Faculty Chair Pays Tribute to UM Alumnus Don Jones

Brockman Foundation endows accountancy position, honors longtime friend

Family and friends say the late Don Jones loved the University of Mississippi from the moment he stepped on campus in the early 1960s.

“He just immediately embraced Ole Miss, became a part of it and was a leader on behalf of the university in so many ways,” said James W. Davis, Peery Professor Emeritus and Jones’ lifelong friend. “Every cause that we ever had, Donny supported financially and otherwise. He was involved with everything important that we ever did.”

“When Don enrolled at Ole Miss, he felt he had been given an opportunity and wanted to make the best of it,” his wife, Melissa Jones, said. “He had a deep love of the people associated with the university, the professors who guided and encouraged him while getting his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accounting. He also had a love for the school and always wanted the very best for it.”
FROM THE DEAN

Dear Accountancy Alumni and Friends,

Things continue to go very well in the Patterson School of Accountancy. We are proud of what the Patterson School continues to be able to accomplish, thanks to high-achieving students, dedicated and supportive alumni, and a faculty that has maintained our commitment to excellence in the classroom that has been the hallmark of the Ole Miss accountancy program for decades.

The Patterson School is extremely proud of our national rankings. The 2017-18 annual rankings were released in mid-August, and once again we are included among the top 10 accounting programs in the nation in the Public Accounting Report. All three of our degree programs are ranked among the top 10 with our undergraduate program ranked No. 8 nationally, our master’s program No. 8 and our doctoral program also No. 8. Our master’s program is first in the SEC, while our undergraduate and doctoral programs are second in the SEC. Our programs have now been among the top 10 nationally for seven consecutive years (and we have been in the top 20 for 10 straight years). These rankings help us tremendously in recruiting outstanding students and faculty.

Our school continues to grow and thrive, and our official enrollment for 2017-18 reached an all-time high for the 12th consecutive year. Our total enrollment (which grew 4.5 percent over last year) of 1,442 students this year includes 1,303 in our undergraduate program and 139 graduate students. Our Oxford campus accountancy enrollment has doubled over the past seven years, growing from 682 in 2010-11 to 1,372 for 2017-18. Our internship program posted banner results once again as we had 162 students participating in internships during spring and summer 2017 (another all-time high). These students interned across the nation in 18 different states (and in two countries). Over a five-year period, our program continues to offer students the opportunity to earn both bachelor’s and master’s degrees, experience a meaningful internship and be thoroughly prepared for the CPA exam.

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. We consider it a true privilege to serve you and our students. We are proud of the opportunities we are able to provide students, and we remain deeply grateful for the role our alumni and friends have played in enabling our success. Accountancy supporters have been the standard setters at Ole Miss for decades, and we ask you to continue this commitment to excellence. We appreciate so much your past support of our efforts in the Patterson School and trust that you will remain committed to these efforts.

Sincerely,

W. Mark Wilder
Dean and KPMG Chair of Accountancy

“Don felt strongly about the School of Accountancy and would tell anyone who would listen how important it was to him.” MELISSA JONES

“He even had the Rebel brand on his golf club covers!” recalls Evatt Tamine, director of the Brockman Foundation, a charitable trust for which Jones served as financial adviser for more than two decades.

On April 12, 2016, less than two months before Jones died suddenly at his Oxford home, the Brockman Foundation surprised him with the news that the Donald D. Jones Chair of Accountancy Endowment had been established within the Patterson School of Accountancy on his beloved Ole Miss campus.

“Through Don’s work, finding investment opportunities and following through with them, the Brockman Foundation was able to build to the extent to where it can now make some substantial gifts,” Tamine said. “We are able to do the work we do, to a large extent, because of the work Don did over the years. So it seemed appropriate to do something that honored him.”

An initial gift of $2 million established the endowment that will support salary supplements, research and creative activity in an effort to attract and retain outstanding faculty.

“Because of this incredible gift, we will be able to ensure quality teaching, research and service for future generations of University of Mississippi students,” Dean Mark Wilder said, adding that the school intends to fill the chair in 2017.

“We are extremely grateful to the Brockman Foundation for its generosity and for continuing Don Jones’ legacy of involvement within the Patterson School. We are honored that the Don Jones name will be forever associated with the Patterson School faculty and our students.”

Davis agreed: “This gift is an immense honor. We knew he was a positive influence in the company, but we now know how much they appreciated his dedication, energy and ability to grow the company. They truly honored him in a way that was appropriate; they knew what he loved.”

Melissa Jones said her husband, who was overwhelmed by the gift, told her that he hoped it would keep the school at the forefront of nationally renowned accountancy schools and give students opportunities to excel.

“This was a very humbling experience, and both of us were very grateful for the recognition,” she said. “Don felt strongly about the School of Accountancy and would tell anyone who would listen how important it was to him.”

In college, Jones was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, serving the fraternity in many capacities from pledge class president to chapter president. He was a member of the Interfraternity Council, Omicron Delta Kappa (president), Army ROTC, the ROTC band, a deputy brigade commander and a member of the Scabbard and Blade Society.

Named a distinguished military student, the McComb native was on the honor roll and was a member of the Delta Sigma Pi freshman honorary, Beta Alpha Psi accountancy honorary (vice president), Beta Gamma Sigma business honorary and Phi Beta Psi campus honorary.

He graduated cum laude in 1966 with a bachelor’s degree in accountancy and served as a graduate assistant for Davis while...
Don Jones was pursuing his master’s degree, which he earned in 1967.

At Ole Miss, Jones met Melissa Massengill, a 1968 graduate of the School of Business Administration. They were married on Dec. 23, 1967, and together raised a daughter, Kelly, and a son, Dru.

After graduation, Jones joined Arthur Andersen & Co. in Houston, Texas, as an auditor from 1967 to 1968. He then served a two-year stint in the U.S. Army as a second and first lieutenant, Finance Corps, before returning to Arthur Andersen until 1976.

Jones then had the opportunity to join Brown & Root Inc. in Houston from 1976 to 1981. There, he provided leadership in multiple capacities from internal audit manager to senior manager of the power division and finally as the senior manager of computer services. In 1981, he joined Universal Computer Systems Inc. in Houston, where he was the chief financial officer until 1995, when he became chief executive officer of Pilot Management Ltd. in Bermuda. He served there until 2008.

Jones was active in his church and was a member of the Mississippi Society of CPAs, Texas Society of CPAs, Georgia Society of CPAs and the Bermuda Chapter of Canadian Chartered Accountants.

“He was an avid golfer, hunter and fisherman and a dedicated supporter of Ole Miss athletics, particularly football, baseball and basketball, all of which he would watch seated next to Davis, his friend of 51 years. Additionally, he enjoyed reading, history, telling stories and spending time with his children and five grandchildren.

“For Don to be back in Oxford, heavily involved with the university, and to have this gift made him a very, very happy man,” Tamine said. “He always felt one step closer to heaven in Oxford.”

“This gift is an immense honor. We knew he was a positive influence in the company, but we now know how much they appreciated his dedication, energy and ability to grow the company. They truly honored him in a way that was appropriate; they knew what he loved.” JAMES W. DAVIS

Don Jones was inducted into the School of Accountancy’s Hall of Fame this year. His family, pictured with Dean Wilder, attended the awards ceremony in his honor.
Decades ago, the late Edward A. DeMiller Jr. hired a young CPA who gives the elder accountant credit for his long-standing career.

“I have now been a CPA for 47 years and for the past 20 years have had my own firm. Any success I have had is owed in large part to the influence and instruction I received from Eddie DeMiller,” said Harold Hodges, a certified public accountant with the Tupelo accounting firm of Hodges, Pilgrim and Co.

