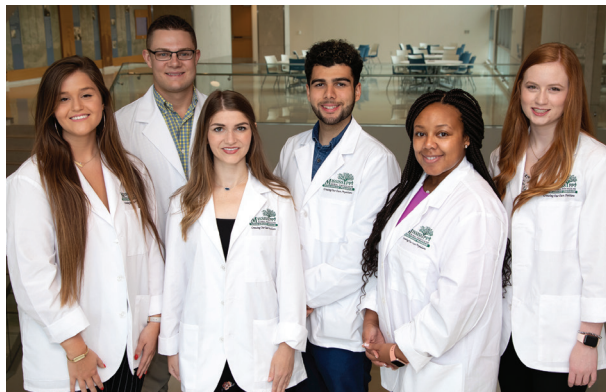
“With interpreters, they’re on the stage along with the performers, so people don’t have to look away from the performance to a screen,” Barnett said.

After the first interpreted performance, Barnett decided to add captioning for audience members who are hard of hearing but are not fluent in ASL, such as Oxford’s older residents experiencing age-related hearing loss.

Captioning also benefits international students with limited proficiency in spoken English who might have difficulty following fast-paced dialogue, and it provides more access to English language learners and individuals with auditory processing disorders and other receptive language disorders.

“It’s simply the most inclusive thing to do,” Barnett said. 🗣️

The program uses outreach, mentoring, and training methods to identify, support, educate, and deploy new generations of healthcare workers for Mississippi’s underserved populations. 🗣️



Jamie Johnson (from left), Cole Stephens, Katelyn Barnes, Nader Pahlevan, Jamie Riggs, and Riley Brown.

The students are:

Katelyn Barnes of Tishomingo, a biological science major

Riley Brown of Gautier, a biochemistry major

Jamie Johnson of Falkner, a biological science major

Nader Pahlevan of Biloxi, a computer science major

Jamie Riggs of Goodman, a biological science major

Cole Stephens of Mantachie, a biochemistry major



Journey to Commencement

The journey from freshman to senior year is an odyssey. Students often enter the University of Mississippi wanting professors to supply definitive answers to their questions. College of Liberal Arts students soon learn that asking questions of their own making—and finding answers through critical thinking and analysis—is at the center of their education.

This year, students from across the university, including 18 from CLA, were profiled in Journey to Commencement, an annual feature—and favorite—highlighting UM graduates and their academic and personal journeys from their first day on campus to their last. To read these inspiring stories, visit journey.olemiss.edu.

Rosa Salas

► ART

Salas' ceramics are functional works of art symbolizing who she is, where she came from, and what she has learned at UM. The international student from Venezuela said her BFA thesis and honors show evoked the experience of sharing meals together with five different ceramic sets for sushi, coffee, cocoa, sake, and charcuterie.



Through MAPS, Bluntson was able to find a research internship at the UM Medical Center. He also found a mentor in another MAPS student who is now a student at the UM School of Medicine.

“It’s a different journey to be a premed as a minority person,” Bluntson said.

“MAPS would bring in minority doctors to talk to us so we would have role models. MAPS students take other students of color under their wing and support them.”



“There’s this thing we say in Latin American communities, ‘sobremesa.’ It’s the time you spend with friends and family chatting and catching up after you eat. It’s not the action of eating. It’s that moment you share with people.”

Connor Bluntson

► BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

A premedical student, Bluntson comes from a legacy family. Both of his parents and an uncle attended the University of Mississippi. At UM, he quickly became involved with the Minority Association of Premedical Students, a nationally recognized organization open to undergraduate minority students who are headed for a career as a health professional.

Raymond Kurz

► ARABIC

Adaptability, perseverance set ROTC student Raymond Kurz on a path to excellence.

“On the first day of physical training, I was the only freshman who wasn’t enrolled in military science,” Kurz recalled, adding that he did enroll later in the semester.



“As the year progressed, I worked hard, made friends and dedicated myself to the ROTC program. My hard work was recognized when I was awarded Top Cadet for the freshman class.”

In fact, Kurz earned that honor for three years in a row in his respective military science class, which he added to his degree as a minor, along with the competitive-entry intelligence and security studies minor.

Lauren Hamm

► SOCIOLOGY

A summer in Barcelona brought new insights for sociology major Lauren Hamm, who learned Spanish and completed a human resources internship. She pinpoints it as her most formative experience during college. “I became more independent and more curious,” she said—a testament to the transformative power of education.



Hamm also learned more complexity about race relations, something for which her sociology major and her UM Spanish teacher prepared her. Carmen Sanchis-Sinisterra, instructional assistant professor of Spanish, advised Hamm about the preconceptions she would encounter in Spain about African Americans, most of which came from popular media.

“I’d been immune from any racial hardships, so I would eventually have to learn that race was much more complicated than I’d realized.” 🇺🇸

TO READ ABOUT OTHER CLA STUDENTS, PLEASE VISIT THE JOURNEY TO COMMENCEMENT WEBSITE.

Basilica de la Sagrada Família



Goldwater Scholars Jax Dallas, a chemistry and mathematics double major, and William Meador, a chemistry major, are the university’s 15th and 16th Barry S. Goldwater Scholars.

The prestigious national scholarship identifies and supports exceptional sophomores and juniors who show promise of becoming this nation’s next generation of research leaders in the natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics. Along with recognition as a Goldwater Scholar, the students receive \$7,500.

Meador’s research focuses on the design, synthesis, and testing of the properties of dyes that absorb and emit low-energy light for potential use as biological imaging materials. His first-authored research paper was published in *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*, where he also received the issue’s cover for his artwork. Meador aims to pursue a PhD in chemistry to become a teacher-scholar with a specialty in organic chemistry.

Dallas plans to continue his computational astrochemistry research at UM and to pursue a doctorate in chemistry, with hopes of working in a hybrid theory-experimental lab. He has been

fascinated with NASA since childhood, when he and his father would launch model rockets. For his Goldwater essay, Dallas wrote about his research in removing paramagnetic defects from nanodiamonds to improve their optical qualities.



Jax Dallas



William Meador

“The Goldwater Scholarship makes a strong statement about the quality of our undergraduate students, the high level of their research, and the quality of the mentoring they receive from their faculty advisers,” said Greg Tschumper, chair and professor of chemistry and biochemistry. 🇺🇸



Gates-Cambridge Scholar

Josh Law (BA religious studies '17) joined 100 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Scholars from around the world to study at the University of Cambridge.

Law, who was teaching middle school science in Colorado, was excited to pursue a master's degree in health, medicine, and society.

“Health is such an interdisciplinary experience. There is so much impacting an individual person and what it means for them to be healthy. Looking at that through many academic lenses provided the best opportunity for me to have a well-rounded view of health in the 21st century.”

Sarah Moses, associate professor of religious studies, was his UM advisor and supervised his community-based internships.

“Josh is the kind of student that makes teaching the greatest profession in the world. He is the brightest, most curious, most genuinely enthusiastic learner I've ever encountered. He carries himself with integrity and kindness, with deep respect for all. He embodies our vision of education—rigorous pursuit of knowledge with a commitment to use his knowledge for the betterment of others.”



Josh Law

Law finished the Cambridge program with research on the philosophy of medicine, analyzing theoretical definitions of disease and how they might apply to a current debate about why the weight scale is such a common instrument in medical practice.

“I loved my time in Cambridge. The academic experience was very free-flowing: tons of independent time for reading and writing with very little oversight. Truth be told, I missed my professors from UM, who always seemed to find the time to talk or listen.”

“The real highlight of my experience was the student body. Never had I been surrounded by so many idealists and dreamers who somehow managed to sneak by an admissions committee. Similar to my time in Mississippi, the people made the time meaningful.”

Law started medical school at Quillen College of Medicine in Johnson City, Tennessee. 🇺🇸

Head-to-Head Combat

UM Teams joust with words

UM undergraduate students competing in debate, mock trial, Model UN and Ethics Bowls are formidable verbal gladiators. Practicing long hours, they excel in competitions that require stamina, flexibility, nimbleness, and speed to think on their feet. These competitions sharpen and reinforce the skills of critical thinking, analysis, creating a strong argument, and learning to see all sides of a problem. Because of COVID-19, the Model United Nations team's event was cancelled.

Warren Debate Union: Swimming with sharks

UM's debate team, formally named the Ty Warren Debate Union after its founder, has traveled across the country and internationally, as far as China and South Africa, to showcase the team's formidable verbal gymnastics. Chosen from a pool of approximately 70 members, four students qualify for the travel team—pairing off into twos for debates.

In fall 2019, the Warren Union teams traveled to competitions at eight schools. At an international competition held at Vanderbilt last December, the partnership of sophomore Katie Broten and freshman Joseph Jiles, both public policy leadership majors, reached the semi-finals.

"I tell students not to flinch," said JoAnn Edwards, director of the Ty R. Warren Debate Union, housed in the Lott Leadership Institute. "In a debate, flinching is blood in the water."

Ethics Bowl: Mid-Atlantic Regional Champions

Ethics Bowl prepares students to engage in extensive public policy questions in a format that prioritizes deliberative, informed, and civil conversation.

Last season the UM team of seven students became the 2019 Mid-Atlantic Regional Champions and qualified for the National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, where they competed against 36 teams from across the country. At the last competition of a COVID-curtailed season—the 24th Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl National Championship in Atlanta—cases included whether medical and academic associations should boycott Georgia restaurants and convention venues after the state enacted a near ban on abortions.

The team's head coach is Deborah Mower, associate professor of philosophy and the Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hume Bryant Lectureship in Ethics.



UM Ethics Bowl team members and Mid-Atlantic Regional Champions: Bria Mazique (front) shows off the team's trophy with (clockwise) Alexandra Kotter, John Jacob Mabus, Justice Strickland, Jacob Rattliff, Harrison Durland, and Mimi Shufelt.

Mock Trial: A perfect score for the cocaptain

The UM Mock Trial Team argues legal cases that can surpass actual law cases in their complexity. Mock Trial is an intercollegiate competition to develop critical thinking and speaking skills in a courtroom setting.

This season, the team benefitted from a new coach, Hunter Bell, a UM law student. Bell helped bring the team to new heights. The team—advised by John Winkle, professor emeritus of political science—earned the coveted Spirit of the American Mock Trial Association Award, given to the tournament team that best exemplifies the ideals of honesty, civility, and fair play. Madison Alliston was named outstanding attorney for her trial performance at this competition and the following one, the Tennessee State University Invitational. She then was named outstanding attorney at the American Mock Trial Association's regional tournament.

"Receiving this award helped me realize that my dream of becoming a disability discrimination lawyer after I graduate is attainable," Alliston said. 🏆

3MT

UM's Three Minute Thesis® Competition winners for 2019 were Ethan Davis, a philosophy master's student, first place in the master category; Zaire Love, a documentary expression master of fine arts student, People's Choice Award; and Zack Redding, an experimental psychology doctoral student, first place in the doctoral category.

Held at universities worldwide, the annual event challenges graduate students to present academic research with one PowerPoint slide in three minutes. More than 100 students participated in UM's competition.



Ethan Davis

plans to work for a think tank in Washington, DC, to help develop public policy that promotes freedom in true classical liberal style.

“My thesis project is about rights and what makes them valuable. The theory I believe explains rights best is classical liberalism, which presents rights as a kind of social institution. Rights are deeply important traditions in our society that help us live together peacefully and prosperously.

“How can we filter good institutions from bad ones? After all, plenty of traditions have embodied plainly immoral practices. My solution was to turn to natural law theory and its list of basic goods. The basic goods are the primary motivations for human action (such as Life, Knowledge, and Sociability), and they can tell us which rights we should and should not have.”

Zaire Love's thesis film, *The Black Men I Know*, follows her “uncle and nephew whose hood in Memphis introduced and inducted them into lives of violence, incarceration, and hustle.

It artfully opens the floor to these Black men to tell their stories while also giving room for their loved-one to tell hers. The documentary reckons with grief, Black male masculinity, systemic racism and classism, and the survival mode Black folks need to thrive and stay alive in this hood called America.”



“I was inspired to tell this story because I wanted to hear from the Black men that I knew back home and the ones I've met on my journey. After the rapper Nipsey Hussle was assassinated in LA in March of 2019, my spirit was urged to tell the story of the hood heroes that I love and admire that often don't get their flowers until they are laid in a casket.”

Zach Redding is studying attention for his dissertation.



“I plan to test the effects of two pharmaceutical treatments on attentional lapses. The first is a nonstimulant medication currently used to treat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. The second is a novel treatment that targets a different neurotransmitter system in the brain to promote attention.

“While both drugs appear to support attention individually, the main goal of my dissertation is to determine if these two treatments can be administered together to have more profound effects. This research could ultimately lead to the development of a safer and more effective treatment for people with impaired attention.”



AWARD-WINNING GRADUATE STUDENTS

Each year departments present Graduate Achievement Awards at Honors Day.

Tierney Bamrick

► MA SOCIOLOGY '20

“We Show Up Together: Connecting Art and Activism in a New Black Arts Organization” took Tierney months of ethnographic field work, hours of participant observation, and a dozen in-depth interviews to compose what Kirk Johnson, associate professor of sociology and African American Studies, describes as “one of the first master’s theses on African American participation in an urban arts scene, a project that bears her passion for the arts as well as trademark concern for equity.”

