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Fall 2011

## Ole Miss Accountant – Fall 2011

University of Mississippi. School of Accountancy

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## ACCOUNTANT

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

[www.olemiss.edu/depts/accountancy](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/accountancy)

## Trailblazing alumna inducted into school's Hall of Fame

By Edwin Smith



UM alumna Edith Kelly-Green of Memphis (center)—joined by her daughter, Jayna Kelly—is recognized by Chancellor Dan Jones for committing a deferred gift of \$375,000 to establish three scholarships, adding to a scholarship endowment she has already funded for the Patterson School of Accountancy. With this planned gift, she becomes a member of the 1848 Society. Photo by Kevin Bain

**E**dith Hickonbottom Kelly-Green continues to be recognized for her service and generosity. Already included in the University of Mississippi Alumni Hall of Fame, the accountancy alumna recently joined the list of those inducted into the Patterson School's Alumni Hall of Fame.

A member of the executive board of the Ole Miss Alumni Association and a past board member of the UM Foundation, she was the first African-American female vice president at FedEx Corp, from which she has since retired. The inaugural chair of the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy, Kelly-Green last year committed a deferred gift of \$375,000 to endow three new UM scholarships to help young people. The latest gift makes her a member of the 1848 Society, which recognizes alumni and friends of the university who have

either funded or planned a deferred gift, such as a bequest or life income plan. Previously, she endowed a four-year scholarship in the Patterson School of Accountancy.

"It is such a pleasure to induct Edith Kelly-Green into our Patterson School of Accountancy Hall of Fame; she has had a tremendous career and is so deserving of this honor," said Mark Wilder, dean of the School of Accountancy and KPMG professor. "We are grateful to Edith for her loyal friendship, for the example that she sets for others to follow, and for everything she has done for the school and university over the years. We are so proud to have her as one of our accountancy graduates."

Kelly-Green said, "When I was growing up, accountant and CPA were foreign terms to my family and me and, frankly, to most of black America. It wasn't easy, but I worked

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

Comments or suggestions?  
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## FROM THE DEAN

### Dear Accountancy Alumni and Friends:

Things continue to go extremely well in the Patterson School of Accountancy.

At the conclusion of another exciting academic year, we awarded 143 bachelor's degrees, 76 Master of Accountancy degrees, 15 Master of Taxation degrees and two doctoral degrees on May 14. Our commencement ceremony was held in the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts and was highlighted by the commencement address of Roger Friou (BBA 56, MS 59), who started his career at Standard Oil (now Chevron) and retired as CFO of Jitney Jungle Stores of America in 1997. A longtime supporter of our school and member of the Patterson School Hall of Fame, Mr. Friou delivered an inspiring address that was well received by students, families and friends.

We offered a full slate of classes this summer and once again enjoyed a large summer enrollment. For the sixth consecutive year, accountancy enrollment is at an all-time high (852 students) for fall 2011, and the Patterson School continues to grow and thrive.

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

Our internship program continues to flourish. We had 83 students participate over the past year (eight in fall 2010, 57 in spring 2011, and 18 in summer 2011). These students interned with 39 firms/companies in 32 cities, 10 states, and three countries. We are now preparing for the spring 2012 class of interns, with more than 100 students vying for internships.

Accountancy Weekend 2011 was a great success, beginning with our annual Honors Banquet. Many awards were presented to our students, and the ceremony featured the induction of UM School of Accountancy alumna and longtime supporter Edith Kelly-Green into the Accountancy Hall of Fame. The faculty awards went to superb teachers and researchers. Dave Nichols was named Outstanding Teacher, and Vicki Dickinson was named Outstanding Researcher.

The next day, our continuing education program included wonderful guest speakers Louis Fuller, Ashley Wright, Jeff Aucoin, Ed Krei, and Jim Crockett. We again had an all-time high in participation with about 125 attendees registered for the event, and we are pleased that interest continues to grow.

