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# Keywords

SUMMER 2015

## UM Archives celebrates arts and entertainment

By Kelley Norris

The University of Mississippi's Archives and Special Collections is presenting a major exhibition of entertainment memorabilia spanning several decades and featuring items from three Mississippians who achieved fame as entertainment writers and critics.

Titled "Entertainment Collectors, Authors and Critics: Selections from the Mamie and Ellis Nassour Arts & Entertainment, Stark Young and Herschel Brickell Collections," the exhibition celebrates a major gift by journalist and author Ellis Nassour. The exhibit was unveiled Jan. 22 in the William Faulkner Room on the third floor of J.D. Williams Library and will run through December.

"To be recognized in this exhibit with these men, both extraordinary Mississippians, is a great honor," said Nassour, a Vicksburg native and 1964 UM graduate who resides in New York City.

Nassour began his generous donation of art and entertainment memorabilia to the university in 2000. In 2004, an official dedication took place, with the donation named the Mamie and Ellis Nassour Arts & Entertainment Collection, in memory of his parents.



Ellis Nassour discusses items on display from his collection during the exhibit's unveiling in January.

"The Nassour Collection gives the university a new breadth of research material, stretching from Hollywood to the New York stage and back to the South," said Charles Reagan Wilson, former director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. "The primary sources on Patsy Cline from Ellis' two biographies, in particular, help support the center's new emphasis on the study of Southern music."

As a journalism student, Nassour was a contributor to *The Daily Mississippian* and chaired the Associated Student Body social affairs committee for two

years. Working hand in hand with Dean of Students Tom Hines, he changed the caliber of on-campus entertainment with concerts by Peter, Paul and Mary; Johnny Cash and June Carter; Julie London and Bobby Troup; Peter Nero; and Al Hirt.

Nassour worked as a "campus runner" for a *New York Times* reporter during the UM integration crisis, which ultimately landed him a job at the newspaper, fulfilling a longtime ambition. He later became the director of artist relations for MCA Music/Universal Pictures, where he worked with Andrew Lloyd

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## Message from the Dean

Dear Friends,

This issue of Keywords highlights the many different ways in which donors are helping University Libraries. Our cover story on the new yearlong arts and entertainment exhibit in Archives and Special Collections highlights the importance of gifts of collections to our libraries, especially Archives.

We are so grateful to Herschel Brickell, Stark Young and Ellis Nassour for sharing their delightful collections. I should also note that the Nassour collection comprises literally hundreds of items including DVDs, CDs and books in our main circulating collection. These are unique materials of great interest to researchers and students.

We are also so grateful to Jesse White, who recently established an endowment in honor of his parents, Jesse Lamar and Marguerite East White. His endowment will be used for the enhancement and expansion of library collections in the social sciences. Collection support is critical to maintaining our excellent libraries. State funds simply do not cover the needs of our researchers and students.

The Friends of the Library was also established to help build support for the libraries' collections. This August, our Friends group will celebrate its 75th anniversary. The group has been quite active this spring, offering a series of coffees and a cocktail reception on March 19 at the home of Ralph and Douglas Vance. The purpose of these events was to spread the word about the importance of the Friends of the Library and to increase interest in membership. Friends group is planning more events to raise awareness and more funds. So please be on the lookout for these upcoming events, and please consider attending.

Sincerely,  
Julia Rholes  
Dean of University Libraries



*Students and others will be able to easily create quality videos with Studio One*

## Library campaign met for Studio One with the help of Athletics

By Christina Steube


**T**he J.D. Williams Library's crowd-funding campaign has surpassed its \$20,000 goal to create a video-production suite dubbed Studio One.

The campaign launched in March on the IGNITE Ole Miss website, a crowdfunding source that allowed anyone to donate. Ole Miss Athletics matched each individual donation, doubling each contribution.

Studio One will make it possible for students and others to easily create and edit videos. The creative suite will include a one-button video production studio with lights, camera and microphone. The suite will also offer an editing room with both Mac and PC editing software. Studio One will be located on the main floor of the J.D. Williams Library and will be a free service. It will be available fall 2015.

# STUDIOone

Faculty and community users will have access to the studio as well, and can use it to create online course video content and record lectures and webinar content.

"Our students and others are in much need of this technology and service," said Angela Barlow Brown, director of development for special projects. "The library is dedicated to serving all students of our university while providing the best environment for study, research and education. With the help of students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff and many gracious others, we were able to reach our goal to make this resource a reality in the J.D. Williams Library." 





