

ACCOUNTANT

NEWS FROM THE PATTERSON SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

www.olemiss.edu/depts/accountancy

Nothing 'Minor' About It

Alumnus establishes \$1 million trust

University of Mississippi alumnus Lucian S. Minor (BS 37) of Memphis has established a trust of \$1 million to benefit the university's Patterson School of Accountancy.

A longtime donor, he established the Lucian S. Minor Endowment in 1996 to benefit the accountancy school, and this latest gift will add to the school's growing endowment.

"Many of the courses that I took at Ole Miss contributed to my success in the business world, particularly in the accounting field," Minor said. "I'm glad to share some of my success with Ole Miss. Hopefully some needy students will benefit from my contribution."

The gift, his second charitable remainder annuity trust, allows Minor and his wife, Mary, to receive interest income from the trust during their lifetimes. The remainder of the trust will ultimately be incorporated into the endowment.

"We are tremendously grateful to Lucian and Mary Minor for their generosity to the School of Accountancy and their loyalty to Ole



Lucian S. Minor

A charitable remainder annuity trust not only allows for annuity payments to the donor and spouse for life but also can provide significant tax benefits. Since this type of trust is not subject to capital gains or estate taxes, it is an attractive option for people who wish to make a large charitable gift and retain the benefits of an annuity.

The gift is part of the university's MomentUM Campaign, a four-year initiative to raise \$200 million. MomentUM, which ends in December 2008, already has raised more than \$180 million for scholarships, graduate fellowships, faculty support, a basketball practice facility, residential colleges and a new law school on the Oxford campus. Also in the plan is a cancer center at the UM Medical Center in Jackson.

The Lucian S. Minor Endowment fund was established to provide scholarship assistance for deserving students who are pursuing a degree in accountancy, support for a lecture

'I'm glad to share my success with Ole Miss. Hopefully ... students will benefit from my contribution.'

—LUCIAN S. MINOR

Miss," said Wendell Weakley, president of The University of Mississippi Foundation. "We are especially thrilled about this gift since it not only benefits Ole Miss but also provides many benefits to these wonderful supporters of our university."

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Ole Miss Accountant is published biannually by the School of Accountancy.

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Comments or suggestions?
Call 662-915-7623



FROM THE DEAN

Dear Accountancy Alumni:

As usual, things are busy here at the Patterson School of Accountancy.

We recently concluded another exciting academic year in the Patterson School. On May 10, we awarded 134 bachelor's degrees, 50 Master of Accountancy degrees, 29 Master of Taxation degrees and three doctorates. Our commencement ceremony was held in the Ford Center for the Performing Arts and was highlighted by the commencement address of Gene Henson, north region president of Trustmark National Bank (and father of one of our graduates). Gene delivered an inspiring address that was well-received by students, families and friends.

We offered a full slate of classes this summer and once again enjoyed a very large summer enrollment. Preliminary enrollment numbers for the fall 2008 semester are very strong. The Patterson School continues to grow and thrive.

This issue of *Ole Miss Accountant* will update you on school events, the accomplishments of our faculty and students, and the achievements of our alumni. You will see that our faculty members are outstanding representatives of the Patterson School and The University of Mississippi, our students are dedicated and highly motivated, and our alumni are generous and willing supporters of the school and the university.

Our spring internship program continues to flourish. An all-time high of 69 students participated in the program during the spring of 2008. Students interned with 25 firms in 17 cities, eight states and two countries (we had one student intern in London). We are now preparing for the spring 2009 class of interns, which will include more than 80 students.

Accountancy Weekend 2008 was a great success, beginning with our annual Honors Banquet. Many awards were presented to our students, and the ceremony was highlighted by the induction of Joseph C. Weller into the Accountancy Hall of Fame. The faculty awards went to longtime outstanding teachers and researchers. This year's Outstanding Teacher was Dr. Jimmy Davis, who won the award for a record fifth time. Dr. Dale Flesher was named Outstanding Researcher for the seventh time, also a record.

The next day, our continuing education program featured wonderful guest speakers including Bill Taylor, Lloyd Grissinger, Sally Herbert, Ron Lott, Quinby Dobbins and Steve Wells. More than 100 attendees registered for the event, and we are pleased that interest continues to grow.

In May, Beta Alpha Psi hosted its fourth annual golf tournament to raise funds for student activities and travel. The event began with an extremely popular "meet-the-firms" session for students and concluded with the awarding of the Burkett Cup to the winning team. This award is named in honor of retired faculty member Dr. Homer Burkett, who served as sponsor of Beta Alpha Psi for many years.

As always, I would like to express my deep gratitude for your support of the Patterson School of Accountancy. Our alumni and friends are tremendously generous and a model for the rest of the university. Please visit us when you are on campus, and let us know if we can be of help to you in any way.

Sincerely,

W. Mark Wilder
Dean and KPMG Professor

Morgan Keegan founding member joins Hall of Fame

Joseph C. Weller (BBA 61) of Memphis is the 2008 inductee into the Patterson School of Accountancy's Alumni Hall of Fame.

Weller, vice chairman and executive managing director of Morgan Keegan and one of the firm's founding members in 1969, was honored during the school's annual spring Honors Banquet.