In early May, Beta Alpha Psi hosted its spring Meet the Firms event, followed the next day by the seventh annual BAP golf tournament to raise funds for student activities and travel. Both events were a great success, and the tournament concluded with the awarding of the Burkett Cup (named in honor of retired faculty member Homer Burkett) to the winning team.

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

Sincerely,

W. Mark Wilder  
Dean and KPMG Professor

## Taylor Medalists 2011

Mallory Alyse Britt  
Karessa Lynne Duran  
Cynthia Ann Fry  
Matthew Collins Garber  
Mary Katherine Graham  
Christopher Allan Mattox  
Emilee Christine Young

## Phi Kappa Phi Initiates Spring 2011

Holly Amanda Beazley  
Patrick Christopher Bleyer  
Laura Jane Cole  
Taylor Francesca-Victoria Corso  
Sebastian Lopez Duarte  
Karessa Lynne Duran  
Alyssa Marie Green  
Yiran Li  
Patrick Kin-Wing Lo  
Robbie Young Murphey  
Grace Brooks Pearson  
Elizabeth Mead Randall  
Sheila Marie Sermon  
James Martin Shepherd  
Matthew Franklin Shorter  
David Ford Thompson  
David Thorne Williams Jr.  
Hyekyung Kate Yun

# Master of Taxation graduate secures prestigious FASB internship

By Elaine Pugh

**C**rediting the education she received at the Patterson School, an accountancy graduate landed a competitive yearlong internship with the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

As one of six interns chosen nationwide, Natalie Leilani Ferrell Watanabe began her work July 11 at the FASB offices in Norwalk, Conn. She completed the Patterson School's Master of Taxation program in June.

"The Patterson School of Accountancy prepared me very well for this experience," she said. "The curriculum enabled me to gain a solid foundation of accounting principles while teaching me to think critically and to work collaboratively in groups. Most importantly, the teachers take a genuine interest in their students and challenge them so that they will be successful in the long run."

Watanabe is assigned to the Accounting for Financial Instruments project. So far, she has helped draft staff memos to the board, which involves research and analysis of the relevant issues; attended board meetings and video conferences; and even presented to the board in a public meeting. Besides her work on the AFI project, she has researched technical inquiries received from auditors and preparers and directly responded to them.

FASB internship applicants must be nominated by their schools, and the other five interns chosen were nominated by the University of Wisconsin, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Brigham Young University, University of Georgia and University of Connecticut.

As for Ole Miss, Dean Mark Wilder said he was happy to work on Watanabe's behalf.

"Natalie has a rare combination of skills and traits, which in my view make her an ideal choice for one of the FASB Postgraduate Technical Assistant positions. These skills and traits include her maturity, poise, technical expertise, communication skills and analytical abilities. Natalie also gets along great with others, has a true gift for being productive and getting things done, has a tremendous work ethic, and is



Natalie Watanabe shares a special moment with her father, Russell Watanabe, following the spring commencement ceremony.

very interested in higher order knowledge of accounting and financial reporting. We are very proud to have her working for the FASB this year."

Watanabe, who received her Bachelor of Accountancy degree from Ole Miss in May 2010, said she first heard of the FASB Postgraduate Technical Assistant program when an FASB board member spoke on campus.

"The reason why I wanted to apply for the PTA program is because I have always tried to seek opportunities to learn and to develop a broad-based understanding of accounting and its role in the business environment," said Watanabe, a native of Aiea, Hawaii. She added that she had also enjoyed her financial accounting courses and developed an appreciation for the conceptual basis of the material.

She also attributed her preparedness to her Patterson School experiences outside the classroom.

"My involvement in Beta Alpha Psi as an officer helped me to strengthen my leadership skills and to feel comfortable interacting with professionals in both formal and informal settings.

"I am also a huge supporter of the Patterson School's internship program and the Becker CPA Review Course. Those two programs are critical to developing graduates that are prepared for the workplace."

