

2014

## The View from Ventress - 2014

University of Mississippi. College of Liberal Arts

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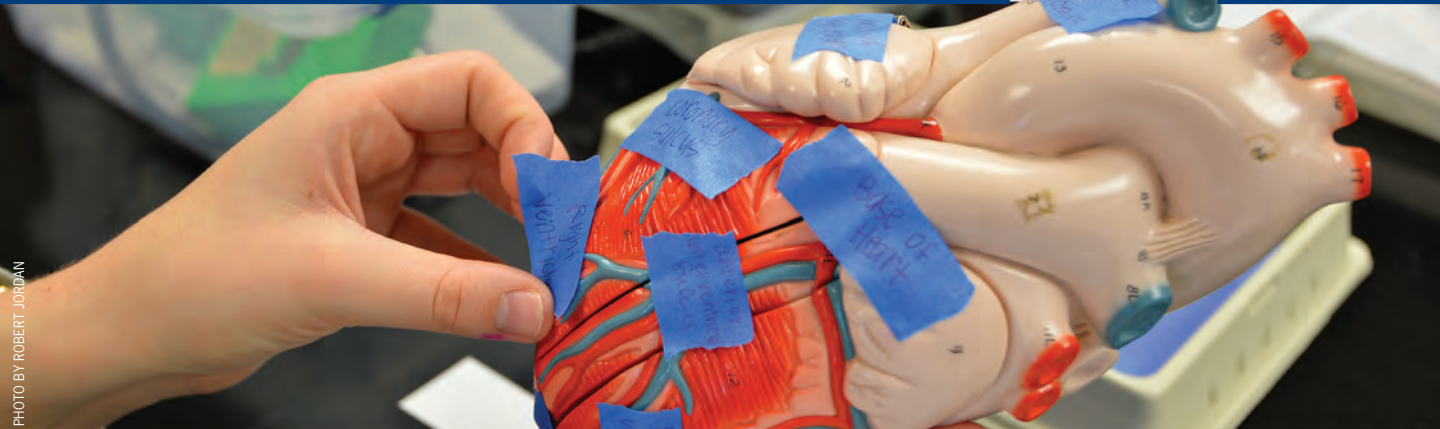
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# The View from Ventress

News from the College of Liberal Arts | LIBARTS.OLEMISS.EDU



A student in Dr. Carol Britson's biology lab labels the model of a heart.

## The Rise of Health Professions

Over the past decade, the health-care sector added jobs month after month, even when jobs were disappearing elsewhere in the economy. The field is projected to add many more in the coming decade, so it makes sense that the number of students majoring in health-related fields rose sharply. Roughly one in 10 college graduates now gets a health-related degree. Training students for the health professions pipeline is the focus of *The View from Ventress* special section this year.

During Health Professions Day last winter on our campus, Chancellor Dan Jones discussed the responsibility of UM and the UM Medical Center (UMMC) to prepare the next generation of Mississippi's health workforce. As former Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine at UMMC, Dr. Jones is particularly interested in this issue. "We want to be leaders in research and in taking care of patients," he said. "We want to provide the very best healthcare and we want to be on the cutting edge of science."

"There are large racial differences in health outcomes and much of that is a vestige of the years of injustice around racial discrimination in our society, in our country, and in our state. It is an important goal of our university to be a part of improving healthcare for all Mississippians and to do our best to move the needle forward on solving the issue of health-care disparities."

The UM Health Professions Advising Office (HPAO) hosted the event to focus

student attention on the variety of occupations in a thriving health-care economy and the many academic programs available. In the past year, Lucile McCook, director of HPAO, lecturer in biology, and curator of the Pullen Herbarium, and the HPAO staff provided information and guidance to 1,758 students (including prospective students) considering careers in the health professions. "Our challenge is making students aware of the opportunities," McCook said. "We serve all students on campus. There are lots of different health professions and no single path to any one."

Indeed. There is a common misconception that there is a "pre-med" major. Instead, the HPAO advises students on a wide range of degree programs. Some health professions require a baccalaureate degree prior to entry to the professional program—dentistry, medicine, optometry, physical therapy, physician assistant, and veterinary medicine. Students may select any baccalaureate while completing the prerequisites for the health profession. For example, out of the 36 UM students accepted to medical school at UMMC last year, 10 different majors were represented, including the expected biological science and chemistry but also philosophy and Spanish.

Other programs do not require the baccalaureate. Students typically spend several years at UM taking prerequisites and then apply to professional school to complete the degree: cytotechnology,

dental hygiene, health informatics and information management, medical laboratory science or medical technology, nursing, occupational therapy, and radiologic science. These highly competitive programs allow flexibility because, while not required, students may choose to complete a baccalaureate for more career options. The newest option was just launched by the UMMC School of Nursing—an accelerated program that students may complete in Oxford.

"The hard work and commitment of time is amazing among our successful pre-health professions students," said Sovent Taylor, HPAO assistant director. "They must balance coursework, community service, professional observation hours, and independent research. The professional schools want students to observe (multiple) working health-care providers and to take the initiative to sharpen their critical thinking skills through significant research projects."

Chancellor Jones challenges students to consider health professions. "The most important reason to consider: the personal fulfillment. It provides, in my view, the most tangible way for someone to live a life of service. Think about what a fulfilling life it can be to commit yourself to a life in healthcare."

The stories in this newsletter special section highlight the students and alumni who have made that commitment and the various ways the College of Liberal Arts works to make those students successful. ▣

PHOTO BY NATHAN LATIL



SPECIAL SECTION

Health Professions Education

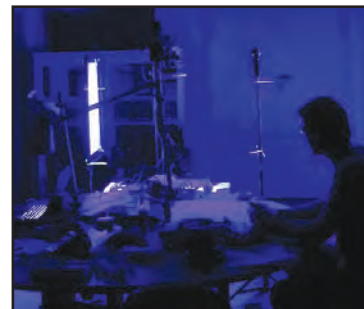
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PHOTO BY ROBERT JORDAN



Facilities Growth

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Lazarus Project

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New Arabic Program Page 10

PHOTO BY ROBERT JORDAN

## FROM THE DEAN

*Rich Forgette*

**T**his academic year will be a time of transition, growth, and opportunity for the College of Liberal Arts.

The transition is due to changing leadership. Dean Glenn Hopkins retired after 16 years of service. He has been an incredible leader for the College, a steady hand in managing growth and change. UM had 8,712 undergraduates in Fall 1998 when Dean Hopkins began his tenure. By 2013, it had grown to 15,782, 80% over the 15 years.

Beyond the numbers, Dean Hopkins has been a leader in transforming our academic programs. He helped create the Croft Institute for International Studies, the Lott Leadership Institute, the Chinese Flagship Program, and many other academic enrichments.

Above all, Glenn has served always with great integrity and sound judgment. The College flourished under his leadership. We are profoundly grateful for his incredible service. His work will have a lasting legacy for future generations.

I will be serving this year as interim Dean. It will be a big challenge, and I am honored to serve. While this will be a transition year, we cannot afford to stand still. The growth and opportunities of the university require immediate planning and action.


Growth at the university means that we can help more people prepare for productive and fulfilling lives. Undergraduate enrollment has grown by almost 30% in the last five years, and this year's first-year class of about 3,900 students is approximately 350 more than the previous year.

The College continues to be the heart of the University of Mississippi, providing the foundation necessary for the university's overall growth and success. If you think about the university as our Champion Tree, the giant catalpa in front of our Student Union, the College is the trunk and roots. Because we deliver the core curriculum, every student is part of the College in practice, not just those majoring in one of our 18 departments. In recent years, the College has produced about two-thirds of all undergraduate student credit hours in the university.

We are not only teaching more students, we are also retaining and graduating those students. The College has instituted retention programs such as FASTrack, Grove Scholars, and Biology Bootcamp, and we have placed greater resources for an emphasis in student advising and supplemental instruction. These investments are paying off. Our percentage of students retained after the first-year grew from 78% in 2007 to 85.6% in 2013, and our number of undergraduate degrees conferred has increased by more than 20% over the past five years. The College of Liberal Arts is leading the way in promoting student success as the university grows.

This growth brings huge opportunities and challenges. The university is completing a significant addition to Coulter Hall and we are beginning to design a new integrated science building, an effort spearheaded by Dean Hopkins. The Coulter Hall project will make more room for our science classes. The integrated science building is projected to be completed by Fall 2018. It will transform science, health, and engineering education for future generations.

Our special section in this issue highlights health and science education in the College of Liberal Arts. We are expanding undergraduate research opportunities, adding resources for health profession advising, and hiring new science faculty. Our goal is to better prepare the next generation of doctors, nurses, and other health professionals, vital work in our medically underserved state and region.

Now more than ever, we need our alumni to be engaged with the College. I ask you to consider how you might give back so that together we can improve the College. Please visit with me and other faculty at one of two tailgate tents during the Ole Miss–Memphis football game (September 27) and the Ole Miss–Auburn game (November 1). We will be right in front of Ventress Hall. I look forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas for the College of Liberal Arts. My sincere and deep thanks to all who have provided support during this last year. Our growth and success would not be possible without your commitment. 

To contact the College, [libarts@olemiss.edu](mailto:libarts@olemiss.edu) and 662.915.7178

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## Introducing Dean Forgette

**R**ichard Forgette, professor of political science, became interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts in July when Dean Glenn Hopkins retired after 37 years at UM, serving as a professor of mathematics, associate dean, and the last 16 years as dean.

The senior associate dean of the College between 2011–2014 and chair of the Department of Political Science from 2003–2011, Professor Forgette's research and teaching is in the study of legislatures.

After receiving PhD and MS degrees from the University of Rochester and a MA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Forgette taught at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio for 12 years. He served as the American Political Science Association William Steiger Congressional Fellow in 1996–97 working in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate on staff in the offices of House Representative Phil English (Pennsylvania) and Senator Bill Frist (Tennessee).

A native of Pittsburgh, he and his wife, Karen, a core instructor in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, are the parents of three—Matt, Christie, and Annie. Matt is a freshman studying international studies and Chinese at UM. 

