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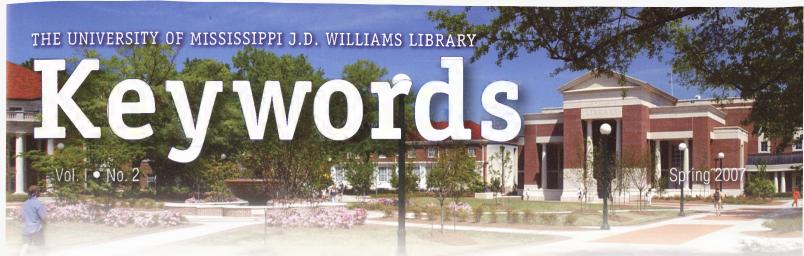
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# Library close to acquiring works of the late Larry Brown

ne more literary treasure is expected to be secured soon in the Department of Archives and Special Collections of the J.D. Williams Library.

Final negotiations are under way to complete the Larry Brown Collection with the purchase of manuscripts and papers from his estate. This addition to Brown's material that UM acquired in 1995 will make it one of the library's most comprehensive literary collections.

"The new accretion will make us the primary center for Larry Brown studies in the country," said Jennifer Ford, head of archives and special collections.

The expected acquisition contains Brown's extensive correspondence with

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contemporary American authors, such as Rick Bass, Richard Ford, Clyde Edgerton and Cormac McCarthy. It also includes unpublished short stories from Brown's earliest years of writing, notebooks and the original manuscript of his book *On Fire.* Of particular note are nine volumes of the writer's daily journals, which cover the period 1996-2004.

"It is vitally important that the libraries acquire this accretion, thus completing the collection, which will be one of the great treasures of our special collections," said Julia Rholes, dean of university libraries. "These papers will provide extraordinary access into the life and thoughts of one of our most talented authors."

A native of Lafayette County, Brown served two years in the Marine Corps, then spent 1973-1990 as an Oxford fire-fighter. He published his first book in 1988. When he died in 2004 at age 53, his five novels, two short story collections and two books of nonfiction had earned him the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award for Literature, Southern Critics Award for Fiction, Thomas Wolfe Award and Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Award. He was honored in 2000 with the Mississippi Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Brown's work, lauded for its powerful descriptions of the rural South, includes novels Fay (2000), Father and Son (1996), Joe (1991), Big Bad Love (1990) and Dirty Work (1989); nonfiction book On Fire (1993), a story about his work as a firefighter; and Billy Ray's Farm (2001), essays about his life as a writer. His first published work was Facing the Music: Short Stories in 1988. His last novel, A Miracle of Catfish, was published in March.



Larry Brown's life and work were the central themes of the 2007 Oxford Conference for the Book.

*Time* magazine assessed Brown's writing as "clean, simple and powerful," and *The New Yorker* said, "He is blunt and abrasive about subjects that tend to cause flinching."

Jay Watson, associate professor of English and editor of the book *Conversations With Larry Brown* (University Press of Mississippi, 2006), said the Larry Brown Collection is "an extremely significant and deeply appropriate acquisition for special collections, one that I'm especially pleased and excited about."

"Larry Brown was and remains a major figure in contemporary Southern literature. In his stories and novels, he has captured the lives of working-class Southerners with authenticity, intensity, compassion and humor," Watson said.

"Moreover, he is 'ours'—by which I mean: He was born in Oxford, lived most of his life in Lafayette County, wrote about both places and their in-



### Message from the Dean

ibraries are such wonderful places, and our libraries here at The University of Mississippi are no exception.

This is an especially exciting time for us. In March, during the Oxford Conference for the Book, we celebrated the life and writings of the noted writer Larry Brown with a special program and exhibits. The Williams Library houses many of his manuscripts and letters in the Department of Archives and Special Collections, and we are in the process of purchasing more materials to complete this collection of one of our state's most gifted writers.

We are also excited about the prospects of adding an Information Commons in the Williams Library where our students will be able to use state-of-the-art technology to access the vast universe of materials now available in digital formats. Our plans for this area will build on the success of similar information commons found at leading research universities, such as Georgia Tech and the University of Virginia.