Bamrick’s study of access to the arts builds on her experience as a professional arts administrator and master of music student at the University of Colorado.



Gabrielle Dinger

► MFA ART WITH AN EMPHASIS IN SCULPTURE '20

“My focus on sculpture during my education has been not only about challenging material and space, but creating conversations around topics of personal interest. During my time here, I have taken part as a committee member for the National Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron Art and Practices, along with working in other regional



Kevin Yi-Wei Lin

► PHD PHYSICS '20

When not drumming for UM’s Collegians and Mississippian Jazz Ensemble, serving as Taiwanese Student Association president, or helping with department outreach, Lin helped devise an acoustic method to detect deterioration in a dry storage cask of spent nuclear fuel. His research was presented at the 4th UM-Mississippi State University Physics Symposium and received best talk award at the 9th Graduate Research Symposium.

“This research project, among others, provided a taste of how to apply basic research to real world problems. I would like to pursue research and development in the industry setting.”



We will do like the Roots Do
Wood, steel, spray paint, resin, alcohol ink
Gabrielle Dinger
MFA Sculpture
Thesis Exhibition

and international conferences. My experiences through those gatherings have broadened my research and art work.

“Art is a platform for others and myself to express interest in topics that can sometimes be difficult to talk about. Looking forward, I aim to continue making work about my own experiences while educating others in materials and processes, all while creating supportive networks.”



Jeffery Michael Pavlacic

► PhD CLINICAL
PSYCHOLOGY '23

Pavlacic plans for a career conducting research and treating individuals suffering from PTSD and co-occurring disorders. He provides psychological assessments and interventions to adolescents and adults with a variety of psychological difficulties at Stonewater Adolescent Recovery Center and the UM Psychological Services Center. He has presented at conferences and published five journal articles and two book chapters.



It is also the largest gold nanoparticle crystal structure discovered to date (and featured on the front cover of *The Journal of the American Chemical Society*). We've also addressed several decades-long, open questions in our field of research."

With peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals and research contributions presented at regional, national, and international meetings, he begins a career in research where he can mentor new researchers.

"I chose clinical psychology to make a direct impact on the mental health of underserved populations with evidence-based treatments and scientific research. My research relates to trauma, substance use, disaster mental health, veteran acculturation and resilience factors, mechanisms of change in evidence-based psychological treatments, and advanced statistical methods."

Naga Arjun Sakthivel

► PhD CHEMISTRY '20

Sakthivel joined Professor Amala Dass "to discover how many atoms of gold would make it metallic, as it increases from few atoms to bulk. We've discovered the smallest metallic gold nanoparticle with 279 gold atoms and 84 ligands.



Allison M. Serraes

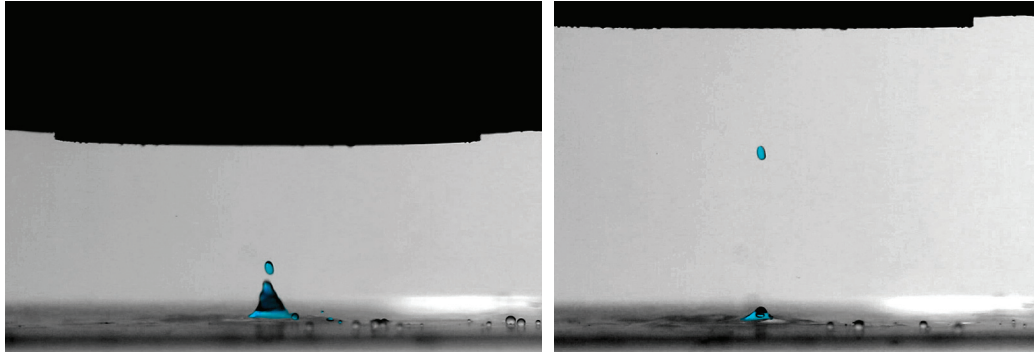
► PhD ENGLISH '20

Serraes' work with UM's Prison-to-College Pipeline Program serving incarcerated students shaped her research and future plans. She received a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for her study of African American women's literature in response to mass incarceration. Serraes shows how these writers revealed how long histories of gendered racial oppression in institutions such as slavery and segregation has resonances in the prison system today.



"I believe literature has the ability to communicate how social problems affect people in multifaceted ways that other disciplines cannot. A single novel or poem can span long historical periods, depict the complexity of relationships, or give language to experiences that might otherwise be considered indescribable."



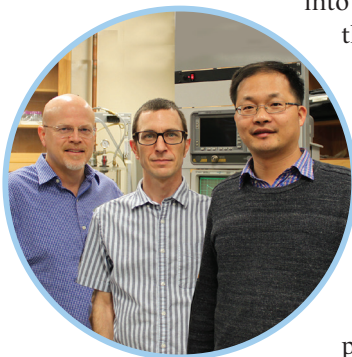


Scientists Discover Novel Method for Catching, Maneuvering Droplets

It's a sonic marvel seemingly ripped from a science fiction novel. In a recent publication, UM scientists announced they sonically captured a droplet of liquid and moved it without any direct or mechanical contact, using only acoustic waves.

The ultrasonic extraction and manipulation of the droplets are performed using a technique called near-field acoustic tweezers, which essentially uses sound as an invisible force field. The droplets being pulled out of a surface and then staying trapped by the sound waves are the key novelty.

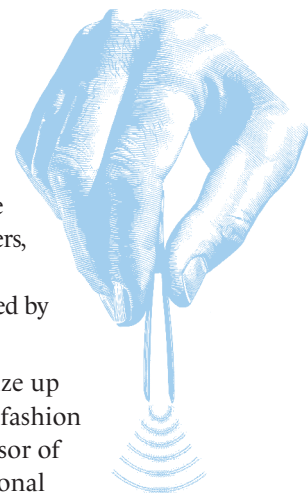
“This technique allows us to draw droplets of a uniform size up into water that can then be moved in a controlled fashion throughout the water,” said Joel Mobley, professor of physics and a senior scientist at the UM National Center for Physical Acoustics (NCPA). “Many liquids—such as some solvents, hydrocarbons, etc.—don’t mix with water, and this technology allows us to manipulate these liquids without any direct physical contact. This can permit the manipulation of liquids without contaminating laboratory equipment.”



Joel Mobley (left), Robert Lirette, and Likun Zhang.

The process was first discovered in spring 2019 by a team of physics faculty: Robert Lirette, Mobley, and Likun Zhang. The special shape of the sound beam is created by the fraxicon, a new type of acoustic lens. The fraxicon was first designed and built by Lirette, who at the time was a graduate student at NCPA.

The initial discovery is just the tip of what the technique might be capable of performing. It continues the novel research into acoustics that the Department of Physics and Astronomy has been engaged in for 60+ years, and adds to the stature of the NCPA, which started in 1986 and is a premier acoustics research center. 📖





Donald Cole

Donald Cole Catalyst for Change Scholarship Endowment

Ethel Young-Scurlock, director of African American Studies and associate professor of English, spearheaded a drive to create a scholarship named in honor of Donald Cole, who served in the mathematics faculty, as assistant provost, and as assistant to the chancellor for multicultural affairs. Before retiring in December 2018, he was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame for his accomplishments and contributions to the university. Cole entered UM in 1968, and continued in the groundbreaking path of bringing educational equity to minority students on campus. During his career as a professor and administrator, he was a tireless champion of under-represented students. This scholarship will continue that work by attracting and supporting students who wish to pursue African American Studies.

// MAKE A GIFT: ANGELA ATKINS,
ADM1@OLEMISS.EDU, 662.915.2755

African American Studies Program

“We want to call attention to the strong scholars in this program who are doing incredible work,” said Ethel Young-Scurlock, director of African American Studies and associate professor of English. Last year, she took the reins of the program from Charles K. Ross, professor of African American Studies and history.

There are 11 affiliated faculty and seven with joint appointments between African American Studies and English, history, political science, and sociology. Some received significant recognition in 2019–20.

Patrick Alexander, associate professor of English and African American Studies, received the 2020 University of Mississippi Humanities Teacher of the Year Award from the Mississippi Humanities Council. Alexander is cofounder of the Prison-to-College Pipeline Program.

Shennette Garrett-Scott, associate professor of history and African American Studies, was unanimously chosen for the 2020 Darlene Clark Hine Award from the Organization of American Historians, a prize given annually to the best book in African American women’s and gender history.

Derrick Herriell, Otilie Schillig associate professor of English and African American Studies, was honored with the prestigious EDGAR award from the Mystery Writers of America.

Owen Hyman, instructional assistant professor of African American Studies, received the C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Award for the best dissertation on Southern history from the Southern Historical Association.

Young-Scurlock is now intent on recruiting students. For the AAS major, students complete 10 courses from among 60 offered across different disciplines—anthropology, art history, English, gender studies, history, music, political science, religion, and sociology.

Ethel Young-Scurlock (left) and a student.



In that vein, she's created new spaces for students to congregate and exchange ideas, including a study room and a computer room. This year the AAS space was expanded, with their own classroom, conference room, student lounge and resource rooms, and more faculty offices. The additional space allows them to build a greater sense of community and expand their interaction.

"I want students to get to know our professors not only as the outstanding scholars they are, but as people," Young-Scurlock said. 📖



Ida B. Wells-Barnett



Voices of Reconstruction Symposium

In a partnership with local organizations, Jodi Skipper, associate professor of anthropology and Southern Studies, organized a two-day event last November devoted to understanding the Reconstruction Era in Holly Springs. Events included a panel discussion about race and land use; a graveside ceremony of Reconstruction-era leader Hiram Rhoades Revels led by Gracing the Table, a local racial healing group; and a conversation about civil rights pioneer Ida B. Wells-Barnett and writer Sherwood Bonner—both born in Holly Springs—and the impact of Reconstruction on their lives. 📖



Jodi Skipper

Guggenheim Fellow Aimee Nezhukumatathil, professor of English and creative writing, was recognized by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Established in 1925, the fellowship is granted to people across artistic and academic disciplines.

Nezhukumatathil was among 175 awardees chosen from a group of approximately 3,000 applicants. The fellowship is awarded to individuals who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts.

"I was supremely honored to receive this award," Nezhukumatathil said.

"I am especially pleased to be the first person of color to win this award in the history of the university. It's quite simply the biggest honor of my career to have my work and creativity be recognized in this way, and it's also humbling to see the names of previous winners—many of whom I consider my writing heroes."

She credits her parents—who emigrated to the United States from the Philippines and India—with encouraging her love of writing.

"My parents were hoping that I'd become a doctor like my mom," she said. "But they realized that another way to be 'successful' is to pursue and stay curious about a subject you are truly interested in—and for me, that is *poetry*." 📖





SURVIVAL OF THE WEAKEST

When he was young, Brice Noonan studied a species of South American frogs: poison dart frogs, so called because several indigenous peoples have used them to tip blowgun darts. The frog secretes a life-threatening bitter poison as its natural defense.

“I’ve loved reptiles and amphibians since I was a little kid. Then, when I was at a community college in south Florida, I discovered scientific journal articles, which changed my life.”

Now, he’s writing them.

Decades later, Noonan’s investigations evolved into the scientific article, “Weak Warning Signals Can Persist in the Absence of Gene Flow,” published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*’ September 2019 issue. The study was featured in the *New York Times*.



“There are several variations of this species of poison dart frog, and they have different colorations,” said Noonan, an associate professor of biology. “Most are blue and black with bright yellow markings, but some populations of the same species have white stripes instead of yellow ones. That type of variation within a species is incredibly rare. It was a conundrum as to why the species was so variable.”

The answer was unexpected. The yellow-marked frogs have a stronger poison than their white-striped counterparts. Their predators, chiefly birds, spot the brilliant yellow from afar and know to stay away. Yellow reads as “danger.”

The white-striped frogs have a less potent toxin, which would seemingly make them more vulnerable to the same predators—but they’re not. “These frogs live close to the bold and ostentatious yellow frogs, but not among them—about five miles away. But they are harder to detect and far less recognizable to birds. Birds are more afraid of something they’ve never seen than something that they’ve tried that has toxins. So, they stay away.”

Noonan’s research, funded by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France), was a collaboration with an international team led by his former graduate student, J. P. Lawrence. Now a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California at Irvine, Lawrence served as the lead author on the PNAS article. 📖

// FOR MORE ABOUT THE RESEARCH AND A LINK TO THE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE, VISIT VFV ONLINE.

ECONOMICS OF SELF-INTEREST

To truly understand the inner workings of Wall Street, look to the fundamentals of human nature.

“Just because the tech is more advanced now doesn’t mean that the people are more advanced,” said Jon Moen, chair and professor of economics, who also worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. “People still have the same self-interest they’ve always had and that will always color the decisions they make.”



Moen brings home this point in a new study, “How J. P. Morgan Picked the Winners and Losers in the Panic of 1907: Resolving Adverse Selection and Restoring Surplus to a Frozen Deposit Market,” that advances our understanding of this critical juncture in history.

Focusing on a pivotal 18 days during the nearly three-month panic, Moen zeroes in on the animosity that industrial titan J. P. Morgan had for a former business partner, Charles Barney, president of the Knickerbocker Trust Co. Morgan’s enmity intensified the circumstances leading to the Panic of 1907, the first worldwide financial crisis of the 20th century.