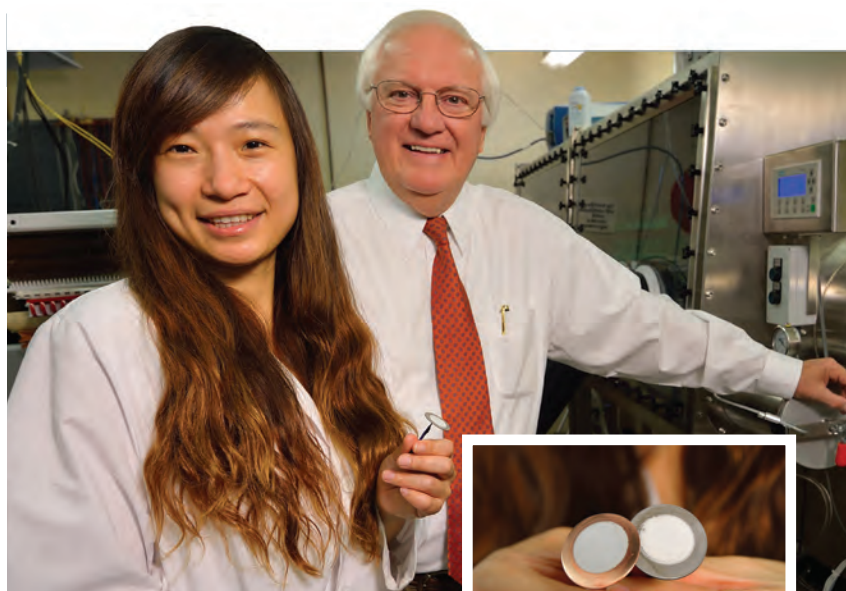
## Tailgate Party

Please join Dean Rich Forgette and the College of Liberal Arts in front of Ventress Hall three hours before kickoff

**Memphis game**  
**September 27, 2014**

**Auburn game**  
**November 1, 2014**

PHOTO BY ROBERT JORDAN



Dr. Li-Hsien Chou and Dr. Charles Hussey

## Chemists Named Top Inventors

A revolutionary aluminum plating process codeveloped at UM is one of the most technologically significant products of 2014.

The Portable Aluminum Deposition System (PADS), codeveloped in the laboratory of chemistry chair and professor Charles Hussey, is a winner in R&D Magazine's annual R&D 100 Awards. Considered the "Oscar" for inventors, the international competition recognizes excellence across a wide range of industries including telecommunications, optics, high-energy physics, materials science chemistry, and biotechnology.


Hussey, along with postdoctoral research associate Dr. Li-Hsien Chou, colleagues at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and United Technologies Research Center, collaborated on the PADS technology. The aluminum plating advancement is expected to replace hazardous coatings such as cadmium, thereby potentially strengthening the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing companies worldwide and cutting the cost of aluminum plating by a factor of 50 to 100.

PADS allows manufacturers to safely conduct aluminum deposition in the open atmosphere for the first time. "As basic scientists studying fundamental process and phenomena, so much of what we do is not immediately useful or obvious to society," said Hussey. "Here, we have made something unique and obviously useful. This is very satisfying."

Chou, who earned her doctorate under Professor I-Wen Sun at National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan, is a postdoctoral research associate in Hussey's laboratory. As Sun was one of Hussey's first doctoral graduates, Hussey is pleased to celebrate his academic granddaughter's achievement.

"I am very proud of her and hope this will benefit her career," Hussey said. "After all, this is really what we do or should be doing in academia, developing people, and helping them to be successful in their careers and lives."

Winning the R&D Award is a dream come true for Chou. "Every scientist dreams one day to develop a useful product with their name on it, and we did," she said. "I am so happy we can bring this recognition to Ole Miss."


Research on the technology was stimulated by a research contract from the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense to UM through ORNL. Plated aluminum is a protective coating and offers corrosion protection to any underlying metal. Hussey has worked on ionic liquid projects for many years, including various U.S. Department of Energy projects involving the development of ionic liquid-based processes for the treatment of spent nuclear fuel. 



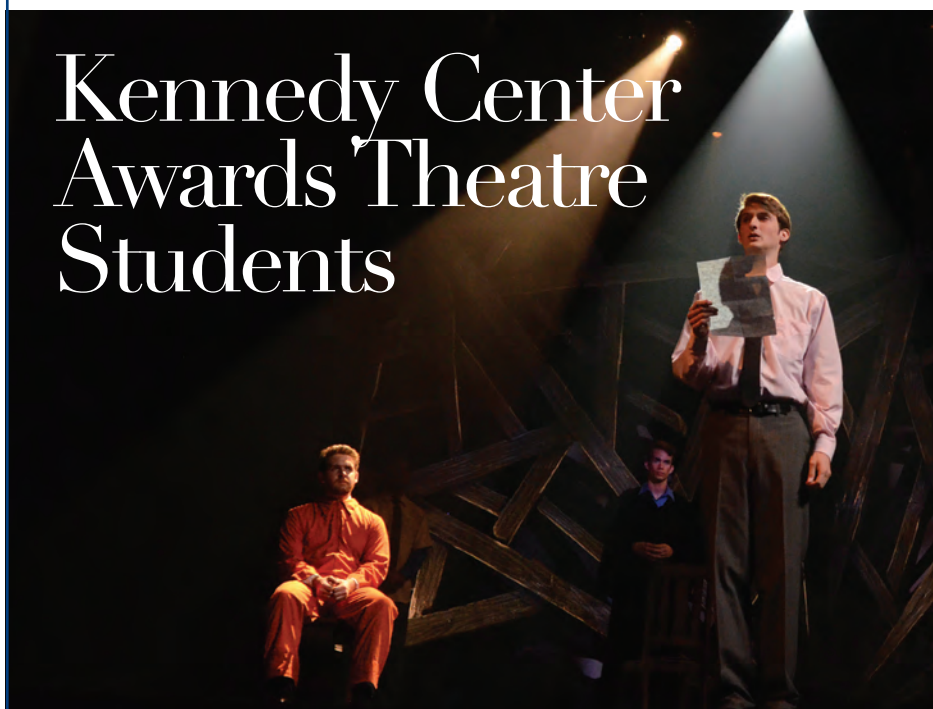
## Alumna Wins Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

Donna Tartt won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for her third novel, *The Goldfinch*. "I am incredibly happy and incredibly honored and the only thing I am sorry about is that Willie Morris and Barry Hannah aren't here. They would have loved this," said Tartt, referring to the late authors and her mentors when she attended UM, and they were writers-in-residence.


Hannah described his former student as "deeply literary. Just a rare genius, really. A literary star" in an interview with *The Paris Review*.

The Mississippi native established herself as a major talent with her 1992 debut *The Secret History*, which has become a contemporary classic. 

## Kennedy Center Awards Theatre Students



Rachel Staton and Nathan Burke were chosen as the Best Actress and Best Actor nationally for their performances in the UM Theatre production of *The Laramie Project* at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. The cast and crew traveled to Roanoke, Virginia to perform the play for evaluation and compete against thespians from across the United States whose shows were performed at seven other KCACTF Regionals.

"This is an amazing honor," said Rene Pulliam, interim chair and professor of theatre arts. "Think of it as the Tony Awards of college theatre. It is rare for two students from the same school to be chosen for the same award. I am so proud of the cast, crew, director Rory Ledbetter, associate professor of theatre arts, and all the designers. Without this team, the awards could not have happened!" 



Nathan Burke (top right) and Rachel Staton (bottom left)



Attic urn  
from 520  
B.C.E. depicting  
Dionysos reclining

## Peddle Provides Major Gift to Museum

Thanks to the generosity of Marjorie Peddle of Oxford, new gallery space in the University Museum is being prepared to increase access to the David M. Robinson Memorial Collection of Greek and Roman antiquities—the largest held by a university museum in the South and among the nation’s finest. The collection has 2,000 exquisite black-and-red figured Athenian vases, Roman sculptures, coins, tablets, lamps, and architectural fragments dating from 1500 B.C. to A.D. 300. The renovated central gallery with the reinstalled Robinson Collection will be named the Marjorie W. and Frank S. Peddle Jr. Gallery.

“The Robinson Collection is invaluable to the teaching mission of the Department of Classics,” said Molly Pasco-Pranger, chair and associate professor. “In the last year alone, we’ve brought to the Museum groups of students from courses in mythology, art and archaeology, women in antiquity, Greek history, and Latin to make use of this amazing resource, and we’ve hosted visits from Mississippi high school students.”

Many of the Greek and Roman antiquities came to the university from Dr. Robinson, who owned one of the greatest private collections in the U.S. Retired from Johns Hopkins University, he joined the UM classics faculty in 1949. Peddle and her husband, the late Frank Peddle, purchased an additional part of Robinson’s collection for the Museum in 1960, and she recently gave \$150,000 to expand the exhibition and enrich the experience with display and technology enhancements.

“We’re extremely excited to soon see more of the collection on display and presented in more accessible and engaging ways,” said Pasco-Pranger. “We are very grateful for Mrs. Peddle’s generous support of the reinstallation project.”



PHOTOS BY ROBERT JORDAN



Coulter Hall under constructions (left) and a new classroom in Lamar Hall.

## Major College Facilities Renovations

During the 2013–14 academic year, the renovation of Ventress Hall and Lamar Hall were completed, with Lamar having widespread impact on classroom availability across campus. The additions to Coulter Hall and the renovation of the Music Building west wing will be completed in 2014–15.

### Ventress Hall

In November 2011 steam pipes in the attic of Ventress Hall burst, causing considerable water damage. The Dean’s office returned to Ventress for the Fall 2013 semester. The approximate \$1.3 million refurbishment is featured in video on <http://libarts.olemiss.edu/ventress-hall>.

### Lamar Hall

After the School of Law moved to the Robert C. Khayat Law Center in 2011, Lamar Hall began a \$13.4 million multiphase renovation that culminated in the summer of 2014. Previously housing five classrooms, Lamar now offers 27. Building services upgrades include a new mechanical system, lighting, and food service outlet. A new central staircase and elevator shafts form a strong visual reference point, as well as being the major focus for vertical circulation.

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology occupies the top floor, along with the Center for Population Studies. “The location of our offices on a single floor provides a greater sense of unity and makes it easier for faculty to communicate and build our research and teaching collaborations” said Kirsten Dellinger, chair and associate professor of sociology.

The Department of Writing and Rhetoric and the Writing Center moved to the third floor. Fifteen small classrooms are filled with composition and speech courses. According to Guy Krueger, instructor and WRIT 101 coordinator, the design is conducive to group work and communication, hallmarks of effective writing classes. The moveable chairs and desks, multiple electrical outlets, and classroom technology facilitate a great writing class dynamic where students can access all their materials and work with each other. “When students communicate effectively and can use technology to aid the learning process, their thinking and writing have a better chance to improve,” said Krueger.