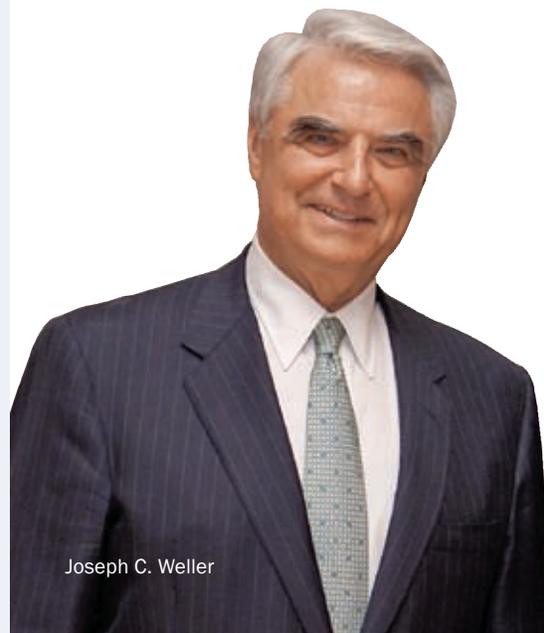
"It was such a pleasure to induct Joe Weller into our Patterson School of Accountancy Hall of Fame," said Dean Mark Wilder. "He has had a tremendous career with Morgan Keegan and is so deserving of this honor. Joe has been loyal and generous to the Patterson School and Ole Miss for many years, and we are very grateful for his support."

A 1961 UM graduate with a bachelor's in business administration, Weller served as Morgan Keegan's chief financial officer for 37 years before retiring from the position in 2006.

"It is very special when the school that prepared you for your profession recognizes you for something you did during your career," Weller said.

A native of Clarksdale, Weller moved to Memphis for his first job, working for fellow accountancy school alumnus Lucian Minor (BS 37) at Minor and Moore CPA Firm.

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Joseph C. Weller

Free service in filing tax returns valuable for recipients, students

by Lori Simpson

Kevin Bain



Amanda Pounds, an accounting graduate student from Houston, helps an Oxford resident with her taxes at Stone Recreation Center.

Last spring, graduate students from The University of Mississippi's Patterson School of Accountancy participated in Tax-Aide, a program of the AARP Foundation that has helped people with low to medium incomes with their income tax returns for 40 years.

The service was offered to the public each Tuesday through the April 15 filing deadline at Stone Recreation Center on Washington Avenue in Oxford.

Tax return preparers with several years of experience, who had passed IRS certifying exams, supervised the student participants, said Tonya Flesher, professor, Arthur Andersen Lecturer in accountancy and coordinator of the service project.

Graduate student Clark Luke of Philadelphia said the program was a great learning experience.

"In addition to gaining valuable tax experience, we were also able to help out the community by providing this free tax service," he said.

Luke and other student participants are graduate students enrolled in Flesher's Accountancy 603, Contemporary Issues in Taxation. According to Flesher, the students also took an intensive examination

prepared by the IRS in order to be certified to participate.

For certification, students were required to correctly answer at least 80 percent of questions on the examination. Although the service project itself did not affect a student's final grade, the score of the exam did, Flesher said.

In the past, the program was sponsored locally by accountancy honor society Beta Alpha Psi and the Associated Graduate Student Body. It was offered one or two days during the spring semester, and electronic filing was not readily available. Electronic filing, which allows quicker receipt of tax refunds, is a primary benefit of the Tax-Aide program.

Students benefited from the real-world work experience.

"Instead of working with facts listed in a homework assignment, students learned how to gather information from the clients," Flesher said.

"We had done several practice returns in different classes but not any that were actually filed as these were," said Charles Allen, a graduate student from Greenwood. "It's nice to get some real-world experience before we enter the workforce." ■

Minor endowment
continued from Page 1

series in the school and other academic needs. When the remainder of the trust is added to the endowment, administrators in the accountancy school plan to use the funds to help create a permanent endowed faculty chair.

Faculty support is critical to helping the Patterson School maintain its status as a top 25 accounting program in the United States.

"Lucian Minor is a longtime supporter of the Patterson School of Accountancy and has been one of our most faithful alumni over the years," said Mark Wilder, dean. "We are so grateful for his loyalty and generosity. This gift from the Minors will benefit our school in countless ways. It will significantly impact both faculty and students and make our program even stronger."

Minor is a financial consultant and retired accountant. After graduating from Ole Miss in 1937, he worked for General Mills Inc. in Minneapolis, where he was assigned to the internal audit staff and worked in more than 25 of the company's largest offices across the country. He then joined the Navy, and, after four years of service, he was discharged in 1946 as a lieutenant commander. Afterwards, he began his own accountancy firm in Memphis, which merged with Ernst & Ernst (now Ernst & Young). He became partner-in-charge of the Memphis office after the merger and held the post until retiring in 1978.

In 2005, the Ole Miss Alumni Association recognized Minor with its highest annual honor, inducting him into the Alumni Hall of Fame. Minor has also received the accountancy school's highest annual honor and was inducted into its hall of fame in 1997.

"Lucian Minor gave me my first job at Ernst & Ernst after I graduated from the Patterson School of Accountancy at Ole Miss," said Larry Hardy, a longtime friend of Minor's who was inducted into the school's hall of fame in 2006. "He's been a wonderful friend and mentor and has made an impact on my life and career. This recent gift from him shows his continued support of Ole Miss students and faculty, which I think is truly wonderful and inspiring." ■

Working It Out

Internal audit offers hands-on experience

Accounting students at The University of Mississippi are gaining real-world experience in the university's Office of Internal Audit.