Finally, I am really grateful for the opportunity to recognize Dr. John Wallace King and his wife, Dicki. The Kings, who are featured in this newsletter, are among our most loyal friends and have been for more than 20 years. Friends like the Kings prove that frequent gifts are important when it comes to making our libraries wonderful places in which to visit and work—and we are indebted to them for that.

Thank you for your support and enjoy this issue of Keywords!

Sincerely.

Julia Rholes Dean of University Libraries

# Info commons to provide space for student collaboration, relaxation

o support learning and research, the J.D. Williams Library plans to build an information commons for library patrons. The commons will be designed as a collaborative, learning-centered lounge and study space to meet the needs of students and faculty.

'We want to create a space that is more comfortable and inviting to work and study.'

Ryan Johnson

"The goal is to support learning by making information more easily accessible and readily available," said Ryan Johnson, head of information outreach and delivery services for the University Libraries.

Currently there are few adequate spaces for students to use electronic

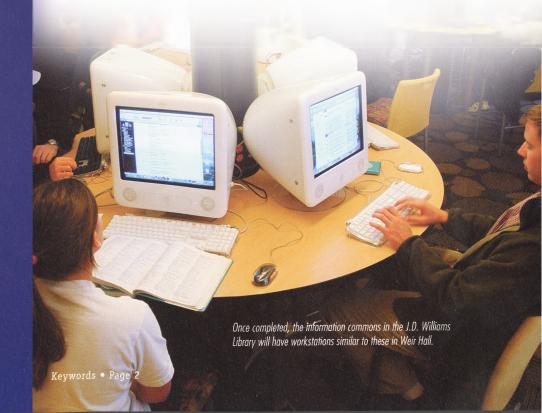
resources, collaborate and produce products in a variety of formats to meet the changing demands for their classes.

"We want to create a space that is more comfortable and inviting to work and study," Johnson said. "We hope this area will accommodate a variety of learning styles."

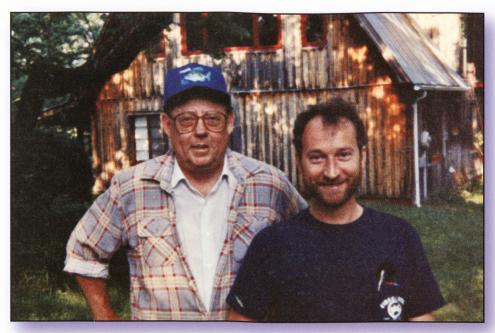
Once built, the commons will feature computer-pod area workstations, tables for studying, and comfortable chairs and couches that will serve as quiet reading nooks. The computers will also allow students to input images and graphics on high-quality scanners and digitizing tablets, and edit them using specialized imaging software and hardware, including Adobe Photoshop. The library staff plans to offer technical assistance and training sessions.

The commons will be centrally located on the first floor of the main library. Though construction has not yet begun since funding is still being sought, the hope is to have the commons completed as soon as funding can be secured.

To contribute to the information commons fund, please contact Michael Upton at mupton@olemiss.edu.



# Dear Larry: Brown's friend gives letters to library



Jerry L. Mills (left) often invited Larry Brown to North Carolina to go fishing. 'We had both a literary and social relationship,' Mills said.

n an age of e-mails and text messages, an actual letter sent via the U.S. Postal Service would seem to be a quaint notion, if not outright antiquated—unless the letter writer was the late Larry Brown.

In that case, a letter offers a unique insight into a man whose novels, books and short stories about rural life in his native Mississippi are considered classics of Southern literature. And thanks to Brown's friend Jerry Leath Mills, the J.D. Williams Library is the home to 31 letters Brown wrote over a 13-year period.

Mills, a retired University of North Carolina English professor, donated the correspondence, along with photographs and several manuscripts, to The University of Mississippi. The collection is housed in the library's Department of Archives and Special Collections. Each letter in the Mills Collection includes explanatory notes by Mills with references, names and events to help scholars.