While at this point she is unsure of her plans following the PTA program, she is sure that she still has a lot to learn.

"I am amazed by the wealth of knowledge among those here at the FASB," she said. "The staff members with whom I work are incredibly smart and are equally generous in sharing their insights on both technical accounting issues and their career experiences. It is humbling to come to work every day and to learn from some of the brightest minds within this field."

*(An interview with Watanabe about her FASB internship is available online at <http://thebablog.com/post/3526928831/interview-w-natalie-watanabe-who-has-an->)*

## Another alumnus at FASB

Ron Lott (BBA 75) has been on the FASB staff for more than 15 years. He was appointed research director of FASB in 2008.



## Professor enjoys banner year, wins four major awards

By Elaine Pugh

**A**ll has gone well—make that very well—over the last few months for Dale Flesher, professor and Arthur Andersen Alumni Lecturer in the Patterson School of Accountancy.

The faculty member, who has taught at the school for 34 years, has collected four more significant awards, two of which will make nifty bookends for his career in accountancy education.

In May, he was named the fourth recipient of UM's coveted Distinguished Research and Creative Achievement Award, and the following week, he received the 2011 Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education Award from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

The UM award, including \$7,500 and a personal plaque, was presented to Flesher at the university's spring commencement program by Alice Clark, vice chancellor for research and sponsored programs.

"The award was created to recognize and pay tribute to a faculty member whose career and achievements have generated national and international accolades, someone who has been a leader in his chosen field, who has inspired and encouraged others, who is admired and respected by his peers, and who has made outstanding lifelong contributions to his profession and to our institution," Clark said.

"Dr. Dale Flesher has done all of this and more. An empowering mentor and committed teacher, he is renowned for his sustained research and publishing, qualities that have cultivated an outstanding reputation for the School of Accountancy at Ole Miss."

The award from AICPA recognizes full-time college professors who excel as educators and who have achieved national prominence in the accounting profession. Paul Stahlin, chair of the AICPA, made the presentation at the spring meeting of the institute's governing board and specifically pointed to Flesher's assistance in moving the AICPA library, a voluminous history of the accounting profession, from New York to the J.D. Williams Library at Ole Miss.

"Throughout his career as a professor, Dale has made lasting contributions to the



Dale Flesher (right) receives the AICPA Distinguished Research and Creative Achievement Award from Paul Stahlin, chair of the AICPA.

accounting profession, but his work with the (AICPA) library stands out," Stahlin said. "His efforts have ensured that this large collection of resources will be preserved for future generations of accounting students and academics."

Sandwiched between those awards for Flesher are his selection as the 2011 American Accounting Association's Outstanding Educator of the Year in the Southeast Region and word from book publisher Emerald Literati that Flesher's book "Gerhard G. Mueller: Father of International Accounting Education" had been chosen as its Best Book of the Year.

At the Southeast Regional AAA meeting in Destin, James R. Hasselback of the University of West Florida presented the regional award to Flesher.

"Dale Flesher has been a tremendous asset for the Southeast Region of the American Accounting Association," Hasselback said. "Not only does he attend and present papers each year; he also strongly encourages his doctoral students to attend and present their papers."

"Dale was program chairperson of the SEAAA annual meeting that was held on the University of Mississippi campus. It was our largest attendance in recent years.

He has served on several national committees of the American Accounting Association; he has served as president of the Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Section, and was program chairperson of the national AAA meeting."

UM Chancellor Dan Jones applauded Flesher for his outstanding work, saying, "The School of Accountancy has a well-deserved reputation for a strong faculty. These four recognitions over a short span are an indication of the respect and appreciation for Dale Flesher both inside and outside our university. He is an outstanding faculty member in an outstanding professional school. Our university and our students are the beneficiaries of this extraordinary work by an outstanding faculty member."