“I would be remiss if I did not remember the man who hired me in 1968 and, for the next six years, was a significant influence on my career as a CPA. Mr. DeMiller was a dedicated professional, a man of integrity and one whose word was always trusted by clients and fellow CPAs alike.”

In 1994, DeMiller and his wife, Mildred “Mickey” Copeland DeMiller, established a scholarship to help students in the University of Mississippi’s Patterson School of Accountancy pursue the career that DeMiller enjoyed. Recently, DeMiller’s estate fulfilled his wish to fully fund the Edward A. DeMiller Jr. Scholarship in Accountancy with a gift of more than $423,000, bringing his total UM giving to well over half-a-million dollars.

“I wanted to create this scholarship for accounting students because I’m an accountant, and it’s the only business I’ve ever been in,” DeMiller said in 2008. “And also for my love of Ole Miss.”

DeMiller, who received a bachelor’s degree in business administration with an emphasis in accountancy, died Dec. 15, 2014, at 98. He devoted his life to the profession of accountancy.

“He read the Journal of Accountancy up until his death,” said DeMiller’s longtime associate and friend Joey Katool, who met the elder accountant after joining the tax department of DeMiller’s firm in 1983.

Though the name has changed since its inception (currently Harper, Rains, Knight and Co.), DeMiller, Alvin Word and Walter Denny, a 1957 UM graduate,
built an accounting firm that has continued to grow. In its 60-plus years, the firm has provided opportunities for many accounting graduates.

DeMiller himself was renowned as a pioneer in Mississippi public accounting. He was active in the Mississippi Society of CPAs, serving as president in 1959-60, and represented his home state’s interest nationally on several committees of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. DeMiller received the Mississippi Society of CPAs’ inaugural Public Service Award in 1983. In 1989, he and Clive Dunham, accounting faculty member and former dean of UM’s School of Business Administration, were selected as the inaugural inductees into the School of Accountancy’s Hall of Fame.

Katool believes DeMiller wanted to give back to the school because of his deep regard for widely respected professors Gene Peery and Jimmy Davis.

“He and I knew he was proud of how (Dean) Mark Wilder and his staff worked to have the accounting school rated in the top 10 in the country and first in the SEC,” said Katool, who graduated from Ole Miss with a bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1982 and a master’s degree in accounting in 1983, both from Ole Miss.

Wilder said DeMiller’s generous private gift will be appreciated for generations to come.

“I have tremendous respect for Eddie DeMiller who had the foresight to provide such significant support for our students, knowing that gifts like this will ultimately have a great impact on the profession itself,” Wilder said.

“Eddie was a proud Ole Miss accounting alumnus and supporter for 75 years. He played an important leadership role in the development of our School of Accountancy and is truly a legend in the Patterson School. His legacy within our school lives on each year through the lives of our students who are honored recipients of the DeMiller Accountancy Scholarship.”

The Edward A. DeMiller Jr. Scholarship in Accountancy, a $1,500-per-year award, has been given to 12 students over the past seven years. Margaret “Meg” Joyner Barefoot was the first recipient in 2008.

“I switched from marketing to accounting my sophomore year, and the scholarship really encouraged me to continue on the path toward pursuing my goal of becoming a CPA,” said Barefoot, who received a bachelor’s degree in accounting in 2010 and a master’s degree in taxation in 2011. She works as a controller for a general contractor and developer in Oxford.

DeMiller retired as a partner in 1981, but he continued to have an office to help his clients transition to other partners. Subsequently, the firm kept an office available for DeMiller for 17 years until it moved from downtown Jackson to Ridgeland in 1998.

“I worked closely with Mr. DeMiller in my first few years while working on his clients’ tax returns,” Katool said. “As a partner in the firm, I have several tax clients Mr. DeMiller brought into the firm over 50 years ago.”

Katool said he greatly admired the elder accountant and has found his sage advice invaluable.

“Mr. DeMiller was well respected not only as a CPA but as a person – a dignified Southern gentleman with a philanthropic heart,” Katool said. “When it came to work, he was a no-nonsense, let’s-get-it-finished type of leader. Early on, I noticed that Mr. DeMiller took the same interest in his smaller clients that he exemplified with his larger clients. He was very client-service oriented. He was big on returning all client phone calls before he left the office. I still remember him telling me, ‘Whatever you do in this profession, never leave the office without trying to return your clients’ phone calls. Let them know you care.’ It is an attribute I practice to this day.”

A Vaiden native, DeMiller was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity while an undergraduate student and served four years in the U.S. Army after college. In 1947, he married Copeland and soon passed the CPA exam to begin his practice as a certified public accountant. He is remembered as a partner in the firm of Miazza, DeMiller and Word from 1948 to 1973. The firm then merged to become DeMiller, Denny and Word.

DeMiller was active in his community, including serving as president of the North Jackson Kiwanis Club, treasurer of the Mississippi Economic Council, and treasurer and board member of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra Association. He also contributed to the United Way and served as junior and senior warden of St. James Episcopal Church in Jackson.

Individuals and organizations can make gifts to support the Patterson School of Accountancy by mailing a check with the endowment noted to the University of Mississippi Foundation, 406 University Ave., Oxford, MS 38655; visiting umfoundation.com/makeagift or contacting Brooke Barnes, development officer, at 662-915-1993, or brooke@olemiss.edu.
Accountancy Professor Receives Frist Award

Brett Cantrell honored for exceptional service to students

BY EDWIN SMITH

Each day, University of Mississippi students are affected by the words and actions of faculty and staff members who extend their work beyond classrooms, labs and office space.

Two of them – Brett Cantrell, assistant professor of accountancy in the Patterson School of Accountancy; and Lindsey Bartlett Mosvick, assistant director of the Office of Violence Prevention in the Counseling Center – were selected as Frist Student Service Award honorees in 2016 in recognition of their exceptional service to students.

They were chosen from among dozens of nominees, submitted by students, alumni, faculty and staff. A chancellor’s committee weighed all the nominations and made the picks.

“Of all the awards we bestow on faculty and staff each year, the Frist Awards are extra special because they recognize unwavering commitment to serving our students and making sure they are successful,” Chancellor Jeffrey S. Vitter said.

“Students are the central reason we are here, and service is part of our core mission. I am grateful for the work of Ms. Mosvick and Dr. Cantrell, and on behalf of the entire university, thank both of them for their dedication and remarkable example.”

The awards, one for faculty and one for staff, were established with a gift from Dr. Thomas F. Frist Sr. of Nashville, a 1930 UM graduate.

Cantrell and Mosvick each received $1,000 and a plaque, and were recognized May 14, 2016, at the university’s main Commencement ceremony.

Cantrell, who joined the Ole Miss faculty in 2013, received his doctorate in accounting from the University of Texas. His bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accounting are from UM.

His research examines the quality and usefulness of bank accounting estimates such as the allowance for loan losses. Cantrell’s work has been published in The Accounting Review, and he is a certified public accountant in the state of Mississippi. Before his doctoral studies, he served in the audit practice of KPMG’s Birmingham, Alabama, office.

“This is really the first award I’ve won,” said Cantrell, faculty adviser for the UM chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants. “I am certainly honored to get to serve in that position, and I imagine it had something to do with me winning this award.

“Our chapter works to foster a sense of community for African-American students in the accounting school as well as developing the professional skills of our members.”

One nomination for Cantrell, from a graduate student, stated in part: “Dr. Cantrell not only does his duties as NABA adviser . . . but he goes above and beyond.”

Brandi Hephner LaBanc, UM vice chancellor for student affairs, presents Brett Cantrell a plaque, commemorating his selection as a Frist Student Service Award winner.
Former accounting student returns as a faculty member

BY DYLAN LEWIS

The Patterson School of Accountancy’s newest faculty member credits his former educators for his interest in accounting.