Internal audit aims to provide independent, objective guidance to help improve the university's operation. This is accomplished by bringing a systematic approach to evaluating and improving the effectiveness of risk management and internal controls.

Lynn Mills, director of internal audit, said the department employs four accountancy students, including two senior interns and two graduate assistants, as well as one nonaccountancy student. They perform departmental clerical duties and assist in audit-related tasks.

"This experience also helps the students," Mills said. "Most of the seniors in the School of Accountancy perform an external internship in the spring of their senior years. The students have stated that experience in our department has been beneficial when interviewing for these internships."

Whitney Farrell (BAccy 07) of Ripley, who completed an internal audit internship, said interns and graduate assistants are expected to collaborate in assessing risks within the university, as well as contribute ideas regarding potential weaknesses and measures to address issues.

"Communication skills, both verbal and written, are vital so that interns and graduate assistants can convey information effectively to university departments,

those in the internal audit department," she said. "This will benefit me in my career in public accounting, which will involve a great deal of communication with current and potential clients as well as across all levels and locations within the firm.

"I also had the opportunity to meet some extraordinary people, have built strong friendships and was able to network across many disciplines by working with various departments on campus."

Student intern Max Graupner, originally from Germany, lived in Tupelo for two years before coming to UM. He began his studies at Ole Miss as a business management major, but, after taking Accounting 201 and 202 under Suzanne McCaffrey, he decided to change his major to accounting.

"I met with Dr. Mark Wilder, and he explained to me the great opportunities I would have with an accounting degree and that this degree would be a great foundation for my professional career," Graupner said.

Accountancy Dean Mark Wilder said students who work in internal audit get valuable experience, and he is grateful for the unique benefit it provides.

"For the undergraduate students, it is often their first real-world experience, which is very useful to them in their future internships or full-time work," Wilder said. "While our graduate students have typically already worked in an external internship with public accounting firms or corporations, their work in the Office of Internal Audit provides exposure not only to internal audit issues but also to the unique accounting systems used by colleges and universities."

For fall 2008, the following students are members of the internal audit team: Matthew Chambliss of Greenwood, graduate assistant; Meredith McDaniel of Brighton, Tenn., graduate assistant; Hannah Graham of Eupora, graduate assistant; and student interns Graupner and Jessica Pierce of Hattiesburg.

Accounting students interested in the internship program can contact Mills at tmills@olemiss.edu or visit www.olemiss.edu/depts/internal_audit. ■



Four accountancy students currently work in the Office of Internal Audit. The experience allows them to positively affect university operations across campus.

"In 2007, the students began performing internal-control assessments within the university departments based on our annual risk assessment," Mills said. "The students perform these audits for 20 hours per week, unless we need assistance for a special project."

At first, internal audit staff trained the students to perform the audits, but now the graduate assistants train the incoming seniors each year.

as well as within the internal audit team," Farrell said.

She is studying for the CPA exam, which she plans to take before she starts full-time work in August as a staff auditor with Dixon Hughes, PLLC, in Dallas. She said her work in internal audit helped her understand the unique issues of accounting for colleges and universities.

"I was able to practice communication skills with departmental personnel and

KPMG establishes professorship in accountancy

by Sonia Thompson

Big Four accounting firm KPMG, LLP, has established the KPMG Professorship in Accountancy at The University of Mississippi.

In 2002, several KPMG partners established a lectureship in accountancy, a position that requires a \$250,000 commitment. Now, KPMG partners and other employees have committed to growing the fund to more than \$500,000 to establish a full professorship.

“We understand the goals and objectives of the Patterson School of Accountancy, and we’re happy to step it up and continue our support,” said Matt Lusco (BBA 79), managing partner in the Memphis and Birmingham KPMG offices. “We benefit a lot from the outstanding talent that’s available to us, and we hire a number of Ole Miss graduates in many of our offices around the country. We’re proud of our partnership with the Patterson School and hope to keep growing this position until it reaches the endowed chair level.”

Besides financial support, KPMG has granted the Patterson School “premier” status. This KPMG designation is given to 40 schools nationwide for placing high-achieving students in KPMG International’s member firm offices.

“We are especially grateful to KPMG for this generous gift to the Patterson School of Accountancy,” said Wendell

Weakley, president of The University of Mississippi Foundation. “KPMG is a long-time supporter of the Patterson School, and many of our graduates go on to rewarding careers with the firm. Clearly, KPMG is committed to helping provide our students with the best accounting education possible.”

‘Clearly, KPMG is committed to helping provide our students with the best accounting education possible.’

—WENDELL WEAKLEY

The current holder of the KPMG Professorship is Mark Wilder, who is also dean of the Patterson School.

Professorships, endowed chairs and other esteemed positions are usually held by faculty members whose accomplishments indicate national and international leadership in their fields. Typically, the faculty member’s efforts are focused on enhancing teaching skills and establish-

ing superior records of research or other scholarly activity.

“I am honored to hold the KPMG Professorship,” Wilder said. “Our undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs are all ranked among the top 30 in the nation, and KPMG’s support will enable us to continue our tremendous success. We have a great partnership with KPMG. We are especially grateful to our alumni with the firm, not only for their financial support but also for hiring our students and enabling us to achieve ‘premier’ school status.”