Flesher, who also serves as associate dean of the Patterson School, has played a key role in curriculum development at Ole Miss and serves as coordinator of both master's and doctoral programs. He joined the faculty in 1977, following four years at Appalachian State University. He received both bachelor's and master's degrees from Ball State University, and he holds a Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Cincinnati. ■

## 'Outstanding Educator' living the good life

**R**ick Elam's longtime dedication and service to his profession were recognized recently with his selection as the 2011 Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants Outstanding Educator.

He was honored during the MSCPA's annual business meeting June 25 in Sandestin.

This year, he was also reappointed to a second five-year term on the Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy. After spending some 20 years either in the classroom or at a higher level making a difference in accountancy education, Elam joined the UM faculty in 1999 as the inaugural holder of the Reynolds Chair of Accountancy, and he said his affiliation with the Patterson School has been rewarding.

"When I was offered the opportunity to become the Reynolds Professor of Accountancy here at Ole Miss, I knew it was an ideal match for me. Everything about the school, the campus and Oxford fit my vision for a perfect career opportunity.

"During my career, I have, at times, accepted and enjoyed other professional opportunities outside of teaching, which were interesting and rewarding. But, for me, the good life is as a professor of accounting at a university with a school and student body committed to the accounting profession."

Dean Mark Wilder said that Elam is a nationally known authority on accounting education.

"Dr. Elam is an exemplary educator with a long and distinguished career of outstanding service as a professor, academic administrator, leader within the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and member of the Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy," Wilder said. "He is very deserving of the MSCPA Outstanding Educator Award."

Before moving to UM, Elam served as dean of the College of Business at Middle Tennessee State University, one of the largest accredited business schools with 3,000 undergraduates and 111 faculty. From 1989 to 1995, he was vice president of education at the AICPA. While there, he assisted more than 30 states in passing legislation to require 150 semester hours of education for new CPAs.

He was dean of the School of Business at Rutgers-Camden from 1986 to 1989 and was director of the School of Accountancy at the University of Missouri from 1979 to 1986.

Since joining the Patterson School, Elam has touched the lives of hundreds of students, including spring 2011 bachelor's graduate Caitlin Cassidy.

"The School of Accountancy has many outstanding professors, so when I look back at my academic career at Ole Miss and see Dr. Elam as one of the professors who has had the most influence on me, it really means something," said Cassidy, who is enrolled in the Master of Accountan-



Rick Elam

cy program. "I started my study of accounting in Dr. Elam's 201 honors class, and I believe that his outstanding instruction and high expectations for his students kept me in the accountancy program."

It's students like Cassidy who make Elam believe that he has come full circle in his profession.

"Like many students, I was hooked on accounting by the systemic nature of the accounting system and influenced by a very good teacher in my first two elementary accounting courses. I did well in those courses because I 'got it' from the first chapter." ■

## Accountancy Awards



**Columns Society 2011-12**  
Joseph Zegel (left), Brock Therrell Hurston



**Ole Miss Student Hall of Fame 2011**  
Mary Katherine Graham, Jessie James Austin



## Beta Alpha Psi chapter picks up prizes

By Elaine Pugh

Student members of the Patterson School's Beta Alpha Psi chapter started off the year with a bang, returning from the annual meeting in August with \$7,500 in prizes and three significant recognitions.

Faculty adviser J Shaw and 13 member representatives attended the meeting in Denver, Colo., and had the pleasure of learning firsthand that the Alpha Theta Chapter was among seven chapters recognized as 2011 Gold Challenge winners and among four chapters walking away with the newly established Grant Thornton Ethics Award. Also, after having won the regional Best Practices Competition, the UM chapter attained Honorable Mention in Denver with its entry, titled "Helping Others Understand the Financial Information Professions."

Shaw said the UM chapter is particularly proud of the Gold Challenge recognition.

"The Gold chapter status is the highest award level a chapter can receive," he said. "To be eligible to enter the competition, a chapter must have been rated Superior in the prior and current years, and must have participated in both the regional and annual meetings by making presentations. Out of 140 Superior chapters, there were 28 video submissions, and our chapter was one of the seven selected as Gold, which put us in a very elite group and came with a \$2,500 award."