## Jesse L. White honors parents with library endowment

By Mitchell Diggs

**W**hen Jesse L. White Jr. began thinking about establishing a memorial for his parents at the University of Mississippi, he quickly settled on the J.D. Williams Library as the natural choice.

"I've always considered the library to be the heart of a university," said White, who earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science in 1966. "That was certainly the case when I was at Ole Miss. I spent countless hours up in the stacks doing research or studying for exams, and it was such an important part of my time there."

Also, White's parents were big supporters of the university's library, so it seemed an appropriate place to honor them, he said. The Jackson native and adjunct professor in the University of North Carolina's School of Government has pledged \$25,000 to create the Jesse Lamar and Marguerite East White Memorial Endowment.

Proceeds from the endowment can be used at the discretion of the dean of libraries, with preference given to acquiring books and digital resources in the social sciences.

"We are grateful to Jesse White for this generous gift that will help provide the materials we need to continue to recruit talented faculty members and aid research in the social sciences," said Julia Rholes, UM library dean. "This endowment will help strengthen our programs for generations to come."

White, who last year agreed to fund an endowment for the university's William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, visited campus this spring and met with Rholes to discuss the library's needs.

"I love her orientation toward the engagement of communities through libraries," he said. "She came from that tradition, and she has continued on that path with the Ole Miss library."

White's parents were extraordinary people, he said.

"My father was born, believe it or not, in 1886, so he saw the introduction of the automobile and watched men walk on the moon. From modest circumstances, he became one of the most educated and well-read men I have ever known, even though he was not a college graduate. He was a huge influence on my intellectual development."

White Sr. enjoyed a successful career in insurance and served almost eight years as state insurance commissioner. His wife was equally successful.

"She was born at the dawn of the 20th century and was a graduate of Hinds Community College," White said. "She was a pioneer as a female business person and was a leader in organizations like the YWCA and the Mississippi Officials Women's Club.

"They both loved and trusted Ole Miss. They supported my

staying on campus after the Meredith integration crisis, which was my freshman year, while a lot of parents pulled their children out. It changed my life."

While a student at UM, White earned two Taylor medals and a Marshall Scholarship, which sent him to England for two years of study at the University of Sussex. After completing a master's degree in international relations there, he returned to UM as an instructor in political science from 1968 to 1970.

He then went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to earn his doctorate. During that time, he served as secretary of the Mississippi Senate, and later as a policy planner in the newly created U.S. Department of Education.

From 1982 to 1990, White was executive director of the Southern Growth Policies Board, an economic "think tank," and from 1993 to 2002, he served as federal co-chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission. He joined UNC as an adjunct professor in 2003 and created the university's Office of Economic and Business Development in 2004. He is recognized as an expert on Southern politics and the region's economic development.

"I really think both my parents would be delighted that their names will be linked to the Ole Miss library through the endowment," White said.

"The White Endowment is an excellent example of how one can create a lasting legacy for parents or other family members," said Rholes. To support the library, contact Angela Barlow Brown, development officer, at [ambarlow@olemiss.edu](mailto:ambarlow@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-3181. 📧



Jesse Lamar and Marguerite East White visit their son, Jesse, in England, while he was a Marshall Scholar in 1968.



# Ambassadors promote library with events, projects

By Edwin Smith

A small group of UM students has organized Library Ambassadors, a voluntary program that is raising awareness of the University Libraries' resources.

"The goals of the Library Ambassadors are to facilitate communication between University Libraries' administration and student body, to represent and promote the library at campus events, and to advocate for and raise awareness of library programs and services among the student body," said Melissa Dennis, assistant professor, outreach and instruction librarian, and co-faculty adviser of the organization. "The ambassadors also help create innovative and effective promotional materials for the libraries and their services."

Library Ambassadors' activities and events, which take place at the J.D. Williams Library, include poetry slams, Pet-a-Pup, art night and feedback night.

"It's a student-driven organization," said Amy E. Gibson, professor, head of instruction, information literacy librarian and the other faculty co-adviser. "Pet-A-Pup is where we work with the Cedar Wind local dog club to bring in dogs and their owners, training for volunteer credit. These are service dogs, and the students love to come and pet them during finals week. It's a successful two-day event drawing in hundreds of students the weekend kicking off finals week each fall and spring semester."

Currently, five students are members of the organization, but any student can join at no cost.

"Simply join in OrgSync, and we will send you event information," Dennis said. "Members are expected to participate in events. We also have sign-up tables at orientations."

Officers of Library Ambassadors said they are glad they chose to participate.

"In high school, I helped out in my school's library even though I was not a student library worker," said Jessica Marshall of Madison, president of Library Ambassadors and a senior biology major. "When I came to Ole Miss, I wanted to find some way to become a part of the library here, and becoming a Library Ambassador was a great way to do that."