"The Jerry 'Jake' Mills Collection complements the Larry Brown Collection and is a great resource for Larry Brown scholars," said Jennifer Ford, head of archives and special collections. "The letters reveal what Larry was reading at the

time, as well as his thoughts about the writing process."

Mills and Brown first crossed paths early in Brown's writing career.

"I was writing book reviews for various newspapers, and I reviewed Larry's first book, a collection of short stories titled *Facing the Music*," Mills said. "My review was enthusiastic, and Larry graciously wrote to thank me."

The two soon developed a real friend-ship and discovered that they had similar tastes in modern fiction, as well as in hunting and fishing. The friendship grew as Brown's routine visits to his publisher, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, provided opportunities to meet Mills for drinks, ride around the area or take fishing trips to a nearby pond. Mills also visited Brown at his home in Oxford.

"We had lots of common friends," Mills said. "We had both a literary and social relationship. He was a man's man."

Mills visited the Oxford campus during the 14th Oxford Conference for the Book. As part of the conference, an exhibition from the Mills Collection was displayed, and Mills was hosted in the Department of Special Collections, where he gave the talk "Larry Brown as

### Larry Brown

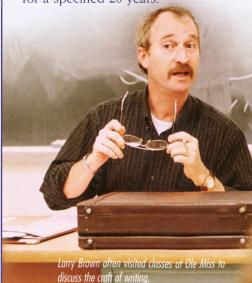
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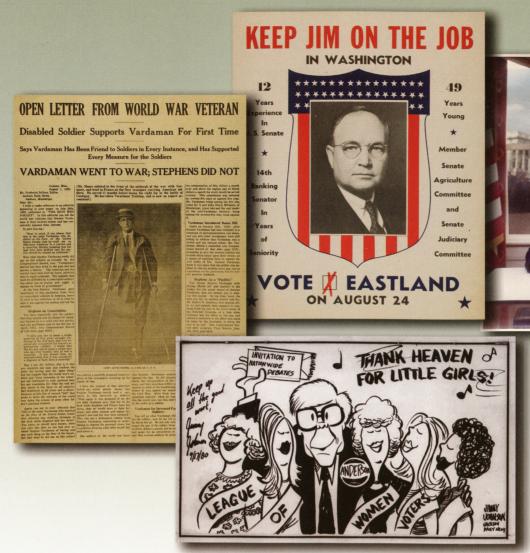
habitants with great insight and in great detail, studied writing under Ellen Douglas at Ole Miss, and gave back to the writing community here as a teacher and mentor.

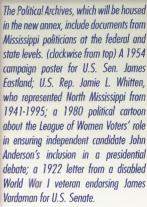
"In the truest sense, his papers 'belong' here, with a community that fed his imagination and that he helped immortalize in turn, picking up right where Faulkner left off," Watson continued. "I'm delighted that the university had the foresight and the commitment to pursue this landmark acquisition."

Attesting to Brown's stance in the literary world, many of his writer friends welcomed the opportunity to participate in the 14th annual Oxford Conference for the Book, in March, which honored Brown. They included Mark Richard, Kevin Canty, Clyde Edgerton, Steve Yarbrough, Andre Dubus III and Jill McCorkle. Brown's editor, Shannon Ravenel, at Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, also shared her reflections.

The library has archival finding aids available for online searches for the Larry Brown material acquired in 1995, which is frequently used by students and other scholars and researchers. Rholes said the new material will be processed as quickly as possible, including finding aids. However, due to their personal nature, Brown's daily journals will be restricted from use for a specified 20 years.







# Library Annex to provide storage for rare political items

or years, the J.D. Williams Library has needed a high-density, climate-controlled facility to store post-1900 political collections and selected low-use library material. Now that wait is over.

What was once the Physical Plant Building on campus has been renovated and renamed the University Library Annex.

"The Library Annex provides conservation-level controls for some of our political collections, as well as books, journals and other library material that have been designated as low-use," said Dean of Libraries Julia Rholes. "Moving this material to the annex provides more space in the main and science libraries for the shelving of new and more frequently used material."