Wilder, who has taught at UM since 1993, is a certified public accountant whose primary teaching experience is in financial accounting. He has conducted research in a variety of areas, including earnings forecasting, financial reporting and issues facing the profession.

Wilder is actively involved in university and professional service. He served a term as president of the Northeast Chapter of the Mississippi Society of CPAs, and he recently completed a two-year term on the MSCPA Board of Governors. In 2005, he received the campuswide Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award, the highest teaching honor for UM faculty.

Like Lucian Minor’s recent gift (see Page 1), KPMG’s gift is part of the university’s MomentUM Campaign, a four-year initiative to raise \$200 million. ■

Interim dean, KPMG Professor selected to lead Patterson School

Mark Wilder was named dean of the Patterson School of Accountancy at The University of Mississippi in June.

Wilder, who is also KPMG Professor, joined the UM faculty in 1993 after completing doctoral studies in accountancy at Florida State University. He was named interim dean of accountancy last year, replacing Morris Stocks, who was appointed to a newly created senior vice chancellor post, later moving to provost.

“In Dr. Wilder’s 15 years at The University of Mississippi, he has demonstrated his commitment to the teaching, research

and service missions of the school,” Stocks said. “The future of the Patterson School of Accountancy is bright because of his leadership.”

Wilder said he is honored to lead the Patterson School. His plans for the school include CPA exam results that are among the best in the SEC and increased faculty publications in the elite accounting journals.

“A key priority is for us to improve in these areas while in no way sacrificing our top strengths,” he said. “We have a decades-old tradition of recruiting good students into accounting, being a very stu-

dent-oriented faculty, staying closely connected with our alumni and helping our students get placed in good professional positions. I am firmly committed to making sure we continue to strengthen and build on this tradition.”

A native of Jacksonville, Ala., Wilder is married to the former Denise “Dede” English of Pensacola, Fla. Their children are Sam and Zach.

Wilder’s appointment is subject to approval by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. ■

ACCOUNTANCY AWARDS



2008 Associated Accountancy Student Body Officers
 Jeffrey M. Payne (left), Ben Wilson Van Landuyt, Rebecca K. Lo, Robert Preston Derivaux, Patrick Sanford McDavid and William Wesley Crowley



Horne LLP Scholarship in Accountancy
 Ashley Rebecca Church (left), Mary Kathryn Thomas, Jason McDavid, Ron Applewhite, Garner Gaines Williams, Ashley Lorraine Perkins and Sarah Catherine White



Peery Scholarship
 Charles Seth Hudspeth (left), Samuel Hardy Farris III, Martha Peery Williston, Neil Thomas Tabor and Cassi Gwendolyn Franks



James W. Davis Scholarship in Accountancy
 Peyton Britt Smith (left), Scott Andrew Stewart, Stephanie Ann Henson, James W. Davis, Katherine Pruette Farris and Charles Robert Gautier



Wendell Weakley Scholarship
 Wendell Weakley (left) and Ben Hammond Satyshur



Collins Scholarship in Accountancy
 Gino Lashaey Johnson (left), J. Mitchell Collins and Jessica Clarice Ayers



McCarty Family Scholarship
 Gerilynn Petty (left), Dennis J. Pickens and Cynthia Ann Fry



Taylor Medalists

Robert Preston Derivaux (left), Rebecca K. Lo and Cassi Gwendolyn Franks



Thompson Dunavant Scholarship

Lloyd Grissinger (left), Cornelius Block Harris, Ryan Patrick Hoormann and N. Gordon Thompson



Who's Who

Front row from left: Gerilynn Petty, Stephanie Ann Henson, Katherine Pruette Farris, Mary Kathryn Thomas, Jeannie Letitia Blair, Cassi Gwendolyn Franks, Rebecca K. Lo. Back row from left: Joseph Robert Wright, Joshua Lee Norris, Joshua Charles Rorie, Evan Davidson Norton, Preethi Subramanian, Timothy James Blevins



Phi Kappa Phi

Front row from left: Amanda Michelle Holsworth, Lindsey Marie Peresich, Patrick Sanford McDavid, Scott Andrew Stewart, Preethi Subramanian. Back row from left: Matthew Graham Metcalf, Justin Daniel Head, Matthew James Crittenden, Jere Matthews Sights III



Charles and Ginger Clark Scholarship

Charles Clark (left) and Laura Carol Zachow



Outstanding Graduate Students

Annette Bernice Pridgen (left) and Chad Reynolds Deweese



Johnny Williams Memorial Scholarship

Maximilian Graupner (left) and James Francis Simpson



ACCOUNTANCY AWARDS



Nettie Young Scholarship in Accountancy
Willis Young (left), Amanda Michelle Holsworth and Arnold L. Young



Roger and Susie Friou Scholarship
Jesse James Austin (left), Roger Friou and Ben Wilson Van Landuyt



DeMiller Scholarship
James W. Davis (left), Margaret Grace Joyner and Blair Karisa Harden



Northrop Grumman Scholarship
Stribling A. Whites (left), Bo Kyoung Kim and Evan Davidson Norton



Lucian Minor Scholarship in Accountancy
Antonia Louise Pittari



James and Paula Martin Scholarship in Accountancy
Allison Ann Garner (left) and Paula Martin



Annie Bell H. Friou Tax Fellowship
Sherry Ye Jia (left) and Roger Friou



Accountancy Alumni Chapter Academic Achievement Award
Jere Matthews Sights III (left), Matthew Graham Metcalf, Matthew James Crittenden, Amanda Michelle Holsworth, Justin Daniel Head and Patrick Sanford McDavid



Accountancy Alumni Hall of Fame
Fred G. Ray (left), Jacob M. Fried Jr., Leo Bools Jr., Joseph C. Weller (2008 inductee), Larry J. Hardy and Arnold L. Young



Outstanding Teacher
James W. Davis (left) and W. Mark Wilder. Students have named Davis Outstanding Teacher five times.