In the Ethics Award Competition, the UM chapter was one of four selected as unranked winners among 16 applications. That award carries a \$5,000 prize, sponsored by Grant Thornton. Natalie



A group of Patterson School student members of Beta Alpha Psi and their adviser are shown at the annual meeting after being recognized as one of seven chapters winning the 2011 Gold Challenge. They are Dante Esposito (left), Ryan McDurmon, Coby Parker, David Neyhart, Natalie Watanabe, Patrick Lo, Lee Harris, Paden Patterson, Ann Atkinson, Matt Garber, Bess Randall, Rachel Epps and Tonie Pittari, and faculty adviser J Shaw.

Watanabe, chapter vice president for the spring 2011 semester, submitted the application for the award. The entry was based on the Alpha Theta Chapter hosting four ethics presentations, designed to inform accounting students about the critical role ethics plays in the business environment and to encourage students to behave ethically in their personal and professional lives.

Finally, chapter members Rachel Epps, Tonie Pittari and Natalie Watanabe entered the Best Practices Competition, after having won at the regional level last spring. They came in fourth with Honorable Mention designation.

"I'm very proud of the work the students have done over the last year and am

very excited about our momentum going into this year," Shaw said. "Our chapter had an amazing year, and that success was due to the dedication and hard work of the student officers, including our presidents Coby Parker (fall 2010) and Rachel Epps (spring 2011)."

Travel expenses for the Patterson School representatives to attend the regional and annual meetings were covered with funds raised at the annual BAP Golf Tournament, Shaw said.

"We had good attendance, and we raised almost \$9,500," he said.

*(The Gold Challenge video that the chapter submitted is posted at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=IJZMP8s5c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IJZMP8s5c).)* ■

## Speaker series recognized with ethics award

Thanks to presentations by four visiting speakers during 2010-11, the Patterson School's Beta Alpha Psi chapter walked away from the BAP annual meeting in August with a new award designation, the BAP Ethics Award sponsored by Grant Thornton.

Based on the speaker series, Natalie

Watanabe, chapter vice president for spring 2011, submitted the UM chapter's application for the inaugural year of this award. The series was designed to inform accounting students about the critical role ethics plays in the business environment and to encourage students to behave ethically in their personal and professional lives.

The presenters were Stacy Sturgeon, KPMG's national managing partner of university relations and recruiting, who spoke on the importance of ethics in the workplace and its unique role in the accounting profession; Mark Puckett, the Southwest regional tax partner at BDO, who covered

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# Graduate achieves highest score on CPA exam

By Elaine Pugh

**B**eyond being hired as an audit associate with KPMG in Jackson, Katie Cliburn (MAccy 10) learned of another achievement.

She made the highest score on the state CPA exam out of 864 test takers last year.

Reflecting on earning the Fred T. Neely Gold Medal for her score, she said her goal was always just to pass the exam.

"I was surprised at how well I did," she said. "However, going into the exam, I knew that the Patterson School had done everything possible to prepare me for it. The dedication that each professor shows to the students and the school is phenomenal, and it is that dedication that makes the accountancy program at Ole Miss so wonderful."

Jack Coppenbarger, executive director of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants, said, "Scoring the highest grade on one of the toughest exams on the planet is a tremendous accomplishment.

We congratulate Katie Cliburn and are pleased that she was able to be recognized during the MSCPA's annual business meeting in June at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort."

Coppenbarger added that while the board does not keep a tally on medal winners by educational institution, students from the University of Mississippi are frequent winners of the medals at the Gold, Silver and Bronze levels.

Cliburn said she plans to continue working in the audit field, with the possibility of one day pursuing a Ph.D. A native of Wiggins, she received B.B.A. and B.Accy. degrees, both in 2009, from UM, as well as the M.Accy. in 2010.

