Gravitational Waves Detected 100 Years After Einstein’s Prediction

University of Mississippi physicists contributed to the historic discovery confirming a major prediction of Albert Einstein’s 1915 general theory of relativity and opening an unprecedented new window into the cosmos.

For the first time, on September 14, 2015, at 4:51 a.m., scientists observed ripples in the fabric of space-time called gravitational waves. The milestone detection marks the beginning of the new field of gravitational-wave astronomy.

“Gravitational waves arrive at the earth from cataclysmic events in the distant universe,” said Marco Cavaglià, associate professor of physics and astronomy and assistant Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) Scientific Collaboration spokesperson.

They carry information about their dramatic origins and about the nature of gravity that cannot otherwise be obtained. The detected gravitational waves were produced during the final fraction of a second of the merger of two black holes into a single, more massive spinning black hole. The existence of gravitational waves had been predicted by Einstein, but never observed.

Twin Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory detectors in Livingston, Louisiana, and Hanford, Washington, registered the September occurrence as well as a second black hole collision on December 26, 2015. The LIGO system of two identical detectors constructed to detect incredibly tiny vibrations from passing gravitational waves was conceived and built by MIT and Caltech researchers and funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) with significant contributions from other US and international partners. Research and analysis of data from the detectors are carried out by a global group of scientists. UM has been a member of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration since Dr. Cavaglià joined in 2007.

“The LIGO detectors are the most precise measurement devices ever built,” said Katherine Dooley, assistant professor of physics and astronomy and senior member of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, who designed techniques to control the angular pointing of the laser beam, helping push the limits of the precision measurement technology needed to make these detections possible.

“The gravitational waves create phenomenally small changes in the distance between two points in space, and we use laser light to measure that change in distance.”

continued on page 3
FROM THE DEAN
Lee M. Cohen, PhD

Reflecting on my first year as dean, I have developed a deep appreciation and respect for the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the College of Liberal Arts. I also want to thank the many individuals who have shown my family and me unbelievable support and hospitality as we have transitioned to our new home. I am proud to be a member of the University of Mississippi family and remain awestruck by the many opportunities available to our students. Despite the fact we find ourselves in a challenging budget year, the College of Liberal Arts and the University of Mississippi remain very strong.

The past year has been a year of rapid growth and change within the College. For example, we have welcomed six new department chairs, a new center director, 32 new faculty members and instructors, 128 new graduate students, and our largest undergraduate class ever, with 3,982 freshmen. Further, Dr. Jeffrey Vitter began his tenure as our new Chancellor and we obtained R1 status (“Highest Research Activity”) among doctoral granting universities based on the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

We are extremely proud of the faculty and staff that serve the College of Liberal Arts. Our faculty continue to provide a strong academic foundation through our general education curriculum and are responsible for approximately 60% of all of the student credit hours taught on campus. They also maintain active research programs, engage in creative scholarship, create magnificent works of art, and produce top-rate performances. Our staff sees to it that this sizable endeavor functions on a day-to-day basis and provides countless services that are vital to our mission.

Now, as throughout our history, students are taking required classes in the fine arts, the humanities, and the natural and social sciences. As they do, they are gaining an understanding of our increasingly complicated world and learning more about themselves. They are also developing essential skills to become global citizens and be well prepared for the workplace. Skills such as critical analysis, creativity, oral and written communication and an understanding of the human condition are essential. In fact, on August 30th of this year, The Wall Street Journal reported that companies across the US are looking for “applicants who can communicate clearly, take initiative, problem-solve and get along with co-workers.” The many programs housed under the College of Liberal Arts prepare our students to successfully navigate our dynamic world as they become flexible and skillful lifelong learners who will be employable in any setting.

While a liberal arts education fosters marketable skills, it also cultivates inspiration and purpose. This is our goal, and I am pleased that our traditions of learning hold the key to our future. Students in the College want to improve the world, and they are developing the skills necessary to do so.

You can learn more about today’s College of Liberal Arts in this edition of The View from Ventress. I also invite you to follow us @umlibarts on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Thank you for caring about and supporting the College of Liberal Arts.

Olympic Silver and Gold

Nine participants in the 2016 Olympic Games had a connection to UM, including one alumna of the College. Champion long jump athlete Brittney Reese (BA English ’11) won silver at the 2016 Rio Games, gold at the 2012 London Games, and finished fifth at the 2008 Beijing Games. She holds many gold medals in American and World Indoor and Outdoor Championships and is the number two all-time long jumper in US history behind Jackie Joyner-Kersee.

For more about UM in Rio, visit olemissports.com/olympics.

Why is it called “liberal arts”?

From the origins of Western civilization in the ancient world comes the concept of a liberal arts education. The term comes from the Greek word eleutheros and the Latin word liber, both meaning “free.” For free (male) citizens to fully participate in Athenian democracy, they needed certain skills in critical thinking and communication developed through a broad education in seven disciplines: the trivium, or verbal arts, consisting of grammar, logic, and rhetoric; the quadrivium, or numerical arts, consisting of arithmetic, astronomy, music, and geometry. Such an education celebrated and nurtured human freedom and early democracy.

In modern times, we can look to the American Association of Colleges and Universities for a contemporary understanding of this concept.

“Liberal education is an approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. It provides students with broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g. science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest. A liberal education helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings. The broad goals of liberal education have been enduring even as the courses and requirements that comprise a liberal education have changed over the years. Today, a liberal education usually includes a general education curriculum that provides broad learning in multiple disciplines and ways of knowing, along with more in-depth study in a major.” (aacu.org/leap)
First Detection

"Using sophisticated algorithms and data analysis techniques, we estimate that the black hole collision detected in September took place about 1.3 billion years ago," said Cavaglià.

The black holes collided with each other at nearly half the speed of light, said Dooley. "The explosion released so much energy that about three times the mass of the sun was converted to gravitational waves in only a fraction of a second. These are the gravitational waves that LIGO has observed.

“This is a momentous event. LIGO has opened our ears to the universe. For the first time ever, we can listen to the cosmos.”

Cavaglià, Dooley, postdoctoral research assistant Shivaraj Kandhasamy, and three students from the UM-LIGO team are among the authors of the discovery paper. UM’s team also includes two graduate students, a visiting research associate, and several exchange master’s students from Italy.

Second detection

“The black holes producing the gravitational waves detected in December were about three times smaller in size than the black holes we observed in September,” said Cavaglià.

“Theyir size is closer to what astronomers observe in galactic X-ray binaries. LIGO data also show with very high confidence that at least one of the black holes was spinning before it collided with its companion. This is the first detection of a spinning black hole in a binary system that does not rely on X-ray observations.”

During the merger some 1.4 billion years ago a quantity of energy roughly equivalent to the mass of the sun was converted into gravitational waves. The detected signal comes from the last 27 orbits of the black holes before they merged. Based on the arrival time of the signals—with the Livingston detector measuring the waves 1.1 milliseconds before the Hanford detector—the position of the source in the sky can be roughly determined.

“It is very significant that these black holes were much less massive than those observed in the first detection,” says Gabriela Gonzalez, LIGO Scientific Collaboration spokesperson and LSU professor. “Because of their lighter masses compared to the first detection, they spent more time—about one second—in the sensitive band of the detectors. It is a promising start to mapping the populations of black holes in our universe.”

Both discoveries were made possible by the enhanced capabilities of Advanced LIGO, a major upgrade that increases the sensitivity of the instruments compared to the first-generation LIGO detectors.

“With the advent of Advanced LIGO, we anticipated researchers would eventually succeed at detecting unexpected phenomena, but these two detections thus far have surpassed our expectations,” said France A. Córdova, NSF director. "NSF’s 40-year investment in this foundational research is already yielding new information about the nature of the dark universe.”

Visit VfV online to read Physics Viewpoint: The First Sounds of Merging Black Holes by Emanuele Berti, associate professor of physics and astronomy, a nontechnical introduction to the reasons why the LIGO discovery was so hard, why it matters so much, and what will come next.

Student Physicist Awarded Fulbright

Hunter Gabbard (BS physics ’16) has a Fulbright Scholarship to work with some of the world’s top physicists at the Albert Einstein Institute in Germany.

“This award is a testament to Hunter’s excellent work in his brief scientific career,” said Marco Cavaglià, associate professor of physics and astronomy and assistant spokesperson for the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) Scientific Collaboration.

“A full member of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration for three years, he is one of only a handful of undergraduate students earning authorship on the LIGO papers reporting the first two direct detections of gravitational waves and all related companion papers. Hunter is a model for student dedication and hard work.”

“The Fulbright year allows me to pursue my research interest in machine learning applied to the now burgeoning field of gravitational wave astronomy,” Gabbard said.

He proposes using a novel method utilizing machines to better characterize and understand the nonastrophysical noise that can mimic gravitational-wave events in Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave detectors. Andrew Lundgren, co-chair of the detector characterization group and part of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, will supervise.

“I hope to continue at a PhD program in either physics or astrophysics and then become an active researcher in gravitational physics taking part in the design of next-generation detectors.”
Scholar in China
James DeMarshall, a Chinese and international studies major, spent the summer studying in Xi’an, China, on a US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship.

Celebrating Shakespeare
Two rare books anchored the university commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Bard’s death.

First Folio is the term scholars use to describe Mr. William Shakespeare Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies, a collection of 36 plays published in 1623. Only 233 copies of the book are known to exist in 2016. The Folger Shakespeare Library chose the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts as the Mississippi location for the landmark exhibition of the English poet, playwright, and actor’s work.

“With this as the centerpiece, our host sites across the nation developed exciting original programming through which we hope Americans of all ages engage with Shakespeare, deepen their love of his language, and discover how understanding his world helps us understand our own,” said Owen Williams, assistant director for scholarly programs at the Folger Library.

Lectures, performances, workshops, and master classes—many by those within the College—during the three-week celebration in April included a talk by Ivo Kamps, chair and professor of English, tracing the path from Shakespeare’s manuscripts to the First Folio’s publication and a discussion with Karen Raber, professor of English, of how Shakespeare remains relevant to modern audiences through cinematic adaptations of his plays; an Ole Miss Theatre performance of A Midsummer Night’s Dream; theatre faculty demonstrations on stage combat and Shakespearean-era dancing; and a Mockingbird Early Music Ensemble performance.