“Barney backed out of a deal they had together, and Morgan never forgot,” said Moen. “The lesson we draw for present day policy formation is that the individuals responsible for crisis resolution will bring to the table a uniquely personal (and unpredictable) approach that will influence the crisis resolution.” 📖



New Lounge

Jaime Harker, director of the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies and professor of English, cut the ribbon on the new LGBTQ+ Lounge in Lamar Hall. The space will be used to strengthen the LGBTQ+ community on campus by providing room for gathering, events, and student group meetings such as UM PRIDE Network and OUTGrad.

Sarah Isom Summit

In honor of the centennial anniversary of women’s suffrage, the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies organized the UM Summit on Women and Civic Engagement in February featuring an inaugural memorial luncheon, discussion groups, and networking opportunities.

“2020 marks the 100-year anniversary of the passage of the suffrage amendment, which opened up new means of political expression for women,” said Jaime Harker, professor of English and Isom Center director. “That, plus the beginning of the political season with the presidential election, seemed like a good time to consider women’s political investment and influence, broadly understood.”

The event began in honor of the first UM female provost with the Carolyn Ellis Staton Women in Government Luncheon. Keynote speaker Nadia Theodore, the consul general of Canada in Atlanta, is a leader in international trade negotiations. She discussed how her parents inspired and supported her own public career, how she engages young women, and observations of differences between Canada and the US in supporting women in power and civic life.



Nadia Theodore

After lunch, roundtable conversations featured the many ways that women are engaged in larger communities: running for office, organizing nonprofits, building community, starting businesses, advocating for change, and transforming institutions.

For example, the UM Women in Leadership panel featured Mary Ann Connell, Gloria Kellum, Alice Clark, Jan Murray, and Katrina Caldwell. These well-respected campus leaders shared their paths to administration and reflected on the challenges and successes they experienced in their careers.

Kirsten Dellinger, associate dean for diversity and inclusion for the College and moderator of the panel, said, “This was a unique opportunity to hear from powerful and experienced women leaders. Many audience members said they would love to see this happen every year!” 🗣️

Faculty Profiles

Nidhi Vij Mali

▶ ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP

After Dr. Vij earned her PhD at a top academic public policy program in the United States—the Maxwell School of Public Policy Administration at Syracuse University—she was eager to turn her attention to teaching undergraduates, an unusual choice for most newly-minted PhDs from that graduate program.



“I love face to face interaction with students,” she said. “My job at the University of Mississippi is the perfect balance of teaching and research.”



Vij grew up in India and attended college in New Delhi, the country’s capital, before coming to the United States as a graduate student.

At UM, she teaches courses in policy design and analysis. Her research focuses on the use of mobile technologies in public administration and social welfare policies in a global comparative context. She is interested in the impact of these new ideas on collaborative governance and community public participation.

A Memphis resident, she uses her commuting time to Oxford to listen to podcasts and Mississippi Public Radio—keeping an ear out for news that’s relevant to her classes.

“I’m always looking for that connection between what’s going on in Mississippi and what I’m teaching,” she said. “There was a news item about the tax increase in cigarettes that spurred debate.” 📰

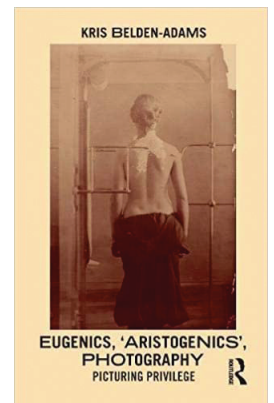
Kris Belden-Adams

▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART HISTORY

Kris Belden specializes in the history and theory of photography. Having spent six years living in a global center of fine arts, New York City, where she received her PhD in modern art and architecture from the City University of New York, she brings a deep understanding of modern art to her classes, specializing in the intersection of photography and society. She joined UM in 2013 after serving as chair of the Department of Liberal Arts at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.



Belden-Adams’ book—*Eugenics, ‘Aristogenics,’ Photography: Picturing Privilege* (BLOOMSBURY PUBLISHING, 2020)—is the first academic study to focus solely on the connections between the field of eugenics and institutional portraits of students taken at elite US colleges and universities from the 1880s through the 1960s. She researched these images of students in the Ivy League (when they were all-male institutions) and the prestigious Seven Sisters schools, a group of women’s colleges founded to be the female counterpart of the Ivy League.



“I studied photographs called ‘posture pictures,’” Belden-Adams said. “These were taken of students by colleges to ensure that students had the right spinal anatomy for good posture, considered a marker of refinement and social class.”

Digging through thousands of pictures in the photography archives of elite colleges, she discovered posture-pictures of two now renowned students who attended Wellesley College in the 1960s: Hillary Clinton and Madeline Albright.

“Eugenics is a racehorse theory,” she said. “It’s ultimately about who is fit to breed, and it’s still with us. It’s tied to the resurgence of white nationalism in this country. These are the kinds of connections, between images and society, that I want my students to make.” 📰

Spotlight on Rural America

The struggles of rural Americans have remained largely invisible to the rest of the country, but John Green, a sociology professor and director of the university's Center for Population Studies, aims to change that.

He and a team of colleagues at Pennsylvania State University, Syracuse University, and the University of Colorado have been awarded a five-year, \$1.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Aging. These funds will build a national, interdisciplinary network of researchers to put a spotlight on aging Americans and work to improve their lives.

"Rural America is not a monolithic group," Green said. "The problems are multilevel and multidimensional, so we need experts on economics, health care and population studies to gather the information needed to bring greater resources to rural areas."



"We want to have a positive, sustained, and powerful impact on the health of aging people there."

Jeffrey T. Jackson, chair and professor of sociology and anthropology, remarks that Green's research extends far beyond academia into the lives of underserved people who often lack basic resources, such as healthcare and clean water. "He cares about communities, and this grant will help him continue his mission."

As editor of the *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*, Green uses research to help solve problems in communities.

"I want to improve access to services for people living in rural communities, especially areas with limited resources and minority populations." 📱

Lack of reliable access to affordable, nutritious food—food insecurity—can easily result in an unhealthy diet and poor health.

In a state where one in five residents are food insecure, a nearly half-a-million-dollar grant from the Walmart Foundation to three UM faculty—including Anne Cafer, assistant professor of sociology—will fund a program to improve access to fresh food and increase food security for citizens of Charleston, Mississippi. As part of the new UM Community First Research Center for Wellbeing and Creative Achievement, they are partnering with the James C. Kennedy Wellness Center in Charleston, part of the Tallahatchie General Hospital Organization.

With a goal of improving health outcomes, program participants will receive a box of fruits and vegetables along with recipes every two weeks for up to two years along with medical nutrition therapy and, every six months, complimentary health risk assessments.

"This is the culmination of some incredibly innovative and interdisciplinary work taking place at UM," Cafer said. "The faculty, staff, and community partners involved have spent two years building a fundable program to address health at the nexus of food access and nutrition." 📱





left to right
 Vivian Ibrahim
 Catarina Passidomo
 Guy Krueger

CLA TEACHING AWARDS

Howell Family Outstanding Teacher of the Year: **Vivian Ibrahim**

- ▶ CROFT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Cora Lee Graham Award for Outstanding Teaching of Freshmen: **Catarina Passidomo**

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOUTHERN FOODWAYS ALLIANCE ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOUTHERN STUDIES

Outstanding Instructor of the Year: **Guy Krueger**

- ▶ LECTURER OF WRITING & RHETORIC

left to right
 Jonah Jurss
 Anne Cafer
 Jessica Wilkerson
 Amal Dass

CLA RESEARCH AWARDS

Dr. Mike L. Edmonds New Scholar Research Award:

Jonah Jurss

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY

Anne Cafer

- ▶ ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY

Jessica Wilkerson

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

Melinda and Ben Yarbrough, M.D. Senior Professor Research Award for the Natural Sciences and Mathematics:

Amal Dass

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY



TEACHING AWARDS

Patrick Elliot Alexander

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Mississippi Humanities Council
UM Humanities Teacher of the Year

Shennette Garrett-Scott

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Paragon Award for Excellence in Distance Teaching

Matthew Reysen

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

Elsie M. Hood Teacher of the Year

John Young

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

Higher Education Appreciation Day-Working for Academic Excellence Award

SERVICE AWARDS

Patrick Elliot Alexander

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Lift Every Voice Award

Virginia Chavis

- ▶ PROFESSOR OF ART

National Association of Academic Advisors Region 4 Excellence in Advising Faculty Award

Maurice Eftink

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROVOST EMERITUS, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY, AND DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF ACCREDITATION

2019 Carol A. Luthman Meritorious Service Award from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

Michael Raines

- ▶ INSTRUCTIONAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF TESOL

Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award

clockwise from upper right
John Young, Michael Raines, Carmen Riggan, Stefan Schulenberg, Sovent Taylor, Maurice Eftink, Virginia Chavis, Patrick Elliot Alexander, Matthew Reysen, and Shennette Garrett-Scott

Carmen Riggan

- ▶ PRELAW ADVISER AND ASSISTANT TO THE DEAN OF LIBERAL ARTS

Frist Student Service Award

Stefan Schulenberg

- ▶ PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AND DIRECTOR OF THE CLINICAL-DISASTER RESEARCH CENTER

Frist Student Service Award

Sovent Taylor

- ▶ DIRECTOR OF THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING OFFICE

Frist Student Service Award



Tyler Barnes, assistant professor of art, won a regional Gold Addy Award in the category of Sales and Marketing-Packaging from the Advertising Club of New Orleans and moved to the national competition. The American Advertising Awards is one of the largest advertising competitions. The graphic designer created the packaging design for the Rye Whiskey bottle by River Basin Distillery. "As I was up against mainly full ad agencies in the area, I am definitely proud."

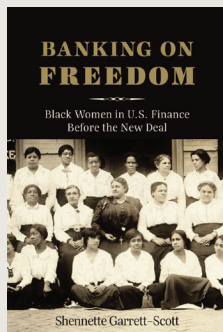


FACULTY // AWARDS

Sandra Spiroff, professor of mathematics, was selected as a one-year (rotating) Program Director for Algebra and Number Theory at the National Science Foundation. By overseeing the grant review process, she will influence the cutting-edge of her field. As a program director, Spiroff will be involved in many national scientific programs and initiatives to enhance STEM awareness, thus raising her visibility as well as the University of Mississippi.



clockwise from upper right
Carey Dowling
Leigh Anne Duck
Tamar L. Goulet
Garrett Felber
John T Edge



RESEARCH & CREATIVE AWARDS

Carey Dowling

- ▶ INSTRUCTIONAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AND DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology Scholarship for Teaching and Learning Award

Leigh Anne Duck

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

*Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Scholars & Society Fellow
New Orleans Video Access Center*

John T Edge

- ▶ DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTHERN FOODWAYS ALLIANCE

M.F.K. Fisher Distinguished Writing Award from the James Beard Foundation

Garrett Felber

- ▶ ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

Hutchins Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University

Shennette Garrett-Scott

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

*COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS
Organization of American Historians' Darlene Clark Hine Award for the Best Book in African American Women's and Gender History*

Banking on Freedom: Black Women in US Finance Before the New Deal

Tamar L. Goulet

- ▶ PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

International Coral Reef Society Fellow AND American Association for the Advancement of Science IF/THEN Ambassador

RESEARCH & CREATIVE AWARDS

Derrick Harriell

- ▶ OTTILIE SCHILLIG ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Mystery Writers of America Robert L. Fish Memorial Award

Milwaukee Noir (Akashic Books) story "There's a Riot Goin' On"

Frances Kneupper

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

Senior Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies at the Central European University in Budapest

Kiese Laymon

- ▶ HUBERT H. MCALEXANDER PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND CREATIVE WRITING

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University Fellow

Joel Mobley

- ▶ PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY AND A SENIOR SCIENTIST AT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR PHYSICAL ACOUSTICS

Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America

Chris Offutt

- ▶ PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

French Prix Mystère de la Critique

Ted Ownby

- ▶ WILLIAM WINTER PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND PROFESSOR OF SOUTHERN STUDIES

Danish Distinguished Chair in American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark Fulbright Scholar Award

Dinorah Sapp

- ▶ LECTURER IN INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM

English Language Teaching Fellow US Department of State Exchange Programs

Carrie Smith

- ▶ ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology Scholarship for Teaching and Learning Award

Erin Drew

- ▶ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

University of Virginia Press 2020 Walker Cowen Prize For Best Manuscript in 18th-Century Studies

Beth Ann Fennelly

- ▶ PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND POET LAUREATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellow

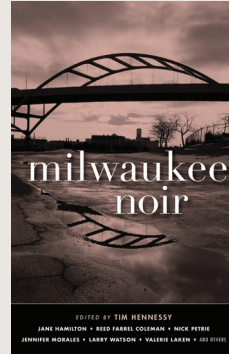
right column, top to bottom

Ted Ownby
Dinorah Sapp
Carrie Smith
Erin Drew

Beth Ann Fennelly



left column, top to bottom
Derrick Harriell
Frances Kneupper
Kiese Laymon
Chris Offutt
Joel Mobley



Derrick Harriell, a highly regarded poet and the Otilie Schillig Associate Professor of English and African American Studies, made his fictional debut with the short story, "There's a Riot Goin' On," in the anthology *Milwaukee Noir*. The Mystery Writers of America awarded him a special Edgar Award, the Robert L. Fish Memorial Award, for first-time writers.