Zach Webb, a Kosciusko, Mississipi, native, developed an interest in accounting while taking a class in high school. He witnessed his professors’ passion in the classroom, which ultimately led to his decision to major in accounting.

Webb earned his Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in accounting from the College of William and Mary. He then became part of the Ole Miss family, where he earned his Master of Business Administration and Master of Accountancy degrees. He then furthered his accounting background by receiving his Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Arkansas.

Now back as part of the Ole Miss family, Webb is teaching undergraduate students advanced accounting, auditing and cost control.

“It was an easy decision for me to come back to Ole Miss,” he said. “As an alumnus of the Patterson School, I had amazing accounting professors.”

Webb added that the prestige of the Patterson School of Accountancy also led him to return to Ole Miss.

“I wanted the opportunity to be at one of the top accounting programs in the nation with excellent faculty and amazing students.”

J Shaw named BAP ‘Outstanding Faculty Advisor’

BY EDWIN SMITH

As a master’s degree student at Oklahoma State University, J Shaw was president of the OSU chapter of Beta Alpha Psi. Recently, the associate professor of accountancy instruction at the University of Mississippi received one of the honor organization’s 2016 “Outstanding Faculty Advisor” awards.

“Beta Alpha Psi has always meant a lot to me,” said Shaw, who was presented a $5,000 stipend with his plaque at the annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. “To be honored in this way after all these years is truly rewarding.”

Shaw, who teaches Intermediate Accounting I and II and Tax II, has advised UM’s Alpha Theta Chapter for the past nine years. During his tenure, the group has annually been rated a superior chapter among the more than 300 BAP chapters around the world.

“I attribute our chapter’s success to the brilliant leadership of the student officers here,” he said. “Each year, they make sure that the members accomplish the things the chapter needs to do.”

Dean Mark Wilder said Shaw deserves the recognition.

“Dr. Shaw has done an outstanding job with the Ole Miss Beta Alpha Psi chapter and is to be commended for his service. The chapter has achieved superior status (the highest service recognition possible) for nine consecutive years. Dr. Shaw has provided exemplary leadership for our chapter, and as a result our BAP group is recognized as one of the largest, most active and most successful chapters nationally.”

The award recognizes faculty advisers who make substantial contributions to the professional development of business financial information students. They often work many additional hours to be present at various Beta Alpha Psi meetings, community service activities, firm receptions, member initiations, and to meet with chapter officers to plan for the months ahead.

Jeffrey Pickerd brings unique view of accountancy to teaching

BY CHRISTINA STEUBE

The Patterson School of Accountancy’s newest faculty member brings an almost lifelong knowledge of the profession.

Jeffrey Pickerd, a Katy, Texas, native, developed an appreciation for accounting at a young age, as his mother, father and two brothers all work in the accounting field. During his formative years, he witnessed the collapse and bankruptcy of Enron Corp. from poor financial reporting, which caused a great economic hit to his community.

Both of these factors caused Pickerd to consider a career in accounting from a young age. Pickerd earned his B.S. and M.S. in accounting from Brigham Young University in 2011. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in management with an emphasis in accounting information systems from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst in May 2016, where much of his research focused on auditor liability.

Now, as part of the Ole Miss family, Pickerd will teach undergraduate students accounting information systems.

“I am excited to be a part of the Patterson School of Accountancy,” Pickerd said. “It really feels like a big family, and Oxford reminds me a lot of my hometown.”

Pickerd added that the involvement of alumni, a goal-oriented student population and helpful colleagues have made him feel at home.

“The alumni are really supportive of everything we are trying to do here,” he said. “The students are also really engaged and eager to start their professional careers, and the faculty has been very supportive and collegial and [has] helped me improve as both an instructor and a researcher. I look forward to helping Ole Miss accounting reach new heights as the school continues to grow in size and prestige.”
Dickinson Pens Paper on Downward Bias

Research may have big implications for accountancy professionals

**BY GRACE BACON**

Vicki Dickinson’s paper, “Accounting Rules and Post-Acquisition Profitability in Business Combinations,” will help further educate students, analysts, the finance community and even practicing accountants about downward bias following mergers and acquisitions.

Dickinson, associate professor of accountancy at the Patterson School, and her co-authors, Daniel Wangerin, assistant professor of accounting at Michigan State University, and John Wild, distinguished professor of business and accounting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, used financial statement analysis and models to attempt to unwind accounting bias.

Many companies’ net income and stock price falter after a merger or acquisition. In the article, Dickinson and her co-authors propose adjustments to unwind the accounting-induced effects on performance. These adjustments allow investors and analysts to better assess the economic impact of the acquisition on the combined entity.

“The idea is that if we can remove the bias that comes from the accounting rules, then the analyst can get a truer economic picture of post-acquisition performance that will determine whether or not it is going to be successful for the acquirer and the target market,” Dickinson said.

“The investing community knows that there is a downward bias in both operating and stock performance after an acquisition takes place,” she said. “There are many reasons offered for why this downward bias is there. There’s a lot of variety and disclosure surrounding the merger-and-acquisition transaction. This paper helps explain this bias surrounding the merger-and-acquisition process.”

The paper was published in December 2016 in *Accounting Horizons*. Additionally, a segment about the paper will appear in the next edition of a financial statement analysis textbook for MBA students.

“Accounting is the language of business,” said UM accountancy instructor George White. “This paper does a great job of giving you a place to go look for misunderstood information. This is the type of information that practitioners kill for because it gives them an edge and helps them generate alpha in their returns. To me, this is the type of work that gets me really excited. It’s educational and highly intellectual, but it’s also incredibly practical.”

“Dr. Dickinson’s research is a great example of how accounting research can inform practice,” added Mark Wilder, School of Accountancy dean. “Her paper will have an impact both on the education of our students as well as in the investing community.

“In my view, *Accounting Horizons* is one of our discipline’s most respected and informative journals because its mission is to provide a bridge between accounting theory and practice,” Wilder said. “The Patterson School of Accountancy has a similar perspective. As a professional school, we strive to be closely connected to the profession while also advancing theory through our research — and using both to better educate our students.

“I am very proud of Dr. Dickinson. She does a great job for the Patterson School in all three phases of teaching, research and service.”

Dickinson said she hopes this paper will help merger-and-acquisition parties become more successful in their endeavors and is grateful that the Patterson School supported her research.

“At the Patterson School of Accountancy, we are very fortunate to have the ability to teach the best and the brightest student population and to pass along what we do, researchwise, in the classroom. We also have the opportunity to pursue these important research questions due to the support of the school and the school’s alumni donors.”

“As a professional school, we strive to be closely connected to the profession while also advancing theory through our research — and using both to better educate our students.” — MARK WILDER
Alumnus wins Murray State Emerging Scholar Award

BY MICHAEL NEWSOM

Randy Bunker, a Patterson School of Accountancy alumnus, has been honored with the Murray State University Alumni Association’s Emerging Scholar Award, which recognizes superior research, scholarly or creative work by promising new faculty members.

Bunker, an assistant professor of accounting at Murray State, earned his Ph.D. in accountancy from Ole Miss in 2010 and also served as an adjunct faculty member and graduate assistant here from 2007 to 2011. He also holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Arkansas State University and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Central Arkansas.

“I was honored just to be nominated for the 2016 MSU Alumni Association Emerging Scholar Award, and I was pleasantly surprised when I was notified that I had won the award,” Bunker said. “It was extremely gratifying to be recognized for my academic research and scholarly activities.”

Bunker thanked his Murray State colleagues. He also credits Tonya K. Flesher, Ole Miss professor of accountancy and Arthur Andersen Lecturer, with her role in his development. She wrote a nomination letter for the award on Bunker’s behalf.

“Dr. Flesher was the chair of my dissertation at the University of Mississippi, and I would not be where I am today without her guidance and continued support,” he said.