Another layer of excitement came from a Gertrude C. Ford Foundation gift allowing the university to acquire for its permanent collection a rare volume of the Second Folio, an update published in 1632. The copy belonged to Edwin Booth, one of history’s most illustrious Shakespearean actors, and was purchased from the New York’s Players Club, a social group for actors founded by Booth.

Julia Aubrey Named Ford Center Director

“We are looking forward to dreaming the next chapter in the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts’ history and then making those goals a reality,” said Julia Aubrey, associate professor of music, director of opera theatre, and new director of the Ford Center.

She plans to collaborate with the university and surrounding community to expand the facility’s mission and engage students, residents, and their families. Aubrey said she believes the Ford Center can be a producer as well as a presenter, incubating projects that establish it as a regional arts leader.

“Oxford is an exceptional place with a variety of interests we want to tap into. We want more people to experience this wonderful venue.”

For the events schedule, visit fordcenter.org.

Novel Films
According to Variety magazine, James Franco (pictured) is developing three movies based on the crime novels Smokin’, Poachers, and Hell at the Breech by Tom Franklin, associate professor of fiction writing.

On Screen
Tate Ellington (BA theatre arts ’01) plays Chad on Shameless (Showtime), Bryan Turner in Straight Outta Compton (Universal Pictures), and Simon Asher on Quantico (ABC). “I definitely wouldn’t be here without Ole Miss Theatre,” Ellington said. “I got a great education and I loved every minute. There are a good group of alums in New York—Ole Miss grads take care of each other.”

Theatre faculty Rene Pulliam and Rhona Justice-Malloy and the Office of the Provost assisted with the acquisition. While visiting the Player’s Club in December Justice-Malloy notified Pulliam that the copy was going to auction. In January, Associate Provost Noel Wilkin contacted Pulliam with news that the Ford Foundation would be a major donor for the Folio.

“They were excited about it being at a public institution where people would really enjoy it,” Justice-Malloy said. “I am so proud to be a faculty member at Ole Miss and know that we value the importance of such a book. The Folio will help recruit students and scholars interested in the arts, history, and literature research. I extend an enormous ‘thank you’ to the Ford Foundation for making this possible.”

The Second Folio is a part of the recently opened Hot Off the Press: New and Newly Available Archive Collections exhibition of rare political, literary (including some very rare William Faulkner), historical, and blues materials on display in the Faulkner Room of the J. D. Williams Library Department of Archives and Special Collections. It is open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday through Friday except University holidays. For more information, call 662.915.7408.
Celebrated writer and educator Beth Ann Fennelly is the new Mississippi Poet Laureate.

“Mississippi’s reputation for the written word is unmatched the world over, and Beth Ann will strengthen that reputation,” said Governor Phil Bryant.

The prize-winning author and professor of English will spend her four years as official state poet creating and reading poetry during state occasions and participating in school and community events that promote appreciation of poetry as an art form.

“I’m truly honored to have been chosen as Mississippi’s Poet Laureate, a post held most recently by Natasha Trethewey, whom I greatly admire,” said Fennelly, who teaches poetry and nonfiction writing, directed the MFA program for six years, and was the 2011 UM Humanities Teacher of the Year and College of Liberal Arts Teacher of the Year.

“Southerners in general and Mississippians in particular are known to have produced many of our nation’s greatest writers. It will give me joy to help promote literary arts throughout the state and encourage future generations of Mississippi storytellers and writers.

“I look forward to continuing and deepening my work with the National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Out Loud Initiative in Mississippi, the fabulous Mississippi Book Festival, and the schools, libraries, and organizations that grow and nurture talent from our rich Mississippi soil.”

Born in New Jersey and raised in the Chicago area, Fennelly wrote and taught around the world before settling in Oxford in 2001. She received a BA magna cum laude from the University of Notre Dame and then taught English for a year in a coal-mining village on the Czech/Polish border before returning to the US to earn her MFA from the University of Arkansas, complete a Diane Middlebrook Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin, and teach at Knox College in Illinois. She has held residencies at the University of Arizona and MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire, fellowships at Middlebury’s Bread Loaf Writer’s Conference and Sewanee, and a 2009 Fulbright grant studying poetry in Brazil.

Fennelly has received numerous awards for her work. Department of English Chair and Professor Ivo Kamps said the poet laureate title has been a time-honored way of drawing attention to the importance of poetry in national discourse since 1616 when King James I of England gave poet and playwright Ben Jonson a pension with the expectation he would write occasional verses to commemorate the country’s major events.

“It is an incredible honor for Beth Ann Fennelly and for the university that she is called to join in this tradition,” Kamps said. “I can’t think of a better person in the role because she has written lyrically, lovingly, but also poignantly about the state of Mississippi. Her verse confronts readers with poetry’s best attributes—a clear understanding of proportion and form, captivating rhythms, striking imagery, and startling insights.”


Fennelly’s poem “The Kudzu Chronicles” (published by W. W. Norton in Unmentionables, 2008) is grounded in her experience in Mississippi and references William Faulkner, the Neshoba County Fair, and her home in Oxford. Its closing stanzas were used as the lyrics for “Kudzu,” a song by Jackson musician Claire Holley:

Listen, kin and stranger, when I go to the field and lie down, 
Let my stone be a native stone. 
Let the deer come at dusk from the woods behind the church and let them nibble acorns off my grave. 
Then let the kudzu blanket me, for I always loved the heat, and let its hands rub out my name, for I always loved affection.
Innovators Changing the South

Southern Living magazine recognized Patrick Woodyard, Joe York, and Sarah Camp Milam for “shaping the South to be something new, something different, something we’ve never seen before.”

Patrick Woodyard (BA international studies and Spanish ’10)
“Nisolo, the Nashville-based luxury shoe company, means ‘not alone,’ and that embodies founder and CEO Patrick Woodyard’s commitment to partnership. Discovering a heritage of multi-generational shoemakers in Peru, Woodyard brought his gorgeous shoes to the States, along with a commitment to treat workers in both countries ethically and pay them equitably. Nisolo makes some of the best footwear we’ve seen anywhere in the world, and it’s proving every day that Southern hospitality makes good business sense.” — Southern Living

Forbes magazine also noticed Nisolo’s socially responsible business efforts—providing English language and financial literacy classes along with fair wages—and it landed Woodyard a spot on the 2016 Forbes 30 Under 30 list of “the brightest young entrepreneurs, breakout talents, and change agents.”

Joe York (MA Southern Studies ’05)
“Documentary filmmaker Joe York’s short films show Southern food at its most raw and mouth-wateringly delicious. More importantly, his storytelling highlights incredible characters and unsung cooks who inspire us to incorporate passion not just into cooking but into our entire lives. York continually pushes boundaries with form as well as content, and we can’t wait to see what he’s doing next. Find his films at the Southern Foodways Alliance, or check out his longer films: Sorry We’re Open and Mississippi Innocence.” — Southern Living

Shake ‘Em On Down: The Blues According to Fred McDowell, a one-hour Southern Documentary Project film by York and Scott Barretta, adjunct instructor of sociology and anthropology, was selected for the 2016–17 Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers. It chronicles the life of the musician whose slide guitar technique and vocals influenced the Rolling Stones, Bonnie Raitt, Taj Mahal, R. L. Burnside, and the North Mississippi Allstars (all of whom appear in the documentary).

Sarah Camp Milam
“If you love nothing better than stories told over, about, and through food, get ready for your next obsession: Gravy, a quarterly magazine from the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA) and winner of the 2015 James Beard Award for publication of the year. We have Sara Camp Milam [managing editor] to thank for growing Gravy into robust, full-color issues packed with stories that help us look at traditional food with a new eye. Milam … brings culture, character, and storytelling into the mix.” — Southern Living

In 2016 the SFA accepted its second consecutive James Beard Foundation Award for Gravy, this time in the podcast category. The free 25-minute program is available on the SFA website and through iTunes. Recent podcasts pondered the restaurant chain Cracker Barrel and Southern nostalgia. Another focused on the food world behind the scenes at Indian-owned motels.

Undergraduate Research Conference
Three students earned Grand Champion titles at the Pi Sigma Alpha political science honor society meeting: Conner Somgynari (BA international studies ’16), investigated when and why armed groups might use diplomacy; Christine Sim (BA political science ’16), discussed the influence of voter ID laws on voter turnout; and Kate Reid, an economics and political science major, researched state building in Afghanistan. Pictured with Sue Ann Skipworth, assistant professor of political science (left).

Chemistry Book Club

Generous Gift Adds More Goodness to Gravy
The nation’s leading manufacturer of cast iron cookware has committed $150,000 to the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA), giving its Gravy an ingredient that will make the quarterly print and biweekly podcast storytelling platform a little bit richer.

“The way Gravy uses oral history to tell a story in an understated manner is the way we like to present our message,” said Mark Kelly, public relations and advertising manager for Lodge Manufacturing.

“When the SFA tells about a shrimper on the Gulf Coast who supports his family and helps restaurants stay in business that’s something we want to be a part of. The independent restaurateur or food distributor or baker … they’re a huge part of the American culinary experience and business model and we support that. Through those messages, people learn … and discover we’re an integral part of American food culture.”

MAKE A GIFT: Nikki Neely Davis, nnineely@olemiss.edu, 662.915.6678

more stories, photos, and videos at libarts.olemiss.edu
Nourished By Private Giving

While food nourishes the body, art nourishes the soul. The Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA) expertly blends both into programming. Impressed by the SFA’s use of art to enhance the presentation of Southern food culture, two donors committed to major gifts for performing and visual arts at the SFA annual symposium.

The 21c Museum Hotel group of five properties—brainchild of contemporary art collectors and preservationists Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson—was founded in Louisville, Kentucky, with the mission of making contemporary art accessible to the public through boutique hotels combined with contemporary art museums and restaurants. The group’s gift will sustain annual art installations exhibited during the SFA’s symposium.

“We hope to expose a new audience to innovative art and ideas, providing a visual context for the important discussions happening at the symposium and beyond,” said Sarah Robbins, chief hospitality officer. “At 21c Museum Hotel, we engage our team, our guests, and the community through contemporary art, cultural programming, and food. These are all opportunities to discover and to spark conversation around topical ideas. Through these communal experiences of discovery, ideas are born and spread. SFA’s mission to address complex cultural issues is complementary to ours and we are thrilled to partner on this important initiative.”