Set in Milwaukee during riots following the acquittal of a police officer who killed a young black man after a traffic stop, the story's main character, Terrell, is a college student who must choose between the thrill of the streets and the safety of home. "My work is about Black men and the communities and cultures surrounding them," Harriell said.

EXTERNAL GRANTS:

Natural Science & Mathematics:	\$4,388,015
Social Sciences:	\$2,027,093
Humanities:	\$1,336,640
Centers & Institutes:	\$197,552

TOTAL CLA FUNDING FY20 **\$7,949,300**

TO SEE LISTING OF GRANTS OVER \$100,000 VISIT VFV ONLINE.

For the second time in three years, a mathematician was awarded a National Science Foundation fellowship for an extended collaborative visit to research centers across the country. **Samuel Lisi**, associate professor of mathematics, will work with collaborators at Ohio State University on a branch of mathematics known as topology.

“I am very honored,” Lisi said. “This is a great opportunity to expand my areas of interest and branch out into a new—though related—field of research. My colleague, Dr. Kocic, received this award two years ago, and it was a very transformative experience for his work. I have high hopes that this will have a similar impact on my career and work.”



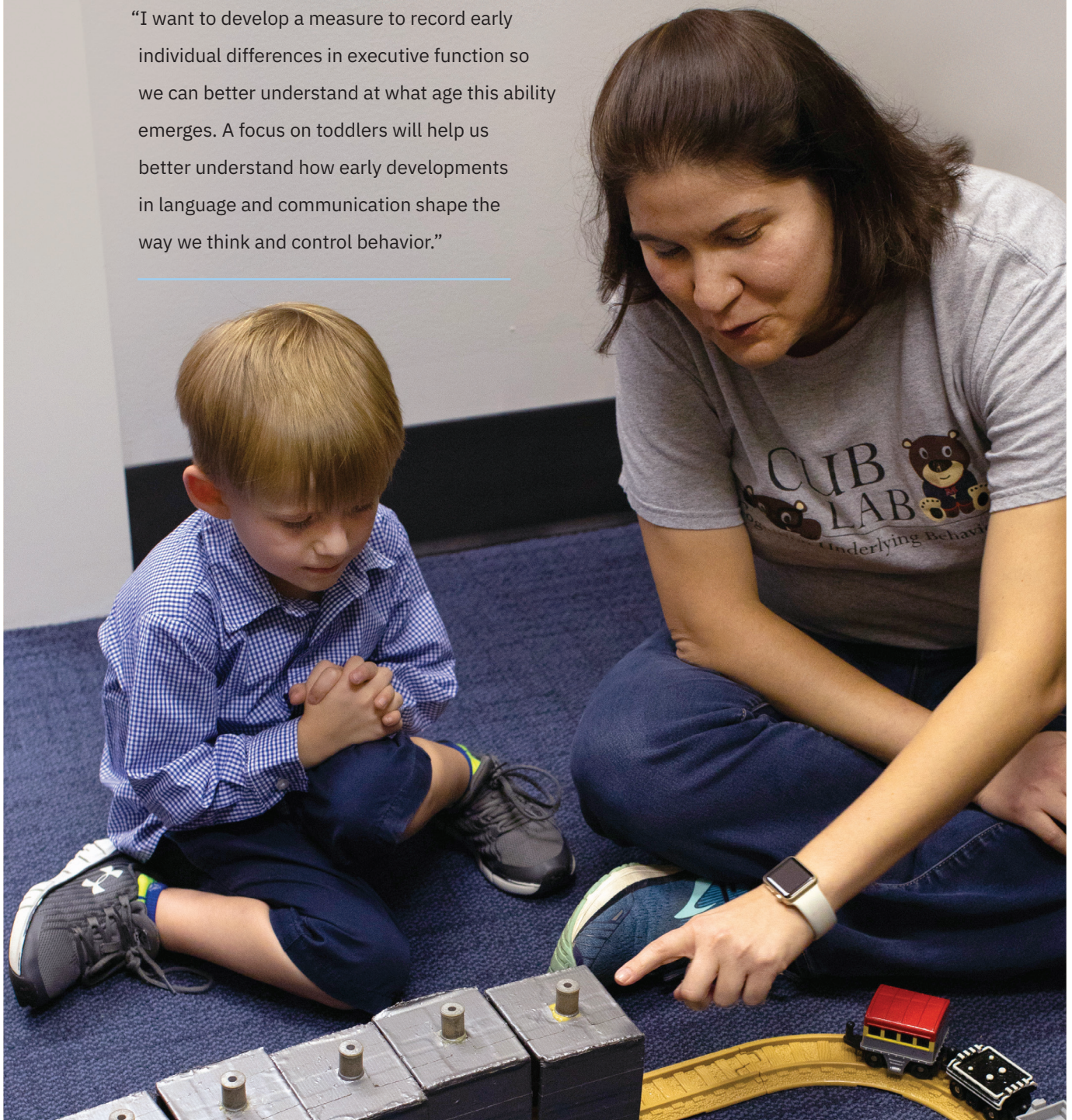
Ann Fisher-Wirth, professor of English and director of environmental studies, and the environmental studies faculty received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to redesign the gateway humanities course into a team-taught, two-course sequence emphasizing the interdisciplinary connections of the humanities with the social and natural sciences in the study of the environment. The grant will also support a capstone program for supervised internships.

“It is a great honor to receive this NEH grant and a wonderful next step in the development of environmental studies at UM,” said Fisher-Wirth. “As director of this interdisciplinary minor, I am proud of everything we have accomplished thus far and eager to participate in the next steps of its growth and transformation.”



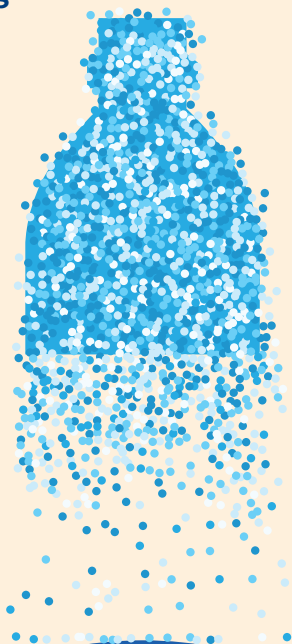
Stephanie Miller, associate professor of psychology, received an National Institutes of Health grant to examine the emergence and development of self-regulation abilities of executive function in toddlers. Executive function—the ability to control thought and behavior—is foundational in early child development and is linked to positive academic achievement, social understanding, and relationships. At this time, there are limited comprehensive and valid measures of executive function in infants and toddlers.

“I want to develop a measure to record early individual differences in executive function so we can better understand at what age this ability emerges. A focus on toddlers will help us better understand how early developments in language and communication shape the way we think and control behavior.”

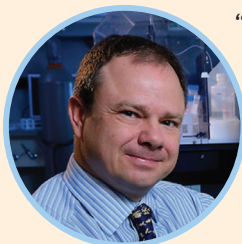


FACULTY // GRANTS

The world is awash in microplastics, small plastic bits found throughout our environment. **James Cizdziel**, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, explores microplastic pollution in the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico. With a Geological Survey grant, he studies

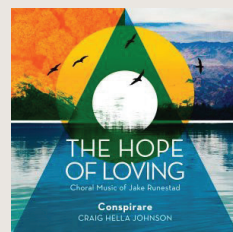


the interaction of mercury and very small microplastics that require sophisticated instruments to detect. This information helps assess sources of this contamination, guiding agencies and policymakers in addressing this emerging global threat.



“Microplastics not only accumulate in the food chain but attract contaminants, including toxic heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants, and pathogens. Rivers act as conduits for pollution, including microplastics, to coastal areas, a major food source.”

FACULTY // ALBUMS



Hope of Loving

DELOS PRODUCTIONS, INC.

By Jos Milton, associate professor of music

The beautiful, socially conscious choral works of Jake Runestad take center stage in the Grammy® award-winning ensemble, Conspirare's latest recording. Runestad's commitment to musically potent and well-crafted compositions aligns with current cultural questions about race, gender, orientation, and psychological challenges related to suicide and gun violence.

Shapes of Heaven

MASTERED BY VINCENT VILLUIS OF ULTIMAE RECORDS

Composed, mixed, and produced by Peter Wood, instructional assistant professor of theatre & film

A blend of environmental sounds such as lakes, rainstorms, birdsong, and ocean waves and electronic and sampled instruments. The mood ranges from peaceful to unsettled, but remains delicate throughout, exploring emotions and scenes with an emphasis on mood and environment. These Liminal Days is the music project of Wood, whose background in sound design for college and off-off Broadway theatre plays a key role in his compositions and his attempt to craft emotions through a blend of environment and music.

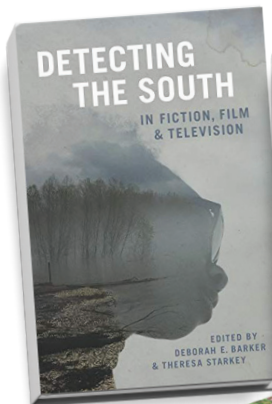
Virginia Chavis, professor of art, was one of four Artists in Residence at La Maison Verté, located in Marnay-sur-Seine (Champagne-Ardenne region), France. Her work—combining traditional and contemporary processes of printing, typography and design—resulted in documentation of the affiliated botanical garden.

“It was a very productive summer, resulting in a new body of work and exhibition opportunities. The work has continued to evolve from investigating the garden in France to the loss and gain of (extreme) seasons through climate change. It has also resulted in being a juror in a national exhibition, two solo exhibitions, and two upcoming workshops.”

Michael Barnett, chair and professor of theatre & film, has designed over 100 professional productions at theatres across the country since joining the UM faculty. His work has frequently been nominated for BroadwayWorld awards and he has been reviewed in the *Boston Globe* and *Washington Post* among others. Barnett has been an associate artist with Nashville Repertory Theatre for the past 10 seasons. He has designed 30 productions with the company and was recently the recipient of the First Night Award, which recognizes excellence in theatre across the state of Tennessee, for Outstanding Lighting Design for his work on this season’s *A Christmas Carol*.

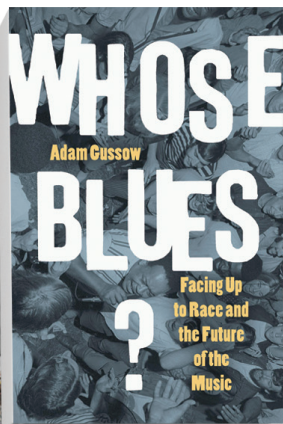


A
*Christmas
Carol*.



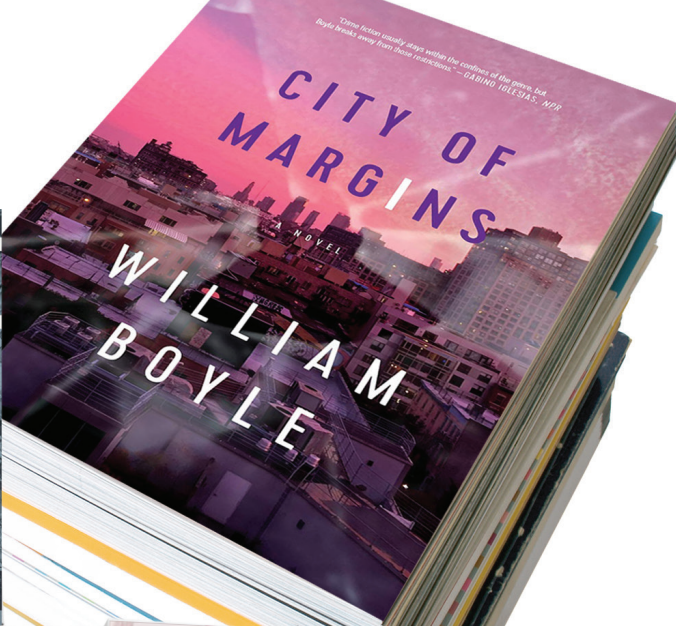
Detecting the South in Fiction, Film, and Television

LSU PRESS
 Edited by Deborah E. Barker, professor emerita of English, and Theresa Starkey, associate director of the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies



Contact, Colonialism, and Native Communities in the Southeastern United States

UNIVERSITY PRESS OF FLORIDA
 Edited by Edmond A. Boudreaux III, associate professor of anthropology and director of the Center for Archaeological Research; Maureen Meyers, associate professor of anthropology; and Jay K. Johnson, professor emeritus of anthropology