Jessica Marshall, Library Ambassador president plays with Cali at Pet-a-Pup." Photo by Nathan Latil/University Communications

Marshall's duties consist of planning and leading meetings, staying in contact with library administrative advisers, being a liaison between other organizations and community groups, and setting up and creating the organization's events.

"The greatest accomplishment of our organization, I believe, is our success in our events," she said. "We have come up with events that are fun, entertaining and memorable. It's amazing to hear that students and Oxford community members alike enjoy and appreciate what we do," she said.

Aisha Knight, Library Ambassadors secretary and a junior biology major from Corinth, agreed with Marshall.

"I chose to become an ambassador because Library Ambassadors was pas-

sionate about (the same) matters I was," Knight said. "When we see a major turnout for Pet-a-Pup, the poetry slam and other events each year, we prove success isn't always measured in the number of members you have."

To learn more about UM Library Ambassadors, visit its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/UM.library.ambassadors>. 🐶



The Poetry Slam MC, Dominique" Photo by Robert Jordan/University Communications

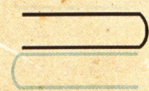
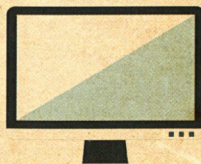


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# New collections from Archives & Special Collections

## **American Association of University Women Accretion:**

The original donation of the papers of the Mississippi Division of the American Association of University Women occurred in the late 1980s, and the organization has continued to add accretions since that time. The 2014 accretions included banners from conferences and branch documents. (Gift of the Mississippi Division of the AAUW)

**Scott Barretta Collection:** Several hundred CDs, books and videos relating to the blues and music history. (Donated by Scott Barretta)

**Brett Bonner Collection:** Around 400 CDs of blues and related music. (Donated by Brett Bonner)

**Charleston, Mississippi, Rotary Club Collection:** A collection of minutes from the Charleston, Mississippi, Rotary Club, circa 1925-1990s. (Donated by the Charleston Rotary Club)

**Roy Greenberg Collection:** Contains 60 LPs of blues and related music. (Donated by Roy Greenberg)

**Lafayette County Tax Ledger:** Ledger outlining tax information on residents of Lafayette County in Reconstruction-era Mississippi. (Donated by Frank Hull)

**Lavonne Lambert Collection:** Gift of several hundred LPs, CDs and cassettes of blues and related music. (Donated by Laurel Lambert)

**League of Women Voters of Mississippi Collection Accretion:** Addition of two boxes to the existing state division's archive. (Donated by the League of Women Voters of Mississippi)

**Bill McGinnis Collection:** Two copies of *Catalogue of the Officers, Alumni and Students of the University of Mississippi ... 1859-1860* and a 1910 Bulletin of the University of Mississippi. (Donated by Bill McGinnis)

**Dr. Ben F. Martin III and Cordelia Leach Fant Memorial Collection:** Contains original ledgers and newspapers primarily from 19th-century Holly Springs, Mississippi. Of particular note is the 1830's era "Board of Selectmen" ledger as well as a ledger containing handwritten reminiscences of a Confederate veteran. (Donated by Morgan Martin and Ben Martin IV)

**Bob Mathews Collection:** Collection of two digitized newsreels taken of the integration of the University of Mississippi by Bob Mathews. (Donated by Bob Mathews)

**Ed Meek/Meek School of Journalism and New Media Collection:** This collection contains negatives, photographs and written materials created by Ed Meek. Materials included range from his time as a staff writer in the University of Mississippi's Public Relations Office (1960s) through later years. This collection contains many



Photo courtesy of The Ed Meek and Meek School of Journalism and New Media Collection

significant images, including Meek's photographs of the integration of the University of Mississippi. (Donated by Ed Meek)

**Shelley Fraser Mickle Collection:** Papers of novelist and short story author best known for her young adult works. (Donated by Shelley Fraser Mickle)

**George Miller Collection:** Consists primarily of the papers of George Miller, a son of Hugh Miller of Pontotoc, Mississippi. The collection contains correspondence, financial documents, land certificates, rare newspapers and quite a bit of material on life in north Mississippi in the 19th century. (Donated by Bob Thompson, Virginia Thompson Munford, Charles Thompson III and William Thompson)