The SFA also stages performances at its symposium. From ballet to street theatre, from a puppet show to an oratorio, such performances will now be supported by a major gift from an anonymous donor to the SFA performing arts fund.

“Our hope is to expose a new audience to innovative art and ideas, providing a visual context for the important discussions happening at the symposium and beyond,” said Sarah Robbins, chief hospitality officer. “At 21c Museum Hotel, we engage our team, our guests, and the community through contemporary art, cultural programming, and food. These are all opportunities to discover and to spark conversation around topical ideas. Through these communal experiences of discovery, ideas are born and spread. SFA’s mission to address complex cultural issues is complementary to ours and we are thrilled to partner on this important initiative.”

The SFA also stages performances at its symposium. From ballet to street theatre, from a puppet show to an oratorio, such performances will now be supported by a major gift from an anonymous donor to the SFA performing arts fund.

“Through performance, the SFA shares stories inspired by the South and by Southern experiences,” said SFA Director John T. Edge. “In the now crowded marketplace of food ideas, these stories spark honest reflection and foster genuine progress while offering new ways to address complex Southern issues with national implications.”

MAKE A GIFT: Nikki Neely Davis, nneely@olemiss.edu, 662.915.6678

UM NAACP Wins National Award

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) presented the UM chapter with the Chairman’s Award at the 47th NAACP Image Awards live broadcast on TV One in February.

“In honoring the UM NAACP, we focus on your work and accomplishments as organizers, justice activists, advocates, clergy, athletes, and artists who have joined forces to contribute to awakening our moral and community conscience on issues negatively impacting society,” said Roslyn M. Brock, chair of the NAACP national board of directors.

The NAACP award recognizes special achievement, distinguished public service, and groundbreaking work to increase understanding and awareness of racial and social justice issues.

“The experience was surreal and overwhelming,” said Dominique Scott, UM chapter secretary and a student of African American Studies and sociology, who accepted the award with Tysianna Marino and chapter president Chukwuebuka “Buka” Okoye, both public policy leadership majors, and James M. Thomas, assistant professor of sociology and chapter faculty advisor.

“I was on stage in front of my heroes—groundbreaking women of color, who unapologetically assert their value in the world. When we looked out into the crowd, fists raised, every able-bodied person in the room stood and applauded. I almost lost it. The emotion hit me at once.”

Inaugural TedxUM Talks

UM’s TEDx event, organized by Marvin King, associate professor of political science and African American Studies, and Elizabeth Wicks, a French and international studies student, featured four College faculty: chemist Randy Wadkins discussed nanotechnology; psychologist Laura Johnson explored multiculturalism; English professor Gregory Heyworth explained multispectral digital imaging; and theatre arts professor Matthew Wilson demonstrated how humor brings people together.

Watch videos, visit VfV online.
Physicists Receive $3 Million to Study Nuclear Fuel Storage

The US has thousands of tons of used nuclear fuel stored in aging steel casks, raising serious safety concerns about the long-term stability of the radioactive material. Two UM physicists are leading a team to study the stability of the canisters.

Josh Gladden, interim vice chancellor for research and sponsored programs, associate professor of physics and astronomy, and director of the UM Jamie L. Whitten National Center for Physical Acoustics (NCPA), and Joel Mobley, associate professor of physics and astronomy, have a $3 million grant from the US Department of Energy (DOE) for collaborative problem solving with other university and industry partners.

“At present, there are about 70,000 tons of spent nuclear fuel in storage, and it is increasing at a rate of nearly 2,000 tons per year,” Gladden said. “These storage casks are massive steel structures, each of which can hold several tons of fuel.”

The casks are also completely sealed.

“With no internal access, it is critical to find ways of evaluating the state of the spent fuel rods and support structures from the outside,” Mobley said. “The NCPA team will investigate acoustic and ultrasonic approaches to the problem. As the lead institution, our work involves computer modeling and hands-on experimental work. We’ll build a virtual model of the loaded storage cask and use computer models to test the various acoustic approaches in order to optimize the placements of our sources and sensors. Our external partners will apply other means including exotic modalities such as muon tomography.”

Many casks are nearing the end of their engineered lifetime.

“Currently, there are no tools or techniques to assess the structural integrity of the interior or the rod bundles,” said Gladden. “This research has the potential to provide those tools.”

John Gilligan, director of Nuclear Energy University Program (NEUP) at the DOE, said that “the project led by Josh Gladden is one of the larger and most important as part of our NEUP program to support commercial nuclear energy. The DOE will take the analysis and conceptual designs proposed by UM and perhaps eventually build operating prototype experiments to test the ideas and pass the information on to industry for implementation. One of these new techniques might become standard practice to ensure the integrity of spent fuel storage in the US.”

At the Helm

Ray Mabus (BA political science ‘69) manages a $170 billion budget and is responsible for the well-being of more than 900,000 enlisted personnel stationed on ships or at naval bases around the world.

Read about the US Secretary of the Navy in the Ole Miss Alumni Review. Visit VfV online.

Prestigious Fellowship Awarded for Ebola Research

Gilberte “Gigi” Bastien (PhD clinical psychology ’13) is in Liberia for 11 months as a Fogarty Global Health Fellow with the National Institutes of Health studying the mental health and psychosocial impacts of Ebola virus disease.

“The people of Liberia and their resilience in facing one of the greatest epidemics of our lifetime are truly inspiring,” said Bastien, associate director of Global Health for the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

“I am thrilled to contribute to the growing body of literature on evidence-based global mental health disaster/emergency response.”

Her focus is on the existing strengths, resiliency, and resources among Liberia’s Ebola survivors. The country had 4,800+ Ebola-related deaths between March 2014, when outbreaks were reported in West Africa, and January 2016—the deadliest epidemic since the disease’s discovery.

From a psychological standpoint, Bastien’s research addresses the lack of knowledge surrounding resiliency in the aftermath of large-scale emergencies to help professionals understand strategies supporting knowledge exchange, mental health literacy, and interventions in ways that are respectful of communities.

Her dissertation examined disaster response and resilience following the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti. International research of this nature is rare in the clinical research field and increasingly valued.
The first season of an alumni couple’s Home Town show on the popular lifestyle television channel is scheduled for 2017.

“Erin [BFA art ’07] and Ben [BA history ’07] Napier love their small hometown of Laurel, Mississippi, especially the old historical houses. Using found materials and old textiles, they’re keeping the character of these classic homes, but giving them modern and affordable updates. From Erin’s imaginative hand sketches to Ben’s custom handiwork, this couple is bringing Laurel’s homes back to life, and making sure their small town’s future is as bright as its past.”— HGTV website

History Club
A new organization promotes the subject of history outside the classroom. “The goal is to celebrate history through activities such as watching historical films, holding salons to discuss papers, inviting guest speakers, and taking field trips,” said club president Tayler Clements (BA biological science and history).

Research Leaders
U M ascended to the R-1: Doctoral Universities—Highest Research Activity category, representing the top 2.5% of US institutions of higher education by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education this year.

“As a flagship university, UM is determined to play a key role in the cycle of research and discovery that drives and sustains our community and world,” Chancellor Jeffrey S. Vitter said. “This ranking was achieved because of our outstanding faculty and their dedication to research and education.”

College of Liberal Arts contributions to this achievement include Department of Biology faculty research. Their sponsored research for July 2015–June 2016 totaled $1,761,212.

“The Department of Biology faculty are uncovering exciting new knowledge in several fundamental areas of the life sciences,” said Gregg Roman, chair and professor of biology. “This knowledge is far-reaching and is helping to generate new solutions for some of our greatest challenges in health and the environment. We are further dedicated to training the next generation of biologists, capable of discovering an even deeper understanding of living systems and of solving problems of disease, food sustainability, and the loss of ecosystems.”

HGTV
Sarah Liljegren’s National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER grant may lead to novel technologies to modify organ abscission in crop plants.

Jason Hoeksema and students joined colleagues in pharmacy for field research to study fungi in ancient Polish forests. Rare mushrooms in that ecosystem have potential anticancer activity.

With a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Glenn Parsons and students are testing a device to reduce by-catch—unintentional capture—of sharks by commercial fishermen.

Erik Hom’s multi-institutional NSF grant supports gathering field samples around the world of uncharacterized fungi associated with photosynthetic organisms.

Lucile McCook’s collaborative NSF grant funds pooling Mississippi and Southeast US herbarium data into one searchable web portal of images and georeferenced data.

Patrick Curtis received UM’s 7th National Science Foundation CAREER grant for microbiology research on how bacteria adapt, repurpose, and integrate signaling pathways to create complex cellular systems, particularly those of prokaryotic development.

Lainy Day’s neuroscience work centers on understanding the evolution, function, and neuroendocrinology of brain regions involved in spatial and motor learning. Current projects revolve around steroid induced neuroplasticity in the avian cerebellum.

The new chair of biology, Gregg Roman, is a neuroscientist who investigates the molecular and neural mechanisms that drive changes in behavior.

Lucile McCook’s collaborative NSF grant funds pooling Mississippi and Southeast US herbarium data into one searchable web portal of images and georeferenced data.

Patrick Curtis received UM’s 7th National Science Foundation CAREER grant for microbiology research on how bacteria adapt, repurpose, and integrate signaling pathways to create complex cellular systems, particularly those of prokaryotic development.
Student Spotlight
A look at a few of the 5,000 undergraduates in the College

CHRISTAL DAVIS (BA psychology ’16)
Christal worked simultaneously in three research labs, received clinical experience at Haven House residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation center and the North Mississippi Regional Center for people with developmental disabilities, tutored athletes, and coauthored with Professor Todd Smitherman an article on the treatment of PTSD and chronic headache published in a peer-reviewed medical journal.

“Innumerable hours studying, researching, and working to be the best student possible paid off with an invitation to join Phi Beta Kappa, one of the nation’s most prestigious honor societies.”

VICTORIA CALCOTE (BA biochemistry ’16)
Victoria applied knowledge from her science courses to novel situations. Her paper incorporating basic biochemistry, production and aging of cheese, microbiology, and the health effects of the fusion of those factors for a Chemistry of French Food course was so interesting that Professor Susan Pedigo plans to use it as instructional material for Biochemistry I.

“A medical mission trip to Montero, Bolivia, was especially transformative, translating material in my studies to hands-on knowledge. The trip taught me adaptation and creativity through the shortage or absence of necessary supplies and to ask relevant questions about the material I am learning.”