City of Margins: A Novel

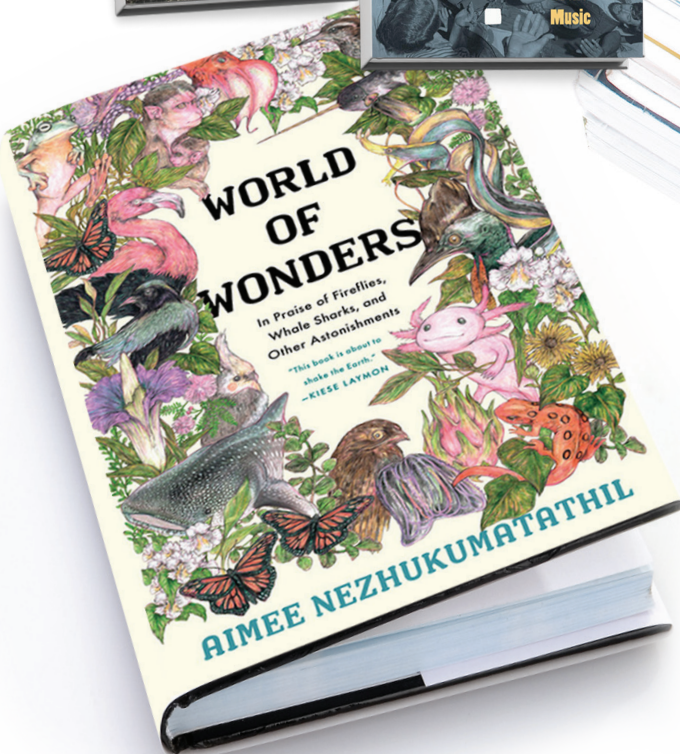
PEGASUS BOOKS
 By William Boyle, instructor of writing and rhetoric

Dal particolare all'universale. I libri di poesia di Giorgio Bassani

GIORGIO POZZI EDITORE
 Edited by Valerio Cappozzo, associate professor of Italian

Latino Orlando: Suburban Transformation and Racial Conflict

UNIVERSITY PRESS OF FLORIDA
 By Simone Delorme, associate professor of anthropology and McMullan Associate Professor of Southern Studies



Complete Science Communication: A Guide to Connecting with Scientists, Journalists and the Public

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY
 By Ryan C. Fortenberry, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry

I Don't Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS
 By B. Brian Foster, assistant professor of sociology and Southern Studies

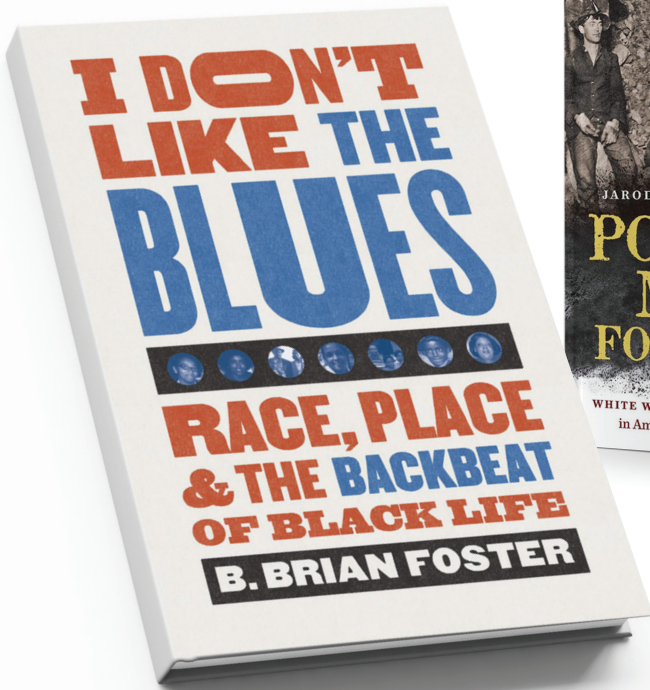
String Methods for Beginners

ROUTLEDGE PRESS
 By Selim Giray, associate professor of music and director of orchestral studies

Whose Blues? Facing Up to Race and the Future of the Music

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS
 By Adam Gussow, professor of English and Southern Studies





Composing for the Revolution: Nie Er and China's Sonic Nationalism

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PRESS

By Joshua H. Howard, Croft Associate Professor of History and International Studies

African American Tea Party Supporters: Explaining a Political Paradox

LEXINGTON BOOKS

By Kirk A. Johnson, associate professor of sociology and African American Studies

After Redlining: The Urban Reinvestment Movement in the Era of Financial Deregulation

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

By Rebecca K. Marchiel, assistant professor of history

World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments

MILKWEED BOOKS

By Aimee Nezhukumatathil, professor of English and creative writing

Snapshots: A Collection of Short Stories

MORGAN JAMES PUBLISHING

By Eliot Parker, instructor of writing and rhetoric

Cold War Spy Stories from Eastern Europe

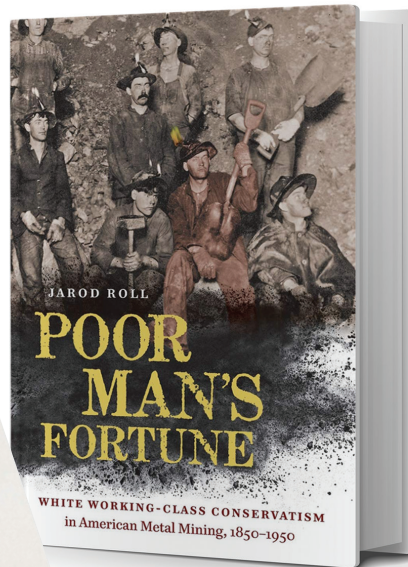
POTOMAC BOOKS

Coedited by Corina L. Petrescu, associate professor of German

Standard-Bearers of Equality: America's First Abolition Movement

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS

By Paul Polgar, assistant professor of history



Poor Man's Fortune: White Working-Class Conservatism in American Metal Mining, 1850-1950

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS

By Jarod Roll, professor of history

The Sensible World and the World of Expression: Course Notes from the Collège de France, 1953

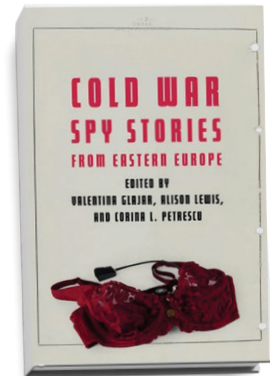
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PRESS

By Maurice Merleau-Ponty, translated from French, with an introduction and notes by Bryan Smyth, instructor of philosophy

Positive Psychological Approaches to Disaster: Meaning, Resilience, and Posttraumatic Growth

SPRINGER PRESS

Edited by Stefan E. Schulenberg, professor of psychology and director of the Clinical Disaster Research Center



Conflict in Aristotle's Political Philosophy

SUNY PRESS

By Steven Skultety, chair and professor of philosophy

Diversity Regimes: Why Talk Is Not Enough to Fix Racial Inequality at Universities

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESS

By James M. Thomas, associate professor of sociology

Conducting Men's Choirs

GIA PUBLICATIONS

By Donald L. Trott, professor of music and director of choral activities

Faulkner and the Faces of Modernity

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

By Jay Watson, Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies and professor of English

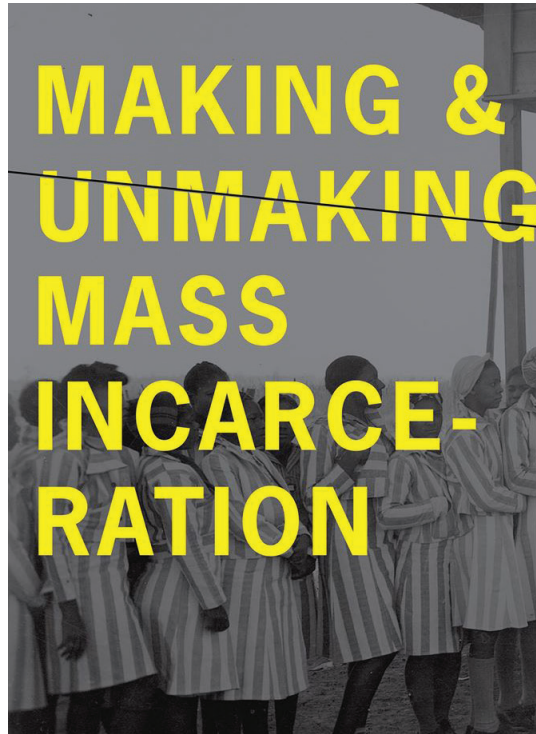
The Revolution Within: State Institutions and Unarmed Resistance in Palestine

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

By Yael Zeira, Croft assistant professor of political science and international studies

Unmaking Mass Incarceration

Against the backdrop of a nation with 2.2 million people behind bars, the Arch Dalrymple III Department of History sponsored a three-day conference examining the history of mass incarceration. Scholars, activists, writers, and former inmates focused on prison reform, reducing recidivism, restorative justice, and other initiatives. To view students' library exhibition, visit https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jdw_exhibits/15/.



Commitment to Innovation

With resources from the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Prahar Patel, a biological science and management information systems double major, started his own business, Jetson Smart Homes, to provide homeowners with the latest technology to live “safer, smarter, and more simply.”



No. 1 in the Nation

“Esports has allowed me to find a home at the university,” said Cray Pennison, an English major. The past president of Ole Miss Esports, Pennison founded the team with Gage Angle, a computer science major, in January 2017.

Last year, they finished No. 1 in the US and No. 2 in North America in the College Call of Duty League, a competitive video gaming league. “Esports encompasses people from all walks of life; everyone has stories of how they got into video gaming and where they plan to go next.”



Phi Kappa Phi Fellow

Biochemistry major Elaine Smith is one of 58 recipients nationwide awarded \$8,500 by the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society. She's using the fellowship to attend Thomas Jefferson University's Sidney Kimmel Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, after a gap year in South America to better her Spanish skills and experience the people and culture.



A Collaborative Affair

The MFA Art & Writing Collaboration Pop-Up Exhibition at Oxford's Southside Gallery in November showcased the written word and visual art of studio and creative writing graduate students.



Swerve South Podcast

The Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies' six-part series examines the Deep South through the lenses of gender, feminism, multiculturalism, pop culture, and queer culture. The podcast is produced and hosted by Jaime Harker, professor of English and Isom Center director, and Theresa Starkey, instructional associate professor of gender studies and the Center's associate director (left).

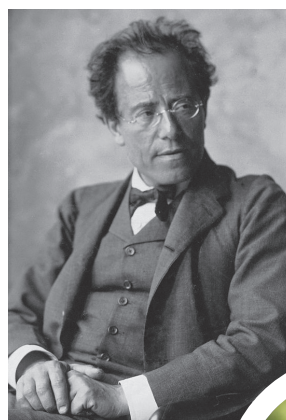


Music Man

Cody Roberts (BM music '14), director of bands at Bruce High School, received the 2019 Mississippi Young Band Director of the Year Award.

Mahler Music

Thomas Peattie, an associate professor of music, is among 10 scholars from seven countries invited to serve on the board of the new Gustav Mahler Research Center in Dobbiaco, Italy. The center—established by the University of Innsbruck in cooperation with the Foundation EUREGIO Kulturzentrum Gustav Mahler Toblach-Dolomiten—is a forum for discussion and the exchange of ideas among the international scholarly community researching the Austrian composer's music.



"Mahler continues to be a particularly vibrant area of research," said Peattie, the only scholar appointed from North America. "I feel fortunate to have been invited to be part of this exciting new center."





Student Veteran Honored

UM's Student Veterans Association honored John Endres with the 2019 Spirit Award, which is presented to the student veteran who most

effectively displays the spirit of the university and its values. Endres is a first-generation college graduate who served in the US Marine Corps as an infantryman. He completed his BA in political science with a minor in intelligence and security studies, interned in Washington for US Rep. Trent Kelly, and is pursuing a doctorate in political science.



In Recognition

Barron Charles Mayfield, a public policy leadership major, is the student recipient of the 2020 Higher Education Appreciation Day Working for Academic Excellence Award for the Oxford campus. "This award shows that the hard work my team has put in over the last year has been noticed and appreciated," said Mayfield, 2019–20 Associated Student Body president.

Come Roll With Me



Reid Fracchia, a biochemistry major, launched the Come Roll With Me program to build awareness of the handicapped community on campus and throughout Oxford.

The group allows individuals who aren't wheelchair-bound to ride around campus in wheelchairs alongside those who need them.

STAND-OUT SCHOLARS



Fulbright Scholar

William "Wills" Hay, a public policy leadership major with minors in Russian and intelligence and security studies, received a Fulbright award to teach English in the Eastern European country of Moldova, once a Soviet republic.

"The Fulbright offers a platform for individual growth and community engagement. I am blessed to receive an opportunity to better myself and those around me."



Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards

Public policy leadership majors **Savannah Day** and **Neely Griggs** were recognized for their selfless service to others with Student Awards presented by UM's Division of Diversity and Community Engagement in conjunction with the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation.



Noted were Griggs's internship with the Department of Human Services assisting aid applicants and Day's leadership with the Columns Society, the Center for Inclusion and Cross-Cultural Engagement's iTeam, and her sorority.



Boren Scholars

Two international studies students who received prestigious David L. Boren Scholarships from the National Security Exchange Program plan to use their awards to complete their fifth-year (capstone) year in federally funded language flagship programs.



Gabe Menchaca, who has a military science minor through the Army ROTC, has been accepted into the Chinese Language Flagship Capstone Program in Monterey, California. **Caleb Ray**, recipient of this year's UM Arabic Honors Award, has been accepted into the Arabic Language Flagship Capstone Program in Meknes, Morocco.