Pearce, Bevill, Leesburg and Moore Scholarship
Thomas Blake Edwards (left) and David Williams



Flesher and Flesher Fellowship
Dale L. Flesher (left) and Rebecca K. Lo



Claude Thompson Ole Miss First Scholarship
Gino Lashaey Johnson (left) and N. Gordon Thompson



PricewaterhouseCoopers Fellowship
James Wallace Gunn III (left) and Reatha Clark

ACCOUNTANCY AWARDS



Dixon Hughes (formerly Rhea and Ivy) Fellowship
Anthony Clark (left) and Charles Matthew Barrett



Deloitte and Touche Fellowship
Jeannie Letitia Blair (left), Barry Atkins and Chad Reynolds Deweese



KPMG Peat Marwick Fellowship
Preethi Subramanian (left) and C. Matthew Lusco



Outstanding Researcher
Dale L. Flesher (left) and W. Mark Wilder. Flesher has received the award seven times.



Will Townsend Memorial Scholarship
Van Robinson Burnham



Bill Rayburn Scholarship
Alicia Ann Lauderdale



Frank Hughes Scholarship
William Wesley Crowley



Outstanding Accounting Major—Tupelo Center

Jinnie Lynn Coleman



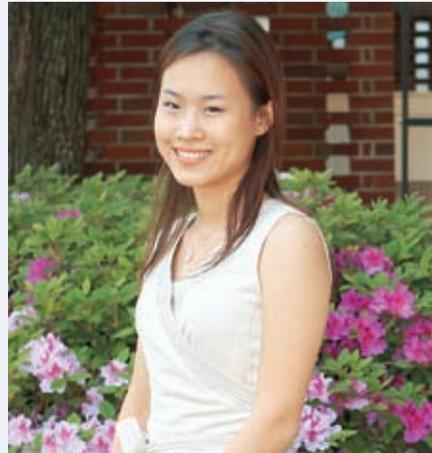
Mississippi Society of CPAs Achievement Award

Timothy Wayne Ellis



Institute of Management Accountants Outstanding Graduate Student

Evan Elliott Stenstrom



Arthur Andersen & Co./W. Kelly Clifford Fellowship

Bo Kyoung Kim

Looking back on his success, Weller credits the university for preparing him well.

“I think the education experience I had at Ole Miss certainly gave me the foundation I needed for my career,” he said. “The great experiences you receive both in the classroom and on campus will last you a lifetime.”

Recalling many fond memories of his time at UM, Weller complimented the faculty. “Ole Miss has always had the best accounting professors,” he said. “My favorite teacher was Professor Gene Peery. He brought such energy to his classes and took the time to get to know his students.

“In addition to learning the academic part of accounting, learning to communicate and interact with people is so important. Ole Miss certainly provides great opportunities to learn and practice these skills.”

Weller’s strong people skills are evident in his participation in professional circles throughout his career. He served in various industry positions with the National Association of Security Dealers, Securities Industry Association and American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and as president of Financial Executives International. He has also served as a trustee of the UMAA Foundation.

Weller and his wife, Ann, are the parents of three adult children and seven grandchildren. ■

Standing Tall

Accountancy students selected for new Columns Society

Four accountancy students will serve The University of Mississippi as members of the Columns Society, a group of 12 men and 12 women selected to be official student hosts for the university.

The group’s primary role is to attend functions to welcome visitors and guests to Ole Miss. Humble service, leadership and integrity are the newly formed organization’s core principles.

Accountancy students inducted into the group last spring include senior Ben Van Landuyt of Springfield, Mo., junior Richard McKay of Philadelphia, junior

Dennis Pickens of Lawrence and junior Charles Gautier of Long Beach.

“Although there are many organizations on a college campus, very few allow you to become involved on an intimate level,” Pickens said. “After hearing about the Columns Society, I knew that it would allow me to connect with the university on that level, and, as a multifaceted organization, the Columns Society has lived up to my expectations.” ■

Ben Van Landuyt (left), Richard McKay, Dennis Pickens and Charles Gautier

Kevin Bain



Faculty couple co-chairs annual meeting

Two accountancy faculty members at The University of Mississippi saw the fruits of their labor after months of preparation as program co-chairs for the American Accounting Association's annual meeting, held Aug. 3-6 in Anaheim, Calif.

Dale and Tonya Flesher, husband and wife and longtime faculty members in the Patterson School of Accountancy, juggled more than 1,400 professional papers and panel-session proposals submitted for

It's a terrible responsibility, and they have done a magnificent job."

In all, the program featured 900 presentations, many of which had two or three co-authors. Besides plenary sessions for the entire assemblage, there were several miniplenary sessions for groups of about 1,000. The remainder of the program consisted of 90-minute sessions covering nearly 50 topics during the four days.