PHOTO BY ROBERT JORDAN
SARAH FARMER (BS mathematics ’16)

As a participant on an interdisciplinary chemistry research team, Sarah developed metal catalysts for hydrocarbon oxidation—part of Dr. Jonah Jurss’ chemistry lab’s larger goal of developing new alternative fuel technologies.

She also found satisfaction being part of UM’s new Transfer Student Peer Mentorship Program. “I transferred after ending my career as a volleyball player at Mississippi College. The program allowed me to ease others’ transitions to Ole Miss. My goals were to help mentees enjoy this exciting time and to encourage them to mentor future transfer students.”

THOMAS BURNETTE (BM music ’16)

A top snare drummer in The Pride of the South marching band, outstanding undergraduate instrumentalist, UM Concerto Competition winner, and Ole Miss Athletics band spirit awardee, Tommy is on ESPN’s SEC Nation opening video.

“The SEC Network staff filmed 14 SEC drummers at Mercer University. Every game day I receive calls telling me that I’m on television, and it reminds me how blessed I am to have been selected for this grand opportunity. I will forever cherish the experience and be grateful to Band Director David Willson for choosing me to be the face of Ole Miss.”
**HANNAH SWITZER**  
(BA religious studies '16)  
Hannah believes that academic success is incomplete until it is applied to make a practical difference in the community. Her undergraduate work in religious studies provided the opportunity to engage in community-based learning for a class on religion and aging.  

“Volunteering at a low-income housing development for senior citizens allowed me to delve firsthand into ethical problems attributed to old age, including loneliness and poverty. From playing card games to taking residents bowling, involvement enriched my understanding of ethical challenges related to contemporary aging, particularly the way poverty effects the elderly.”

**MARY MARTIN**  
(BA classics and Spanish '16)  
Mary’s senior thesis incorporated research in several languages, the multidisciplinary classics field, and her interest in the history of business.  

“The proudest moment of my undergraduate study was the defense of my thesis. I wrote about the olive oil trade between Rome and its Iberian colonies in the ancient world to combine my three fields of study: business, classics, and Spanish. Gathering data from site reports and primary sources and researching in multiple language books and journals put to use all the skills I’ve learned.”

**JONATHAN EVANS**  
(BA economics '16)  
Studying survey design and methodology in an experiential learning class seemed to Jonathan as a practical way to gain data analysis experience. His class project to create and distribute a survey to undergraduates concerning prescription drug abuse reached 6,400 students. Presenting the project report to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of Students in a Lyceum conference room gave Evans “a genuine sense of accomplishment for providing information that the University can use to design drug abuse prevention programs.”

**MAGGIE HALL**  
(BA German and international studies '16)  
Maggie has a 2016 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Germany to help students and serve as a cultural ambassador. The US government international educational exchange program is designed to increase understanding with other countries. She plans to remain in Germany to pursue a master’s degree.  

“I look forward to working with the youth at Gymnasium Alfeld in Alfeld, Niedersachsen. Looking back, I’m proud of my resolve to learn the German language. With it comes a deeper appreciation of the German people and culture.”

**COREY FULLER**  
(BA Arabic '16)  
Corey studied Arabic in Jordan last fall with a Boren Scholarship from the US Department of State. The Boren program funds study of less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to US interests and underrepresented in study abroad. After commission as a second lieutenant in the US Army, he anticipates active duty.  

“We do not know when, where, or how the next war will be fought. It is my job to be the most prepared I can be because I owe it to the American people and the soldiers I will lead to be the most competent leader. In order to accomplish that, I must be culturally competent and able to effectively communicate, partner, influence, and operate in complex joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational environments.”

**KALEB MITCHELL**  
(BFA theatre arts '15)  
Kaleb worked tirelessly on his acting, martial arts, and movement skills; was a featured dancer with Mississippi, the Dance Company; and gained multiple certifications in stage combat training.  

He felt the production We Are Proud to Present was staged at the right time on campus. “It was intense, moving, influential, and lightly comedic in its treatment of race relations. I knew I wanted to be an actor, but being a part of a production so profound and meaningful truly solidified my decision.” He believes strongly in the University Creed and hopes that UM continues to use its capacity to lead the state in social issues.

more stories, photos, and videos at libarts.olemiss.edu
ANN-MARIE HEROD (BA African American Studies and BAJ journalism ’16)
Ann-Marie received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award from the McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement. Her volunteer work with service organizations on- and off-campus—Leap Frog, Boys and Girls Club, the Big Event, and churches—began with a mission trip to Honduras her freshman year. While Ann-Marie enjoyed working with children there, she wanted to help closer to home and encourages others to do the same.

“I asked myself, ‘What am I doing in my community?’ The real work starts in our own backyard. We can make the world a better place by volunteering locally. The best way to be a good steward to our communities and break down barriers is by serving others.”

ALICIA BACON (BA history ’16)
Alicia conducted original research at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for her honors thesis, “This Clinic Stays Open: A Comprehensive History of Reproductive Rights in Mississippi, 1966–2015.” Her historiographical essay examining the intersections of sexuality, race, and gender in American history won the 2016 Sue Hart Award for Best Project in Gender Studies in the South.

“My thesis advisor’s use of my findings in her history class lecture fills me with pride and makes me eager to produce significant historical work for the rest of my professional life.”

ERIC BENNETT (BA political science and public policy leadership ’16)
Eric gained political experience as an intern for the Mississippi Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review, a member of the US Senate campaign of Chris McDaniel, and the campaign manager for a successful state senate reelection bid by Mississippi Senate Finance Committee Chair Joey Fillingane.

“My time at UM and opportunities with College Republicans along with an internship with the state legislature culminated when I served as campaign manager for a candidate reelected by 60%—despite a majority of registered voters representing the opposing party. My education and training are invaluable for a career in law and politics.”

LOGAN WILSON (BA biochemistry ’16)
“The University of Mississippi provided me with a top-notch education in biochemistry and allowed me to focus solely on my academics and motivated me to be successful. Being one of the first two recipients, I wanted to set the standard high for future students who receive this honor.”

Logan began medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center this fall.
A piece that Charles developed in Tom Franklin’s Beginning Fiction Workshop course received the 2015 Mississippi Review Prize in Fiction.

“A short story I wrote emerged from my disturbed reaction to news coverage surrounding the 2012 school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. I hoped to show how a culture of apparent sympathy can actually exploit suffering. Though I take great pride in the story and the prize, I am still unsure of whether I had any right to inhabit the minds of victims of such a tragedy. I am sure, however, that I did my best to grapple with a harrowing and relevant subject. I believe such expressions are necessary in fiction if we are to move forward in the national conversation on gun violence.”

“IT seems like a small thing to say that my proudest achievement at Ole Miss is being able to share my writing with other people; but for an introvert like me, it feels like a small miracle. I was even elected president of the new Rebel Writers group. It is an immense honor—one I could not have achieved without the loss of my preconceptions and inhibitions.”

Rebel Writers provides aspiring creative writers with an established community to express their talents, integrate with other students with shared passions and goals, and explore all writing genres in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

PHOTO BY THOMAS GRANING

more stories, photos, and videos at libarts.olemiss.edu

PHOTO BY THOMAS GRANING
EMILY HUGO  (BS forensic chemistry ’16)

“I aspire to be a forensic scientist because I love science and solving mysteries. At the end of my internship with the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, the lab director encouraged me to apply for a job after graduation. I had proven myself and someone took note of my tenacity.”

A forensic chemistry major with an intelligence and security studies minor, Emily was also a Homeland Security Summer Scholar Intern for the Transportation Security Agency in El Paso, Texas. Her honors thesis used computational modeling of high-energy density materials to explore the possibility of improving the detection of compounds such as explosives.

KATHRYN JAMES  (BA economics, public policy leadership, and Southern Studies ’17)

Kathryn adjusted her academic focus after tutoring children and taking courses that touched on public education in Mississippi. She wanted to learn more about Southern identity, desegregation, and policy change.

“A YMCA internship gave me a national perspective on ways to combat the achievement gap. Shadowing charter schools in New Orleans allowed me to learn opportunities for student success regardless of zip code or race. Experiences in the community—from the local Della Davidson Elementary School to the state capital in Jackson with Mississippi First education policy research—have given me a better understanding of how Mississippians identify and evaluate educational challenges.”

ALICE CONNOLLY  (BFA painting ’16)

For her thesis exhibition, Alice “played with the lighting on flowers to signify reemergence, hope, and renewal through life’s many obstacles. Life requires adaptation. A deeper and stronger beauty emerges after change. Flowers represent maturation and second chances.”

Portraits and landscapes are other favorite subjects. “I paint what I love the most the best way I am able. That’s it. My resolve is to remain true to what is authentic to me.”

She is considering graduate schools in Florence, Italy, and New York City.
Cinema Culture on Campus

The Cinema minor, first offered in Fall 2011, has 60 students enrolled; journalism thrives; the library created a video editing studio for use by all students; Southern Studies houses the award-winning SouthDocs; and plans an MFA in documentary expression; and screenwriters and film studies faculty teach throughout the humanities.

Alan Arrivée, associate theatre professor and cinema director, has been the lone cinema production faculty member in theatre arts for six years.

To deepen cinema production instruction, the department hired Harrison Witt this year. Besides being an award-winning screenwriter and filmmaker, he brings 20+ years of professional production experience in cinematography and lighting and thousands of hours on set with top directors, cinematographers, and other industry professionals. Witt's incredibly diverse, hands-on backgrounds in visual storytelling for studio-level features and extensive experiences across production environments include independent narrative, documentary, television, commercial, music video, live performance, industrial, and still shoots. He brings these technical and storytelling skills to UM students.

"Yet we are not able to fully prepare students with all the tools necessary for a career in the industry," said Arrivée. "We are preparing curriculum and the physical environment necessary to create a BFA in cinema production, which will make a difference to students interested in a career in this highly competitive field. It is our intention to provide students with the best education in cinema production available in the South. We aren't quite there, but with the help of the greater UM community, this goal is definitely within reach."

To reach this goal, the cinema program needs to add an instructor in sound design, build cinema production labs, and expand and replace equipment on a regular basis. XXX

MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu, 662.915.5092

On the Money

For 25 years, most central banks have implemented monetary policy by changing the value of a short-term interest rate. For the US, this is the federal funds rate, a sharp departure from controlling the money supply, a main policy tool during the 1980s.