Flesher said Bunker’s success doesn’t surprise her.

“My main function as advisor was to get out of his way and not slow him down because he was so self-directed, proficient and focused,” Flesher said. “Dr. Bunker’s potential to be an outstanding researcher was obvious. Murray State University is fortunate to have Dr. Randy Bunker on their accounting faculty. I couldn’t be more proud of his achievements.”

With the experience of a few years’ teaching under his belt, Bunker is thankful for the high-caliber training he received at Ole Miss.

“The Ph.D. program at the Patterson School of Accountancy prepared me for my career in academia by providing me with an excellent foundation in both teaching and research,” Bunker said. “The Patterson School of Accountancy has been nationally ranked in the Public Accounting Report every year since 2005, achieving top 20 rankings each year since 2008, and I am proud to be a University of Mississippi alumnus.”

The following accountancy students were inducted into the Ole Miss chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, the oldest, largest and most selective honor society in the nation. Phi Kappa Phi includes the best and brightest students from all academic disciplines.

FALL 2016
Charles Landon Barraza
Jaryllenn Jenae Betts
Tori Marissa Browning
Kinsey Ann Cahill
Noah Del Davis
Anne Claire Dunn
Christopher L’Chaun Feazell
Samuel Rankin Fowkes
Lauren Elizabeth Hetherington
Sarah Meade Heuerman
Whitney Paige Huber
Sara Wallis Jennings
Abby Taylor King
Edward Donelson Lake
Molly Katherine Maclin
Grayson Elizabeth Miles
Robert Gore Mounger Jr.
Elizabeth Forbes Owen
Arthur Wilkinson Smith
Jackson Lewis Sutton
Evan Marcus Turner

SPRING 2017
Andrew Christopher Brown
Elizabeth Danielle Clutton
Jaleter Markeyle Danyell Daugherty
Alex Matthew Everett
Hagen Brooks Gurley
Susan Marie Haggé
Madeline Ann Howard
Eric Scott Johnson
Walter Douglas Kearney
William Carter Kemp
Margaret Grace McClanahan
John Clayton Nelson Jr.
Sarah Elizabeth Oakes
William Wright O’Mara
James Breland Parker
Blaine Harrison Poynter
Chandler Reese Telfer
Elizabeth Jourdan Vercher
Kathryn Elizabeth Whitman
Accountancy Alumni Board Activities

About five years ago, our fellow alumnus, Don Jones, spearheaded a campaign to resurrect the board of directors of the Patterson School’s Alumni Association. Support Don’s legacy by being actively involved with the Patterson School.

By Chris Haley (Baccy 97, Mtax 01)

After several years of inactivity, the Accountancy Alumni Board had fallen dormant, and Don felt that it was time to reboot it and infuse it with verve, passion and focus. He worked tirelessly with Dean Wilder to identify and select the right mixture of perspectives from which a solid foundation could be built and chose Buddy Dearman as the perfect person to lead the efforts.

The new team gathered in September 2012 and had very modest goals, feeling in some respect that it was a step forward simply to be convening a meeting.

From that humble reboot, I am proud to report that we have built an active and dedicated board of directors that is determined to help our Patterson School of Accountancy not only maintain its superior ranking and reputation within the accounting community but reach even higher. What began with our semiannual meetings has grown into:

- Hosting an annual alumni tailgate each fall
- Writing prospective students to share our experiences with the school and encourage them to attend
- Hosting an annual reception for our graduating students
- Launching the Patterson 500 as a giving society to encourage annual giving by our youngest alumni

These efforts are all important in engaging you, our alumni, in recruiting the best and brightest students to campus and to our respective firms and in encouraging and supporting financially the Patterson School. However, we recognize that these efforts are only a small step in what we can all accomplish together, and we are working hard to build on our foundation and broaden our reach.

To begin with, we identified three key areas where we can be most helpful to
Dean Wilder and the school. We have established committees in their names and have chaired them with the following outstanding alumni:

- Alumni Engagement chaired by Sonny MacArthur (BAccy 90, MAccy 91)
- Students and Faculty chaired by Vince Chamblee (BA 10, BAccy 10)
- Fundraising chaired by Marshall Rivers (BAccy 03, MAccy 04)

Each of these committees is finalizing its charter, establishing its goals and beginning its efforts. I hope and expect that I will be able to report about the great things they are doing in my next update.

As we look forward to our future, I can’t help but reflect on our past and present. Thanks to the efforts of Gene Peery, Jimmy Davis, Morris Stocks, Tonya and Dale Flesher, Mark Wilder and so many others, we have an accounting program that is consistently ranked in the top 10 nationally every year.

We owe this success to recruiting the best and brightest students, providing them with a quality education in a collegial environment, and sending them forth with the skills and knowledge they need to practice accounting, law, investment banking, to serve as CFOs and CEOs, and to lead in everything in between.

We could not have come this far without the dedication and commitment of our entire alumni base, and I hope you will help us continue to excel by giving of your time, talent or treasure in whatever manner is comfortable and appropriate for you.

How can you help? Please consider:

- Getting involved with the board and/or a committee
- Supporting the school financially
- Participating in alumni events and/or
- Recruiting students to the school and to your firms

Don loved Ole Miss and the School of Accountancy and supported the school throughout his life. I was deeply saddened when he passed away last year because we lost such an inspiring ambassador for the school. We can never repay Don for his contributions to the school, but we can continue his legacy of giving.

- Chris Haley is a partner at Harbor View Advisors in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

The annual Beta Alpha Psi Golf Tournament took place May 5 at the Ole Miss golf course. Student members of the honorary organization hosted the tournament.
Dale Flesher wins SEC Faculty Achievement Award

BY EDWIN SMITH

Dale L. Flesher, the Roland and Sheryl Burns Chair and Professor in the Patterson School of Accountancy, is the 2017 Southeastern Conference Faculty Achievement Award honoree for the University of Mississippi.

“What an honor it was to be selected from among top-notch faculty at an R1 institution,” Flesher said. “Receiving this award has provided me with more enthusiasm and energy to continue pursuing my research interests.”

To be eligible for the SEC Faculty Achievement Award, an individual must have achieved the rank of full professor at an SEC institution, have a record of extraordinary teaching and have a record of scholarship that is recognized nationally and/or internationally.

“Most of my previous honors have been awarded by organizations in the field of accounting, and it is humbling to be recognized by colleagues in your discipline,” Flesher said.

“However, this award is most special because I will have the opportunity to represent all of the faculty across campus at the University of Mississippi, where I have devoted the last 40 years of my career.”

A graduate of the University of Cincinnati and Ball State University, Flesher joined the faculty in 1977. When Flesher was presented the 2005 Thomas J. Burns Biographical Research Award at the Academy of Accounting Historians Hall of Fame Conference, it was noted that “Dr. Flesher has done more biographical research and publishing than anyone in the field of accounting.”

Flesher has authored more than 400 articles in more than 100 professional journals. He has also written 50 books in 91 editions.

His numerous history books include the 50th anniversary history of the Institute of Internal Auditors and the 75th anniversary history of the American Accounting Association, as well as books on the history of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy. He has had five tax books published by Commerce Clearing House, and he published a book on the history of the Ole Miss accountancy program.

Flesher has enjoyed an extraordinary 40-year career with the Patterson School of Accountancy, and receiving the SEC Faculty Achievement Award is a well-deserved honor, Dean Mark Wilder said.

“Dr. Flesher’s selection for this award contributes to the national standing of the School of Accountancy and reflects the university’s commitment to learning, discovery and engagement.” JEFFREY VITTER

“Dr. Flesher has served on the dissertation committees of 48 of our Patterson School Ph.D. graduates, chairing half of these dissertations,” he said. “He has made a tremendous impact on the profession through his mentorship of these doctoral graduates, many of whom are in leadership positions in academic institutions across the nation and world.