An undertaking of this magnitude by the two faculty members provides a great opportunity for UM's accountancy school,

size the managerial uses of accounting or are concerned with governmental accounting. A successful conference has to consider all of these interests. And since it is an international conference, there has to be something for the Chinese, Japanese, Scandinavians, Australians and every other nationality."

While the work has been intense and time consuming, the rewards have been great, said Dale Flesher, associate dean, professor and Arthur Andersen Alumni Lecturer.

"Working together with the leading accountancy thinkers in the world is a joy. We have communicated with leaders of the major CPA firms, large corpora-

'Having two of our faculty members co-chairing the AAA annual conference further enhances the Patterson School of Accountancy's position as a leading research group.'

—DEAN MARK WILDER



Robert Jordan

Kevin Bain

Tonya Flesher

Dale Flesher

possible presentation at the meeting of more than 3,000 accounting professionals from around the world. It was the largest attendance in the organization's 92-year history.

The association's president, Gary Previts, E. Mandell de Windt Professor of Leadership and Enterprise Development at Case Western Reserve University, praised the Fleshers for their work.

"Dale and Tonya Flesher have orchestrated and coordinated the single most important annual event in terms of our discipline," Previts said. "They have had to interact with scores of people from around the world, screen hundreds of submissions and plan a program on numerous topics that will appeal to different nationalities.

said Dean Mark Wilder.

"Having two of our faculty members co-chairing the AAA annual conference further enhances the Patterson School of Accountancy's position as a leading research group. The visibility this provides is tremendous."

Putting together a successful conference for accountants is a difficult task because of the broad range of topics in the field. Additionally, about 60 percent of the submissions came from accountants and accounting professors outside the United States, said Tonya Flesher, Arthur Andersen Professor of Accountancy.

"Some people specialize in taxation while others conduct audits and prepare financial reports, and still others empha-

tions, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Government Accountability Office, various accountancy professional groups and other organizations to be sure that the most up-to-date regulations and pronouncements are incorporated into the meeting program."

The Fleshers have been at Ole Miss for 31 years. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Ball State University, and his doctorate is from the University of Cincinnati. He is president of the AAA's Teaching and Curriculum Section, and he was named the Patterson School's Outstanding Researcher of the Year last spring. She holds a bachelor's from Ball State, a master's from Appalachian State University and a doctorate from Ole Miss. Formerly dean of the School of Accountancy, she was the first woman to be appointed to a deanship at the university. ■

Honorary organization Beta Alpha Psi evolves



Last year's Beta Alpha Psi officers included (front row from left) Amanda Michelle Holsworth, Dena Jackson Lester and Rachel Diane Nehring, and (back row from left) Joshua Lee Norris, Jeffrey M. Payne and Matthew Samuel Glover. Under their leadership, the organization was named a distinguished chapter. This year's officers hope to build on their success.

Changes are coming to the Ole Miss chapter of Beta Alpha Psi as it prepares to build on its already strong foundation.

For starters, Suzanne McCaffrey, who has overseen the chapter since 2003, has been elected director at large for the Southeast region of the organization, meaning she will serve as faculty adviser for all 53 chapters in Beta Alpha Psi's largest region.

Under McCaffrey's tutelage, the Ole Miss group was named a distinguished chapter by the national organization for the first time in years after meeting a required number of professional and service hours per member.

With McCaffrey in the regional position, J Shaw will take over as the Ole Miss chapter adviser. "It's something I have always been very interested in and supporting of," Shaw said, adding that he was president of the Beta Alpha Psi chapter at Oklahoma State, where he earned his master's degree.

McCaffrey's new responsibilities will include communicating with all 53

chapters in her region, advising chapters on probation, assisting new chapters through the installation process, attending annual national and regional meetings, and tending to administrative duties that come with the adviser role. Her level of involvement will also serve as a role model to students in the Patterson School.

"Beta Alpha Psi is the only School of Accountancy student organization that's an active group," McCaffrey said. "So it really makes a difference if you're involved."

Amanda Holsworth, a senior accountancy student from Coppell, Texas, and president of the Ole Miss chapter, agrees. "I would suggest every member of the accountancy school become part of Beta Alpha Psi," Holsworth said. "It's a great opportunity to make connections with peers, faculty and professionals."

Involvement will be a top priority for the incoming group of officers.

In fact, the group has increased the number of officers in order to encourage more participation among members. "The more officer positions, the more

people participate, and the more opportunity to serve," Shaw said.

In addition to Holsworth, this year's officers include Josh Norris, vice president of programming; Spencer Butcher, vice president of social activities; Jessica Ayers, vice president of activities; Lindsey Peresich, vice president of publicity; Jeff Payne, vice president of membership; Matt Glover, vice president of service; Matt Crittenden, vice president of communications; Chasity Skeen, treasurer; Scott Stewart, recording secretary; and Emily Mosquera, corresponding secretary.

Shaw looks forward to the chance to advise the student group. "Ole Miss students are top notch," he said. "They're well-spoken, hardworking and intelligent. This officer group is very representative of those characteristics."

The Ole Miss chapter of Beta Alpha Psi includes around 50 members who meet regularly each semester. The organization gives students a chance to be connected with the accountancy school and to meet professionals in the field. "It's a way to start getting networked into that community," Shaw said.

Beta Alpha Psi will host its annual "Meet the Firms" event Sept. 2 to offer accountancy students a chance to meet recruiters. Last year, 20 firms participated, and Shaw expects that number to increase this year.