Research by Michael Belongia, Ortho Smith Professor of Economics, and Joshua Hendrickson, assistant professor of economics, has shown, however, that the alleged problems popularly associated with monetary control can be linked to large errors in how central banks measure the money supply. The professors provided evidence that recovery from the 2009–10 economic downturn could have been more rapid if the Federal Reserve had set a target for the growth rate of the money supply. Most recently they found that the poor recent economic performance can be traced to the Federal Reserve’s apparent abandonment of a rule to guide policy decisions and a return to discretionary policy actions.

Belongia and Hendrickson are currently working on an alternative theoretical model to the standard neo-Keynesian model that is the basis for monetary economics research. XXX

Shaping Policy

Twaun Samuel (BA international studies ’06) has served as California Congresswoman Maxine Waters’ Chief of Staff since 2014.

“He has a unique understanding of the constituent needs and a formidable grasp of the legislative process and how policy is shaped in Congress,” Waters said.

At UM, Samuel studied political and economic transitions with a regional focus in Latin America. He completed a semester of studies at the Universidad Autonoma de Querétaro, Mexico, where he examined the nation’s political history, all as Mexico was in the midst of its significant 2006 presidential election cycle.

“In addition to my intensive work and studies in democratic transitions under Dr. Holly Reynolds, I most often today reference a freshman course I took on spatial reasoning with Dr. Michael Metcalf,” he said. “In that course, we discussed the ways people identify different concepts and how they identify commonalities among seemingly abstract (or concrete) ideas. I think spatial reasoning is important for people who work on public policy. This skill set often proves critical in how quickly and effectively one can construct innovative ideas to confront modern day public policy challenges. If I didn’t firmly grasp some of the lessons from that class then, they certainly resonate today.”

Following his studies at the Croft Institute for International Studies, Samuels earned a JD from the UM School of Law and was a 111th Congress John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Staff Fellow, 2009 Truman National Security Scholar, and Senior Counsel and Legal Fellow/Intern Coordinator on the House Financial Services Committee in Washington, DC. XXX

The View from Ventress 16 2016
Sociology and Service

While Caitlin Brooking earned an MA in sociology she served as a Catalyzing Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (CEED) Innovation Fellow for UM’s McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement, partnering with the Tri-County Workforce Alliance. She worked to expand professional development of youth and support young parents with time management counseling, childcare, and assistance processing financial aid applications. A DeBord Award for Outstanding MA Student in Sociology for service recognized Brooking’s efforts. The fellowship led to her current job with Volunteer Mississippi, a state government organization with a mission to empower local nonprofits and offer logistical support for those endeavors.

For more about the McLean Institute CEED program, visit VfV online.

Art and Art History Department Receives Largest Private Gift

William Hollingsworth (1910–1944) had an innate love for art and a volume of work that belies his brief life.

“Hollingsworth is a fixture in the pantheon of Southern art,” said Hunter Cole, author of William Hollingsworth: An Artist of Joy and Sadness.

Inspired by French impressionism, Hollingsworth painted the Mississippi landscape, sunrises and sunsets, and the lives of African Americans in Jackson during segregation.

“William Hollingsworth had a capacity to render life in Mississippi—people and places in urban and domestic scenes—with great sensitivity. He also influenced many artists in his day and is still revered among collectors nationwide,” said Betsy Bradley, director of the Mississippi Museum of Art, where nearly 300 of the artist’s pieces were bequeathed.

Upon her death, Jane Oakley Hollingsworth ensured her husband’s legacy would continue as generations of students receive scholarships bearing his name. A $238,000 bequest established the William Robert Hollingsworth Jr. Art Scholarship Endowment for students in the Department of Art and Art History, primarily those studying painting or sculpture.

“Never before has the department been able to compete for students eligible for higher scholarships elsewhere and to attract top art students in the country,” said Virginia Chavis, chair and professor. “We are forever grateful for this very generous endowment to honor William Hollingsworth and to pass on the knowledge of art.”

MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu, 662.915.5092

Native American Artifacts on Display

Maureen Meyers, assistant professor of anthropology, installs a pottery exhibition in Barnard Observatory for the Faulkner and the Native South Conference with Tony Boudreaux, associate professor of anthropology and director of the Center for Archaeological Research, and graduate student Emily Clark (left).

“The vessels are unique because of their iconography, which shows religious symbols of Native Americans who lived during the Mississippian period in the Southeastern US,” Meyers said about the Department of Sociology and Anthropology’s Davies Collection that includes these 14th-century ceramic vessels recovered from Walls in northwest Mississippi by physician Julius Davies in the early 20th century.

Although the Faulkner Conference exhibition closed in August, another display from the Davies Collection—this one of Native American artifacts from across North America for the UM Common Reading Experience book Ten Little Indians by Native American author Sherman Alexie—is in the J. D. Williams Library Department of Archives and Special Collections through the fall semester. It is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

“These items have the potential to contribute greatly to educating the public about Native Americans,” Meyers said. “We hope the exhibits give the community a sense of our rich resources.”

PHOTO BY ROBERT JORDAN

PHOTO COURTESY GREG THOMPSON FINE ART

The Good Neighbor (1940), watercolor on paper, by William Hollingsworth Jr.
Collaborations

To better understand the world and to tackle its complex problems, collaboration between disciplines offers a critical path forward. Faculty combine research and teaching interests to give students multidisciplinary educational opportunities. In this special section, we present the latest offerings in the College—two new minors, a new integrated fine arts course, and integrated science courses—along with a glimpse of the other multidisciplinary majors and minors.

Cinema, East Asian Studies, Environmental Studies, Gender Studies, Medieval Studies, and Neuroscience multidisciplinary minors enrich degrees programs. Two minors created in 2015–16—Digital Media Studies and Society & Health—offer even more experiences, skills, knowledge, and networks to equip students for a variety of careers in our fast-changing world.

“Students can prepare for exciting and contemporary technology applications by combining their major with the Digital Media Studies (DMS) minor’s choice of emphases in computing, digital arts, and/or digital communications,” said Robert Cummings, chair and associate professor of writing and rhetoric and director of DMS. “It is a novel pathway into the creative economy of the information age.”

The College of Liberal Arts, School of Engineering, and Meek School of Journalism and New Media proposed the minor with faculty from across academic programs, UM Libraries, and Information Technology staff presenting 31 courses such as Web Programming, Creative Visual Thinking, Digital Rhetoric, Graphic Design, and Digital Photography.

In the foundational course, Introduction to DMS, students explore ethical and legal issues while using a broad range of tools and techniques to learn about technologies of communication, scholarly inquiry, politics, business, entertainment, and everyday life. For example, a week on digital narrative focuses on narrative in its many forms, digital storytelling, the age of the micronarrative, along with a tech focus on global app use. Another week will be about games with discussion on virtual worlds, group think and violence, and Oculus Rift along with a tech focus on virtual reality.

“DMS complements the traditional computer science minor by preparing students to design and develop software systems from core principles,” said Dawn Wilkins, professor and chair of computer and information science. “The DMS minor with computing emphasis empowers students to use computational tools to create digital solutions for real-world problems. A potential employee with computing or digital media experience stands out for positions in a broad range of disciplines.”

The minor addresses growing academic and employment demands in web development, business data analytics, computational art, digital graphic design, data visualization, internet and social media marketing, and mobile application development. Katie Krouse added the minor to her Integrated Marketing Communications degree. “After learning about the DMS emphasis in digital arts, I decided to expand my creative skills and overall digital knowledge to achieve a forward thinking and creative marketing career,” she said.

“The Society & Health minor arose partially as a result of changes in the medical school entrance exam, shifting expectations for the education of health professionals, and recognition of the need for interdisciplinary approaches to address health problems,” said John Green, professor of political science. “The African American Studies Program is the oldest interdisciplinary academic unit in the College of Liberal Arts,” said Charles Ross, professor of history and director of AAS. “Since its founding in 1970 others have followed the AAS model of developing a rigorous curriculum of courses that cross several disciplines. In 1970 the AAS curriculum consisted of 15 courses; we now offer some 60 courses.”
The Croft Institute encourages students to make a positive difference in culturally, economically, and politically. The major understanding of how countries work socially, students a respect for diversity and an ‘In shaping us to be global citizens, Croft gives transformative nature of her Croft education. “It is a truly remarkable learning experience.”

McGraw’s investigation of domestic terrorism in Cookston’s work on Google in China and Erica Award-winning 2016 thesis projects include Zach growth that sets the stage for the senior thesis. “The Croft Institute encourages students to look around the world, identify their passion, and follow through with study abroad and a strong thesis program,” said Joe Bell, who is studying labor and agricultural policy and the globalization of food systems in the US and Latin America. “It is a truly remarkable learning experience.”

Katie Wright (2016) agreed with the transformative nature of her Croft education. “In shaping us to be global citizens, Croft gives students a respect for diversity and an understanding of how countries work socially, culturally, economically, and politically. The major empowers students to make a positive difference in the world.”

Students interested in China, Japan, and Korea pursue the East Asian Studies minor offered by the Croft Institute and learn to communicate effectively in an East Asian language. Supported by a Korea Foundation grant for a faculty hire, the current recipient, Shine Choi, links her research on North Korea, the Global South, and postcolonial theory with UM’s Southern Studies and race relations research.

Socioeconomic, cultural, and psychological factors associated with human health, coupled with ethical healthcare practice and policy implications are the minor’s focus. Students learn a social science and humanities-based approach and an appreciation for team-based problem solving.

The Medical Humanities core course provides a weekly shadowing experience at Baptist Memorial Hospital–North Mississippi. In class, students discuss their observations and readings.

“The goal is to gain a deeper understanding of factors that shape the human experience of illness and medicine in a contemporary clinical setting, such as historical, cultural, societal, emotional, economic, or religious factors,” said Sarah Moses, assistant professor of religion.

“Students get a holistic perspective on medicine that will help them, whether they plan to be doctors, healthcare administrators, policy advocates, or hospital chaplains.”

Faculty from Liberal Arts, Applied Sciences, Journalism and New Media, and Pharmacy crafted the curriculum of 30 social science and humanities courses including Biomedical Ethics, Health Psychology, Medical Anthropology, The Family, Health Communication, Human Development, and Psychosocial Aspects of Loss, Death, and Grief.