“Dr. Flesher has played a key leadership role in the successes of the Patterson School over the years and in our ability to have one of the top accountancy programs in the nation. We are honored that he has been selected for this prestigious award.”

Flesher is a member of many professional organizations, including the American Institute of CPAs, Mississippi Society of CPAs, American Taxation Association, Institute of Internal
Auditors, Association of Government Accountants, Institute of Management Accountants, American Accounting Association and the Academy of Accounting Historians, in which he served as international president in 1988. He served as editor of The Accounting Historians Journal from 1989 through 1994. He previously edited the Accounting Historians Notebook for 10 years. 

He has received outstanding educator or outstanding researcher awards from the American Institute of CPAs, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Academy of Accounting Historians, the Mississippi Society of CPAs and other organizations.

Flesher’s stellar reputation helped bring the American Institute of CPA’s library to the Oxford campus, creating one of the world’s best and largest accounting research resources. He was also instrumental in establishing the university’s Tax History Research Center, Electronic Data Processing Auditing Archival Center and the McMickle Rare Book Library.

The 2011 recipient of UM’s Distinguished Research and Creative Achievement Award, Flesher said he is dedicated to training the next generation of accountancy professors by mentoring graduate students in the field. The 2011 recipient of the AICPA National Outstanding Educator Award, Flesher is among only five accounting faculty from SEC institutions to receive this award throughout its 32-year history. He is associated dean of the UM School of Accountancy and coordinator of all its graduate programs.

“For 40 years now, Dr. Flesher has helped define excellence at the University of Mississippi,” Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter said. “This award is another recognition of his role as an outstanding academic leader, an empowering mentor, a committed teacher and one of the most prolific contributors in his field.”

Dr. Flesher’s selection for this award contributes to the national standing of the School of Accountancy and reflects the university’s commitment to learning, discovery and engagement.”

Interim Provost Noel Wilkin agreed. “It is a great honor for Dr. Dale Flesher to be named our recipient of the SEC Faculty Achievement Award,” he said. “This recognition is a testament to his outstanding contributions to the academy.”

Selected by a committee of SEC provosts, the SEC Faculty Achievement awards and the SEC Professor of the Year Award are part of SECU, the academic initiative of the Southeastern Conference.

SEC Faculty Achievement Award winners get a $5,000 honorarium from the conference and become his or her university’s nominee for the SEC Professor of the Year Award. The Professor of the Year, named in April, receives an additional $15,000 and is recognized at the SEC Awards dinner.

Flesher listed three possible uses for his honorarium, two of which involve donating the funds to the university. “My wife and I have set up an endowment with the University Foundation that supports scholarships for worthy accountancy students, so some of the money may go into that endowment,” he said. Flesher’s wife, Tonya, is also an accountancy professor and a former dean of the School of Accountancy.

Another option is to donate some of the funds to the university’s Friends of the Library program, of which my wife and I are both life members. I have been a longtime supporter of the J.D. Williams Library, perhaps even more so since it became the ‘National Library of the Accountancy Profession.’ Ole Miss has the largest accountancy library in the world, and I want to be sure it stays that way.”

Flesher said he also has considered holding out a portion of the funds to travel to work with co-authors and to visit sites with primary data sources to help enhance his research.
Baileys Honor Loved Ones through Giving

Gift to UM accountancy school honors father while supporting students

BY BILL DABNEY

David Bailey and his wife, Julie, believe one of the best ways to honor those who have worked to achieve their dreams is by helping others achieve dreams of their own.

The Baileys most recently made a $25,000 gift to the University of Mississippi’s Patterson School of Accountancy in honor of David’s father. Previously, Julie Bailey established a foundation scholarship in honor of her late mother, Jewel R. Hagan, at the University of Texas School of Nursing. And in 2014, the Baileys encouraged David’s cousins, Ole Miss alumni Kerry and Terri King, to establish a foundation scholarship at the UM Department of Geology and Geological Engineering in honor of their son, Charlie (a graduate student in the department), after his untimely death.

“My father, David R. Bailey, never had the opportunity to attend college, but he was inspirational in his work ethic – he held at least two jobs – and taught me that the most important goal is to do the best at everything you endeavor to accomplish,” said David Bailey, a 1981 UM accountancy graduate who lives in Dallas, Texas.

“He was truly a renaissance man, a self-taught musician, a mechanic and a church deacon. I have a 1959 Harley Davidson motorcycle that he built from 200 pieces, in honor of my birth year. He died much too early, at age 72, from cancer. It is his life and accomplishments that we wish to honor with this gift.”

The Baileys’ gift establishes the David R. Bailey Sr. Memorial Scholarship Endowment in Accountancy.

“Our hope is that this gift will help someone’s dreams and aspirations come true,” David Bailey said. “I had to work full time during college, living with my wonderful grandparents in Oxford for the first two years.

“Professor H.E. ‘Gene’ Peery along with all my accounting professors were always eager to encourage me to earn my degree and become a CPA. I hope this gift will similarly give encouragement and help to an accounting student who can benefit from an Ole Miss accountancy degree as I and my family have.”

The accountancy school is humbled by the Baileys’ generosity, said Mark Wilder, the school’s dean.

“It is a beautiful tribute to honor the memory and accomplishments of David Bailey Sr. while also helping students succeed in college and beyond,” Wilder said. “We are grateful for the Baileys’ gift — and humbled when we consider that the lives of countless generations of students in the School of Accountancy will be improved because of this wonderful scholarship.”

Individuals and organizations can make gifts to support the Patterson School of Accountancy by mailing a check with the endowment noted to the University of Mississippi Foundation, 406 University Ave., Oxford, MS 38655; visiting umfoundation.com/makeagift or contacting Brooke Barnes, director of development, at 662-915-1993 or brooke@olemiss.edu.
Duffy Morf

Duffy Morf, clinical assistant professor of accountancy, retired in August after 16 years of teaching at the Patterson School of Accountancy and will trade life in the classroom for life on the beach.

Morf, a Chicago native, began at the University of Mississippi as an instructor while he was working on his Ph.D. in accounting. He said teaching at Ole Miss’ accountancy school has been a pleasure as the school has grown in national prestige over the past decade.

“It’s been a thrill,” the 72-year-old Morf said. “Quite honestly, age does catch up with you. I am not as strong in the classroom as I would like to be. My wife said I could have taught another couple of years, but I wanted to go out on the top of my game.”

He earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting from Northern Illinois University in 1966, his MBA in international business from San Francisco State University in 1980 and his Ph.D. in accounting from Ole Miss in 2000. While studying at Ole Miss, he was a student teacher at the UM DeSoto and Tupelo campuses. After earning his Ph.D., he spent a year teaching at Lander University in Greenwood, South Carolina, before being hired at Ole Miss.

“Ole Miss is the most wonderful place to teach,” Morf said. “I have had great students. I have always been very lucky in that way.”

Morf and his wife, Karen, who has a real estate business in Oxford, both grew up near and lived on coasts for much of their lives. They plan to maintain a weekend home in Oxford and move to Fairhope, Alabama.

“We love the water,” Morf said. “We just said we want to end up on the coast somewhere, and that’s where we are headed. I just fell in love with Fairhope. It reminds me of Oxford in a lot of ways.”

Rick Elam

For 17 years, Rick Elam enjoyed working in the Patterson School of Accountancy. So when the Reynolds Professor of Accountancy retired Dec. 31, 2016, his parting was bittersweet.

“While I was teaching and serving as the dean at other schools, I always felt that this school and Ole Miss was where I belonged,” said Elam, who joined the UM faculty in 1999. “When Dr. Davis asked me to apply for the prestigious Reynolds Professorship of Accountancy, I felt my dream had come true. Teaching at the school and living in Oxford are perfect for my wife and me.”