Bob Cummings, chair of the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, said that moving into Lamar “physically connects writing classrooms, the Writing Center, and the writing teachers. Our space is aligned to support student learning in the classroom, through tutoring and student-teacher conferencing.”

Moving the Writing Center from the library allows for a much needed expansion. “Our new space allows us increased visibility, expanded services, and to foster a culture of writing across campus,” said Brad Campbell, Center director. “Students use our new multimedia rooms on a greater variety of projects, such as speeches, group presentations, research projects, and multimodal compositions.”

Finally, the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation moved into Lamar Hall. “These new spaces demonstrate a commitment by the University on behalf of campus and community equity work,” said Susan Glisson, director of the WWIRR. “They provide neutral spaces for students, faculty, staff, community members and guests to gather and to discuss and address issues of inequity and bias.”

### Music Building

The \$4.3 million renovation of the Music Building’s west wing that began in January 2014 will house upgraded classrooms, teaching studios, faculty offices, department office, and new reception area to enhance the many post concert celebrations. Exterior renovations will transform the building’s architectural aesthetic. Other important benefits will be improved climate control and better acoustical control between studio lessons and classrooms.

### Coulter Hall

The \$15 million project to expand and renovate Coulter Hall, home for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, will be completed by summer 2015. The new four-story, 30,000 sq. ft. research wing will provide space for synthetic organic and inorganic chemistry, computational chemistry, analytical trace analysis of pollutants, and laser spectroscopy. A 225-seat auditorium and a new building entrance and foyer will improve the overall look. Finally, some existing research labs will be remodeled into teaching spaces to service the rapid expansion of science and prehealth professions students.

### Future Plans

On the horizon is a new interdisciplinary science building behind Hume Hall. The planning and design of this proposed 200,000 sq. ft. structure will happen during the 2014–15 academic year, with an anticipated completion date of Fall 2018. This building will significantly impact basic science education for years to come.

## Mississippi Blues

We have a chance to learn about the state's history through the words and images of bluesmen and women as part of a project from the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC).

The 18-lesson Mississippi Blues Trail Curriculum features an interactive, multimedia resource page and is available free at <http://msbluestrail.org/curriculum>. Project director Mary Margaret White (MA Southern Studies '07) credits the Mississippi Blues Commission, the governing body of the Blues Trail, as the curriculum inspiration.

"When folks come to Mississippi, they want an authentic experience. That's where the Blues Trail comes in," said White, MAC folk and traditional arts director. "While the markers tell the stories of these great musicians—how they lived and how their music continues to influence music today—I was painfully aware that many young Mississippians knew little about our blues history.

"It's not just a bunch of biographies; we use the blues to broaden the understanding of social studies concepts, including civil rights, geography, media, and much more." ▾



Nancy Maria Balach Schuesselin (left) and Rachel Saliba

## Grammy Nominee on Campus

Nancy Maria Balach Schuesselin, associate professor of music, is a quarterfinalist out of nearly 7,000 nominees for the 2015 Grammy Music Educator Award, to be announced in February.

The creator and editor of the [livingmusicresource.com](http://livingmusicresource.com) online video library of vocal subjects and host of the *Beat* interactive interview series live streamed from UM's Ford Center for the Performing Arts teaches studio voice, undergraduate diction, graduate pedagogy, and vocal methods for instrumentalists. ▾



## Celebrating the Creative Economy

The invitation to sing at the Governor's Mansion accompanied by renowned concert pianist Bruce Levingston for Mississippi's Year of the Creative Economy kickoff was the highlight of Rachel Saliba's college career.

"A short four days following my solo voice recital on campus, I had the honor of going with Mr. Levingston to Jackson as a representative of the music department," Saliba said. "The distinction of singing for Governor Bryant, along with Chancellor Jones and Honors Dean Sullivan-González, was the crowning moment of my undergraduate experience. Facing the distinguished audience, I discovered my value and ability as a musician."

The experience was also educational. "Listening to Mr. Levingston perform is a lesson in technical skill and musical expression," she said.

Saliba followed her passion at UM. "I have loved music since I was a little girl. When it came time to decide what to study in college, I realized that music was the subject that gave me the most joy and yet I knew so little."

Nancy Maria Balach, associate professor of music, has helped develop her talent. "Rachel is a student any teacher would dream of having," Balach said. "Her focus, positive attitude, and time management skills are stronger than those of any student I have encountered."

Saliba advises music majors to keep a positive attitude and an open mind. "Being a first-year music major is very different from the typical freshman experience. You are immediately immersed in a music curriculum. Be prepared to commit a significant amount of time to various activities in the department. Music students spend a lot of time practicing their primary instrument and rehearsing with ensembles. The time commitment can be overwhelming, but I would suggest fully investing in the department."

Saliba is taking a different direction for her post-graduate work with Teach For America. "While I will not teach music primarily, I look forward to passing down the musical knowledge and skills that I gained as a music major," she said. ▾



Katy Perry and Bradford Cobb attend a Grammy party.

## A Roaring Success Alumnus Manages Pop Star's Career

Courtesy of the *Ole Miss Alumni Review*

Meet Bradford Cobb (BA English '96), partner with Direct Management Group and manager for one of the biggest names in music, Katy Perry.

Cobb is quick to credit one professor in particular who served a key role in both his education and career path. "Dr. Colby Kullman had a huge impact," Cobb says. "He really helped me develop writing skills and see the bigger picture by opening my eyes to new ideas and possibilities. You have teachers willing to go the extra mile for you, and he went the extra mile for me."

After Cobb moved to Los Angeles and worked with The B-52s and The Go-Go's, another UM connection, multiple Grammy award-winning songwriter Glenn Ballard (BA music '75), introduced him to Perry. Cobb will never forget the first time he met Katy, when she was an energetic 19-year-old bursting with personality.

"She just blew past the receptionist and did cartwheels down the hall, landing in the splits in my office," Cobb says, laughing. "That was her greeting on her first visit to Direct Management. She's got an incredible sense of humor and personality."

Ballard could not be more proud of the success Perry and Cobb have shared. "When I sort of paired him and Katy together, I thought that it could work—and boy was I right," says Ballard. "Signing Katy and then getting him involved ... if I ever did two things right, that was the two of them right there. I'm just so proud of everything that's happening with them." ▾

Read Cobb's story online in the *Ole Miss Alumni Review* at <http://bit.ly/1vKqQgV>

## Do What You Love

Art major Lauren Banquer planned to be a doctor. “I started as a biochemistry major taking the prerequisites for medical school,” she said. “In the middle of my degree, I decided to major in something I loved.”

The paintings for Banquer’s senior thesis art exhibition, “Microcosm,” based on her collection of insects, vegetation, and gymnosperms, combine both her passions. “As a child, I was very observant and learned to appreciate the beauty of all life forms, not only by experiencing nature, but also by learning about it academically,” she said.

“Each of my objects serves as a vessel that contains memories and information waiting to be discovered. Using scientific diagrams, anatomical drawings, chemical components, and statistical data, I incorporate each layer of a specific object into a layer of my painting.”

The works convey Banquer’s love of science and the natural world. “The ephemeral components of my paintings, mostly found objects, cocoon a sense of verdure as well as characterize the transient quality of memory,” she said.

Encased in beeswax, the paintings preserve objects and memories. Banquer is interested in the act of discovery and encourages viewers to examine her pieces as she examined her subjects. “We often overlook the vast

array of minutia and details in nature. I have always collected objects, and started out only painting the figure. As my work grew conceptually, it became more and more abstract and I slowly eliminated the figure altogether, taking a more personal approach with my collection.”

The exhibition in Meek Hall confirmed the change from biochemistry to art. “It helped me realize that I want to continue pursuing art whether it be professionally or to grow as an artist,” she said. “It’s validating to see all my hard work in the painting program pay off, and to create a body of work I can be proud of with a concept to propel me forward creating new work.”

Banquer credits professors Philip Jackson and Carlyle Wolfe for helping find her artistic voice with their constructive criticism and suggestions of artists to study.

“Lauren is a natural observer,” said Jackson. “Through her unique sensibility to nature, her paintings are reflections of the objects she collects that were left to be discarded. When you see her paintings, they have the elements of what the objects originally were, but magically, they become something transformative.”



Lauren Banquer

## Students Land Prestigious Boren Scholarships

Alison Bartel and William Bumpas III, both international studies and Chinese majors, have been awarded Boren Scholarships to study in China at Nanjing University for their capstone year in the Chinese Language Flagship Program.

Scholarship recipients receive up to \$20,000 to study abroad in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and are underrepresented in study abroad. In exchange for funding, Boren award recipients agree to work in the national security arena of the federal government for at least one year.

Bumpas plans to pursue Chinese political sociology. He credits the Croft Institute for the opportunity to combine his Chinese language skills with a nuanced understanding of the evolving world.

“William was a terrific student and he wrote a superb senior thesis on the mass expansion of enrollment in China’s higher education system,” said Joseph Howard, Croft associate professor of history.

Chancellor Dan Jones and Alison Bartel

“I am so proud he received a Boren fellowship to continue his studies.”

Bartel interned with the U.S. Department of State in Guangzhou, Guangdong, China. She plans graduate studies in international relations followed by work in government service.

“I want a career that will offer new challenges

every day, let me communicate with people from other cultures, and make an impact on the global stage,” Bartel said. “I discovered that I could do all these things and serve my country by studying Chinese, international studies, and intelligence and security studies.”

“Alison is one of those great students who seems to excel at everything,” said Carl Jensen, director of the UM Center for Intelligence and Security Studies. “A few years ago, she and another student took first place

in a briefing competition at a prestigious conference in Washington, D.C. We’re not at all surprised she was awarded the Boren.”

Bartel and Bumpas are the university’s 15th and 16th Boren Scholars since 2000.

**VIDEO: William Bumpas discusses his Chinese language studies at UM <http://bit.ly/X6uR07>**



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIN

William Bumpas III

## Academics Fuel Service, and Vice Versa

Christine Dickason is not waiting for the future to make a difference. The senior public policy leadership major applies what she learns in the classroom to real world problems; she aligns her academic endeavors with her community involvement.

“One of Christine’s strengths is the diversity of her skills and interests,” said Melissa Bass, assistant professor of public policy leadership. “She is equally as comfortable—and effective—in writing as she is in organizing. Whatever the policy area, the common thread is her commitment to addressing poverty and inequality. Christine is far along the path to a lifetime of public service.”