“With the complexities of our changing healthcare systems, interdisciplinary approaches to solving health challenges are essential,” said Molly Phillips, manager of health promotions programs and policy at the Dreyfus Health Foundation of the Rogosin Institute in New York. “We cannot improve health outcomes without fully understanding the nature, size, and causes of the problems facing our communities, and we cannot effectively understand these problems without examining them from diverse perspectives and understanding the contexts in which they exist. A minor like Society and Health at UM will give students the tools and background to approach health and healthcare as critical thinkers.”

One student picked up this important point from the Society and Population Health course: “The class changed the way I think about medicine. There is so much more to health and disease than just the physiological. Everyday factors influence a person’s well-being.”

Team-taught courses take advantage of expertise among our faculty and allow direct interaction between interdisciplinary perspectives in the same classroom.

Introduction to the Fine Arts course is designed to develop a lifelong curiosity.

The Cinema minor encourages students to analyze motion pictures within artistic, cultural, historical, and political contexts, as well as provides experience with cinema production. Recent alumni Jordan Berger, Gavin Fields, Houston Settle, and Daniel Russell created Deer Run Media production company in Chattanooga and have won awards at the UM Cinema Competition, Oxford Film Festival, and Orlando Fringe Festival. Berger’s short film, The Surface, was an official selection at the 2014 European Independent Film Festival in Paris.
about the arts and their vital role in society. After exploring the elements of individual art forms, students focus on a variety of themes, including beauty, humanism, censorship, popular culture, collaboration, technology, and rituals.

“As a musician, it’s easy to see the traditional role of the arts in our culture changing,” said Michael Rowlett, assistant professor of music. “More and more, artists have to advocate for the value they contribute to our culture. We encourage students to think about the integral role the arts play in our culture.”

Students engage with the arts on campus and in the wider world by attending events and creating collections of images, audio, or video. By commenting on each other’s collections, students sharpen their ability to engage others with their observations.

“Artists work across disciplinary boundaries to create objects and experiences,” said Kris Belden-Adams, assistant professor of art history. “They combine the visual arts with theatre, dance, and music, depending on the message they wish to convey. This class prepares students to become discerning viewers, perhaps even makers, of interdisciplinary arts.”

Integrated Science I and II prepares nonscience majors to make informed decisions regarding science and technology in their lives by integrating a broad range of concepts in biology, chemistry, geology, and physics with a minimum use of mathematics and an emphasis on the human story and societal issues.

“For example, when we cover the topic of energy we discuss energy and society, various sources of energy, and energy in living systems and ecosystems,” said Maurice Eftink, associate provost emeritus and professor emeritus of chemistry and biochemistry. “When we discuss electromagnetism, we include the basic Maxwell concepts, how this leads to the delivery of electricity to our homes, bioelectricity and ideas related to biomagnetism (e.g., do birds use magnetic field lines of the Earth for navigation?).”

Student reviews often begin with a statement about usually not liking science, then say it was the “best class I’ve ever taken!” because of classroom interaction, topics, and passionate faculty.

“Science and technology play an increasingly important role in the world,” said Marco Cavaglià, associate professor of physics. “An informed citizenry with basic scientific knowledge is essential for our technologically driven society. Teaching basic scientific notions and their relevance to every day experiences helps students make informed decisions based on objective data and scientific facts.”

The college of liberal arts fosters a collaborative environment for teaching and research. We capitalize on resources by combining faculty expertise in novel ways to offer multidisciplinary academic experiences. To explore funding this important work, please contact Denson Hollis, senior director of development, at dhollis@olemiss.edu or 662.915.5092. Your help developing courses and campus programming, purchasing equipment, and funding student scholarships, internships, and research provides the needed boost to take our university to a higher level of excellence.

Since 1977, the Center for the Study of Southern Culture (CSSC) has stood at multiple crossroads of Southern cultural life. Faculty research ranges from the Global South, blues to religion to tourism to immigration to literature to activism to foodways. The Center offers both a BA and MA in Southern Studies.

CSSC keeps up with scholarship as it changes, addresses questions of the South as the region changes, and always looks for new ways to connect scholarship and audiences outside academia. The Center organizes multiple conferences, lectures, and publications, including the 24–volume New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, forthcoming Mississippi Encyclopedia, Living Blues magazine, the Study the South online journal, and the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA) quarterly, Gumbo.

“The SFA oral histories, documentary films, podcasts, and publications opened up all kinds of issues such as labor, health, globalization, race, and tradition to large and thoughtful audiences,” said Ted Ownby, professor of history and director of the CSSC. “Likewise, we work with oral history, documentary photography, and, through the Southern Documentary Project and SFA, documentary film. In a world in which everyone’s phone is also a recording device, documentary skills have become a new kind of literacy.”
Learn Swahili/Jifunze Kiswahili

Estelle Blair found a different path to fulfill her foreign language requirements when she joined a small, but growing, group studying Swahili, also known as Kiswahili.

Blair’s interest in Swahili was not out of the blue. “My family traveled to Tanzania to go on a safari,” she said. “The people—their culture and life outlook—are amazing.”

The 11th language taught by the Department of Modern Languages, Swahili is the national language of Tanzania and Kenya and common in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Mozambique.

The Swahili program is expected to grow significantly, said Donald Dyer, chair and professor of modern languages. “The most rapidly growing languages at American universities are Korean, Italian, and American Sign Language, but Swahili is up-and-coming,” he said. “We are proud to be one of a small and elite group of universities in the US offering the language.”

Neema Loy, a graduate student from Tanzania, teaches UM’s four courses. “To learn Swahili is to learn the language of East African people,” said Loy, who is pursuing an MA in Modern Languages with an emphasis on Teaching English as a Second Language. “You learn their way of living: food, music, religion, and culture. The Swahili Club meets with speakers from Tanzania and Kenya, and we promote collaborative learning by video chatting with learners from other universities.”

Blair plans to use the language after graduation. The biology major plans to become a doctor and hopes to work with Doctors Without Borders in Eastern Africa.

Free Books

A new program funded by the Flora Hewlett Foundation and the College allows students to enroll in courses offering free or reduced-cost textbooks. Faculty members have signed on for the first phase of the Z-Degree Mississippi initiative in which students will earn degrees with no textbook costs by 2020. “It’s not only free; it’s better. You see only the content you need for that class,” said Robert Cummings, chair and associate professor of writing and rhetoric and director of the digital studies minor.

Concert Singers

Forty-nine UM Concert Singers joined 126 students from three other universities for an invitation-only performance of Hymnus Paradisi by Herbert Howells at the American Choral Directors Association Southern Division Convention.

Student Success

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) selected UM for a $515,000 grant funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to improve the general education needs of undergraduates in high-enrollment, blended courses. “We are committed to providing the best education possible for our students and are excited by the APLU Adaptive Courseware initiative to develop new and efficient methods by which to deliver that education,” said Provost Morris Stocks.

Longtime Professor Honored With Endowment

At his 82nd birthday party, Dr. Hans-Jürgen Gaycken received a certificate showing that his daughter had established an endowment to fund a scholarship in his name for students of the German language.

“That was a big surprise,” said Gaycken, who taught German for 35 years at UM. “I was really touched and very pleased that it will help students.”

Dr. Bettina Gaycken earned her medical doctorate in 2004 from the University of Tennessee and completed her radiology residency at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis followed by a fellowship in Breast Imaging at Brigham & Women’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School in Boston.

She hopes the gift will both celebrate her father and encourage more students to pursue a degree in German.

Dr. Hans-Jürgen Gaycken and Dr. Bettina Gaycken

More stories, photos, and videos at libarts.olemiss.edu

Students learn about East African textiles.

Swahili instructor Neema Loy (right) talks with a student.

MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu, 662.915.5092
Music City Manager

Bill Simmons (BA psychology ’74) counts Brad Paisley among his country music artist clients.

Read about the president-elect of the Country Music Association board of directors in the Ole Miss Alumni Review, visit VFV online.

The View from Ventress 2016 23
A Year of Top Marks

College faculty and staff recognized for teaching, research, and service on campus, in our community, and in their profession.

TEACHING AWARDS

1. Hilary Becker, assistant professor of classics
   - Mississippi Humanities Council Humanities Teacher of the Year
   - National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend
   - American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant

2. Robert Brown, professor of political science
   - Mississippi Legislature Higher Education Appreciation Day Working for Academic Excellence Award

3. Matt Long, professor of art
   - UM Graduate School Teaching Award

4. Jane Meek, instructor of Writing and Rhetoric
   - Ole Miss Online Paragon Award for Excellence in Distance Teaching

5. Eric Weber, associate professor of public policy leadership
   - Mississippi Humanities Council Humanities Scholar Award

6. T. Dionne Bailey (PhD history ’15)
   - Mississippi Historical Society Riley Prize for Best Doctoral Dissertation

7. Scott Barretta, adjunct instructor of sociology and anthropology
   - Mississippi Arts Commission Governor’s Award for Mississippi Heritage

8. Emanuele Berti, associate professor of physics and astronomy
   - American Physical Society Fellow for Outstanding Contributions

9. Ron Dale, professor emeritus of art
   - Mississippi Institute of Arts & Letters Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award

10. Tom Franklin, associate professor of fiction writing
    - American Academy Berlin Prize and Fellowship

11. Shennette Garrett-Scott, assistant professor of history and African American Studies
    - Princeton University Davis Center for Historical Studies Fellow

12. Susan R. Grayzel, professor of history
    - Royal Historical Society Fellow

13. Corina L. Petrescu, associate professor of German
    - Institute for Advanced Studies Senior Fellow at Central European University in Hungary
    - Alexander Von Humboldt Fellowship with the Institute for Jewish and Religious Studies at the University of Potsdam in Germany

14. Gregory Tschumper, professor of chemistry and biochemistry
    - Provost Faculty Achievement Award

15. Nancy Wicker, professor of art and art history
    - National Humanities Center Fellow

16. Jessica Wilkerson, assistant professor of history and Southern Studies
    - American Academy of Arts & Sciences Fellow with the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University

SERVICE AWARDS

17. Patrick Alexander, assistant professor of English and African American Studies and cofounder of Prison-to-College-Pipeline Program

18. Jacqueline Cetion, senior academic adviser with UM FASTrack Program
   - LOU Community MLK Day of Service Outstanding Volunteer Award

19. George W. K. Dor, McDonnell-Barksdale Chair of Ethnomusicology and professor of music
   - UM Black Faculty and Staff Organization Lift Every Voice Award

20. Murrell Godfrey, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry and director of forensic chemistry program
    - IHL Board of Trustees Diversity Award of Excellence
    - American Academy of Forensic Chemistry Kenneth S. Field Award

21. Shennette Taylor, instructor and assistant director of Health Professions Advising Office
    - UM Staff Council Distinguished Service Award
Dorothy Lee Tatum Memorial Scholarship Preserves Legacy of Beloved Oxonian

An Oxford native established the Dorothy Lee Tatum Memorial Scholarship Endowment for Mississippians who are freshmen in the College of Liberal Arts to honor her mother and preserve her legacy in the community she loved.