Elam taught four courses each year: two graduate courses and two undergraduate honors courses.

“I enjoyed them all, but the best was teaching the honors students Introductory Accounting,” he said. “I was able to follow those outstanding students through their time at Ole Miss and on to their careers.”

Elam earned his bachelor’s degree from Culver-Stockton College and master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Missouri. He was a faculty member and director of the School of Accountancy at University of Missouri. Elam was dean of the business school at both Rutgers and Middle Tennessee State. In addition, he was vice president at the AICPA.

Of his many professional achievements, Elam said that serving on the Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy has been most rewarding for him.

“I have been able to influence the accounting profession in the state and nation,” Elam said. Following retirement, Elam plans to continue to serve on the State Board of Accountancy, enjoy his houseboat on Sardis Lake and play pickleball.
Alumni Couple Establishes Gift for Graduates

Weatherly Scholarship will assist accountancy graduate students

BY BILL DABNEY

Bob and Faye Weatherly know struggle. When Bob finished his master’s degree in accountancy from the University of Mississippi in 1967, he and Faye packed all their worldly belongings in a small trailer hitched to their two-door Mustang, strapped in their toddler daughter, Karman, and hit the road for Houston, Texas.

“The biggest thing in the trailer was our daughter’s baby bed,” Bob said.

Laughing, Faye said, “When we walked into our apartment in Houston, we were thrilled because it had carpet and air conditioning!”

It was luxury compared to their previous home: a two-bedroom apartment without A/C in the university’s married-student housing complex. Even this was a step up from the young family’s one-bedroom unit they inhabited upon arriving at Ole Miss for graduate school.

Tight quarters were only part of the struggle. Bob juggled his master’s-level classes and homework with teaching a sophomore-level accounting class for which he would have to prepare lessons, grade papers, advise students and write out tests. Meanwhile, to support the family, Faye often worked double shifts—day and night—as an X-ray technician at Oxford’s hospital.

“We were busy and stressed, and we never really had time for outside activities,” Faye recalled.

“We were on a mission when we came here: to get the master’s degree,” Bob said. “Thank goodness for Faye. She hung in there and got us through.”

The struggle was real. But it’s not a sob story, say the Weatherlys, who were high school sweethearts and were married after their sophomore year in college. Their story is simply evidence that they can relate to the difficulties many young, married families face in trying to make a better life for themselves.

“We have decided that if there is any help we can give someone who is now in the situation we were in, then that would be meaningful to us,” Bob said.

So on Oct. 21, 2015, with a pledge of $250,000, the two worked with the University of Mississippi Foundation to establish the Bobby and Faye Weatherly Accountancy Scholarship Endowment. The pledge was fulfilled in November 2015 with the transfer of shares of publicly traded stock.

The Weatherlys’ investment will be felt for generations to come, said Mark Wilder, dean of the Patterson School of Accountancy.

“We are humbled and honored by the Weatherlys’ belief in our program and profoundly grateful to them for this generous investment in our graduate students,” he said. “Their experience when Bob was in graduate school is an inspiration, as is the incredible career that he has enjoyed in the accounting field.

“The Weatherlys’ gift truly is a reflection of their desire to help others enjoy greater opportunities through graduate accountancy education.”

“Having that grounding of really understanding the financial dynamics of a company is what I’ve always felt was the real value of a background in accounting. The fact that you can look at the financials and tell what’s going on with a company ... that makes it worthwhile.”  

BOB WEATHERLY
The Weatherly Scholarship will be awarded to full-time graduate students in the accountancy school’s master’s program, with first preference going to married students.

“At the core of our reason for doing this was that I always felt that if we hadn’t had financial help from my teaching fellowship and if Faye hadn’t shouldered a big part of the financial burden so I could go ahead and get my degree, then we wouldn’t have wound up at the same place we are now,” Bob said.

Bob credits his degree from Ole Miss as a major first step in his business career.

“It’s the financial understanding that an accounting degree gives you,” he said. “Having that grounding of really understanding the financial dynamics of a company is what I’ve always felt was the real value of a background in accounting. The fact that you can look at the financials and tell what’s going on with a company … that makes it worthwhile.”

After graduation, Bob immediately went to work for Arthur Andersen & Co. in Houston, then one of the nation’s top accounting firms. After working his way up to senior audit manager and having a second child, Bobby “Bo” Weatherly Jr., he was hired by a major client of the firm to be chief financial officer for its European operations, and he and his family moved to London.

After four years overseas, the Weatherlys returned to Houston with the same company. Bob later worked for two other oil service companies as a financial officer.

In 1990, he worked in investment banking before being one of the founders of a venture capital fund. From 2006 until early 2015, he worked for Callon Petroleum Co. in Natchez as the company’s chief financial officer and a director.

Both the Weatherlys’ children have earned degrees from Ole Miss – Karman in speech pathology and Bo in business administration. One of their grandchildren, Blake Hagelston, completed his administration. One of their grandchildren, Blake Hagelston, completed his MBA from Ole Miss in August 2015.

The Weatherlys always wanted to retire in Mississippi but weren’t sure where. After a trip to Oxford for Faye’s birthday, Faye said she knew Oxford would be the place.

“When you go away, you forget how beautiful it is here,” she said.

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Alumnus

Patterson School of Accountancy alumnus has been selected to serve on the NCAA Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for the next four years.

Mike Bitter (PhD 94), Rinker Distinguished Professor of Accounting at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, since 1996, was asked by the university president in 1999 to serve as faculty athletics representative and has done so ever since. This led to him chairing a number of committees in the Atlantic Sun Conference as well as serving on the NCAA Division I Leadership Council and Amateurism Cabinet and chairing the core course subcommittee of the initial eligibility waiver committee.

Now, as a representative of the SAR committee, he will assist with ruling on the appeals of decisions made by the NCAA to withhold a student-athlete from competition based on amateurism violations or similar violations. Bitter said the committee also considers requests for a one-year extension of a student’s eligibility and establishes guidelines for NCAA staff members to follow regarding decisions on reinstatement cases submitted to them by institutions.

The committee meets in person twice a year and as needed via teleconference. Bitter said he has always enjoyed collegiate athletics and is honored to serve on this committee.

“Working with athletics has been an interesting diversion from my normal academic duties,” Bitter said. “The NCAA is a voluntary organization, and while there is a large paid staff, there is also a need for volunteers to help run the system. I enjoy being a part of the governance structure. I learn new things and also contribute to Division I athletics. I have made many new friends over the years and have had some great experiences.”

Prior to earning his Ph.D. in accounting from Ole Miss, Bitter worked in public accounting with Ernst and Young as an auditor. He teaches auditing, financial reporting and accounting theory. He is also chair of the M.E. Rinker Sr. Institute of Tax and Accountancy and director of the Master of Accountancy programs at Stetson.

“I have known Mike Bitter since he started in the Ph.D. program,” said Tonya Flesher, UM professor of accountancy and Arthur Anderson Lecturer. “I am so proud of all that he has accomplished thus far in his career, particularly in the leadership roles that he has assumed at his university and in the NCAA. His enthusiasm and friendly personality that we experienced while he was in the doctoral program have served him well professionally. His stature and achievements further enhance the reputation of the Patterson School of Accountancy.”
Dean Ramsey finds future in China

Student visited China as Fulbright-Hays scholar

By Hannah Juliff

Dean Ramsey experienced the chance of a lifetime, spending the first seven months of 2016 in Xi’an, China, as a Fulbright-Hays scholar. The Fulbright-Hays program allows 16 undergraduate students from the United States to immerse themselves in Chinese culture. Thanks to the program, students travel abroad to study the Chinese language, participate in an internship, do a group and an individual project, and take excursions throughout the country. The program also prepares students to bridge the gap between the business worlds of China and the U.S.