"My experience at Ole Miss really prepared me for my career," she said. "Although the working world is nothing like college life, I was able to begin my career with a strong accounting and business background, which provided me with a wonderful foundation to succeed in the profession." ■



Katie Cliburn proudly displays the plaque she was awarded for making the highest score on the 2010 Mississippi CPA exam.



## Golf Champs

Winners of the seventh annual Beta Alpha Psi Golf Tournament are shown with retired professor Homer Burkett (center) after presentation of the Burkett Cup. Team members are Zach Strudhoff (left), Nick Nicholson (BAccy 10), Tanner Rumrill and Matt Perry.



# Class of 2011 celebrates big day

By Elaine Pugh

The Patterson School of Accountancy's 2011 commencement, held May 14 at the majestic Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts, was imbued with wise words and recognition of achievements.

Speaking from his personal experience as a successful CPA, longtime accountancy school supporter and alumnus Roger Friou delivered the commencement address, offering sage advice to the 220 graduates.

"I believe that maintaining a proper attitude, consistently looking for ways to improve your knowledge, and understanding where you are and what is expected of you are three very important rules to follow," he said.

Respect other's opinions, don't over-commit, maintain professional development, be a team player and follow the rules were other pointers he offered, often referring to his own career. After earning undergraduate and graduate degrees in accounting from UM in 1958, he went to work for Standard Oil Co. of California (now known as Chevron). From there, he joined a national CPA firm, and he ended his formal career in 1997, when he retired as CFO of Jitney Jungle Stores of America, a large, regional supermarket chain. Friou was inducted into the Patterson School Hall of Fame in 1999.

Speaking on behalf of the Class of 2011, Taylor Corso, Accountancy Student Body president, congratulated her fellow graduates on their achievements.

"I can say with reasonable certainty that each of you stretched beyond the limitations you even knew existed," she said.



James W. Davis, Peery Professor of Accountancy Emeritus (left); Roger Friou, alumnus and commencement speaker; and Dean Mark Wilder

Commending and thanking the accountancy faculty members for their support, Corso said, "I feel compelled to share with our friends and family here ... the superiority of our faculty, which comprises professionals that have risen above and beyond the call of duty."

Dean Mark Wilder recognized students and faculty who had earned awards, including faculty members Dave Nichols, 2011 Outstanding Teacher, and Vicki Dick-

inson, 2011 Outstanding Researcher; and accountancy graduate Jessie Austin, who was named to UM's 2011 Student Hall of Fame. Eleven students were introduced as recipients of the Taylor Medal, the university's highest academic award, and five were introduced as recipients of Accountancy Alumni Chapter Awards. (*Taylor Medal and Accountancy Alumni Chapter Award recipients are listed elsewhere in this publication.*) ■



Cynthia Fry, class marshal



Taylor Corso, Accountancy Student Body president



Nathan Jew (left), Taylor Kitchens and Tyler Michael

hard to be the best that I could be. The induction was a summarization and recognition of my career, a career that was possible through the excellent accounting program here at the university. It was indeed a culminating life event for me.”

UM Chancellor Dan Jones expressed appreciation for her deferred gift and other contributions.

“Alumna Edith Kelly-Green embodies the spirit of service that is a distinguished characteristic of the University of Mississippi family,” he said. “For many years, she has invested in Ole Miss initiatives by giving her time, knowledge and experience. Her service and generosity have greatly strengthened this university.”

Family is extremely important to the honoree. Three of the four scholarships are named for women in her life: her 85-year-old mother-in-law, Marian Mullin Kelly Gordon; her 27-year-old daughter, Jayna Kelly; and Christine Mitchell Hickonbottom, who raised Edith while working as a maid for university students at what was then known as the Veteran’s Village. The fourth scholarship is named for Kelly-Green.