Prize Poet

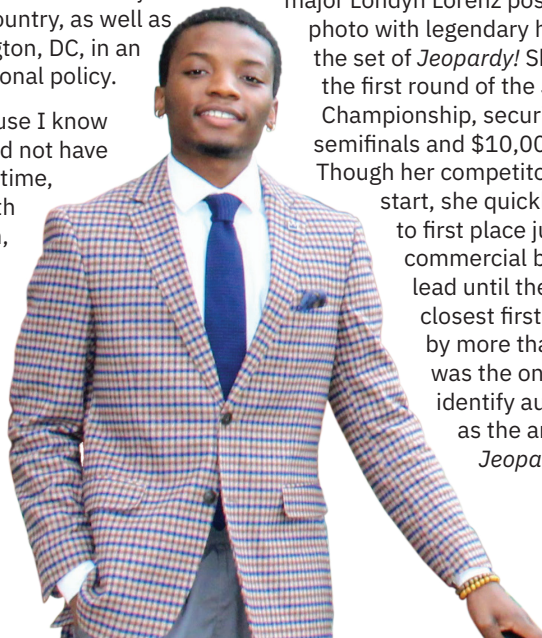
Sadia Hassan, an English MFA candidate, won the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation 2020 Award for College Writers in poetry for her collection titled *Black Girl Prayer Poems*. She was honored at the Hurston/Wright Legacy Awards ceremony in Washington, DC, and will receive \$1,000 cash and free tuition to attend a writing workshop sponsored by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.



Legacy

Curtis Hills (BA English '20) is serving the nation as an Emerson National Hunger Fellow and leaving a legacy of thoughtfulness, service, and social justice in his wake. He is spending the year researching hunger and poverty by working with community-based organizations across the country, as well as policy-focused groups in Washington, DC, in an effort to join local efforts and national policy.

"I applied for this fellowship because I know what it means to grow up poor and not have access to resources. At the same time, as I reflect on my experiences with a nonprofit advocacy organization, I also understand what it means to have resources. I know what it means to have an education that focuses on the development of critical thinking skills and strategic analysis, in order to create the foundation for independent thinkers."



What to do with degrees in art and history?

See *People* magazine's May 1 cover story on alumni Erin (BFA art '07) and Ben (BA history '07) Napier from HGTV, *Small-Town Sweethearts to Superstars*: How the *Home Town* couple found TV success restoring houses in Mississippi—and why fame won't change who they are.



Jeopardy!

Sophomore international studies and Arabic major Londyn Lorenz posed for a publicity photo with legendary host Alex Trebek on the set of *Jeopardy!* She skated through the first round of the *Jeopardy!* College Championship, securing her spot in the semifinals and \$10,000 in prize money. Though her competitors got off to a fast start, she quickly jumped from third to first place just before the first commercial break and held her lead until the end, beating her closest first round competitor by more than \$18,000. She also was the only player to correctly identify author Harper Lee as the answer of the final *Jeopardy!* question.

Willie Morris Awards Move to UM

A generous New England-based couple with deep roots in the South moved the celebrated Willie Morris Awards for Southern Writing from New York City to the University of Mississippi. With their \$3 million gift to the Department of Writing & Rhetoric, Reba White Williams and Dave Williams have established an endowment to oversee administration of the awards.

“From a state known for producing star-studded literary talent, Willie Morris remains a legendary Mississippi author, journalist, and teacher more than two decades after his death,” Chancellor Glenn Boyce said. “We are honored by Reba and Dave’s gift, and we are grateful they entrusted the university to serve as the steward for this literary prize.”

A colorful, renowned, and respected editor and author from Yazoo City, Morris was a writer in residence and instructor at UM from 1980 to 1991. The youngest editor ever to lead *Harper’s Magazine*, he also found great success as a writer, especially with his nonfiction works such as *North Toward Home*, *My Dog Skip*, and *The Courting of Marcus Dupree*.

“We will proudly carry on this wonderful tradition, which celebrates contemporary writing in the South and honors Willie Morris, one of the best editors and writers ever to come from Mississippi,” said Stephen Monroe, chair and assistant professor of writing & rhetoric.

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

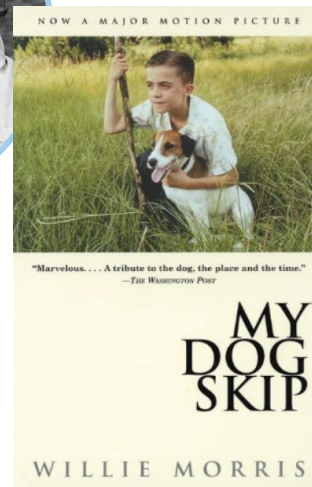
“Reba and I are very pleased that Ole Miss is taking over something we hold dear,” Williams

said. “We are impressed by the town, the department, the beauty of campus, and the enthusiasm of the leadership of the university. We think the awards have found a happy home.”

The recipient of the Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction receives \$10,000 and an expense-paid trip to the awards ceremony in



(left) Willie Morris
Dave and Reba White
Williams



Oxford. The prize is awarded to the author of a book chosen for its prose, originality, sense of place and period, and the authenticity and appeal of its characters.

The recipient of the Willie Morris Award for Southern Poetry receives \$2,500 and an expense-paid trip to Oxford. The prize is awarded to a poet for an original, unpublished poem that evokes the American South. The Willie Morris Award for Southern Nonfiction will be added in 2021. 📖

Summer College for High School Students

The College of Liberal Arts, UM Institute for the Arts, and Office of Outreach are creating a summer experience for high school students interested in pursuing the fine or performing arts.

The Summer College for High School Students program brings rising juniors and seniors to campus to enroll in regular university summer classes for either June or July. They live on campus, take two courses, and receive mentorship by university students to develop social and academic skills.

Enhancement activities beyond formal classes encourage exploration of majors and career paths. In art & art history, music, and theatre & film, a skills course



and an appreciation/content course connect students with our faculty and increase their competitiveness for future college admission and merit scholarships. A public performance or exhibition is presented at the end of the program.

Funds are needed to provide scholarships and experiential learning opportunities for budding arts students. Together we can widen access for young Mississippians to develop their passion in the arts and strengthen their future opportunities. 🇺🇸

MAKE A GIFT: RON WILSON, JRWILSO3@OLEMISS.EDU, 662.915.1755

Awarding Excellence in Arts and Humanities

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

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

Nancy Wicker, interim chair and professor of art history, is the first recipient of the Hensley Family Senior Professor Research Award. “It is critical to have gifts that recognize that research is a priority of excellence at the University of Mississippi and that faculty members here can and do make a mark internationally with their research,” she said. 🇺🇸



Rusty and Missy Hensley (left) are joined in the photograph by family members John, Camille, Baby Mack, Pauline, and Hunt.



Nancy Wicker

Renvy Pittman (center) with Jontae Warren (front, from left), Devante Yates, Jessica Cole, Rashad Collier, Deshauntra Green, Bre O'Neal, and Myrical Taylor; and (back, from left) Maura Scully Murry and E. Gray Flora IV.



A Place to Thrive

Every time alumna Renvy Pittman travels to the university she makes a point to visit her favorite students—Grove Scholars pursuing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics degrees who have also received Ole Miss Opportunity scholarships. Support from Pittman, a Los Angeles resident, provides scholarships and programming to these students. Now, she wants the scholars to have a space of their own.

With a \$175,000 gift, Pittman enabled renovations to George Hall, the newly designated home for the FASTrack Learning Community and Grove Scholars.

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

create an optimal working environment. We feel the more time the students are close to the staff, the better we will support them. In George Hall, we bring everyone together.”

George Hall has space for both independent and group study in a colorful, welcoming place for students.

“Almost all of the first floor will be for students, particularly the open community space,” said Maura Scully Murry, director of FASTrack. “Our primary focus is to help first-year students transition successfully into college. This new space helps connect students so they feel an immediate sense of belonging and academic purpose. Now, we are across the street from our Living Learning Community in Burns Hall with new opportunities to integrate the academic experience with students’ daily college lives.” 📖

Service in Action

With a gift of \$25,000 and volunteer efforts for the William Magee Center for Wellness Education, Maddie Marine, a psychology major from Newport Beach, California, embodies the citizen-scholar model. Last summer, she helped prepare for the opening of the Center that advocates for well-informed, healthful choices and encourages students to strive for wellness in an empowering, inclusive environment.

“I donated to the Magee Center because my brother has had struggles with health and wellness, so it became personal and made me want to help,” said Marine. “It’s a safe environment for students to get help.” 📖



Laymon Named to McAlexander Chair

Kiese Laymon—a celebrated writer from Jackson and Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction recipient—is the inaugural holder of the Hubert H. McAlexander Chair of English, created by the late Lester Glenn “Ruff” Fant III and his wife, Susan.

“This honor means that I am expected to uphold a standard of rigor, creativity, and joy. Investments in the arts, especially African American art in our state, are crucial,” Laymon said.

The Fants of Washington, DC, established the McAlexander chair with a \$1.5 million gift to honor Ruff Fant’s lifelong friend and professor emeritus of English at the University of Georgia, Hubert H. McAlexander. The two men bonded over chess games as boys growing up in Holly Springs. Fant passed away in May 2019.

“The Fants’ generosity enables the university to fortify its treasured and distinguished liberal arts programs,” said Chancellor Glenn Boyce. “It’s cause for great celebration that Kiese Laymon is the first to hold this professorship. As a Mississippian who has, in his work, explored some of the most challenging ideas of our time, including racism and Southern Black life, he is recognized nationally as one of the most valued voices in today’s literary landscape.”

The Fants established the chair as a tribute to McAlexander, who received his undergraduate and master’s degrees and was a graduate instructor in English at UM. A legendary and inspiring educator, McAlexander is a Pulitzer Prize-nominated writer whose career spanned 50+ years. Laymon, likewise, has garnered international acclaim for his 2018 *Heavy: An American Memoir*.

Laymon joined the UM faculty in 2015 as a John and Renée Grisham Visiting Writer in Residence and then became a professor of English.

“I came to Ole Miss because I needed to be back in Mississippi,” said Laymon, the recipient of many literary awards and a powerful voice for social justice and education. “I needed to breathe the Mississippi air and I needed to be close to Mississippi kids. I love Mississippi with everything I have. I just want us to be better. I’m trying to do my part to help myself be better, but I also want to help our state be better. I think part of that is acknowledging how wonderful and incredible we have been.”

He created the Catherine Coleman Initiative for the Literary Arts and Social Justice—named after his grandmother—to expose Mississippi high school students and their parents to creative writing. Laymon launched the program with two online creative writing workshops for students from Jackson and the Delta this summer. 📖📚

// MAKE A GIFT: ROB JOLLY, JOLLY@OLEMISS.EDU, 662.915.3085

A Mother Memorialized

Jody and Pick Scruggs' \$50,000 gift helps theatre arts students through the Ruby Simpson Shelton Scholarship in memory of Jody's mother, who passed away from breast cancer in the 1970s.

"My mother wasn't able to attend college because of the Depression, but she definitely passed on to me her love for her Mississippi family, which led to my choosing Ole Miss," said Jody, a 1966 graduate.

Scholarship endowments make the college dream a reality.

"The nature of our programs is such that a great deal of learning takes place beyond the classroom, during the creation of stage productions and films," said Michael Barnett, chair and professor of theatre & film. "The more we are able to ease students' financial burdens, the freer they are to take advantage of the wide range of enriching opportunities available through our department and the community." 📺

Pick and Jody Scruggs



Rebirth of Renaissance Music

Thanks to an anonymous donor, three annual symposia on the Renaissance (1400–1600), Baroque-Classical (1600–1800), and Romantic (1800–1900) eras will bring enchanting music back to life.

"The first symposium on Renaissance music will be unlike anything that has ever taken place in the region," said Donald Trott, professor of music and director of choral activities. "What also makes this first event exceptional is that Dr. Dennis Shrock, the foremost authority of historical performances of Renaissance music, will be our guest conductor and featured lecturer. We are grateful for the generous donor who is making this possible."

The inaugural symposium is designed to reestablish the beauty and significance of the value and reputation of the Renaissance music, which has unfairly faded with the passage of time, Shrock said. "The historical symposium at Ole Miss intends to restore the music—to bring it back to life and to reveal its rich and sonic colors." 📺



Dennis Shrock



Hot Take

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

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

// MAKE A GIFT: CLAIRE MOSS, CLAIRE@SOUTHERNFOODWAYS.ORG, 662.915.3086

A Gift for Future Academic Opportunities

James Langmesser and his wife, Traute, have committed a \$1 million planned gift to the university.



Traute and James Langmesser

The 1969 graduate in English and history, who also holds a master's degree from Pepperdine University, and his wife have designated their gift as unrestricted for the College of Liberal Arts, meaning leadership can use the gift to address the greatest needs.

"The University of Mississippi enriched my life, and I want to help those students who follow me," said Langmesser, a retired military leader and business executive who has lived and traveled all over the world. "We made the gift unrestricted because the dean wouldn't be the dean if he didn't know the gift's best use. That's why you have good people."

"We thank Traute and Jim for this extraordinary gift which will be directed toward faculty support, graduate student support, and facility improvements and modernizations," said Lee M. Cohen, dean of liberal arts. "By focusing on these areas, we strengthen the university's R1 research classification."

Traute was principal of a high school in the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. During her 30-plus-year educational career, she held many challenging positions and was coauthor of a geography textbook.