The two-story, 6,900-square-foot building has more than 20,300 linear feet of compact shelving on the first floor,

which is designated as the modern Political Archives, and 14,322 linear feet on the second level. The building includes an 800-square-foot "cold room" with a separate HVAC system that maintains temperatures necessary to ensure the preservation of photographs and negatives. The room holds all of the Political Archives photographic material, as well as all photographs and negatives that are part of Special Collections in the Williams Library.

The congressional collections in the archives are a treasure trove of information because they provide a view of more than just the single career of one politician.

"These papers provide an important historical resource for documenting the entire state," said Leigh McWhite, political papers archivist. "Mississippians from all walks of life seek the assistance of their congressmen in navigating the government bureaucracy; write letters expressing their opinions on local, state and national topics; and seek help in gaining federal employment. Congressional papers also are a rich resource for all federally funded projects in Mississippi, everything from flood control to new post office buildings."

Each collection in the archives is considered either "open" or "closed" to researchers. "Scholars and other patrons may access 'open' collections for research; however, 'closed' collections are currently unavailable to researchers either because the collection has not been processed—that is, preserved and organized—or because of a time restriction placed on the collection by the donor," McWhite said.

Collections stored in the Political Archives that are open to researchers include the papers of U.S. congressmen James O. Eastland, Thomas Abernathy,

Ross A. Collins, Tim Ford, Carroll Gartin, Pat Harrison, Felton M. Johnston, Clarence Pierce, William M. Whittington and John Sharp Williams. The archive also includes the League of Women Voters Collection, Mississippi Politics Collection and Southern Women Legislators Collection.

The annex also shelters closed collections, including those of Claude F. Clayton, Thad Cochran, J.P. Coleman, Armis E. Hawkins, Ray Mabus, William "Fishbait" Miller, John Rankin, Orma Smith, Stone and Stone, and Jamie L. Whitten, as well as the John Satterfield/American Bar Association Collection and the Trent Lott Watergate Files.

"Although most of these are political collections, several are more 'legal' in nature, such as Satterfield, Stone and Stone, J.P. Coleman, Orma Smith, Claude F. Clayton and Armis Hawkins," said McWhite.

McWhite has provided a Web page with detailed information about collections related to U.S. congressmen from Mississippi. This site can be accessed at www.olemiss.edu/depts/general\_library/files/archives/guides/congressional.html.

Besides the political/legal collections, also stored in the annex are pre-1970 journals formerly stored in Farley Hall, print volumes of selected journals that are available /full-text via electronic databases, and reference items that are no longer maintained up to date.

With additional space available in the annex, plans call for more material to be transferred there to provide needed space in the main library.

"All selection decisions, however, are reversible if the need arises for material stored in the annex to be returned to the Williams Library," Rholes said.

The annex is not open to the general public; however, all material stored there is represented in the library's catalog and can be requested for same-day retrieval Monday through Friday for viewing in the Williams Library. Items requested during weekends and holidays are processed the following work-day.

If an item is located at the annex, the online catalog record will list "annex" as its location. For these items, there will also be a link to an online request form.

# Eastland papers offer unique look into Mississippi, American history

Movement. Watergate. The Cold War. Vietnam.

James O. Eastland represented Mississippi in the U.S. Senate during all of these critical periods in modern American history. He often wrote about them, both as a public servant and as a private citizen. Now the vast James O. Eastland Collection is available in the Department of Archives and Special Collections at the J.D. Williams Library.

The collection, representing a key period of social change in America, includes correspondence, documents, publications, photographs, scrapbooks and audiovisual material.

"Although the papers obviously represent the public career of an important national politician, the collection also provides a significant portrait of the state Eastland represented," said Leigh McWhite, political papers archivist. "The campaign portions of the Eastland Collection permit a researcher to determine the network of behind-the-scenes power brokers that existed throughout Mississippi from the 1940s to the 1970s."

While portions of the collection will remain closed as curators continue working on the material, File Series 1: Personal/Political is open, and an online finding aid is available, said Jennifer Ford, head of archives and special collections.