“I was fortunate to attend Ole Miss and receive an education through scholarships and loans,” she said. “Our family was not born into money. We worked very hard to achieve what we have, and the idea of letting go of our money is probably a little more challenging because of that. However, I know of no better way to give to others than to create educational opportunities for them.”

Kelly-Green’s son, James Kelly, co-owns 11 Lenny’s Sub Shop restaurants with her and her daughter, Jayna Kelly, a

2005 UM graduate, who is pursuing a medical degree at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center in Memphis.

Though she has had many successes, Kelly-Green said those that have some personal value are the most meaningful to her.

“I hope these scholarships will make a difference in many young people’s lives. I do not want anyone to be unable to attend Ole Miss because [he or she] can’t afford it. In this day and age, it is almost criminal not to pursue higher education.”

**“Alumna Edith Kelly-Green embodies the spirit of service that is a distinguished characteristic of the University of Mississippi family.”**

**—UM CHANCELLOR DAN JONES**

Other UM staff and faculty praised Kelly-Green as most deserving of her induction.

“As one can see from her many accomplishments, Edith Kelly-Green is a leader. She is clearly driven by the desire to be a positive influence on those around her,” said Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the UM Foundation. “She sets a high bar for all of us.”

UM Provost Morris Stocks said, “Her tremendously successful accounting career

and her demonstrated commitment to serving humanity stand as examples for our students. I can think of no stronger addition to the Patterson School of Accountancy Hall of Fame than Edith Kelly-Green.”

A certified public accountant, Kelly-Green was a founding member of the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis. She served on the board of directors for the Downtown Memphis Development Commission and the Memphis City Zoo, and on the advisory board of Baptist Women’s Hospital. She provides leadership on the board of directors of the University of Tennessee Medical Group and Applied Industrial Technologies.

Besides her degree from UM, Kelly-Green earned a master’s degree in business administration from Vanderbilt University. She was a senior auditor with Deloitte & Touche in Memphis before joining FedEx. A breast cancer survivor, she also helps promote opportunities to communicate and reduce the risk of cancer.

“By God’s grace, I have enjoyed an extraordinary career and family, and by many people’s standards, I have been successful; however, I know that to whom much is given, much is expected. You never know when you are making a difference in someone’s life, especially a child.”

As for her future plans, Kelly-Green said she looks forward to relaxing and enjoying her well-deserved early retirement.

“I had a bucket list long before the movie came out, and I’ve been blessed to accomplish most of the things on that list already,” she said. “What I want to do now is to be available to my family, friends and, of course, my alma mater.” ■

the responsibilities and risks of a professional in public practice; Laura Gallagher, the Southeast region campus recruiting leader for Ernst & Young, who talked about diversity and inclusiveness; and David Myers, the former controller of WorldCom, the Mississippi-based telecommunications giant, who discussed his involvement in the company whose management perpetrated one of the largest accounting frauds in American history.

“The presentation by Mr. Myers was the most significant in our series because of his direct involvement in the WorldCom

fraud,” Watanabe said. Myers was sentenced to one year and one day in federal prison after pleading guilty to securities fraud charges.

In his presentation to the accountancy students, Myers recounted the significant events leading up to the financial collapse of the company, then explained in detail the events that transpired with the fraudulent reporting, including the pressures he felt from his immediate boss, Scott Sullivan, to meet forecasted earnings. He also described the pressure he felt as a husband and father to support his family.

“Myers reiterated that he knew what he was doing was wrong but rationalized the decisions in his mind,” Watanabe said. “Although he has served his time and has spent his life since then trying to help people, he said he is still haunted by the pain and suffering he caused to the people involved, including his family. Throughout his presentation, his remorse and emotional pain from reliving the events were evident. He quite literally bared his soul to everyone in the room, and it was a deeply emotional meeting.” ■



# ACCOUNTANCY AWARDS

Awards continued from Page 5



**Accountancy Alumni Chapter Academic Achievement Award 2011-12**  
Matthew Franklin Shorter (left), Mary Margaret Myers, Mary Katherine Graham, Alyssa Marie Green, David Thorne Williams Jr.