Active as a community volunteer and policy advocate for many years, Dickason’s enthusiasm for service and leadership has only grown at UM, particularly for social issues and education policy. The Lott Scholar devotes time as vice president of the UM chapter of Mississippi First, working on policy issues such as comprehensive sex education, access to pre-K, and college preparedness. Dickason is involved with the Associated Student Body and has served as director of community service, organizing the 9/11 Day of Service in 2012.

A finalist for the national Truman Scholars program, Dickason is also making her mark as a published writer. Her weekly opinion column for the *Daily Mississippian* highlighted issues of food justice, the importance of volunteerism, and poverty.

“Often, individuals, especially young people, feel powerless in terms of political issues,” she said of her writing. “The opportunity to raise awareness and empower Millennials to take action on important issues is something I value immensely and take seriously.”

As a communications intern for Generation Progress, the youth advocacy arm of the Center for American Progress, Dickason blogged for their website. One of her articles about sex education in Tennessee was republished in *The Nation* magazine. A copy editor for the *Memphis Bridge* newspaper featuring stories and art by people with experiences of homelessness, Dickason is a founding member of the UM Food Bank and student director for 2014–2015. In her spare time, she volunteers at the Memphis Farmers Market, where she has experienced firsthand the benefits of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in the local market. Because of her interest in food justice, Dickason enrolled in a public policy leadership course on food policy and has written several articles about the importance of access to fresh, healthy food in the U.S.

“The opportunity to raise awareness and empower Millennials to take action on important issues is something I value immensely and take seriously.”

—CHRISTINE DICKASON

One of four public policy leadership students invited to present at national conferences last spring, Dickason discussed “America’s Schools: Separate and Unequal” at the Eastern Michigan University Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy. In a paper she started in the Ethics and Public Policy class taught by Eric T. Weber, associate professor of public policy leadership, Dickason explored theories about the individual, justice, and democracy from philosophers Dewey, Kant, and Aristotle to determine if racial integration in public schools is a moral necessity.

The Taylor Medal recipient sums up her work: “My time at UM has been full of incredible opportunities, both in terms of academics and service. I strive to use the skills I have gained as an undergraduate to advocate for greater equality and access to opportunities for all people.”

PHOTO BY ROBERT JORDAN



Christine Dickason



PHOTO BY NATHAN LATIL

Patricia and Trent Lott

## Lotts Expand Scholarship, Offer Leadership Lessons

Leadership is not just about elected office, says former U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, who with his wife Patricia are helping undergraduates seek meaningful careers in medicine, law, education, and governance by way of a public policy leadership education.

The couple is expanding the Patricia Thompson Lott Scholarship Endowment in UM’s Lott Leadership Institute (LLI) with recent gifts totaling \$200,000. Established in 2005 with gifts from friends and colleagues, the endowment has exceeded \$1 million and granted 55 scholarships.

Sarah Robinson (BA public policy leadership ’13) said the Lott Scholarship was a determining factor in her college decision. “My twin sister attended Mississippi State, so my decision to attend Ole Miss made me a ‘Rebel’ in more ways than one. The Lott Institute, particularly the Lott Scholarship, was the main reason I chose Ole Miss.

“Without the Lott Scholarship I would not have been afforded many of the opportunities that impacted my future,” Robinson added. “I was able to devote my summers to personal and professional development, studying abroad in South Africa, and interning in Washington, D.C. These experiences served as a springboard for my career. The Lott Institute and Patricia Lott Scholarship are forging leaders in our state at a time when leadership is critical.”

Chancellor Dan Jones recognizes the Lotts’ impact for both students and the university. “Because of their generosity and foresight, the Lott Leadership Institute will continue to produce leaders in government, health-care, education, and beyond. LLI has in less than 10 years become a cornerstone program at UM and one of the top in its field, no doubt highly due to these scholarships.”

The Lotts have contributed \$500,000 to the endowment since 2010. “When I retired, we decided to focus our contributions to make the greatest impact,” said Senator Lott. “When you look at our students’ resumes and track their progress—law degrees, Fulbright scholarships, and more—they are going to have a tremendous impact in the future on our country.”

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## Undergraduate's Groundbreaking Work with Ancient Manuscripts

Eleanor Anthony, a mathematics and philosophy major, was the only undergraduate student presenter at the DigiPal Symposium hosted by King's College London.

As part of the Lazarus Project, a program specializing in the multispectral imaging of cultural heritage pieces, Anthony discovered what has become one of her life's passions. When the group visited the Museo del Tesoro del Duomo in Vercelli, Italy, last spring, she first laid eyes on the Vercelli Book and was smitten with the damaged 10th-century manuscripts that they were there to help recover.

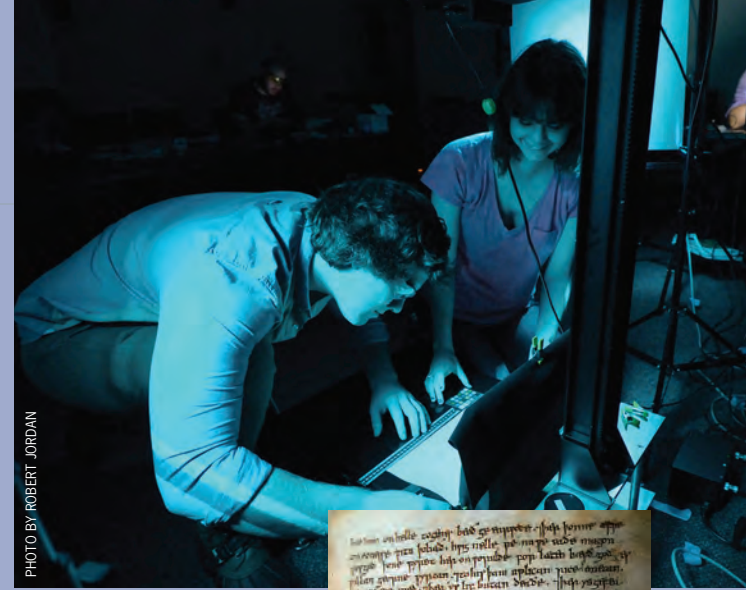
"I have always found data and narrative to be fascinating," Anthony said. "As humans, we participate in a conversation that extends through time and encompasses all human endeavor. It's amazing to interact with manuscripts that record the contributions of previous generations."

Little did Anthony know that six months later, she would be presenting a plan to make those documents legible at an international conference in London. After studying and conducting spectral imaging on the Vercelli text, Anthony submitted a written summary of her proposal to improve transcription methods to the DigiPal Symposium. Her abstract was accepted.

"The manuscript suffered physical damage due to the application of a chemical reagent during early transcription efforts and, as a result, large swathes of the text are completely illegible," Anthony said. "After processing the spectral images, we are left with data that can be used in correlation-based approaches for text identification, and it is these methods, combined with contextual analysis, that should lead to a better understanding of the text."

The conference presentation touched on the history of the Vercelli Book and the Archimedes Palimpsest, a manuscript containing text by the Greek mathematician erased centuries later by 13-century monks, as well as the basic mathematics behind the system. Anthony's presentation serves as primary research for the design and implementation for her capstone project and honors thesis, "Neural Network Approaches to Paleography in Damaged Manuscripts." Her goal is to create a computer program that will offer a transcription method for damaged text in manuscripts utilizing neural networks to classify characters.

Anthony's work is hailed as groundbreaking by her professors. "It is incredibly rare for an undergraduate paper to be selected for an international conference. It

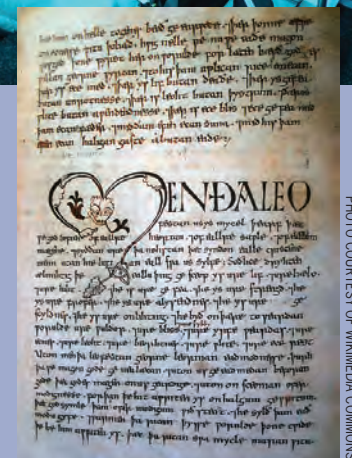


Students Caleb Ezell (left) and Eleanor Anthony

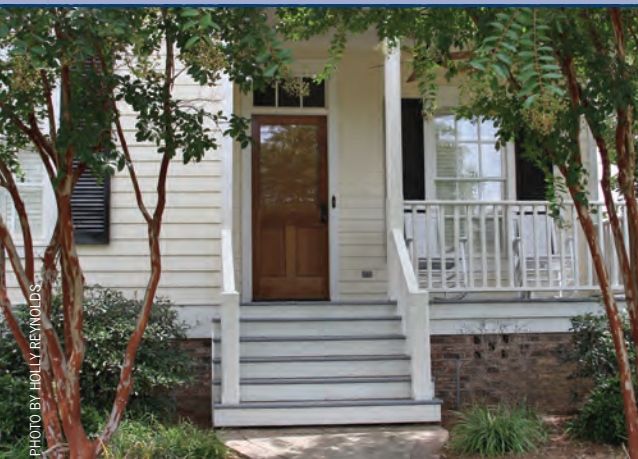
speaks to the uniqueness and quality of Eleanor's research," said Gregory Heyworth, associate professor of English and director of the Lazarus Project.

"Add to that the fact that the manuscript she is working to recover, the Vercelli Book from the 10th century, is the oldest example of Anglo-Saxon literature in existence, and scholars are bound to take notice."

[Read about the Archimedes Palimpsest Project: http://bit.ly/1sESWAa](http://bit.ly/1sESWAa)



Vercelli Book



## Home Sweet Home for Writers, Artists, Faculty

Because of their affinity for UM, Jeff Hammond (BA accountancy '74, JD '76) and his wife Gail recently donated their second home in the nearby community of Taylor as a residence for visiting professors. For the story, see [ViewfromVentress.org](http://ViewfromVentress.org).

## The Lazarus Project: Resurrecting History

Restoring ancient documents through imaging technology gives students an opportunity to learn history and, in some cases, rewind history. Since 2009, the Lazarus Project has worked to restore and decipher works using a portable multispectral lab.

Led by Gregory Heyworth, associate professor of English, the Lazarus Project provides researchers and institutions access to the lab and a staff of trained operators and image processors, anywhere in the world, and does so free of charge. Photographing manuscripts with a 50-megapixel camera, they use specially designed multispectral lights and filters with specialized imaging software to recover portions of text invisible to the naked eye.