"Researchers and other scholars have requested files from Senator Eastland's collection, so the decision was reached to make the papers available in install-

Researchers will be able to use the writings

of Sen. James Eastland to look at some of

America's most critical historic periods,

such as Watergate, Vietnam and the

civil rights movement.

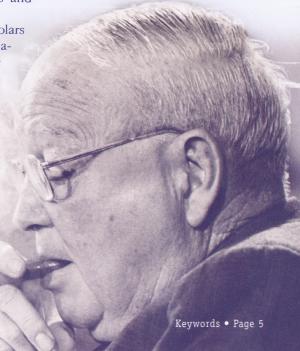
ments, as opposed to restricting access until the entire collection has been processed," Ford said.

The collection is housed in the Library Annex, which is not open to the general public. However, items requested for viewing are retrieved daily by library staff or on the following workday if requested during a weekend.

Eastland donated his papers to the UM School of Law around the time of his retirement in 1978. In July 2004, UM administrators transferred all responsibility for the Eastland Collection from the law school to the library.

Speaking for the Eastland family, the senator's son, Woods Eastland of Indianola, referred to his father's papers as being "part of the work product of the career of a man who to us was a father and head of household."

"It would be personally interesting to my sisters and me to read so many words from a man who, in his public comments, always adhered to the standard that what you don't say will never come back to haunt you," he said. "We trust that researchers will see in these papers a complete picture of him as a public figure who was also a loving and dedicated father and husband. We thank the university for the care they are giving them in their preservation."



# AICPA Library a gold mine for accounting history

n archivist for the Deloitte & Touche accounting firm carried a collection of client letters and engagement contracts—in the handwriting of the firm's original partners and dated 1903-1907—down 93 stories to safety after the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York.

After the same frantic trip to protect the valuable collection was repeated on September 11, Deloitte & Touche principals decided the historic documents needed a safer home.

The international CPA firm presented the papers to the largest accountancy library collection in the world, housed in the J.D. Williams Library. The resources—including the oldest known accountancy book, written by Luca Pacioli in 1494—reveal much about accounting practices through the years, as well as provide a glimpse of life in general.

"The accounting records of an individual's business, which have survived the perilous years, enable the accounting historian to study the characteristics of earlier generations," said Andrew Sharp, professor of accountancy at Spring Hill College in Mobile and a frequent visitor to the UM collection. "Accounting journals and ledgers contain more than mere numbers representing receipts and disbursements. They reveal what it was like to have lived in an earlier time."

The gift from Deloitte & Touche (formerly Haskins & Sells), for example, includes letters explaining the details of more than 700 client engagements, including speculations that specific individuals were perpetrating frauds.

"Accounting history is a worthwhile field of study because the mistakes of the past can help us avoid similar problems in the future," said Dale Flesher, associate dean and professor of accountancy at UM. "For example, the recent Enron debacle is almost identical to a similar fraud perpetrated by Ivar Kreuger during the 1920s and up to 1932. Both were the biggest bankruptcies in history at the time of their filings. Both were based on similar issues. Unfortunately,



Accounting professor James Davis (right) reviews historic accountancy texts with a student at the J.D. Williams Library.

most people today were either unaware of Ivar Kreuger and his financial reporting shenanigans or didn't think what he did could be replicated."

UM's prominence in accountancy library resources began to build with the 1987 acquisition of the National Tax History Research Center, an initiative credited to Tonya Flesher, former dean and current professor of accountancy. The 7,000-volume collection features documents dating to 1862. In 1993, accountancy doctoral student Tommie Singleton, now a professor at University

of Alabama at Birmingham, persuaded pioneers of electronic data-processing auditing to donate to the National EDP Auditing Archival Center.

A niche was in the making, and before long the National Library of the Accountancy Profession (the library of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, or AICPA), McMickle Accounting History Library and the Accountancy Videotape Library followed. The AICPA materials—which amounted to 150,000 pieces—came to Ole Miss in 2001 through the efforts of then-accoun-



The AICPA Library includes some of the oldest and rarest documents in accounting history, including the oldest known book of accountancy written by Luca Pacioli (above) in 1494.

tancy Dean James W. Davis, accountancy professors, university administration, former Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove, the Mississippi congressional delegation and a \$200,000 grant from the Robert M. Hearin Foundation to move library materials to campus.