The chapter held its fourth annual golf tournament May 2. Despite rainy weather, the event was a success, giving students a chance to interact with accountancy professionals during a reception, lunch and on the golf course. The money raised at the annual tournament allowed five students to travel with McCaffrey and Shaw to the annual Beta Alpha Psi meeting held Aug. 7-9 in Anaheim, Calif. ■

Published doctoral grads adding up

Five graduates of The University of Mississippi's doctoral program in accountancy have distinguished themselves professionally not only by establishing successful careers in higher education but also by having their dissertations published as books.

They are James W. Davis (BBA 62, MS 63, PhD 73), Felix Amenkhienan (BBA 75, MBA 76, PhD 84), Margaret Hoskins (PhD 92), Laurie Barfitt (PhD 06) and Rich Criscione (PhD 08).

Associate Dean Dale Flesher said this puts the Patterson School above the national average for published doctoral graduates.

"One study showed that only about 1 percent of doctoral dissertations are

"We put a copy [of the book] in the hands of every member and in every collegiate library in the state," Davis said. "It was a timely project because there were people still alive who were pioneers in the accountancy profession in Mississippi. I interviewed people who entered the profession before 1920 when the first law regulating the profession was passed in the state."

Amenkhienan's dissertation, *Accounting in Developing Countries: A Framework for Standards Setting*, was published in 1986 by University Microfilms International. Targeting accounting academics, policy makers and standard setters, the book suggests a model for developing and emerging economies to set standards relevant to their under-

where she has been since she completed her doctorate at Ole Miss. Her dissertation, *Mary E. Murphy's Contributions to Accountancy*, was published by Garland Publishing, Inc., in 1994.

Murphy was the first Fulbright Professor of Accounting and a leading author of *The Accounting Review* from 1946-65. "Murphy's accomplishments are particularly noteworthy because they occurred during a time when women were discouraged from entering the accounting profession," Hoskins said. "She was unique during her time because she recognized changes that were taking place in the world and envisioned the effect of those changes on the accounting profession."

Reflecting on her experience as a doctoral student, Hoskins said, "I don't think anyone pursuing a doctoral degree has ever had such a rewarding experience as I had at Ole Miss. All of the professors asked probing questions and directed my research very well. One often hears horror stories from those who have pursued their doctoral degrees, but, at every opportunity, I use my experience there to encourage others."

The dissertation of Barfitt, associate professor of accounting at Western New Mexico University, was published in 2007 by JAI Press. Titled *The Contributions of John Lansing Carey to the Profession of Accountancy*, the book is a biography of Carey, the longest-serving chief staff officer of the AICPA, and it represents an important chapter in the history of the profession.

Barfitt has been at WNMU for one year, after teaching for nine years at Delta State University. She taught at DSU while working on her PhD except for a year's leave of absence to finish course work and start her dissertation. She said she looked at several schools before choosing Ole Miss for her doctorate, finally making her decision "mainly because of the curriculum and the opportunity to write a historical dissertation," she said. "An added bonus was the addition of the AICPA library collection."

Reflecting on her time at the university, Barfitt said, "I have the utmost

'One study showed that only about 1 percent of doctoral dissertations are ever published as books; we are experiencing about five times the national average.'

—DALE FLESHER

ever published as books; we are experiencing about five times the national average for such," he said. "Essentially, it was the topics they selected that made their dissertations of interest to a publisher. All of our doctoral students have written great dissertations; we wouldn't otherwise have let them graduate. But these students conceptualized topics that were of interest to many people."

This trend of excellence began with James W. Davis, who has been on the accountancy faculty since 1965 and holds the distinguished Peery Chair in Accountancy. His dissertation was the basis for his book, *The History of Certified Public Accountants in Mississippi 1904-1977*, published in 1977 by the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants. Members of the society donated funds to have the book published, and their names are listed in the back of the book.

lying environments.

Currently a professor of accounting at Radford University in Virginia, Amenkhienan served as chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance and Information Systems there from 1992-2006. (The department has been reorganized and renamed the Department of Accounting, Finance and Business Law in the College of Business and Economics.) He also was on the faculty at Arkansas State University from 1983-85.

"I still treasure my experience at the School of Accountancy at Ole Miss, particularly the mentoring by Dr. Dale Flesher and the late Dr. Russell Briner," Amenkhienan said. "I will be forever thankful that I had the opportunity to learn under Dr. Jimmy Davis, Dr. Tonya Flesher and Dr. Charles Taylor."

Hoskins is interim dean and Don Dodson Professor of Accounting at Henderson State University in Arkansas,

Family establishes endowment

A family with a three-generation attachment to The University of Mississippi has established an endowment that ensures a lasting legacy at their alma mater.

The C. Wesley Caldwell Family Scholarship Endowment has been seeded with a \$30,000 gift and a commitment to grow the fund to provide scholarships for accountancy students.

C. Wesley Caldwell (BAccy 47) and his son Charles Wesley Caldwell Jr. (BAccy 76), both of Natchez, signed the scholarship agreement with The University of Mississippi Foundation in December, before the senior Caldwell passed away in March.

"We started talking last summer about making the commitment partly because Ole Miss has been so good to us," Caldwell said. "Dad was a native of Oxford and graduated from the university. Then I decided to go there, although he offered to send me anywhere I wanted to go. Then, I have two children who are Ole Miss graduates, so this is a way for our family to give back."