"Spectral imaging makes literal what Faulkner said, that the past is never dead ... it's not even past," Heyworth said. "Texts that we once wrote off as lost forever, or that were never known, are once again legible. And UM students are getting the first glimpses."

The inaugural Lazarus Project recovered a lost classic of the Middle Ages, *Les Eschéz d'Amours (The Chess of Love)*, a long 14th-century French poem damaged in the bombing of Dresden, Germany, during

World War II and now newly published thanks to the efforts of Heyworth and his team. At UM, they illuminated text in the Skipwith Revolutionary War Letters and the Wynn Faulkner Poetry Collection, 48 pages of early poetry written by William Faulkner between 1917 and 1925 and damaged in a house fire in 1941, donated by Leila Clark Wynn and Douglas C. Wynn.

In addition to textual recovery, the group has worked to examine the authenticity of a possible Picasso painting and a signature long thought to be by Shakespeare (both forged), and has had success with important early maps, including an Aztec circular map written on fig bark, a 12th-century map of the world, and a 14th-century map of Africa showing a route around the Horn that enables historians to redate the Age of Exploration in Europe by 80 years.

Their most recent project, however, is likely their most important to date. In July, students Eleanor Anthony, Lizzie Wicks, Caleb Ezell, and William Boyles accompanied Heyworth to Vercelli, Italy, to recover the oldest translation of the Gospels into Latin (c. 330), a work that dates to the age of Constantine and the foundation of Chistendom in the West.

# Studying Microscopic Life on the Mighty Mississippi

For almost a decade, Clifford Ochs has conducted research on the Mississippi River. “Although 10 years of study may seem like a long time, I still often feel like a child wandering in the woods seeking to better understand the relationships of water, chemistry, and the food web of this big muddy ecosystem,” said Ochs, professor of biology. “By better understanding the ecology and biogeochemistry of the Mississippi River we can better manage it, protect its biodiversity, and maybe even restore parts of the system to its former wild glory.”

The Mississippi River is the largest river system in North America, and one of the largest in the world. Its watershed spans the country from the Rocky Mountains to the Appalachian Mountains, from the Canadian border to its outlet at the Gulf of Mexico. Ochs’ research has focused mostly on the Lower Mississippi River, at the southern end of the Mississippi River Basin, which he likens to the spout of a large funnel collecting and mixing water and materials from more than 40% of the lower 48 states.

Ochs brings a holistic perspective to his research into how the system is organized, how it functions, and changes over time. Much of his research focuses on the relationships of biological organization and biogeochemical processes. Biogeochemistry is the study of relationships between biology, chemistry, and physical

processes. For example, Ochs and his lab are studying the interactions between patterns in nutrient fluxes, the flow of water between the main river channel and its floodplain, and biological production and diversity.

Students have been vital to his exploration. “Graduate students in my lab are carrying out studies of many of the different types of organisms that occur in the river, from microbes to algae to benthos and fish,” Ochs said. “We are interested in how these organisms interact with each other—who is eating whom, how fast the organisms are growing, and what controls their growth rates, abundance, and distribution in the river.”

“As an ecosystem scientist, Dr. Ochs always has the big picture in mind,” said Audrey Harrison, a biology graduate student. “Working with him has encouraged me to think beyond the roles and functions of one or two groups of organisms, and instead focus on how individual groups interact and influence the system as a whole. This shift in outlook has been a delightful challenge.”

An interdisciplinary honors class on the ecological and cultural history of the Lower Mississippi River system cotaught with Robbie Ethridge, professor of anthropology, broadens Ochs’ outreach beyond biology students. Their experiential learning course examines the geological history of the river and emphasizes the links between culture and environment. Field trips enhanced the educational experience: canoeing and camping on



Cliff Ochs

an island in the river, touring a number of sites—Indian mounds, river control structures, coastal wetlands, the Army Corps of Engineers Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Mud Island museum in Memphis—and examining the levee system with the Delta Levee Board in Clarksdale.

Exploring the Mississippi River is a never-ending venture. “It is an awe-inspiring wilderness,” Ochs said. “It’s so big and powerful and uncontrollable. It will literally be a lifelong project. I suspect I’ll die on the river.”



Walker Messer

## Student’s Summer with the State Department

During his time as an economic and commercial intern for the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., Walker Messer put his double major in international studies and economics and minor in Spanish to use in the State Department Office of Bilateral Trade Affairs.

He utilized his background in the politics and economics of Latin America—to brief U.S. Ambassadors prior to their departure to Latin American countries. He attended Senate hearings, researched policy issues, and provided market analyses for American CEOs conducting business in the region. Messer explained current commerce issues and presented possible solutions.

The Croft Scholar found time to appreciate the nation’s capital. “Spending the summer in D.C. was an incredible experience. I had the privilege of walking past some of the most powerful symbols of democracy in the world every day.” In addition to this cultural takeaway, Walker cherished the internship’s preparation for his future career. “Being at the State Department gave me an invaluable life experience,” he said. “I made amazing friends and mentors who have continued to inspire and shape my plan for life after graduation. More than anything, I hope to find a position where I can make a difference. It felt like everything I worked on at the State Department was really important and interesting. I would love to have that same sense of purpose in my next job.”

## McRights’ Passions Fuel Achievement

When Johnny and Renee McRight began graduate school as young newlyweds, they did so on a tight budget with help from fellowships, grants, and lots of sweat equity. Today, they are enabling other students to pursue graduate study.

“Grad school is tough. We’ve been there,” said Johnny McRight, who earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in biological science from UM in 1973 and 1975. “We know from experience that if your finances are stable, you can focus on your studies.”

The Greenville couple created the McRight Biology and Speech Pathology Endowment in 2010. Through an additional gift they are now dividing the endowment, creating one for each department, so that scholarships can be awarded annually in both programs simultaneously.

“The McRights have both vision and generosity,” said Rich Forgette, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. “The College is truly thankful. This investment will have lasting benefits to these students, the university, and the state.”

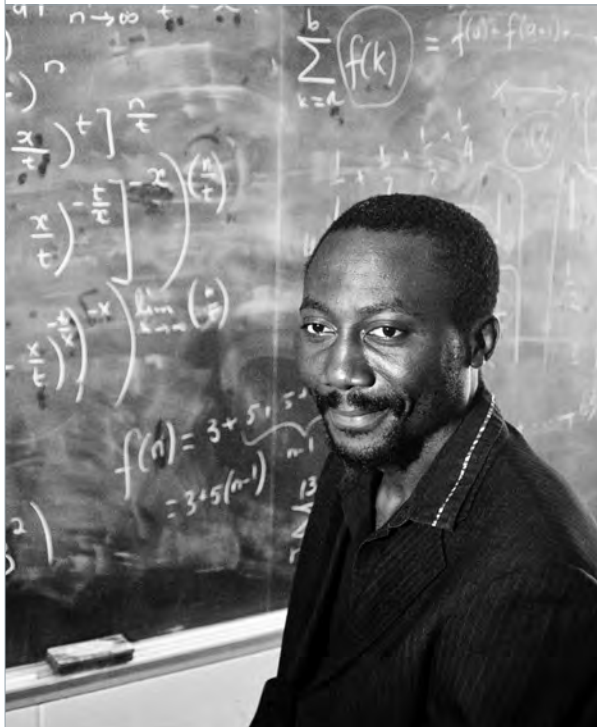
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Johnny and Renee McRight



Morocco by Anna Murphy, a student in the Intensive Arabic Program



Martial Longla

## The Appeal of Academic Challenge

Before Martial Longla, assistant professor of mathematics, joined the faculty last year, he spent a decade in Russia as a student and translator. His fascinating journey from Africa to Mississippi began with a mountain of cryptic equations scribbled on a chalkboard in his Cameroon high school. ▾

Read a Q&A with Dr. Longla online at <http://bit.ly/1m5H6WN>

The story by Lucy Schultze and photo by Bruce Newman are courtesy of *The Oxford Eagle*.

## Building a Premier Arabic Language Program

If approved this fall by the Institutions of Higher Learning governing board, UM will offer the first Arabic language major in the state, and one of the first in the region. Allen Clark, assistant professor of modern languages, gets the credit.

"In just six years, Dr. Clark has built a program that is arguably the strongest in the South; it has brought national recognition to the university," said Donald Dyer, chair and professor of modern languages. "His strong and energetic teaching and guidance of students to high linguistic proficiency are evident. The Arabic program currently enrolls some 80 students and features students with advanced and superior language skills."

To produce language users who reach the superior level of proficiency with a deep understanding of the culture, Clark constructed a program offering a more personal education. Classes of 10 to 15 and weekly one-on-one meetings with professors—where progress is chronicled in digital portfolios kept throughout students' Arabic education—support their success.

"We enjoyed small, intensive classes," said Maggie Day (BA political science and journalism '12), who minored in Arabic and is a producer for Bloomberg TV's Al Arab network in Bahrain. "I had classes with the same seven students and Dr. Clark for three years, so we all became very close. It is great to see how the language has propelled our academic and professional careers."

Founded on a functional approach to language learning, the program offers summer study abroad before the sophomore, junior, and senior years. Immersion into Arabic culture accelerates students' familiarity with the language. "If you put students in a situation where they have to use it, they don't forget," Clark said.

Rebel Charge, a coordinated effort with the Army ROTC, provides students of both programs the opportunity to simulate situations soldiers might encounter in the Middle East. "Our Arabic language students set up mock language villages in the woods next to the old Whirlpool factory," said Clark. "We provide the mission with interpreters embedded in the cadets' ranks, while other students of Arabic play villagers, who only speak Arabic. The cadet commanders interact with the villagers through our interpreters, played by upper-level students. These interactions allow ROTC students not enrolled in Arabic courses to have some immersion into Arabic customs and greetings."

Learning Arabic is important on a global scale. These language professionals are equipped to function effectively in occupations requiring cross-cultural understanding in addition to handling linguistic and metalinguistic complexities. Graduates who have taken Arabic intensive courses have gone on to military service and graduate school at top institutions such as Johns Hopkins, Harvard, the American University in Cairo, and the University of Texas.

Maggie Day credits the program for her career in international journalism. "So much information is miscommunicated because of poor translation, which leads to incorrect assumptions about the Arab world," she said. "Studying Arabic at Ole Miss not only gave me an edge in attaining a job over other college graduates, but has helped me to do my job well, in that I can better communicate the stories coming from such a critical region." ▾

## William and Lucile Hicks Provide Stepping Stones for Delta Students

The Hicks of Wayland, Massachusetts have generously created the William and Lucile Hicks Scholarship Endowment for FASTrack students through a \$250,000 gift.