"The University of Mississippi is one of the nation's most well-respected names in accountancy education," said AICPA Vice President Jay Rothberg when the collection was moved. "We at the AICPA are pleased that our collection will reside with an institution that has contributed so much to excellence in the profession."

The holdings, which are housed in the university's John D. Williams Library and Conner Hall, serve as a central resource not only for the UM accountancy school but also for university researchers and professional colleagues throughout the country and the world.

The oldest and rarest items essentially are treated as museum exhibits and include the Pacioli volume from 1494. Taken as a whole, the accountancy holdings are massive. "Our library has more than 1,300 journal titles in accountancy and finance," Flesher said.

Gary John Previts, professor of accountancy and associate dean for undergraduate and integrated programs at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, relies on UM's resources for his research.

"There are always pleasant surprises," Previts said. "Materials which had been stored away, pamphlets which have not been available and, of course, the extensive early materials which document the original printed works on accounting."

## Historical society honors archivist

ennifer Ford received an Award of Merit from the Mississippi Historical Society for her outstanding work as head of the Department of Archives and Special Collections at the J.D. Williams Library. Ford received the award during the society's annual meeting in Jackson in March.

"Jennifer has set an example of dedication that could well be emulated by everyone associated with the archival profession," said Elbert Hilliard, MHS secretary-treasurer. "In addition to her work at the university library, she serves as bibliographical editor of the Journal of Mississippi History."

Dean of University Libraries Julia Rholes also praised Ford's work in archives and special collections.

"Jennifer has worked hard to not only strengthen our collection holdings, she has also strived to increase the awareness of the collections by a very successful outreach program," Rholes said. "She is also very concerned about such important issues as access and preservation, and, working with her talented staff, she has made significant progress in these areas."

After graduating from Millsaps College with a degree in English, Ford completed her master's degree in history and Master of Library Science at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1997. She is enrolled in UM's doctoral program in history. Her book, *The Hour of Our Nation's Agony: The Civil War Letters of Lt. William Cowper Nelson of Mississippi*, is slated to be published this fall by the University of Tennessee Press.

A Jackson native, Ford began her work at the UM library in 1998 and was promoted to department head in 2005. Under her leadership, the library's archival collection has grown by 30 percent. A top priority for her has been ensuring that the library keeps pace with new technology, including digitizing archival material and placing it online, then providing finding aids to make documents easily accessible.

A major part of Ford's responsibility involves processing each collection that the department receives. She also plans and sets up exhibitions, including selection of items and presentation design. She is planning a large new exhibit in the library's Faulkner Room on the history of Mississippi and women, to be completed this summer.

Ford gives presentations for groups visiting the library.



Jennifer Ford (right) gives civil rights icon James Meredith (left) a tour of the exhibit 'Civil Rights and Civil Wrongs' during Meredith's visit to the university for the Civil Rights Monument dedication in October 2006.

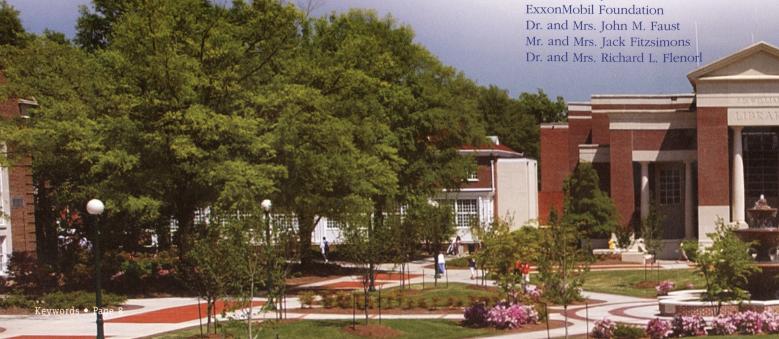
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# Oxford couple makes a habit of giving

Then it comes to supporting the university, John Wallace King (BSME 64) and Dicki Lee King (BA 64) think that it's best to give—and to give often. And over the past 20 years or so, that's just what they've done.