“Coming out of high school, I knew I wanted to do something international,” said Ramsey, of Huntsville, Alabama, who is an accountancy major, a member of the Chinese Language Flagship Program, and is pursuing a minor in manufacturing with the Center for Manufacturing Excellence at the University of Mississippi.

He said the goal of the Fulbright-Hays experience is to share American culture with Chinese high school students and advance his Chinese language skills, and that the experience was mutually beneficial. Not only was he able to expand his knowledge of the Chinese language, but he was also provided an opportunity to understand the unique difference between Chinese and American cultures.

During the program, Ramsey participated in two projects that afforded him the chance to compare and contrast Chinese and American high school experiences and get to know Chinese street food vendors.

During spring break, he traveled throughout Yunnan, a province in southwestern China. He took part in “hostel surfing,” improving his language skills and learning a lot about himself along the way.

“It’s definitely given me more motivation to use the time that I have left at Ole Miss wisely and to the best of my abilities,” Ramsey said. “I realized I really need to focus on this because accounting can help me with my career path and help me advance my life goals.”

Vicki Dickinson, a UM associate professor of accountancy, said she saw a marked change in Ramsey when he returned from his experience.

“He has always been a great student, but he came back from China with even more efficient and better problem-solving skills,” Dickinson said. “I think living abroad on his own and having to solve much bigger problems about language and travel around China and just how to thrive in another country made his regular schoolwork a relatively easy task to accomplish.”

Ramsey will graduate with an accounting degree in May 2018 and is hoping to participate in an internship during his final semester. He is thinking about staying in the U.S. upon graduation but wants to eventually end up back in China.

“He would be able to bring a unique perspective of American business acumen to the Chinese companies, which should result in better business relations with their counterparts in the U.S. I see Dean filling that niche,” Dickinson said.

Ramsey said the Fulbright-Hays program was an incredible experience and one that will guide him long after his days at Ole Miss are done.

“After I graduate, I want to give back to China, whether that be in Shanghai, Taiwan or Hong Kong,” Ramsey said. “Because of this specific program, I still yearn to go to China.”

Hannah Juliff is a graduate assistant in UM’s Office of Global Engagement.
Accountancy student inducted into 2015-16 UM Hall of Fame

BY SHELBY SANSONE

Joe Curry (BAccy 16) of Stringer, Mississippi, is one of the 10 University of Mississippi students who earned membership in the 2015-16 Hall of Fame, one of the university’s highest honors.

The Hall of Fame inductees were honored March 4, 2016, in a ceremony at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Recipients are chosen by a committee in accordance with Associated Student Body policy, with selections based on a student’s academic achievement, community service and potential for future success.


“We commend these outstanding students for their impressive accomplishments both in and out of the classroom,” said Morris Stocks, who was provost and executive vice chancellor at the time but has rejoined the accountancy school faculty.

“We anticipate great successes for these young men and women, both professionally and academically. We also know that our Hall of Famers will contribute to the betterment of society.”

The 10 students were also among 150 Ole Miss seniors recognized for inclusion in Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

While an undergraduate, Curry was a Columns Society member, an orientation leader for two years, a University Judicial Council member and an Ole Miss ambassador. He was president of the UM National Pan-Hellenic Council and a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, where he served as the Nu Upsilon chapter president and dean of new membership.

He was a freshman council member and mentor, and a Student Activities Association member. He has volunteered at More Than a Meal, Oxford Veterans Home, Boys and Girls Club of North Mississippi, UM Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity. He has participated in RebelTHON, the Big Event and the Green Grove Initiative, and he has been on the Chancellor’s and Dean’s lists. His parents are Joe Curry of Bay Springs and Shirley Curry of Stringer.
Morris H. Stocks named MSCPA Outstanding Educator

Morris H. Stocks of the University of Mississippi was named the 2016 MSCPA Outstanding Educator and recognized during the Business Meeting at the Annual Convention at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Destin on June 25, 2016.

He has been a member of the University of Mississippi faculty since 1991 and remains active in the teaching and research missions of the accountancy program. He has actively recruited students into the accounting profession, mentored students and has been an ambassador and supporter of the accounting profession throughout his career.

Stocks is the 1998 recipient of the university’s most prized teaching honor, the Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award, and was named Patterson School of Accountancy Outstanding Teacher in 1995 and 2000 and Outstanding Researcher in 1996, 2001 and 2007. Stocks’ primary research interest relates to financial accounting issues on the decision-making process of users of accounting information. He has published in many of his profession’s top academic and professional journals.

Stocks formerly served as provost and executive vice chancellor. He previously served as interim chancellor and professor of accountancy. Immediately before assuming responsibilities as interim chancellor in 2015, Stocks served the university as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs for seven-and-a-half years. Stock also served as senior vice chancellor for planning and operations and from 2002 to 2006, he held the position of dean of the Patterson School of Accountancy.

During his tenure as dean, the Patterson School was ranked as one of the top 25 accounting programs in the country for the first time in its history. Before being named dean, Stocks was the university’s associate provost for three years, with responsibilities for the academic budget and undergraduate curriculum.

Stocks received his undergraduate degree in accounting from Trevecca Nazarene University, his master’s degree from Middle Tennessee State University and his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. He is a certified public accountant in the state of Mississippi.

(This article first appeared in the June 2016 issue of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants’ newsletter and is used with permission of MSCPA.)

Rob King: MSCPA Rising Star

Robert (Rob) D. King, Jr. of Hattiesburg was named the 2016 MSCPA Rising Star and recognized during the Business Meeting at the Annual Convention on Saturday, June 25, 2016.

The Rising Star Award, established in 2014 by the Board of Governors, recognizes an outstanding young CPA in Mississippi age 40 or under who has demonstrated exemplary leadership skills and involvement in the MSCPA, the Young CPA Network, the accounting profession and their communities.

King is a shareholder in The Koerber Company, P.A., where he is responsible for valuation and litigation support services for clients. The valuation services are primarily for estate and gift tax purposes, purchases and sales of businesses, and equitable distributions related to divorces. The litigation support services consist of estimating damages in personal injury and wrongful death actions. King has assisted in preparing expert reports as they relate to economic damage calculations for personal injury and wrongful death. He has spoken on valuation and litigation services to accounting students at Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi. Additionally, he has presented seminars to CPAs attending the AICPA 2014 Forensic and Valuation Services Conference, which was held in New Orleans, and to Mississippi attorneys.

King is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in Mississippi and Louisiana. Additionally, he became a Certified Valuation Analyst through the National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts and completed the requirements to be classified as Accredited in Business Valuation and Certified in Financial Forensics by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

He is a member of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants (including member of the Business Valuation and Litigation Services Committee; Millennial Chair), Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants (including member of the Business Valuation and Litigation Services Committee), American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (including the Forensic and Valuation Services Section), and National Association Certified Valuators and Analysts (including current president of the Mississippi Chapter).

In November 2015, King was named by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants as one of the Top Young CPAs in Forensic and Valuation. He was recently named as a member of the National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts’ 40 Under Forty recognition program for 2016 and was recently elected to the Young CPA Network Board.

King received a Bachelor of Accountancy degree from the University of Mississippi in 2008.

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Remembering Patterson School Hall of Famer
John Mack Sullivan

Patterson School faculty, alumni and friends were saddened to learn of the passing of John Mack Sullivan. Sullivan was born April 11, 1936, to Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Sullivan of Indianola, Mississippi, and died Dec. 31, 2016, at the age of 80. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Sylvia Pugh Sullivan, a son (Michael), daughter-in-law (Carol) and two grandchildren (Melissa and John Arthur).