Originally from Greenwood, a recent visit home for the couple helped solidify their decision to establish a scholarship supporting FASTrack students from Leflore County. The academic program for freshmen helps students acclimate to campus life and adjust to the rigor of university academics. "We appreciate that the College is embracing programs like FASTrack to prepare students who, for various reasons, might falter during their transition from high school to independent academic careers," said William Hicks (BA

accountancy '59). "That we can play a role in enabling FASTrack to benefit more students, particularly children of the Delta, is an honor."

"Bill and Cile Hicks understand that UM is special because of the students who come here and our faculty and staff who dedicate their lives to teaching and mentoring," said Chancellor Dan Jones. "Their endowment, like the FASTrack program itself, will add an extra layer of support for deserving students."

FASTrack addresses the needs of the whole person, with attentive advisors and peer mentors helping students resolve a multitude of challenges, and not just the academic variety. "Our FASTrack program is helping students to succeed," said Stephen Monroe,



Lucile and William Hicks

FASTrack director and assistant dean of liberal arts. "Now, because of the Hicks, it will have an even greater impact, especially for students from the Mississippi Delta. Bill and Cile care deeply about UM, about the Delta, and about our state. We are grateful." ▾

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# Professor Studies Prison

Patrick Alexander, assistant professor of English and African American Studies, educates college students about prisons and teaches college courses to prisoners.

“Mississippi, next to Louisiana, incarcerates more people per capita than any other state in the nation and to be teaching in this place and thinking about these issues and not doing anything about them would seem unconscionable,” said Alexander, a specialist in African American literature, 19th century American literature, and critical prison studies.

## Teaching Prison

Professor Alexander’s Prison in the Literary Imagination class provides a perspective on situations foreign to many students. “The course looks at how prisons are represented in African American literature from 1900 to today and also how writers are responding to the issues that surround prisons,” said Alexander.

Fusing creative writing and the study of African American literature, Alexander familiarizes students with these characters and situations. By examining the road to incarceration—bad decisions, desperation, mental issues, or injustice—the class considers ideas of prevention. Students create justice journals that immerse them in both the course literature and into the lives of those affected by the penal system. Taking the perspectives of characters in the assigned texts, students write as if they are affected by prisons. The justice journals force a humanizing angle. “We’re introduced to a person before we’re introduced to a prisoner,” said Alexander.

## Teaching Prisoners

This summer Alexander introduced 17 inmates at the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) to higher education through UM’s Prison-to-College Pipeline program. “Students at Parchman want to take real university classes,” said Alexander. “UM very explicitly expressed an interest in supporting,

administratively and financially, any professors willing to teach at Parchman.”

Along with Otis Pickett (PhD history ’13), assistant professor of history at Mississippi College, Alexander taught Justice Everywhere: The Civil Rights Stories of King, Hamer, and Obama. “It was an incredible opportunity to learn with and from the men at Unit 25,” said Pickett. “Together, we studied the history of the Civil Rights movement, we examined important literature coming out of that context from Martin Luther King Jr. and Fannie Lou Hamer, and we discussed the concept of seeking justice everywhere.”

“Part of the MDOC mission is to provide effective treatment and education for offenders,” said Chris Epps, MDOC Commissioner. “These are opportunities for offenders to continue positive behavior as they reenter our communities. This not only makes our communities safer, it will save taxpayer dollars in the long haul with lower recidivism rates. I appreciate the partnership with the University of Mississippi.”

## Rethinking Mass Incarceration

Mississippians interested in learning how the criminal justice system works—and doesn’t work—attended UM’s Conference on Rethinking Mass Incarceration in the South at the Robert C. Khayat Law Center in April. “The conference focused the attention of the university community on the conditions of incarceration, which too many of us know too little about,” said Ivo Kamps, chair and professor of English.

“The conference really began as a discussion,” said Alexander, who worked with the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies, William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, and many others to organize the three-day event. “The point wasn’t necessarily to put on a conference, but to commit ourselves to a cause. Many of the issues are as pertinent to public safety as to restorative justice.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Dr. Patrick Alexander holds one of the books studied by the first UM Prison-to-College Pipeline students, *The Speeches of Fannie Lou Hamer*, *To Tell It Like It Is*.

After a tour and presentations at Parchman Penitentiary, on-campus programming included a keynote on prison rebellions and panels on prisons and higher education, postprison reentry, experiencing incarceration and its aftermath, and race in the criminal justice system. A screening of *Mississippi Innocence* opened the conference.

The film from the College of Liberal Arts’ Southern Documentary Project and the Mississippi Innocence Project at the School of Law examines the wrongful convictions of two Noxubee County men who spent a combined 32 years in prison for crimes they did not commit. Kennedy Brewer and Levon Brooks were freed in 2008 through the work of several lawyers, including students at the Mississippi Innocence Project.

“Through the film, we not only hope to expose failures in our justice system, but we also hope to incite efforts to prevent these failures from occurring in the future,” said Tucker Carrington, Innocence Project director and assistant professor of law. “We think one way to do that is to inspire the hearts and minds of a culture that has been apathetic to this system for far too long.”

## Southern Living Celebrates New Civil Rights Hero

Susan Glisson, director of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, “looks ... history squarely in the eye and insists others do the same” according to the popular magazine featuring “the best of the South.”

One of four honorees *Southern Living* selected in 2013 “who represent the next generation of leaders forging a better future without forsaking a bitter past,” they celebrate Glisson “for pioneering a community-based model of truth-telling and reconciliation.”

She says her mission is social justice—working to change the conditions that have created a legacy of inequities. She believes that racism can be eliminated in her lifetime. “I don’t think it’s easy,” she says. “It takes hard work. But it can happen. I’m seeing it happen in Mississippi every day.”

Read Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Cynthia Tucker’s entire essay: <http://bit.ly/1sdKgYX>

Susan Glisson

PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIN



## Entrepreneurial Spirit Strong in the College

Liberal arts students and (retired) faculty can and do start businesses, and some have received valuable assistance from the School of Business Administration's Gillespie Business Plan Competition and Insight Park, a high-tech research and business center providing support and infrastructure to startup companies. Three examples showcase the variety of enterprises.

### Cotton's Café Dog Treat Barkery

Art major Janet McCarty won top honors in the 2014 Gillespie Competition for Best Business Plan, Best Concept for Mississippi, and Best Concept for Social Entrepreneurship. In addition to barking rights over her 30 competitors' plans, the founder of Cotton's Café Dog Treat Barkery earned \$10,000 in prize money and space at Insight Park. Mentors from the business world help finalists polish presentations and network resources for advice and capital.

"After winning, we have grown exponentially," said McCarty, whose dog, Cotton, inspired her to create healthy, lactose-free canine treats using local produce. "With the competition proceeds, we procured commercial kitchen space, acquired an automatic dough roller and convection oven, purchased a significant inventory of raw ingredients, and increased cash flow,

allowing us to move forward with confidence as a growing business."

### Grace(full) Totes

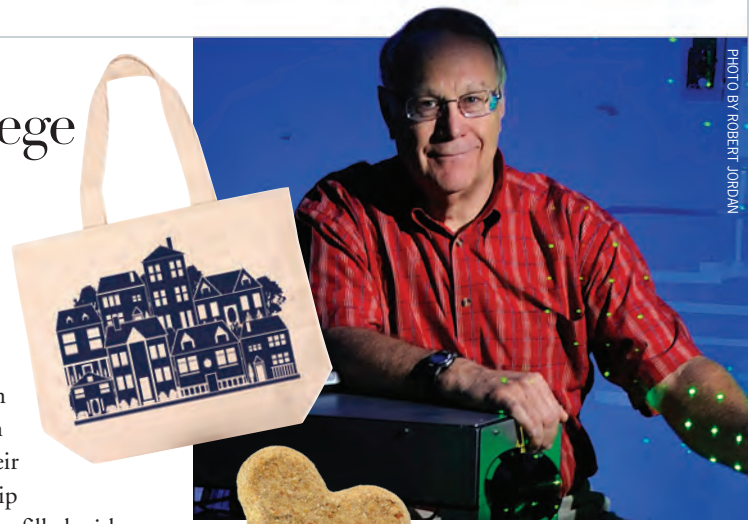
Meghan Litten (BA public policy leadership '13) and Mary Margaret Saulters (BA anthropology and biology '13) won Best Sustainable or Green Business Plan in the 2012 Gillespie Competition. Their buy one, give one social entrepreneurship venture, Grace(full) Totes, provides a bag filled with basic necessities to the homeless for every bag sold.

"Our goal is providing a stylish, eco-friendly tote bag to our customers as well as providing the homeless of the Oxford-Lafayette community with a bag filled with basic necessities," Litten said.

Their enterprise is an outgrowth of the duo's involvement with College Corps whereby students work with local organizations to remedy socio-economic inequalities with 300 hours of consistent, purposeful service during the academic year.

### Soair

Jim Sabatier's company, Soair, is an outgrowth of his life's work as an acoustical physicist at the National Center for Physical Acoustics. The professor emeritus is



*Grace(full) tote bag (top left), Jim Sabatier*

now at Insight Park with his patented sonar technology to help doctors monitor and assess fall risk in advanced-age patients by remotely measuring walking speed, leg and torso motion, and other parameters related to balance and walk gait.

Biomedical startups like Soair illustrate the potential of cultivating the public-private partnerships that UM is attracting to the Innovation Hub research and business incubator. The convergence of opportunities positioning UM for success includes the Blueprint Mississippi health-care recommendations and the health-care zone legislation that provides incentives for business. ▣

## Hearin Foundation Funds McLean Institute Program

The Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation has awarded the McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement \$1,599,000 for four years to support UM efforts to increase entrepreneurship and to promote economic development in Mississippi communities.

Albert Nylander, director of the McLean Institute, is principal investigator for the Catalyzing Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (CEED) program.

Through this grant, the McLean Institute will sponsor four graduate students and 10 undergraduate students each year for up to two years to create projects in rural areas. The two-year period will be used to research a community and economic development problem and to develop a solution. Projects will address social problems including poverty, education, asset building, and health.