“My mother loved education, the College of Liberal Arts, and Ole Miss. She would be very happy that this endowment in support of the College has been established,” said Jean Tatum, a legal assistant at the Oxford law offices of Daniel Coker Horton & Bell. “It would mean the world to her.”

Dorothy Lee Hargrove was born on May 3, 1924, in Vanduser, Missouri. She, her husband, John Tatum, and son, Johnny, moved to Oxford from Clarkton, Missouri. In Oxford, the Tatums had five more children with Jean as the youngest. Dorothy Lee Tatum was involved with the Oxford community as well as UM, where she served on the advisory committee for the Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu, 662.915.5092
Barbour Chair Initiative Launched

An initiative is under way to honor two-term Mississippi governor and national political leader Haley Barbour (JD ’73) with a $2.5 million faculty chair in the Department of Political Science.

Gifts already approaching more than $800,000 in cash and pledges indicate the interest in developing a named position to recognize Barbour’s role in shaping American politics over 50 years.

“Governor Barbour has enjoyed a long and distinguished career,” said John Bruce, chair and associate professor of political science. “From his start working in the 1968 presidential election through his terms as governor, he has been an example of what people can do in the political arena. His jobs have ranged from explicitly political to apolitical, from appointed to elected.

“There is much in his career that we can point to when talking with students about ways to be engaged. There are lessons to be learned by considering the arc of Governor Barbour’s career. The Governor Haley Barbour Chair for the Study of American Politics will be a lasting legacy to an impressive body of work by one of our own native sons.”

Plans call for the holder of the faculty position to study political institutions and processes that characterized Barbour’s far-reaching career. Among the leader’s achievements are building a state party organization during a historic shift in party allegiances, working in four successful presidential campaigns, serving as the political director in the Reagan White House, chairing the Republican National Committee, leading Mississippi as governor during Hurricane Katrina, and building a lobbying firm in Washington, DC.

The Barbour Chair will allow the department to recruit a preeminent scholar with expertise in American politics, offering enhanced opportunities for students to learn about the development of our nation, said Lanny Griffith, CEO of the BGR Group in Washington, DC, and chair of the UM Political Science Alumni Advisory Board.

“This time in American politics looks remarkably dysfunctional, reflecting the importance of pursuing this work,” Griffith said. “We want to look at our political system not from partisanship but from scholarship, identifying the factors or dynamics that will shape our political system going forward. UM is the perfect place for this study, considering the array of Mississippians who have played pivotal roles on the national stage.”

Top Republican and Democratic leaders attending the campaign launch on campus included US Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker and Texas Governor Rick Perry. Event chairs were Austin Barbour, Paul Hurst, and Wilson Golden while Griffith spearheads overall fundraising for the Chair.

Barbour said he was honored to consider the prospect of a faculty chair bearing his name.

“It is special Ole Miss would establish this position, which will have more of a focus on politics and elections and less on government, as well as give attention to the development of a two-party political system.”

MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu, 662.915.5092

GIVING BACK

There are many outstanding examples of College students, faculty, and staff providing service to our community.

Visit VfV online to read stories about LaTanya Dixon (pictured), an academic mentor for freshmen who is plugged into our local community; undergraduates providing ACT workshops; and students in the McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement Catalyzing Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (CEED) program.

ART WORK

Graphic art majors Heidi Bain and Will Halcomb landed internships at two of the biggest companies in the entertainment industry: Bain with Disney and Halcomb with Adult Swim at the Cartoon Network. “Heidi’s work is colorful and somewhat magical in its design; I’m not surprised she was offered the Disney internship,” said Virginia Chavis, chair and professor of art and art history. “Will’s job at Adult Swim seems a perfect fit. His artwork is a mix of wacky, lovable, retro, and forward thinking.”

Read more, visit VfV online.
Haywards’ Tribute to Band

We hope the Eddie and Linda Hayward Pride of the South Marching Band Scholarship Endowment will lift students up and help them on their way to a good life."

Eddie pointed upward and said, “He’s been good to me, and I’d like to be good to others. Maybe our actions will spur others to do the same.”

MAKE A GIFT: Ron Wilson, jrwilso3@olemiss.edu, 662.915.1755

The Future of History

A $150,000 planned gift to the Arch Dalrymple III Department of History is expected to increase the department’s focus on research.

Brig. Gen. John H. Napier III (BA history ’49) recently designated the department as beneficiary of his testamentary gift.

“The gift will help the faculty advance the department’s mission,” said Joseph Ward, former chair and professor. “It’s exactly the kind of discretionary money that’s the hardest to come by. For a department like ours, these gifts really help us pursue excellence. For example, historians have to travel to archives. More material is becoming available online, but overwhelmingly we go to archives to do original research. This type of gift is absolutely crucial for that.”

Napier retired with the US Air Force in 1977 as a lieutenant colonel. He worked in intelligence and special operations where he served in national security at the Pentagon and completed his career at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. After retirement from active duty, Napier joined the Alabama State Defense Force and retired as a state brigadier general in 1997. He and his wife, Cameron, live in Ramer, Alabama.

A historian himself, Napier is author of Lower Pearl River’s Piney Woods: Its Land and People published by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture in 1985. He also wrote the Air Force Officers Guide and a family history.

MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu, 662.915.5092

Carrs Salute Band Members with Two Scholarships

Jimmy Carr never played in the band, yet he established a scholarship program for two members of the Ole Miss Pride of the South.

“Win or lose the game, the marching band lifts spirits and provides enthusiasm and energy,” he said. “I picked band students because they spend so much time and energy and put their heart and souls in it.”

The Jimmy Carr State Farm Scholarship, created with the State Farm Companies Foundation Good Neighbor Grant and Matching Gift Program, is awarded by Carr and his wife, Amanda, a UM accountancy graduate, to an Oxford High School and a Lafayette High School graduate.

“Coming out of high school in Greenville, I was fortunate to receive several small scholarships and, all combined, didn’t have to pay any tuition as an undergrad. Now, I’m in a position professionally to give to students who need the same support that I needed coming out of high school,” said Carr, who earned undergraduate and law degrees from UM.

Ninety-five percent of Pride of the South Band members provide their own instruments, spend years honing the skills they need to serve the university, and work hours in all kinds of weather to perform on game day. The goal is to build a $2 million endowment for band scholarships.

MAKE A GIFT: Ron Wilson, jrwilso3@olemiss.edu, 662.915.1755

Jimmy and Amanda Carr awarded scholarships to Pride of the South band members Wes Brown (left) and Lee Eason (right).
Honoring First Doctoral Recipient in English

UM feted its first doctoral recipient in English, Kenneth Holditch, at his lecture for the 2015 Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference. The professor emeritus of English at the University of New Orleans earned his PhD in 1961.

“The Holditch Scholars Award will provide important support for deserving graduate students and be a lovely way to honor the distinguished career of the man who received the very first PhD granted in English at UM,” said Jay Watson, Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies.

“That the announcement of the award fund came during the Faulkner conference is a wonderful bit of serendipity, since Professor Holditch pursued his studies at a time when Faulkner was still living in Oxford and went on to become an accomplished scholar of Faulkner’s works in his own right.”

Holditch is also known for his scholarship on Tennessee Williams. MAKE A GIFT: Angela Barlow Brown, ambarlow@olemiss.edu, 662.915.3181

FACULTY BOOKS

Language and Material Culture
JOHN BENJAMINS PUBLISHING, 2015
By Allison Burkette, associate professor of linguistics
An innovative and provocative work for students in courses on language variation, American English and material culture, and general courses on applications of complex systems.

Out of the Closet, Into the Archives: Researching Sexual Histories
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK PRESS, 2015
Coedited by Jaime Cantrell, visiting assistant professor of English
The first book to focus on the experience of LGBT archival research.

American Lessons by Giorgio Bassani
POZZI EDITORE, 2016
Edited by Valerio Cappozzo, assistant professor and director of Italian
This book presents an overlooked moment of Giorgio Bassani as professor and famous writer in America.

Mississippi Noir
AKASHIC BOOKS, 2016
Edited by Tom Franklin, assistant professor of fiction writing
“The big city has no lock on misery in these 16 portraits of dark doings in the Deep South.”
—Kirkus Reviews

Sunset City: A Novel
ECCO, 2016
By Melissa Ginsburg, assistant professor of English and creative writing
“A hardboiled exploration of the seedy side of Houston with sentences as sharp as a machete.”
—Literary Hub

The Blessings of Business: How Corporations Shaped Conservative Christianity
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2016
By Darren Grem, assistant professor of history and Southern Studies
Tells the largely forgotten story of the historical ties between conservative Protestants and corporate America.

This Book Is an Action: Feminist Print Culture and Activist Aesthetics
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS, 2015
Coedited by Jaime Harker, professor of English
Second-wave feminism and the written word’s power to incite social change.

The Empire at the End of Time: Identities and Reform in Late Medieval German Prophecy
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2016
By Frances Courtney Kneupper, assistant professor of history
An examination of apocalyptic prophecies of the late medieval Empire.

Archaeological Perspectives on the Southern Appalachians: A Multiscalar Perspective
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE PRESS, 2015
Coedited by Maureen S. Meyers, assistant professor of anthropology
Essays by 12 archaeologists on Native American sites.