Expressing appreciation for the gift, Dean Mark Wilder said, "We are so grateful to the Caldwells for their generosity to the Patterson School and their loyalty to Ole Miss. Both Mr. Caldwell and son Chuck have been special friends of the accountancy program for many years. They have each had outstanding careers, and we are very proud of their professional accomplishments."

The senior Caldwell enrolled at Ole Miss in 1940 after graduating from Oxford-University High School. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was captured by German forces in the 1944 Battle of the Bulge. He was released at the end of the war and finished his UM degree in 1947, majoring in accounting. He joined the firm Silas M. Simmons and Company in Natchez. A certified public accountant and an original partner of the firm, he practiced there until his retirement

in 1992.

Chuck Caldwell joined the firm after earning his degree from Ole Miss in 1976. With both Caldwells enjoying successful careers in accountancy, supporting students who aspire to enter the profession is another reason for establishing the endowment, Caldwell said.

"Together my father and I practiced for 93 years, and we wanted to give back to the profession by encouraging deserving young people to also take the challenge. It's hard work, but there are plenty of rewards in return."

'Together my father and I practiced for 93 years, and we wanted to give back to the profession by encouraging deserving young people to also take the challenge.'

—CHUCK CALDWELL

Caldwell said the university prepared him for his career beyond simply earning a degree.

"The network of friends in the profession that began when I was a student is still important to me today," he said. "And there are a number of well-respected people in the profession that I was fortunate enough to have as professors when I was there, and some of them I am still close to—Jimmy Davis and Charles Taylor, and, of course, the late Gene Peery.

"My dad also enjoyed years of good associations with friends he made there. One of the things he enjoyed so much was coming back to campus for alumni meetings."

In 2004, during the School of

Dedicated to Development

New staff devoted to giving

Last spring, Carol Anne Marion (BAccy 04) joined the university's staff in the newly created position of assistant to the dean for development for the Patterson School of Accountancy.

Marion, a CPA, received her bachelor's in accountancy from The University of Mississippi in 2004. While a student at Ole Miss, she was a Taylor Medalist and held various leadership positions on campus.



Carol Anne Marion

She received her master's in accountancy from the College of Charleston in 2005. Afterward, she moved to Memphis, where she worked at Deloitte & Touche as staff auditor and at Regions Financial Corp. as a Morgan Keegan internal auditor.

When she saw an opportunity to return to Ole Miss, she didn't hesitate.

"I love Ole Miss and have a great deal of respect for the Patterson School of Accountancy. I am very thankful to be in a position to help support the school," she said.

Marion's primary role is to acquire major gifts for the school as well as to increase overall giving levels. She spends much of her time traveling to meet with alumni to discuss the school and opportunities for giving. Her current goal is to build the school's endowment by \$5 million to ensure the school has the financial resources in place to continue its success. In addition, she is working to increase the overall number of alumni giving back to the school.

"We are so fortunate to have Carol Anne as part of the Patterson School," said Dean Mark Wilder. "For the school to continue its success and be poised to move to the next level, it is imperative for us to increase our financial resources. I am extremely confident in Carol Anne's ability to help us achieve these goals."

To give to the Patterson School of Accountancy, contact Marion at 662-915-1758 or camarion@olemiss.edu, or visit www.umfoundation.com. ■

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respect and admiration for my professors and mentors at the Patterson School and of The University of Mississippi. I love my job and my work, and I have relocated to an area closer to my family. I thank Ole Miss for giving me the ability and resources to accomplish these goals.”

Criscione is assistant professor of accounting at Morehead State University in Kentucky, a position that he accepted three years ago. His dissertation, *The Influence of Abraham Briloff: Accountancy's Guru or Gadfly?*, is under review by a book publisher and is expected to be accepted, according to Flesher, Criscione's dissertation chair.

Abraham Briloff, a retired professor at City University of New York, wrote numerous articles and a few books over the years analyzing company financial statements and pointing out where they were misleading. “His influence reached the point that any time he wrote about a company, the company's stock would drop,” Flesher said.

Criscione credits the Patterson School for having a top-notch doctoral program. “I felt very well-prepared when

I entered the academic job market and interviewed with various institutions at the American Accounting Association annual meeting in 2004,” he said. “I especially appreciated the willingness and friendliness of the faculty, their efforts to assist us in attaining our goals and the collegial atmosphere within the school and among my doctoral colleagues.” ■

Upcoming Events

Sept. 2	Meet the Firms
Sept. 26	Presidential Debate
Oct. 4	Homecoming
April 30- May 1, 2009	Southeast AAA meeting at UM

Family endowment
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Accountancy Alumni Weekend, the senior Caldwell was inducted into the school's Alumni Hall of Fame.

Besides giving back to the university and giving back to society, the father and son also arranged for the endowment to benefit their communities. First preference for the scholarships will be given to students who are residents of Adams, Wilkinson and Jefferson counties in Mississippi, and Concordia and Catahoula parishes in Louisiana.

While the younger Caldwell's children chose careers other than accountancy, he said they too see the endowment as a vehicle to give back. Kristin graduated from UM in 2003 with a business degree, and Charles earned a bachelor's degree in English in 2007.

“I expect the endowment will be an avenue for my children and grandchildren to add to out of respect for Ole Miss and at the same time to honor my father,” Caldwell said. ■



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