"This grant gives us the opportunity to support approximately 30 students through fellowships," Nylander said. "In turn, students will partner with Mississippi communities to develop entrepreneurship and economic development projects that will improve the quality of life for its citizens." The first cohort will work in Calhoun, Coahoma, Lee, and Tallahatchie Counties.

Summer grants will also be provided for faculty research projects on entrepreneurship and economic development in Mississippi. Preference will be given to research innovative solutions. "Faculty members already lead important research throughout the state, so this grant will provide summer funding for faculty to focus even more on some of our pressing challenges," said Nylander. ▣

## A Headache of a Thesis

An internship with Novartis Institutes of Biomedical Research changed psychology student Stephanie Staszko's focus to exploring the biological underpinnings of psychiatric disorders.

At UM Staszko was a research assistant for Kenneth Sufka, professor of psychology and pharmacology, helping run studies using animal models of human clinical syndromes. She then utilized Sufka's lab to complete her thesis on the development of a rodent model of migraine.

"This model is new to the laboratory and relatively underdeveloped in the field, so working with Dr. Sufka on something that has potential to contribute to the field was an extremely fulfilling project," Staszko said. "My work concentrated on one of three distinct but related research questions aimed at exploring clinical migraine homologues."

Together with colleagues, Staszko hopes this will lead to a model that effectively screens novel antimigraine compounds for therapeutic benefit in clinical populations.

She plans to pursue a PhD in neuroscience, attend medical school, and continue her search of more efficient treatments in the fields of anxiety and depression. "Currently, most people diagnosed with these disorders struggle to find effective long-term treatments," Staszko said. "I am interested in both coming to a better understanding of how current treatments work, as well as broadening our understanding of these disorders." ▣

# Preparation for Health-care Professions in the College

World-renowned heart surgeon James Cox (BS chemistry '64) chose his career early. He decided as a young teenager sitting in the waiting room of a dentist's office. (See article on page 17.) "It's a huge advantage to know your area of interest early and I was absolutely certain," Cox said. Many students have a similar heart-felt commitment to a health-care career. Yet having the desire is different from being ready to succeed in the training needed to qualify for the careers.

"Professional programs in the health fields look for excellent students with experience in a health setting who demonstrate their interest in people through community service and leadership," said Lucile McCook, director of the Health Professions Advising Office (HPAO). The College of Liberal Arts has a special role preparing students to be future health-care professionals.

## Student Support for Foundational Courses

Easing the transition from high school science to the foundational science courses are Chemistry 101, Biology Bootcamp, and Supplemental Instruction (SI) programs that help students earn higher grades. Chemistry 101 is an introductory course for students without the ACT/SAT scores to enroll in the foundational chemistry courses. It reinforces the basic chemistry concepts and mathematical tools necessary for success.

By contrast, Biology Bootcamp is open to any incoming first year student who will take foundational biology courses. The week before fall semester, students experience biology lectures, laboratories, SI, and three exams to preview college academics and plan accordingly. "The first test was hard and so was keeping up with the reading. I'm definitely not in high school anymore," said one participant.

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and College faculty offer SI for historically difficult foundational courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics. Peer-led weekly group study sessions are run by student leaders who attend class and organize weekly study sessions around group activities to engage the students.



PHOTO BY NATHAN LATIL

## Excellence in Advanced Courses

Once through with foundational classes, students face challenging advanced science courses if they select a science degree or decide to complete prerequisites for professional programs. Students need to master course content and sharpen critical thinking and communication skills.

"Dr. Mattern gave superb lectures about how to work synthesis problems, but 10 years from now I will most likely not be doing that," said Laura Cline, a chemistry major referencing her organic chemistry class with Dan Mattern, professor of chemistry and biochemistry. "What I will be doing is thinking critically, actively learning, and finding satisfaction in hard work. Simply memorizing the textbook was not a valid path to success. Instead, Dr. Mattern encouraged us to make connections while learning. His class taught the importance of constantly reviewing knowledge and understanding how new information adds layers of complexity to simple facts. After two semesters, I saw the value of being an active learner. It's okay to struggle with new information, but asking questions and practicing skills are the keys to success."

Many health professions students take human anatomy and physiology from biology instructor Carol Britson, who connects the content with their varied professional interests. "I want students to connect with at least one topic, model, dissection, or experiment and come away thinking, 'that was the coolest thing I have ever done,'" said Britson. "I want students entering a professional program with experience incorporating virtual examination with physical examination and using electronics to gather physiological data such as ECG, respiration, neurological function."

Other advanced science courses resonate with students' natural interest in biomedical topics. Biological science major Marcus Daniels' physiology course with Mika Jekabsons, associate professor of biology, was particularly meaningful. "When you enter his class,



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIN

Supplemental instructional session (top), dissecting the brain in Dr. Nicole Lewis' lab

you immediately feel transported into the human body and how the miniscule interactions provide a framework for life. I developed an intimate appreciation for the intricacies of the human body and a greater focus of what my career could look like."

The Department of Biology recently hired two retired medical school faculty members with many years service in the next stage of the health professions pipeline to teach and mentor. Biological science major Kelly McCormick enrolled in cell biology with Brian Doctor, formerly with the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. "Doctor wrote a letter of recommendation for veterinary school and talked with me about the countless opportunities in veterinary medicine," she said.

## Engaging in Research

Beyond mentorship, College faculty encourage student engagement in research opportunities, whether required or not. This culminating project connects the web of knowledge in key disciplines for the student as well as deepens critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills. Students must manage their time and overcome challenges. This invaluable experience is looked favorably upon by admissions committees in health professions programs.

Research projects in all parts of the College include undergraduate students. In just the three natural science departments alone are millions of dollars of externally funded research. Students engage with biology research groups in cell and molecular biology, neuroscience, physiology, and symbiosis. Chemistry faculty have projects such as improvement of anti-tumor drugs, solar energy conversion, artificial photosynthesis, electrochemical processing of spent nuclear fuel, and the preparation of new materials with interesting electrical properties. The Department of Physics and Astronomy research programs include atmospheric physics, gravitational and high energy theory, physical acoustics, and condensed matter physics.

“Dr. Pedigo encouraged and taught me how to work in her biochemistry lab,” said Molly Edmondson, a biochemistry major who worked with Susan Pedigo, associate professor. “The hands-on learning helped me succeed in biochemistry, and these skills will translate to the hands-on aspects of dentistry.”

Faculty members from across the university recently created the neuroscience minor, which offers a structured way to gain research experience in this field. The interdisciplinary minor provides an understanding of the neural underpinnings of behavior through courses and research experiences in biology, communicative sciences, electrical engineering (biomedical engineering emphasis), exercise science, medicinal chemistry, philosophy, and psychology. Students learn that neuroscience reaches from the molecular to the psychological and apply theory to experimental or observational studies.

Elyse Jensen (BA physics '13) completed the Department of Physics and Astronomy pre-medical school track degree and wrote her honors thesis on pregnancy, childbirth, and newborn access to health-care in Belize. Her interviews with women and health professionals connected economics, education, nutrition, and health and highlighted the importance of the wider context of public health.

### MCAT Changes Include the Social Sciences

The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) will be revised in April 2015, the first time since 1991. “Medical schools need the MCAT to reflect what students should know,” said Lucile McCook. “It will still test basic knowledge of science, but with more emphasis on biochemistry, statistics, verbal reasoning, and critical thinking. There is a new section on behavioral sciences— psychology and sociology. To be a good practicing physician and to communicate knowledge to patients, it is important to demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of people and that all people are not alike.”

Context certainly matters. For many years, nursing students have been required to complete sociology courses. “Nurses must treat everyone and treat them without bias,” said Dianna Douglass, a student in the new accelerated nursing program on the Oxford

campus. “We need to understand other cultures. Some may not like to be touched or like eye contact. Every religion has end of life protocols that need to be honored. Dr. Combs [assistant professor of sociology] had us put ourselves in someone else’s shoes. That’s the best way to try to understand our patients’ needs, so we can provide the best care.”

Explorations in Population Health taught by John Green, associate professor of sociology and director of the Center for Population Studies, helps students understand health disparities in Mississippi. The class makes important field visits to medical and nursing schools and to public health programs in the Delta. (See story in this section.)

College humanities faculty provide the well-rounded education that health professionals encourage. The Department of Philosophy and



Group ‘selfie’ by nursing students in the new accelerated program in Oxford.

Religion’s Bioethics Fellowship with UMMC featured in this special section is one example, and the department is developing a course in the ethical, religious, and philosophical considerations in healthcare. The Department of Classics course in the Latin and Greek roots of medical terminology is designed to empower students by teaching the basic roots of these terms and how they combine to describe various medical phenomena.

### Co-Curricular Activities Enhance Preparation

Many students explore co-curricular means to develop leadership and teamwork skills, network with others, and learn about society. For example, the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) offers a chapter at UM, which is completely student run. “Each year we define our goals,” said Laura Cline, a current officer. “We work to increase community outreach and collaboration with the larger network of medical students. This has been an invaluable leadership experience. I’ve learned how to think creatively, effectively present information, and passionately work for the benefit of the larger organization. Along with dedication, those are qualities I value in health-care professionals.”

Students shadow health professionals to network and understand job realities and options. “Volunteering at the hospital exposed me to physicians in

emergency medicine,” said Zach Boynton, a biochemistry major who worked with the Experience Critical program at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Oxford. “The doctors showed the intricacies of patient care and the diagnostic process.”

Other students explore the field of health-care while assisting with medical mission trips or during health internships (as shown in the online *View from Ventress*.) Two traveled to Haiti on a medical mission and learned to collaborate across health professions. They also had eye-opening experiences about the context of health. A summer internship at the Bronx-Lebanon Hospital in New York helped prepare psychology major Bobby Kelly for medical school and a physician’s life. “I worked at an infectious disease clinic in the Bronx, which houses people from some of the lowest



socioeconomic levels in the country,” Kelly said. “Conversing with patients to let them know how important they are and encouraging and lifting their spirits gave me great joy, and let me know there is a purpose in my journey.”

As Chancellor Dan Jones noted, careers in the health professions are personally rewarding. They require tremendous dedication, and the College of Liberal Arts student population is filled with students who wish to make a difference in the health of others. It is the job of the College faculty to assist them in this stage of preparation, a job we do well and are always striving to do better. ▾

## Hugh Bateman Endowment for Pre-med Students

Alumni are creating an endowment for a rising senior who plans to attend medical school. It will honor Hugh Bateman, pre-med advisor from 1973–1988. Dr. Bateman is retired and living in Anniston, Alabama, with his wife, Patsy. ▾

**MAKE A GIFT: Ron Wilson, jrwilso3@olemiss.edu or 662-701-7434**

## Fellowship Gives Students Taste of Doctors' Real-World Ethical Dilemmas

Undergraduate humanities and social science students make the rounds at UMMC, observing patients and physicians while getting an up-close look at emerging ethical issues in modern medicine.