James, a Chicago, Illinois, native, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the UM ROTC in July 1969, and went on to serve in the US Army Europe's 66th Military Intelligence Brigade, the US Forces Korea's 36th Signal Battalion as Logistics Officer, and as the battalion's 501st Signal Company Commander. He was reassigned as the Signal Officer of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment's 1st Squadron, which patrolled the West German-Czechoslovak border. He then served in the Pentagon in Washington, DC, before a six-year assignment in Germany in 5th Signal Command Headquarters in Worms and as the 2nd Signal Brigade Deputy Commander in Mannheim, Germany.

Langmesser's final two assignments were as battalion commander of the 360th Signal Battalion at Ft. Gordon outside Augusta, Georgia—home of the US Army Cyber Center of Excellence—and as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Information Management for the Army's Criminal Investigation Command in Washington, DC.

After retiring from the Army, Langmesser joined CALIBRE Systems in Alexandria, Virginia, as a principal, and held the position of director of Strategic Decision Support, first supporting the Department of Defense's and then the Army's chief information officers. 📧

Cathead Essays

SFA received a major gift from the founders of Mississippi-based Cathead Distillery, whose efforts during the COVID-19 crisis are making a statewide impact.

The \$75,000 gift from Austin Evans and Richard Patrick will support the writing, editing, and sharing of 15 essays on the contemporary South from members of the creative community and the food and beverage industry.

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

These essays will stare down the realities of life in the contemporary South and gesture to the future of the region, said John T Edge, SFA director. "Writers will not sidestep the pandemic and its effects, but they will also tackle other issues and highlight bold solutions. We intend to do work that makes clear what's at stake, and what's possible. 📧



Austin Evans (left) and Richard Patrick

MAKE A GIFT: NIKKI NEELY DAVIS, NLNEELY@OLEMISS.EDU, 202.215.5534

Thinking Ahead

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

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

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

The purpose of the Edge endowment is to ensure succession when Edge retires and set the SFA up for success in its third decade. “One of the things that’s deeply important for an academic institution is to receive money from people who share your values, who believe in your mission, whom you’re proud to dine at a table with. The Emericks embody that. They care about the longevity of the SFA. Their gift is transformative,” Edge said.

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

Rebecca Emerick and her best friend established their own design studio and practiced together until 1984. A world champion equestrian and volunteer for local charities, she created an auxiliary that raised support to create a no-kill animal shelter and received US Congressional recognition for service to her California community. 🍴



Rodger and Rebecca Emerick

A Natural Fit

Tony Chachere’s Creole Foods \$90,000 gift will fund the creation of three film documentaries focused on hero cooks who serve their communities over the next three years by the Southern Foodways Alliance.

Based out of Opelousas, Louisiana, Tony Chachere’s Creole Foods began in 1972 as a retirement hobby for the south Louisiana native and produces signature Creole seasonings, marinades, dinner mixes, roux and gravy mixes, and more.

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

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



Tony Chachere



MAKE A GIFT: CLAIRE MOSS, CLAIRE@SOUTHERNFOODWAYS.ORG, 662.915.3086

The College of Liberal Arts is grateful to the following donors of gifts made between July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020:

PATRON \$25,000+

ADVOCATE \$2,500 – \$4,999

PATRON

Anonym
Anson Mills
Stephanie G. and Richard R. Barrett
Cathed Distillery
Cockayne Fund
Community Foundation of NW MS
Linda L. and Dean Copeland
Brian and David Craig
Martha D. Dalrymple and James L. Cummins
Lynne DeSpelder and Albert Lee Strickland
ExxonMobil Foundation
Gertrude C. Ford Foundation
FWD.us
General Atomics
Bettie Y. and R. Newell Graham
Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau
Harrods Creek Fund
Nancye B. Starnes
Huntington Ingalls Industries
James and Madeleine McMullan Family Foundation
Karen Barker Memorial Fund
Meredith and Scott Keating
Cheryl and Bob Kellermann
Elizabeth and Ross C. King
The Kite Foundation
J. V. Kodali and Lara Marcon
James E. and Traute Langmesser
Laughing Gull Foundation
Grace and David Lawson
Lodge Cast Iron
Maker's Mark
Deborah McAbee and J. Byron Morris
McDonnell Family Foundation
Mary M. McDonnell
Mike McDonnell
McIlheny Company, maker of TABASCO Brand pepper sauces
Cameron F. Napier
Nissan North America
Kristie and David H. Nutt
Dorothy Pihakis Charitable Foundation
Scarlotte M. and Crymes G. Pittman
Ruth U. Fertel Foundation
Sanderson Farms Inc
Kathy and Joe F. Sanderson, Jr.
Joann S. and R. P. Scruggs III
Dennis Shrock
Simmons Farm Raised Catfish
Shirley and Harry D. Simmons, Jr.
Carolyn V. and W. Marion Smith
Pam and Brook Smith
Tony Chachere's
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
Reba W. and Dave Williams
Tate and Webb Wilson

BENEFACTOR

R. Wayne Alexander
Deborah D. and Steven D. Ammann
Marsha D. and Haley R. Barbour
Brenda K. and Lee Baumann
Bentonville Advertising & Promotion Commission
Kathryn B. Black
Meredith Keyes and Kurt Bland
Norma S. Bourdeaux
Brown in the South
Lucille W. and James H. Creekmore
John D. Day
Delta Directions Current Giving Fund
Martha Krick and Adam Derbyshire
Lara M. and Vance P. Derryberry
Misty Shaw-Feder and Ronald M. Feder
Diane and Alan Franco
Caren and Tom Gallaher
Alexis and Wynn Giles
Reba M. and Lance Greer
Cecile B. and Robert H. Harper
Mary H. and Russell J. Hensley
Cathy and Jay U. Howington
Ann and Jimmy Hunt

The Indigo Road Hospitality Group
Jack Miller Center for Teaching Americas Founding Principles
Jim 'N Nick's Community Bar-B-Q
Karen G. Johnston and Kirk Johnston
Merrill and Lauren Klaphor
Pamela B. and William F. Lawhead
Robert C. Long
Stewart M. Madison
Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint
A. Elliott Moreton
The Mountain Valley Spring Water
Alex Hunt North and Wiley North
Elizabeth A. Payne and Kenneth A. Rutherford
R&B Feder Foundation
Suzanne and Gregory Rusovich
Sanford and Susan Thomas
Advised Fund
D. Shepard Smith
Risa P. and Sumner S. Spradling
Springer Mountain Farms
Diane J. and James D. Stark III
Sweet Home Alabama
Taqueria Del Sol
Marian and Lance Templeton
Susan S. and Sanford C. Thomas
Virginia Wine Board
Visit Oxford
Polly F. and Parham Williams, Jr.
Melinda C. and Benjamin Yarborough
Zingerman's Community of Businesses

EXECUTIVE

Kristie and Charles L. Abney
Mary H. and George E. Abraham II
Helen B. and Wadie H. Abraham, Jr.
Danny Alm
Hannah and Tommy Bishop
Adam H. and Lissa Lamkin
Broome Charitable Fund
Graham G. Boyd
Lissa L. and Adam H. Broome
S. Kendall Dunn and John A. Buettner
Lisa M. and B. Scott Caradine
Amanda B. and James R. Carr
Elizabeth and Grant Clark
The Do Good Fund
C. Martin Dunagin, Jr.
Mike L. Edmonds
T. Keith Everett
Emmy Gilbert and William Gilbert
Carolyn B. and Daniel Gilchrist IV
Laura D. and Ricardo Gomez
Harvards Kennedy School
Heirloom Cafe
Kirsten E. and J. Ryan Hill
Teresa and Lance Hirsh
Arnold Itkin
D. M. Cockrell and Scott Jennings
Jamie B. and Ernest Joyner III
Cathryn and Mike Justice
Lackey Family Foundation
Carol and P. Ken Lackey, Jr.
Leah K. and Gary G. Lawson
Jeanne C. and Alwyn H. Luckey
Margaret E. McGuire
Susan S. and Thomas C. Meredith
Brittney and Matt Miller
Joli W. and Antone M. Nichols
Arietta and Tim Ozgener
Renvy G. Pittman
Linda and Rathed Riley
Christina C. and Richard R. Roberts
Jewett and Alan F. Rothschild, Jr.
Peter Roy
Patti and Scott Simpson
Pardis and Frank Stitt
Southern Humanities Fund
State Farm Companies Fndn
Alan K. Stone
Jessica and Michael Sznajstajler
Virginia N. and J. C. Taylor

BENEFACTOR \$10,000 – \$24,999

ASSOCIATE \$1,000 – \$2,499

The Andrew Michael Foundation
Lisa R. and John D. Tickle II
Adrianne and Todd D. Tillmanns
Jenny Vergos
Jennifer and Tom Williams
Noell and Gary M. Wilson
M. Amanda and Edward R. Wilson, Jr.

ADVOCATE

Alabama Chanin
Rebecca P. and Carey W. Allen
Susan S. and Damon Arney
Mary L. and Freddie J. Bagley
Charlotte A. and James E. Baine
Stacey Ballis and Williams R. Thurmond
Beverly Bartow
Benedict Advertising
David C. Berry
Celeste G. and David M. Carroll
William Disen
Anne C. and Joseph M. Forks
GBU Financial Life
Harvard University
Trish and George D. Hightower III
Timothy D. Hontzas
Katy and Joe Kindred
KPMG Foundation
Dianne S. and Edward K. Lee
Susan Marquis and Chris Thompson
Kathleen McGuire
Charles R. McMurchy
Christopher A. Noone
Ole Miss Athletics Foundation
Palmetto Bluff Company, LLC
Kim Pitts
Diane T. and Richard F. Scruggs
Joseph Seeber
Ed Seiber
Stephanie M. Self
Melissa Shelton
Tod Spieker
Kenneth J. Sufka
Sylam Foundation
Joe T. Cantu and Edward J. Upton
Leigh Vickery
Patricia C. White

ASSOCIATE

Ann J. and H. Dale Abadie
Ann and Lex Alexander
American Electric Power
Karen T. and Frank A. Anderson
Robert M. Arnold
Ben Barker
Beth P. Bartlett
Susan H. and Brett R. Bartlett
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Marshall G. Bennett
Berea College
Monica T. and Raymond L. Bergin, Jr.
John P. Besh
J. S. Blake
Ellen S. and Dan Bolen
Lucia R. and Louis K. Brandt
Jennifer W. and Benjamin Bridges
Bright Star Restaurant
Virginia F. and James G. Brooks
Rex H. Brunt
Robin C. and Denny N. Buchannon
James C. Cantrell
Kristina Carlson
Dana D. and Adrian W. Cartier
Gay L. and Steven T. Case
Ann Cashion
Pamela B. and Chris Cavanaugh
Ashley Christensen
Dinah C. and Harold N. Clark, Jr.
Mary A. and Alton B. Cobb
Sally Coenen and Dan Coenen
Ginger and Tom Colquitt
Jolyn M. and Maxwell Cooke
Darrell Crawford
Bess and John M. Currence
Faison Cushman
Denise and Fred Cypress

Barbara H. and Mike J. Daush
Nancy Davis and Richard D. Ashmore
Ashley Day
Charles L. Day
Benjamin Dotson
Ouida C. and W. W. Drinkwater, Jr.
Gordon H. Dunkin, Jr.
Carole S. and William M. Dye, Jr.
Edgemon Family Foundation
Valerie and Eron H. Epstein
Eugenia & Albert Lamar Fund
Patricia H. and Richard D. Fairlie
Judith C. and Charles H. Ferguson, Jr.
Rien T. Fertel
Michael Fischer
Emily C. and Lawrence M. Furlong
Carol H. and William T. Gafford
Jane Galvin
Wendy J. Garrison and Richard Raspet
Denise Gilbert
Shirley W. and Wayne L. Gray
Doris and Richard Gusler
Gisele P. and John R. Hansbrough
Mary D. and Samuel B. Haskell III
Catherine A. Hawkins
Susan Sadler Hayman
Steven Hedberg
Holmes Family Charitable Fund
C. Marlene and Scott W. Holmes
Chern J. and John C. Hsu
Martha Johnston
Shawnna G. Jones
Katie Button Restaurants
C. Glenn Kellum
Gloria and Jerrol L. Kellum
Sandra W. Krieger
L & B Foundation
Eugenia Lamar
Amanda B. Landry
Patricia P. and William Lewis, Jr.
Caroline A. and Leighton Lord
Mary C. Sexton and Philip R. Loria, Jr.
Tara A. and Kurte T. Luber
Lumen, Inc.
Juliette W. and Gary A. McGaha
Cindy and Sam McGann
Diane W. and Steven G. McKinney
Microsoft c/o Benevity
Floyce M. and Charles W. Misenheter
Lynda and Richard D. Mitchell
Karen C. and Robert S. Montjoy
C. Sue Moore
Marye and Paul H. Moore, Sr.
Melanie R. and Paul H. Moore, Jr.
Robert B. Moore, Jr.
Bethany E. Moreton
Shaquinta and Markeeva A. Morgan
Melva and John A. Mortimer, Jr.
Claire and Billy Moss
Michael Moyle
Murphy Oil c/o YourCause LLC
Lacy G. Newman
Mollie and Tyler Niess
Walterine P. and Cecil D. Odum
Michelle M. and Richard E. Olson
Helen G. Overstreet
Michael O. Palmer
Rose L. and Henry Paris
William E. Pegues III
John M. Pope
Diana W. and John B. Read III
Isla C. and T. R. Reckling III
Red Truck Rural Bakery LLC
HQ Regions Bank
Susan S. and William H. Rigby, Jr.
Marc Rosen
Kelley N. Rusnak
Carol C. Satterfield
Carol Sawdy and John O. Morisano
Elaine H. Scott
Mabelle G. and James L. Seawright, Jr.