**Mamie and Ellis Nassour Arts & Entertainment Collection Accretion:** The Mamie and Ellis Nassour Arts & Entertainment Collection continues to grow. This year included accretions of entertainment memorabilia, including Sam Norkin caricatures, framed theatre posters, signed playbills, signed theatre posters, circus memorabilia and many other related items. Several individuals and groups also made contributions to the collection, including the Actors Fund, Frances Norkin, Daryl Roth Productions, Les Leverett, Feld Entertainment, among others. (Donated by Ellis Nassour)

**Jim O'Neal Collection:** Approximately 35,000 photograph negatives and slides, and 74 master audiotapes from Jim O'Neal, co-founder of *Living Blues* magazine. These items document about 40 years of blues history. (Donated by Jim O'Neal)



**Carolyn Ross Research Files Collection:** Contains extensive research material and unpublished manuscripts on Jacob Thompson (U.S. Secretary of the Interior 1857-1861; inspector general of the Confederate States Army, CSA lieutenant colonel and head of Confederate Secret Service operations in Canada). (Donated by Joyce Sidorfsky)

**David G. Sansing Collection Accretion:** Addition of five boxes to the research files of this Mississippi historian. New material includes files on the Mississippi Governor's Mansion, Mississippi history textbooks and Mississippi Reconstruction among other topics, as well as recordings of oral histories with noted Mississippi politicians and members of the University of Mississippi community. (Donated by David Sansing)

**William M. Shoemaker Collection:** Consists primarily of scrapbooks and family correspondence related to the life and career of William M. Shoemaker. Shoemaker was an alumnus and a long-serving member on the IHL board. (Donated by Robert Hume and William Shoemaker Jr.)

**Wm. Clyde Stewart Collection Accretion:** Addition of mid-20th-century recordings of Mississippi political campaign songs. (Donated by William C. Stewart)

**Cid Ricketts Sumner Collection:** Five letters from Mississippi-born author Cid Ricketts Sumner to fellow author Alice P. Miller in the 1950s, written during Sumner's most prolific period. (Donated by Nancy Miller)

**Doris B. Thompson/James Silver Collection:** Contains original notes attributed to James Silver and his research for the expanded edition of *Mississippi: The Closed Society*. (Gift of Mary Margaret Hansen and family)

**Union County Oral History Project:** Contains oral histories and transcripts from the "North Mississippi Women's History Project" coordinated by Elizabeth Payne. (Donated by Elizabeth Payne)

**United Confederate Veterans ribbon:** Lafayette County Civil War veteran's ribbon from a 1904 Memphis,

Tennessee, United Confederate Veteran's meeting. (Donated by Ronald Pass)

**Curtis Wilkie Accretion:** Curtis Wilkie donated his original collection in 1999. Since that time, he has made a number of accretions to the collection, and in 2014 he donated research materials related to the publication of *The Fall of the House of Zeus*. (Donated by Curtis Wilkie)

**William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation Collection:** Contains correspondence and documentation regarding programming efforts for the significant institute. (Donated by the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation)

**Yellow Fever Letter:** Accretion to the Canale Yellow Fever Collection. Dated 1900, this letter contains information on quarantine efforts on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. (Donated by D.J. Canale)

## Exhibits & Events:

"Entertainment Collectors, Authors and Critics: Selections from the Mamie and Ellis Nassour Arts & Entertainment, Stark Young and Herschel Brickell Collections." Jan. 22-Dec. 18, 2015.  
Department of Archives & Special Collections

Selected highlights from the Faulkner Collections. July-August 2015. Department of Archives & Special Collections

University of Mississippi Commencement History Case. Second Floor case, J.D. Williams Library, April-May 2015

"Growing Up in William Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha Country" by Dr. Kenneth Holditch, Wednesday, July 22, 12:30-1:45 p.m., Faulkner Room, Department of Archives & Special Collections. Part of this year's Faulkner Conference



## Sam Norkin Caricatures Displayed

Described by the New York Public Library as "artist, caricaturist, illustrator, and cultural critic," Sam Norkin began his career under the tutelage of muralist Mordi Gasner. Receiving formal training through the Metropolitan Art School, Cooper Union and the School of Fine and Industrial Art, Norkin drew upon the influences of the Cubists to refine his work. While unobtrusively attending performances, Norkin drew many of the cultural luminaries of the 20th and early 21st centuries. His work appeared in *Playbill*, *Variety*, *Backstage*, *The Philadelphia Enquirer*, *The Washington Post* and many other publications. Currently featured in a small Special Collections exhibit case are Norkin's iconic representations of Judy Garland, Basil Rathbone, Greta Garbo, Sophia Lauren, Maggie Smith, Carol Burnett, stars from Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, the cast of "Cabaret," Joan Sutherland and Luciano Pavarotti. These caricatures were donated by Ellis Nassour and Frances Norkin. They now form a subseries in the Mamie and Ellis Nassour Arts & Entertainment Collection.