My Father, the Pornographer: A Memoir
ATRIA BOOKS, 2016
By Chris Offutt, associate professor of English
“A generous reminiscence … ruminative and melancholy … Offutt somehow manages to summon compassion for his father. That, ultimately, is what makes this memoir so unexpectedly moving.”
—The New York Times

MAKE A GIFT: Angela Barlow Brown, ambarlow@olemiss.edu, 662.915.3181
Founding Feminisms in Medieval Studies: Essays in Honor of E. Jane Burns
Boydel & Brewer, 2016
Coedited by Daniel E. O’Sullivan, professor of French
Essays using feminist approaches to offer fresh insights into aspects of the texts and the material culture of the middle ages.

The Black Christ of Esquipulas: Religion and Identity in Guatemala
University of Nebraska Press, 2016
By Douglas S. Sullivan-González, professor of history and dean of the Honors College
An exploration of the famous shrine’s multifaceted appeal, its mysterious changes in color over the centuries, and its deeper significance in the spiritual and political lives of Guatemalans.

Sacred Scents in Early Christianity and Islam (Studies in Body and Religion)
Lexington Books, 2016
By Mary Thurkill, associate professor of religion
Explains how early Christians and Muslims linked the “sweet smell of sanctity” with ideals of the body and sexuality, created boundaries and sacred space, and imagined their emerging communal identity.

The Violin
University of Rochester Press, 2016
Edited by Robert Riggs, chair and professor of music
Essays about one of the world’s most important and versatile instruments addressed to performing musicians, serious concertgoers, and collectors of recordings.

Faulkner and the Black Literatures of the Americas
University Press of Mississippi, 2016
Edited by Jay Watson, Howry Chair in Faulkner Studies and professor of English, and James G. Thomas Jr., associate publications director for the Center for the Study of Southern Culture
The dynamic interplay between the work of the Nobel laureate and black writers.

Mavericks, Money, and Men: The AFL, Black Players, and the Evolution of Modern Football
Temple University Press, 2016
By Charles K. Ross, professor of history and director of African American Studies
Shows how the American Football League pressured for and ultimately accelerated the racial integration of pro football and allowed the sport to adapt to how African Americans were themselves changing the game.

In Sickness and In Health: Disease and Disability in Contemporary America
Springer, 2016
By Richard K. Thomas, adjunct instructor of sociology
The increasing importance of sickness and disability data across health-related disciplines is the focus of this concise but comprehensive resource.

In the Neighborhood: Women’s Publication in Early America
University Press of Mississippi, 2016
Edited by Caroline Wigginton, assistant professor of English
“Stands to make a substantial, lasting contribution to early American literature and to all the conversations in which it is engaged, from Native American history to African American poetry, to political diplomacy, religious expression, and autobiographical writing in early America.”
—Lisa Brooks, author of The Common Pre: The Recovery of Native Space in the Northeast
Reckling Scholarship Supports Liberal Arts and Business

A
n affinity for UM can spread through a family, even when some members have other alma maters. That’s the case for Tommy Reckling, a Rice University graduate, and his wife, Isla, a University of Texas alumna. Three of their eight children attended UM, and they want other students to enjoy the same college experience.

With a $150,000 gift, the Recklings established the Thomas Kelly and Michelle Hodges Reckling Scholarship Endowment to support students in the College of Liberal Arts and the James Sterling Reckling Scholarship Endowment to benefit business students.

“I hope to give young people a chance to go to college,” said Tommy Reckling, a retired stockbroker.

Thomas Reckling studied business at UM in the late ’80s. He and his wife, Michelle Hodges (BA home economics ’91), met on campus though both are originally from Houston.

“We are honored to have this wonderful scholarship in our names,” Michelle said. “Ole Miss has a special place in our hearts and I love bringing family to the incredible campus and showing it off! We are proud to be part of the amazing community.”

Denson Hollis, senior director of development for the College, said the benefits of scholarships such as these are far-reaching. “The scholarships established by Mr. Reckling will honor his family for generations and help fund students to attend UM. We are grateful to the Recklings and hope their generosity will inspire others to make similar gifts.”

MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu, 662.915.5092

Classic Giving

M
ike and Mary “Bickie” McDonnell—who consider the classics the focal point of a well-rounded liberal arts education—recently fulfilled their $500,000 commitment to an endowment for the Department of Classics.

In the past three academic years alone $35,000 from the McDonnell Endowment has supported 18 classics majors’ study abroad at archaeological field school digs in Greece, Italy, and England; intensive Latin studies in Ireland; and living and learning in Athens, Rome, and Edinburgh.

“The availability of this support has also given faculty the impetus to lead students abroad so even more students—whether classics majors or not—can experience ancient Mediterranean culture firsthand,” said Molly Pasco-Pranger, chair and associate professor of classics.

Mike McDonnell, a graduate of Yale University, is co-owner of Orgill Inc., which provides wholesale distribution and retail services to the home improvement industry. He and Mary enjoy spending time with their three children and seven grandchildren, all of Memphis.

“We are proud of what Ole Miss is doing and want to see this growth continue,” Mary McDonnell said, adding that the progress under Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat’s leadership inspired them to create the endowment in 2009.

MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu, 662.915.5092

Humanitarians at Heart

Dr. Bob and Mary Ellen Warner always find a way to serve others.

The couple designated $400,000 to establish the Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Warner Jr. Scholarship Endowment to benefit UM students from Hinds County, Mississippi (Mary Ellen’s home), and from Hancock and Harrison counties—coastal Mississippi, where Bob was born and raised.

Bob (BS biology ’79 MD ’83) and Mary Ellen, a 1979 nursing graduate, pursue professions in which the top priority is caring for others. They met at the UM Medical Center where Mary Ellen was a cardiac nurse and Bob was a cardiovascular surgery resident.

Bob, a general, thoracic, vascular surgeon at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould, has been a practicing physician for over 25 years and was the first surgeon in his region to perform minimally invasive abdominal aneurysm repairs among other innovative vascular procedures.

“Our experiences made us realize that the university has a depth and a breadth of resources that reaches, really, across the world,” Bob Warner said. “I look at my life and say, ‘What’s made my life have some success?’ and Ole Miss is in the forefront. So we asked ourselves, ‘What can we do to be sure other people have that same opportunity? I think it’s the idea that you want to give back so other people can have the same experiences.’

MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu, 662.915.5092

The View from Ventress | 30 | 2016
The College of Liberal Arts is grateful to the following Ventress Order donors (names reflect gifts made between July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016):

**PATRON**...$25,000+

**BENEFACITOR**...$10,000–$24,999

**EXECUTIVE**...$5,000–$9,999

**ADVOCATE**...$2,000–$4,999

**ASSOCIATE**...$1,000–$1,999

**STEWARDS**...$500–$999

**R&D** Fether Foundation
Kath U. Fether Foundation

**Sanderson Farms Inc.**

**Virginia Wine Board**

**Taqueria del Sol**

**Springer Mountain Farms**

**Simmons Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.**

**Isla C. and T. R. Reckling III**

**Suzanne A. and Nicholas R. Pihakis**

**Huntington Ingalls Industries**

**Jane O. Hollingsworth**

**Cecile B. and Robert H. Harper**

**Caren L. and Tom T. Gallaher**

**Cockayne Fund**

**Chisholm Foundation**

**Sheela S. Bhagat**

**Elise V. and William F. Winter**

**Jesse L. White, Jr.**

**Joann R. Stefani**

**Tim Smith**

**Christina C. and Richard R. Roberts**

**Amy Norton**

**Richard Molpus, Jr.**

**Jennifer G. and Kennard A. McKay**

**Carol and P. Ken Lackey, Jr.**

**GBU Financial Life**

**Bettina A. Gaycken**

**Carolyn M. Carothers**

**Elizabeth M. and L. M. Brunt**

**Eleanor E. Winter and Daniel J. Backo**

**EXECUTIVE**

**PATRON**

**BENEFACITOR**

**EXECUTIVE**

**ADVOCATE**

**ASSOCIATE**

**STEWARDS**

**T he Rexine M. Henry Memorial Scholarship Endowment will support science majors in the College while honoring the memory of an alumna.

“The main purpose is to have a permanent memorial to my wife and mother and my children,” said Dr. D. Chan Henry of Jackson, whose wife, Rexine, died in 2010 after a lengthy battle with cancer. “If this can also help deserving students accomplish their educational goals, that makes it extra special.”

The Henrys have strong ties to the university, Chan, Rexine, and their daughters, Ann Marie Lee and Julie Henry, attended UM, as will the next generation.

“They are big Ole Miss fans,” Henry said of his five grandchildren who range in age from 10 to 15. “They bleed red and blue.”

The Henrys earned bachelor’s degrees from UM—hers in nursing and his in liberal arts with an emphasis on science. The anesthesiologist (MD ’74) is a partner with Jackson Anesthesia Associates, which was founded in 1961 and is the state’s largest physician-only anesthesia group.

He established the scholarship for incoming freshmen in the College of Liberal Arts with first preference given to students majoring in the sciences.

“I hope someone who needs assistance will succeed with this scholarship. It’s about helping deserving students who can’t afford the entire ticket on their own.”

MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis, dhollis@olemiss.edu, 662.915.5092
Don’t miss The View from Ventress online. Visit viewfromventress.org for videos and more stories.

Arts Hour
An interview with Sarah Story (BFA art and art history ’11), deputy director of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, on Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

Lightning Strikes
Physicists moved their lightning research from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center to campus with National Science Foundation funding to conduct studies in northern Mississippi.

American Headache Society
The organization’s journal reported a study by Professor Todd Smitherman and his psychology students affirming that treating insomnia may ease migraines.

English Major Finds Success in Finance
“That’s what a liberal arts education does, it puts you on a track of learning to continue to intake ideas and learn and grow.”
—Taylor Sledge (BA English ’07)

Meet Your Extended Family
Take care of your family—then your University of Mississippi family.

A simple gift in your will to the University of Mississippi Foundation can ensure the future of your College family for generations to come.

• Support students’ education by funding scholarships.
• Help attract the best instructors possible with outstanding faculty support.
• Meet departmental needs campus-wide with unrestricted giving.

Gifts of $25,000 or more can create endowments in your name or in honor of others. To leave a legacy for your UM family, contact us today.

Call Sandra Guest, vice president, at (662) 915-5208 or visit umfoundation.planylegacy.org

This publication, The View from Ventress, is published annually by The College of Liberal Arts, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677, Telephone 662.915.7178, Email: libarts@olemiss.edu, Web site: libarts.olemiss.edu.

The University of Mississippi does not discriminate against any student protected by law based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, or genetic information. 08/2016