EXECUTIVE \$5,000 – \$9,999

STEWARD \$500 – \$999

Seigle Family Fund
Cindy A. and Jonathan D. Seigle
Susan P. and David C. Shaw
Roy D. Sheffield
E. Lee Simmons
Catherine C. and Taylor M. Sledge, Jr.
Christin and Jason L. Smith
Glenda Smith and Henry Smith
Southeastern Asset Management Inc.
Markie Spell
Bill St. John
Cynthia A. and Morris H. Stocks
Jerry D. Strickland II
Sherry and J. Randall Strong
Laura H. and Samuel R. Thomas
Carol and James Titley
Laurie and C. J. Triplette
Jenny L. and Dennis E. Watts
George Weld
Brittany and Jan H. Westerman, Jr.
Memorie White
Carla C. and Bryan L. Williams
LeaAnne and Al L. Williams
Jacob H. Williamson
Marie L. Antoon and Charles R. Wilson
Kevin Young
STEWARD
AC Restaurant Group
C. Scott Adelman
George D. Alexander
James M. Allen
Lisa M. and William H. Andrews, Jr.
Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership
Joyce M. and Herbert Arnold III
Association of Black Women Historians
Antrece L. Baggett
Jackie P. Bailey
Robert D. Barnes
Gregory L. Best
Linda S. and Robert T. Bobo
Boeing c/o YourCause, LLC
Linda H. and Andy Broadus
Lisa Brock
Maggie and Will Brooke
Charles A. Brown
Tyler Brown
Sara J. and Thomas R. Burke
Carolyn M. Carothers
Thomas E. Chandler
F. Cade and Jason M. Clurman
Marcia S. and Donald R. Cole
Judith L. Cole
Shannon W. and Johnny Coleman, Jr.
Tonya Y. Collins
J. Richard Cox, Jr.
Ygondine S. Creasy
Norma E. and Wallace E. Davenport
Dedrick Family Foundation
Bram Dedrick
Paige Dedrick
Barbara M. and John Z. Dollarhide
Priscilla and Joe D. Dowdy, Jr.
Maurice E. Eftink
Susan S. Esslinger
Walter H. Eversmeyer III
Elizabeth R. Falls
Paul Fehribach
K. Kate Kellum and Jason H. Finch
Martha and Paul Fogleman
Teresa O. and Roy C. Fox
Ronald M. Frith
Frontstream Panorama Workplace Inc.
Lynn C. Gammill
Mitchell S. Golding
Leigh Gregory
Laura E. and W. Walton
Gresham III
Eric Hamilton
Sarah F. and John C. Hardy
Barbara B. and D. Chan Henry
Sarah V. Herron
Jackie and John S. Hicks
Harriet N. and Albert L. Hilliard
Lauren Rowe-Hobbs and Mitchell W. Hobbs

Blair Hobbs and John T. Edge
Patricia S. Hopson
W. Briggs Hopson, Jr.
Cheryn E. and Thomas P. Houston
Susan S. and John N. Hudson
Gale W. Johnson
Deanna W. and Scott Jones
Sally V. and E. Jeff Justis
Edith Kelly-Green
Joyce E. and David A. King
Kat Kinsman
Sherri S. and Raymond S. Kurz
Lafayette/Oxford Foundation for Tomorrow
Mary Beth Lassetter
Laura H. and Samuel R. Thomas
Lynn and George H. Leggett III
Sandra M. Levin
Mitchell T. Logan
Marla W. and Lowry M. Lomax
Angus Love
Mon Y. Lung
Maria Maione
Ginger B. and John W. McCaleb
Nancie S. McDermott
Suzanne M. and Alonzo L. McDonald
S. Carr McKay
Sally K. and Michael L. McNitt
Yolett A. McPhee-McCuin
Alice W. McSwain
L. Madison Michael II
Kristina and Tom Montague
Julie E. Montgomery
Angela D. and Johnny B. Mosier
Lindsay D. and James A. Murphy
Jane Kerr G. and Robert B. Nance III
David A. Nelson
Timothy Nieman
Michael Noble
Thompson Okumodi
Ted M. Ownby
Teresa M. and Phillip L. Patterson
Sheri L. Phillabaum and Roy S. Eltze
Luretha J. and William H. Phillips
Leslie Pinfsof
Regina Purnell-Adams
Bryan Rackley
Kathy S. and Lee W. Randall
Thomas E. Rankin
John H. Rice
Henry C. Ricks, Jr.
Kimberly S. and Peter Robertson
Peter T. Rogers
Amy J. Runnels
Rebecca and Thomas A. Satterfield, Jr.
Melvin H. Seid
Walter M. Shackelford
Graciela L. and Elias H. Shaer
Sara M. and William M. Shoemaker, Jr.
Margaret A. and John C. Sims
Gerald Spedale
Square Books
Hubert A. Staley
Mary E. and Jefferson B. Stancill
Margaret E. Starks
Thelma L. Stephens
Martha H. Swain
Jan and Jack Tate
The Jefferson
Fred D. Thompson
Leigh Anne R. and Sean A. Tuohy
Gail O. and R. Gerald Turner
William D. Waff
Nell B. Wall
Lynn C. Gammill
Keren E. and David K. Wells
Jesse L. White, Jr.
Lori L. and Robert E. White, Jr.
Lorri White
Dan S. Wilford
Ellen B. Meacham and John W. Winkle
Maggie L. Winters
Gingia and W. Swan Yergler

Preserving History

A \$150,000 gift bequeathed by the late Brig. Gen. John H. Napier III, a 1949 history graduate, to the Arch Dalrymple III Department of History, has better positioned the department to embrace long-range opportunities, such as supporting faculty with their research and teaching goals.

“He hoped the department could use that money to pursue the appreciation of history and research,” said Cameron Freeman Napier, the donor’s wife. “But the main thing is to advance the interests of students in the field of history.

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

Gift to Benefit Student Veterans

Kathryn Brewer Black’s most recent gift to the College benefits student veterans pursuing graduate degrees. The 1962 alumna established the David J. Brewer College of Liberal Arts Graduate Student Stipend Endowment to honor her father who served in WWII. 📖



Kathryn Black with William Kneip (left), special assistant to the chancellor for executive affairs, and Denson Hollis, executive director for principal gifts.

// TO READ MORE, VISIT VFV ONLINE.

Founded in 1848, the College of Liberal Arts is the oldest and largest division of the University of Mississippi. The College offers a broad and comprehensive course of study, including most areas of knowledge in the fine & performing arts, humanities, natural sciences & mathematics, and social sciences.

Lee M. Cohen
Dean

Kirsten Dellinger
Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion

Donald L. Dyer
Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs

Charles L. Hussey
Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education

Holly Reynolds
Associate Dean

Nikki Neely Davis
Executive Director of Development

Ron Wilson
Director of Development

Caroline Hourin
Development Associate

Rob Jolly
Managing Associate Director of Development

Claire Moss
Associate Director of Development

AEROSPACE STUDIES
LTC Chris Maroney, Chair

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
Ethel Scurlock, Director

ART & ART HISTORY
Nancy Wicker, Interim Chair

BIOLOGY
Gregg Roman, Chair

CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY
Greg Tschumper, Chair

CLASSICS
Molly Pasco-Pranger, Chair

ECONOMICS
Jon Moen, Chair

ENGLISH
Ivo Kamps, Chair

ARCH DALRYMPLE III
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
Noell Wilson, Chair

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Oliver Dinius, Director

MATHEMATICS
James Reid, Chair

MILITARY SCIENCE
LTC Vincent L. Jackson, Chair

MODERN LANGUAGES
Daniel O’Sullivan, Chair

MUSIC
Nancy Maria Balach,
Interim Chair

NAVAL SCIENCE
CAPT David Neal, Chair

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION
Steven Skultety, Chair

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY
Luca Bombelli, Chair

POLITICAL SCIENCE
John Bruce, Chair

PSYCHOLOGY
Rebekah Smith, Chair

PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP
Mark Chen, Chair

SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY
Jeff Jackson, Chair

THEATRE & FILM
Michael Barnett, Chair

WRITING & RHETORIC
Stephen Monroe, Chair

CENTER FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH
Tony Boudreaux, Director

HALEY BARBOUR CENTER FOR THE
STUDY OF AMERICAN POLITICS

CENTER FOR BIODIVERSITY
& CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
Glenn Parsons, Director

CENTER FOR CIVIL WAR RESEARCH
April Holm, Director

CLINICAL-DISASTER RESEARCH
CENTER
Stefan Schulenberg, Director

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC SCIENCE
AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION
Mark Van Boening, Director

HEALTH PROFESSIONS
ADVISING OFFICE
Sovent Taylor, Director

MCLEAN INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC
SERVICE & COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
Albert Nylander, Director

MISSISSIPPI GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE
David Rutherford, Director

CENTER FOR POPULATION STUDIES
John Green, Director

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES CENTER
Scott Gustafson, Director

THE SARAH ISOM CENTER FOR
WOMEN & GENDER STUDIES
Jaime Harker, Director

SOCIAL SCIENCE
RESEARCH LABORATORY
Jonathan Winburn, Director

CENTER FOR THE STUDY
OF SOUTHERN CULTURE
Katie McKee, Director

John Neff

Noell Wilson remembers beloved history professor John Neff deep in conversation with his students. “The students were comfortable and settled in for a long conversation. This wasn’t going to be a five-minute chat. He was really invested in them,” said Wilson, chair of the Arch Dalrymple III Department of History.

Neff, 58, who joined the faculty in 1999, died January 30 in Oxford. His students and colleagues remember his insatiable curiosity and an ability to gently challenge his students to examine their preconceived notions on even the most difficult subjects. The award-winning teacher founded UM’s Center for Civil War Research and is the author of *Honoring the Civil War Dead: Commemoration and the Problem of Reconciliation*.

In 2018, he served on the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on History and Context. During the ceremony unveiling six markers on campus Neff spoke and received a standing ovation.

“Thus, as we confront today’s crossroad, accompanied by the perspective permitted by both history and memory, we also acknowledge that the decisions made in the past are not our decisions today,” he said. “By contextualizing these important aspects of our campus, we emphasize the distance we have traveled between our time and theirs, all the crossroads through which we have passed.” 🇺🇸

// MAKE A GIFT: ROB JOLLY,
JOLLY@OLEMISS.EDU, 662.915.3085



Mark Frezzo

“With deep sorrow we recognize the loss of dear colleague and friend, Mark Vincent Frezzo, who passed away peacefully surrounded by his family in California on May 11,” said Jeff Jackson, chair of sociology and anthropology.

Hired in 2010, Frezzo, an associate professor of sociology, taught classes on human rights, peace and justice, law, poverty, and globalization to undergraduate and graduate students on the DeSoto and Oxford campuses.

“He put his students first and was deeply dedicated to making education accessible to all,” Jackson said. “This is evident in the effusive praise he received from the students he mentored and impacted.

“A brilliant and productive scholar of human rights and social justice, Mark led these conversations at national and international levels, at conferences and in articles and books, addressing both the theoretical and applied implications of this work.

“Mark brought a rare humility and ‘good of the whole’ perspective to everything he did. He supported and helped people in selfless and ethically centered ways. He was quiet, present, thoughtful, and funny. Our department and the university have suffered a great loss.” 🇺🇸

// MAKE A GIFT: CAROLINE HOURIN,
CEHOURIN@OLEMISS.EDU, 662.915.6385



Kevin Malloy

“Kevin Malloy was a kind man and a great colleague. He died of COVID-19 on April 16,” said Stephen Monroe, chair of writing & rhetoric.

The Louisville, Kentucky, native taught speech as an instructor in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric. He had been with the university since 2006.

“Our department is grieving alongside his wife, Rhona, a professor of theatre & film, and daughter, Amanda. We miss our friend Kevin.”

Malloy, 67, was an avid reader, lover of the arts, and an actor for a portion of his life. 🇺🇸





THE UNIVERSITY of
MISSISSIPPI

College of
Liberal Arts

Ventress Hall
P.O. Box 1848
University, MS 38677

Change Service Requested



/ UMLIBARTS

LIBARTS.OLEMISS.EDU



HELP THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS GROW

Did you know that private support allows the College of Liberal Arts to award scholarships, conduct outreach, help students connect their academic work to real-world experience, and provide faculty development opportunities?

Donors know that a liberal arts education is as wide and varied as our students. We set the foundation for all degrees earned at the University of Mississippi, and offer **35** undergraduate majors, **32** graduate degrees, and **52** undergraduate minors in disciplines associated with the arts, humanities, natural sciences, mathematics, and social sciences. We teach students to successfully navigate complexity, diversity, and change—readying them for the widest array of career options. Better yet, we prepare students for a meaningful life.

For information about how you can be a part of our work, please visit
<https://give.olemiss.edu/where-to-give/schools-and-colleges/college-of-liberal-arts/> or call 662.915.1755.