Let's get to know each other better over

# Coffee

Participants enjoy one of the spring Coffees sponsored by the Friends of the Library








**T**he Friends of the Library sponsored a series of coffees for faculty, staff and community members in the Spring. The coffees, which were held in the Faulkner Room in the J.D. Williams Library, served to encourage support of the Friends and to alert attendees to the coming 75th Anniversary of the Friends.



## Local Authors Honored at Friends Reception

**F**riends of the Library sponsored a cocktail reception at the home of Dr. Ralph and Douglas Vance on March 19. The Friends used the occasion to honor authors Tom Franklin (left), Beth Ann Fennelly, and Curtis Wilkie, who have all donated their papers to the University Libraries. 



**Gifts TO THE LIBRARY** are an important source of funds for the acquisition of library books and other materials, provision of library services, capital improvements and unrestricted support for priority needs. These gifts enable University Libraries to continue serving the university and the community. Donations of books and collections enhance the library's intellectual resources and ensure its bright future. Please visit the honor roll recognizing gifts received between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2014.

Please visit [libraries.olemiss.edu/uml/giving/donors-2014](http://libraries.olemiss.edu/uml/giving/donors-2014)

Contact me at [ambarlow@olemiss.edu](mailto:ambarlow@olemiss.edu) or 662.915.3181 if you are interested in supporting our libraries or have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Angela Barlow Brown  
*Director of Development*



Angela Barlow Brown



## UM Archives

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Webber, Tim Rice, Elton John, Neil Diamond, Brenda Lee and The Who.

"The relationships I developed led to some incredible experiences," Nassour said. "Part of my re-education at the Times was working with reporters who covered World War II and the Korean War. Working with Loretta Lynn at MCA led to hilarious and poignant tales of her friendship with Patsy and, eventually, to my two biographies."

The books are "Patsy Cline, An Intimate Portrait," published in 1981, and the 1993 hardcover "Honky Tonk Angel: The Intimate Story of Patsy Cline" (MacMillan), still in print in a 2008 updated edition. Nassour has adapted the latter into a forthcoming stage musical. The entire spoken part of the hit revue "Always, Patsy Cline" is taken from four pages of Nassour's biography.

From an early age, Nassour was interested in the performing arts and collecting materials related to the entertainment industry. His career gave him firsthand



access to many of the collection's valuable pieces, which include hundreds of visual and audio materials, vintage and contemporary film and theater posters, and signed Playbills, bound plays, biographies and autobiographies. "One of the most important elements of the collection is that a huge portion of it is in use by faculty and students," Nassour said. "The libraries are thrilled to be able to offer a major exhibition highlighting the works and collections of three outstanding Mississippi entertainment writers and critics, the late Stark Young and Herschel Brickell and Ellis Nassour," said Julia Rholes, dean of University Libraries. "We want to invite the public to join us for this extraordinary exhibit." 

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## Wish List

### 3-D Printer \$3,000

Many academic libraries are offering this exciting new technology, which would help our students with class assignments and research projects. The 3-D printer would be housed in the J.D. Williams Library's information commons, and faculty and staff would provide instruction and support. This amount would cover the cost of the printer, warranty and necessary software. This amount would also cover the cost of filament (printing material) for about 12 months.

### Juvenile Book Collections Varying amounts from \$900-\$4,000

Robert F Sibert Informational Book Medal and Honor Book winners. These awards are given to authors and illustrators for the most outstanding informational texts in children's literature. This is especially important for our education majors given that the Common Core State Standards now emphasize nonfiction texts in the K-12 curriculum. This award was established in 2001, but we have very few titles in our collection. Cost for all titles from 2001-present, around \$900

The J.D. Williams Library has most of the Newbery Medal Books, but we are missing several of the Newbery Medal Honor Books. These are the runner-ups to the annual Newbery Medal Award winner for outstanding children's literature. This award dates back to 1922, and it would cost about \$2,500 to fill in our gap.

The library houses the recent Coretta Scott King Author Award winners, which are given to authors and illustrators "that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values." However, the library needs funding to purchase retrospectively back to 1970, as well as order the Illustrator Award winners and the Author/Illustrator Honor books. Cost for those titles, approximately \$4,000

### Upholstery for Public Use Furniture \$350 per chair; \$575 per love seat

Much of the very popular soft furniture in the J.D. Williams Library is now more than 10 years old and in great need of reupholstering. Due to very heavy use, high quality, durable fabrics are necessary for this project. Please help us keep the library attractive and comfortable.