Dating back to the mid-1980s, the Kings have made at least 170 gifts to the John D. Williams Library—an average of about seven to eight gifts a year.

"Some might say the heart of the university is the football team, but it's really the library," Dicki said. "That's why we wanted to make sure we helped support it."

"Dicki majored in English, so she really wanted to get something done for the library," John said. "Over the years, we just developed a pattern. We have a sense of responsibility to Ole Miss and the library."

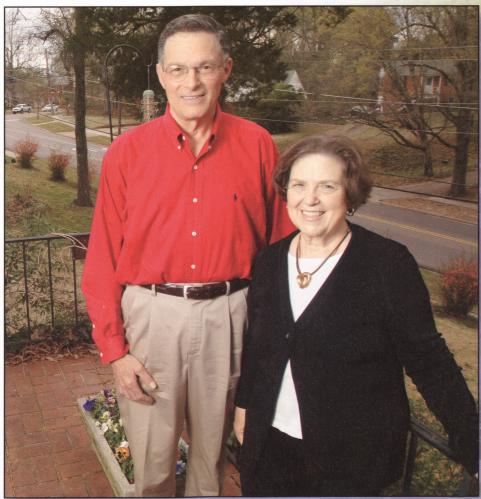
Much has changed since the Kings' undergrad years. Back in the early

1960s, looking for a book meant using a card catalog instead of a computer. "Students weren't allowed into the stacks," laughed John, who worked in the library as a student. "You'd write down your catalog number, send it up a dumb waiter and wait for someone in the stacks to get it for you. It was really busy during term-paper time."

Since those days, the library has grown significantly both in size and scope. There are computers, writing center and much more. "The library offers much more than it did when we were in school," Dicki said. "I've looked up newspapers there on microfiche. It's really nice that anyone can use it."

Dicki said that the library's availability is precisely why friends and alumni should support it.

"We love this library, and we always will. That's why we will continue to support it," Dicki said.



Over the past 20 years, John and Dicki King have made more than 170 donations to the J.D. Williams Library. 'We love this library, and we always will,' Dicki says.



# Quick Reference

ave this section for quick reference to university phone numbers and Web sites.

### Frequently called numbers

Local area code is 662

UM Libraries	
Administration	915-7091
Archives and Special	
Collections	915-7408
Government Documents	915-5857
Interlibrary Loan	915-5867
Reference	915-5855
Admissions	915-7226
Alumni Affairs	915-7375
Athletics Ticket Office	915-7167
Box Office	915-7411
Foundation	915-5944
Operator	915-7211

### Frequently visited Web sites

University Libraries www.olemiss.edu/depts/general\_library

Registrar ......915-7792

UM home page www.olemiss.edu

UM news updated daily www.olemiss.edu/newsdesk

The Daily Mississippian www.thedmonline.com

Admissions www.olemiss.edu/admissions

Activities for alumni and friends www.alumni.olemiss.edu



# Library welcomes development officer



Michael Upton

ichael Upton (BA 00, MA 02) has joined The University of Mississippi as a development officer for the University Libraries. A Tupelo native and Ole Miss alum, Upton is responsible for securing financial support for the university libraries.

"Michael's professional experience and his experience both as an undergraduate and as a graduate student here at the university have given him an excellent background for this position," said Dean of Libraries Julia Rholes. "He clearly understands the importance of the library to the university community and the very real needs that our library has. We're delighted to have him."

Before joining the Ole Miss family, Upton served as an advertising sales executive for the Itawamba County Times in Fulton, Miss., and worked as an instructor at Itawamba Community College. Upton holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in history from The University of Mississippi.

"We're excited to have Michael working full time to help ensure we have the up-to-date resources and facilities that are so important to our students and faculty," said Ted J. Smith, assistant director of university development. "Michael is committed to this institution and has already proven himself to be a valuable member of our team."

Upton is a member of the Oxford-Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and is active in the Ole Miss Rotary Club.



The University complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate against anyone protected by law because of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, handicap, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran. 3702A/4-07

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