Sullivan attended Indianola High School and graduated as valedictorian. He then attended the University of Mississippi, excelled in the School of Accountancy and made the dean’s list each semester. Among his many honors, Sullivan was elected president of his Sigma Nu chapter, was named Distinguished ROTC Air Force Cadet and was named to Omicron Delta Kappa. He played the sousaphone in the Ole Miss marching band and met a baton-twirling Rebelette named Sylvia Pugh. They wed the day after both graduated from Ole Miss.

Upon graduation, Sullivan was invited to join Arthur Andersen in the Houston office. He worked in the tax division for a year, then left to serve a three-year commitment in the U.S. Air Force as a first lieutenant. He had hopes of becoming a pilot, but this did not work out due to his color blindness. He did so well at “flying a desk” in the budget department at Florida’s Eglin Air Force Base that he was promoted to captain before finishing his duty. In 1962, Sullivan returned to Arthur Andersen and was instrumental in helping build the tax practice in the Houston office. He was admitted to the partnership in 1970, and in 1974, he transferred to New Orleans to become head of the tax division there. In 1977, he returned to Houston, where he was head of the tax division until 1987.

Sullivan then transferred to Tokyo as managing director of the tax practice for the North Pacific region. This role covered offices in China, Korea, Thailand, Taipei, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Indonesia. In 1990, John returned to Houston as managing director of the tax practice for the Southwest region.

Sullivan retired from Arthur Andersen in 1992, and took on a position with General Motors Corp. as its international tax director. This role involved recruiting and supervising tax professionals in Canada, Mexico, Brazil and a number of European countries, as well as managing the international tax staff of GM in Detroit.

Upon returning to Houston in 1994, Sullivan joined the Gordon Cain family office as manager. In this position, he had responsibility for all office operations, oversight of investment management, and involvement in the Gordon and Mary Cain Foundation during the Gordon Cain years. He served as a trustee of the foundation and worked with Jim Weaver to transition responsibilities after Gordon Cain’s death.

Sullivan was inducted into the School of Accountancy Hall of Fame in 1992, the fourth year that it was in existence. Longtime Ole Miss professor Carl Nabors was also inducted into the school’s Hall of Fame in 1992. The Ole Miss School of Accountancy is proud to have John Mack Sullivan as one of our graduates and appreciates all his support and many years of service to the school over the years.
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Financial Executives International Scholarship
Jack Hankins Wilson

Carl Nabors Ole Miss First Scholarship
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Deloitte Scholarship
William Swede Umbach

Mississippi Delta Scholarship
William Lashon Clark

Patterson Accountancy Opportunity Fund Scholarship
Brad Lashawn Booth and Jaleter Markeyle Danyell Daughtery

C Spire Scholarship
William Matthew O’Keefe (left), Mary Stewart Hurst, Ward Toler and Grant Harrison Thames

Dean’s Scholarship
First row: Jolynn Elizabeth Wells Perry (left), Colleen Alison Fay, Caitlyn Brooke Simpson, Rachel Lee Prestwood and Elizabeth Ashley Bryan; second row: Trammel West Wells (left), Jeffrey Allen Noland, Steven Shaun Wilkerson, Lucas Adam Moree, Laura Claire Taylor and Tamara Azretovna Kalmykova

Accountancy Alumni Chapter Academic Achievement Award
Sidney Barrett Albritton, Jarrylenn Jenaé Betts and Samuel Rankin Fowlkes

Financial Executives International Scholarship
Jack Hankins Wilson

Mississippi Delta Scholarship
William Lashon Clark

Deloitte Scholarship
William Swede Umbach
Levens & Schmidt Scholarship
Elizabeth Jourdan Vercher

Boolos Scholarship
Susan Marie Hagger

Deloach & Ray Scholarship
Brandon Schroeder and Jolynn Elizabeth Wells Perry

BKD LLP Scholarship
First row: Jon Turner (left), Taylor Bradley Sandroni and Trey Turnage; second row: Grayson Elizabeth Miles (left), Paige Marie Hollingsworth, Sarah Rosemary Stewart and Peyton Elizabeth Puckett

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Katherine Anne Camilleri (left), Moira Hause and Lindsey Nicole Dunn

Dixon Hughes Goodman Scholarship
Lane Elizabeth Gardner (left), Anthony Clark and Laura Kathryn Lindsay

Frazee Ivy Davis Scholarship in Accountancy
Jim Dilley (left) and Logan Reynolds Laporte
Grantham Poole Scholarship
Lauren Vanessa Rachel Herzog (left), Vance Randall and Caitlyn Brooke Simpson

Haddox Reid Eubank Betts Scholarship
William Schaeffer Pringle (left), Jimmy Wood and Matt Metcalf

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Karen Soefje (left) and Taylor Marie Huhndorff

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Tori Marissa Browning and D. Kirkland Hines

Frances Turnage Accountancy Scholarship
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David R. Bailey Sr. Memorial Scholarship in Accountancy
Chandler Edward Olivi

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Kerry J. West Scholarship
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Andrew Repka Memorial Scholarship in Accountancy
Brooks David Krouse (left) and Michael Repka

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Memorial Scholarship
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John David Whaley Memorial Accountancy Scholarship
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Samuel Charles Lusco Jr. and Margaret Gibson Lusco Memorial Scholarship in Accountancy
William Carter Kemp (left), Matt Lusco and Thomas Wailes Kemp

Johnny Williams Memorial Scholarship
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Tutor Scholarship
John Gordon Campbell (left), Andrew Joseph Newman and Andrew Garrett Spragins

Lucian & Mary Minor Scholarship
Evan Marcus Turner (left) and Kyle Bradley Hyche
Arthur Anderson & Co./W. Kelly Clifford Fellowship
Kalie Virginia Davis

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KPMG Peat Marwick Fellowship
Rachel Frances Whitehorn

Roger & Susie Friou Scholarship
Katherine Thomas Oglesby (left), Sara Benjamin Butts, Roger Friou, Reagan Elizabeth Huey and Brenna Elise Nowell

PricewaterhouseCoopers Fellowship
Nathan Cole McCall

Lucian & Mary Minor Scholarship
First row: Lauren Elizabeth Hetherington (left), Sarah Meade Heuerman and Dorothy Anna Meachum; second row: Stephanie Nicole Green (left), Marissa Anne Starks, Harrison Brian Pence Jensen, Ashley Nicole Theresa Irons and Madison Grace Raley
**Peery Scholarship**
Joseph Clinton Lascara (left), Martha Peery Williston, John Maxwell Bailey, Pete Williston and Scott Allan Heuerman

**National Association of Black Accountants Officers**
Ieshia Vaneice Mosley (left), Kesi Shaunice Bradley, Brett Cantrell, Maya Lashay Owens and Christopher L’Chaun Feazell

**HORNE LLP Fellowship**
First row: Mary Kathryn Allen (left), Matthew Doyle Vollor and Chrissy Leggett; second row: Parker Smith, Morgan Lindsey Lamb and Jack Breland

**Lefoldt & Co./Waller Fellowship**
Anne Dee Thomas

**William Michael McDonald Sr. Fellowship**
Hannah Claire Farmer
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Dale L. Flesher (left), Joseph Alvin Rebentisch and Tonya K. Flesher

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W. Mark Wilder and Tonya K. Flesher

2017 Doctoral Teaching Award and Doctoral Consortium Fellowship
Sara Tinnin Gochnauer and Mark Wilder

2017 Outstanding Researcher Award
Dale L. Flesher and Mark Wilder

Bobby and Faye Weatherly Fellowship in Accountancy
Faye Weatherly (left), Jack Hankins Wilson and Bobby Weatherly

2017 Outstanding Teacher Award
W. Mark Wilder and Tonya K. Flesher
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