**Boolos Scholarship 2011-12**  
Briana Elise Russell, Barry Sherwood Barr



**Deloitte Tax Case Study Competition 2010**  
Margaret Joyner Barefoot (left), Lindsey Brooke Denton, Rachel Elaine Epps, Natalie Leilani Ferrell Watanabe



**Horne, LLP Scholarship in Accountancy 2011-12**  
Bryan Taylor Sams (left), Laura Jane Cole, Elizabeth Mead Randall, Robin Anne Jackson, \*Kirk Hines



**Accountancy Excellence Scholarship 2010-11**  
Ashley Elizabeth Jolly, Rylee Evan Powell



**KPMG Ph.D. Project Fellowship 2010-11**  
**Doctoral Consortium Fellow 2011**  
Dereck Barr



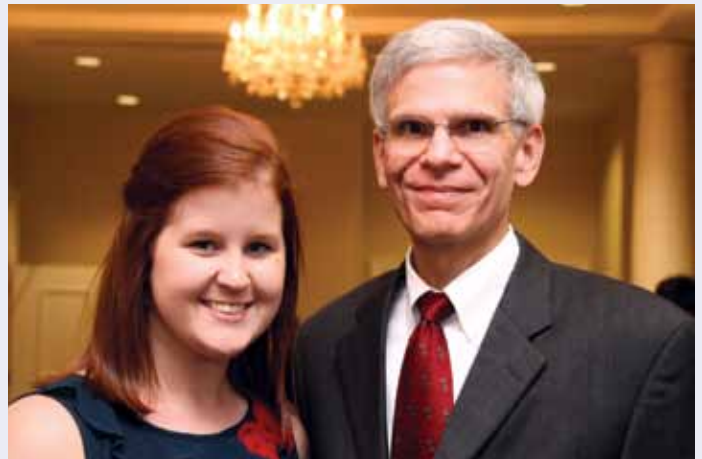
**Arthur Andersen & Co./W. Kelly Clifford Fellowship 2011**  
Caitlin McCullough Cassidy





**James W. Davis Scholarship in Accountancy**

Worth Whitten (left), Louis Phillip Cole, Rachel Ann Shaw, \*James W. Davis, Derek Austin Burns, William Eric Ott



**Caldwell Scholarship 2011-12**

Elizabeth Hunter Schmitz, \*Chuck Caldwell



**Dixon Hughes Goodman Fellowship 2011**

\*Jay Oliphant (left), Christina Rochelle Thompson, \*Buddy Dearman



**Dixon Hughes Goodman Scholarship 2011-12**

\*Jay Oliphant (left), Memory LaClair Madden, \*Buddy Dearman



**Mississippi Society of CPAs-Achievement Award 2010-11**

Robert Welch Clark



**PriceWaterhouseCoopers Fellowship 2011**

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**Collins Scholarship in Accountancy  
& Collins Graduate Scholarship in Accountancy**  
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**Griesbeck Scholarship 2010-11**  
\*William Griesbeck (left), Matthew Franklin Shorter, \*Mary Ann Griesbeck



**McCarty Family Scholarship**  
Mason Sands Smith (left), Cynthia Ann Fry, Patrick Kin-Wing Lo



**Peery Scholarship**  
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**Annie Belle H. Friou Tax Fellowship 2010-11  
FASB Postgraduate Technical Assistant  
2011-12**  
Natalie Leilani Ferrell Watanabe



**Claude Thompson Ole Miss First Scholarship**  
\*N. Gordon Thompson (left), Gino Lashaey Johnson



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Beta Alpha Psi, Financial Reporting Update, March 1, 2012

Accountancy Weekend—April 26-28, 2012

Beta Alpha Psi, Meet the Firms—May 3, 2012

Beta Alpha Psi Golf Tournament—May 4, 2012

Commencement—May 12, 2012