“The idea is to develop a population of humanities scholars who have a meaningful exposure to the modern biomedical enterprise and who will help us better understand health-care in a broad sociocultural context,” said Dr. Ralph Didlake (BS zoology ’75), director of the UMMC Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, and chief academic officer.

Launched in 2010, the five week Student Fellowship in Bioethics is a collaboration between UMMC and the UM Department of Philosophy and Religion. The immersion experience program designed for juniors or seniors in the College of Liberal Arts introduces the fellows to the real-world ethical issues and challenges that face medical professionals, said Steven Skultety, chair and associate professor of philosophy.

“Much like students in medical school, our biomedical ethics fellows are assigned to ward teams where they observe patients as they experience their illnesses, the environment in which their care is given, as well as the physicians, nurses and other staff as they provide that care,” Skultety said.

Besides interacting with medical and nursing students, the fellows attend selected classes and meetings

of review boards, participate in tutorials and small group discussions, and write an essay that analyzes an ethical, cultural, or social issue encountered during the experience.

With rapid medical discoveries and technological advancements, bioethical issues are becoming more prominent in society. “One only has to hear one newscast to be convinced that ethics training is needed in many areas of our society, and this is clearly part of what we want to achieve with the fellowship,” said Didlake. “Beyond that, we want to fully understand how social and cultural issues impact health and health-care.”

Emma Willoughby (BA sociology and liberal studies with concentrations in anthropology, biology, and psychology ’14), currently at the London School of Economics for a master’s in international health policy, was a recent bioethics fellow.

“I’m very passionate about social disparities in health-care delivery methods and access,” Willoughby said.

Last June she conducted research for her thesis in the Mississippi Delta. “I was learning about trust relationships between patients and providers,” Willoughby said. “At this health center, strong community bonds created a welcoming, nurturing atmosphere. In Jackson, at UMMC, things were very different—the medical system was much larger, more impersonal, and disparities between patients and providers were starkly clear to me. Contextualizing what I had experienced at the Delta clinic in the bigger



Emma Willoughby



Dr. Ralph Didlake

picture of health-care proved to be critically important for my thesis research and analysis.

“As we know, health-care is linked to many facets of society and therefore requires the input from many different kinds of people, including philosophers and ethicists, economists, psychologists, social workers, policymakers and lawyers, managers, those in marketing, and countless others. But it’s important that these folks are all on the same page about what influences and shapes our health-care delivery—socially, politically, and economically—if we really want to improve the health-care system we’ve created.

“While the typical biomedical framework likes to say that medicine is equal and fair and just because it’s ‘science,’ this just isn’t true. We can’t extract our social relationships from health-care, because it’s inevitably social as well.”

“Our intent is to grow a population of humanities scholars who can apply the skills of their disciplines to a better understanding of the challenges we meet in health-care,” said Didlake. “Emma absolutely exemplifies what this fellowship is about.”

## Center for Population Studies Battles Delta Health Issues



John Green

The Center for Population Studies collaboration with a network of diverse groups addresses the state’s health-care workforce shortage and improves quality of life in five Mississippi Delta counties as part of the New Pathways program.

New Pathways in Bolivar, Coahoma, Quitman, Sunflower, and Tallahatchie counties works with students to inspire them to address their communities’ health-care challenges to grow the Delta’s health workforce from within the region.

The program lays the foundation for local students to find health-related careers, said John Green, Center for Population Studies (CPS) director and associate professor of sociology. “Just telling a kid, ‘you could be a doctor one day’ is not enough, especially when that kid is in a low-performing school. What we’re trying to

do is to help piece together opportunity and aspirations as they relate to future career opportunities for people to improve their lives and improve the lives of their families and their communities.”

Early evaluation shows some success, including strengthening educational programs for health and related science disciplines. These changes are aimed at students from sixth grade through college. Community engagement is another part of the project.



Graduate student Sarah Gayden Harris facilitates group problem solving.

Molly Phillips, a research associate with CPS, said program youths have been organizing events to educate their communities about health issues. On their own, Clarksdale middle school students developed and planned a community picnic offering free fruit. Some 400 attended.

“They came up with the idea, organized it, did the outreach to get people there, and met with the mayor and the parks commissioner to secure the location,” Phillips said. “These are sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders. It’s pretty cool that they are meeting with the mayor.”

CPS partners include the Dreyfus Health Foundation of The Rogosin Institute, Tri-County Workforce Alliance, and Mississippi Office of Nursing Workforce. The W. K. Kellogg Foundation also provides financial support. The Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center Inc., which operates in several Delta counties, is joining the program as a partner, Green said.

CPS focuses on development and evaluation, helping partners to design and implement programs that are continuously improved.



## IMAGE Program Prepares Minority Student for Medical Career

An outstanding student-athlete from high school, Logan Wilson made an immediate impression at UM, which resulted in his acceptance into the Mississippi Rural Medical Scholars Program and the Everett-Williams Memorial Scholarship from the Honors College.

He is “electric,” said Douglass Sullivan-Gonzalez, dean of the Sally McDonnell-Barksdale Honors College. “Logan is so engaging. Everyone just melts around him, and his grades are stellar to boot. He maintained a 4.0 GPA all year in an honors pre-professional health track.”

A biochemistry major with plans to pursue a career in orthopedic surgery, Wilson is one of approximately 125 in UM’s Increasing Minority Access to Graduate Education (IMAGE) program. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), IMAGE strives to increase minority entrance to graduate school in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The program identifies entering minority students who are STEM aspirants and provides year round academic support—peer tutoring, mentoring, and a computer/study lab.

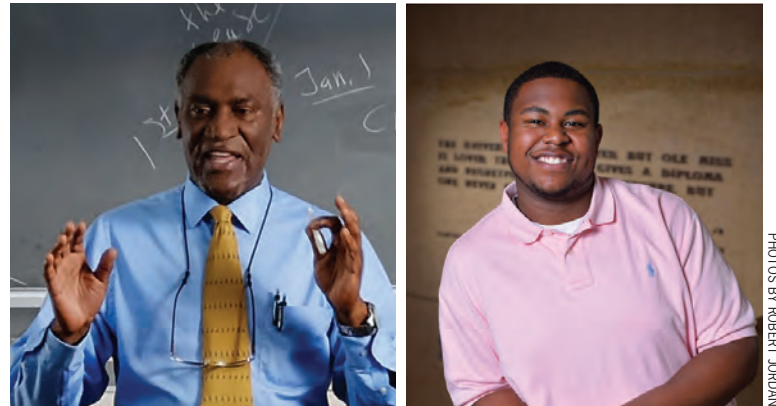
The 20-year-old IMAGE effort at UM is part of the NSF Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP) program to stimulate growth in the number of STEM-educated professionals in the country. One of the first funded by NSF, the Mississippi program is considered one of the “Grand AMPs.”

“Congressional leaders recognized that we had a shortage of trained people in the sciences,” said

Donald Cole, IMAGE program director, assistant provost, assistant to the chancellor for multicultural affairs, and associate professor of mathematics. “Forward-thinking individuals realized the need to increase the number of STEM graduates in the U.S., and they noticed that a big untapped market was minority students.”

IMAGE offerings include a high school-to-college summer bridge program and tuition stipends ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 that increase as students excel. A major goal is to establish a sense of community among underrepresented students. “Aside from supplementing students academically and financially, it’s very important to make sure they develop socially as well,” Cole said. “We put quite a bit of emphasis on participation. The idea behind the summer retreat is to get away from campus and to create an atmosphere for students to take the reins, show leadership. Out of that come our leaders.”

The summer between his freshman and sophomore years, Wilson convinced Dr. Thomas Baylis at Premier Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine in Hattiesburg to allow him to create an apprenticeship at the practice. “I shadowed him one day and then asked if we could make it more formal,” Wilson said. “So he allowed me to come in three days a week. He gave me



Donald Cole (left) and Logan Wilson

PHOTOS BY ROBERT JORDAN

books to read, showed me how to read x-rays, and gave me a full-scale experience to really see what the work is like. I loved it.”

Wilson’s college experience has lived up to his expectations. “I came here because I expected to be challenged,” he said. “I like that our professors expect more from us; not only do they want us to grasp the material, but they also want us to master it. Dean Sullivan-Gonzalez and other administrators have a true open-door policy. They set high standards and expect us to achieve them but are willing to help in any way to get us there.”

**VIDEO: Donald Cole discusses IMAGE.**  
<http://bit.ly/1p55QsQ>

**READ: Empowering STEM Education and Minority Achievement** <http://bit.ly/1oqwBIU>



Hollie Ables

## Future Rural Physician’s Desire to Serve

The Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program exists to combat the state’s health-care crisis. With enough participants like Hollie Ables it will succeed.

“I have an innate desire to stay in Mississippi and give back to the community that has given so much to me,” said Ables, a biological science major from Florence. “As a result, I know that the Missis-

issippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program (MRPSP) is the right choice for me. There are multiple communities in desperate need of physicians, and I think I can do the most good for the largest number of people here.”

Authorized in 2007 by the state legislature to enable capable young Mississippians who aspire to return to their rural roots to practice medicine, MRPSP offers college students academic enrichment, faculty and physician mentoring, plus solid medical school financial support.

The scholars receive \$120,000 in support and direct admittance into the UMMC School of Medicine. In return, graduates complete a residency in one of five specialties—family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, medical pediatrics, or general internal medicine—and commit to practice for least four years in a town of fewer than 20,000 residents, located more than 20 miles from a medically served area.

In preparation for medical school, Ables worked with Carol Britson, instructor of biology, on a research project to develop a laboratory protocol for manipulating the glucose level of commercially available bovine blood. “Because of the prevalence of diabetes and lack of simple endocrine experiments, we developed a laboratory protocol to increase student knowledge of the disease and the diabetic testing process,” Ables said.

Students in the anatomy and physiology class performed the experiment using glucose meters to highlight pancreatic endocrinology and the results of pancreatic malfunction. Relatively inexpensive, it takes under an hour. Students completed a pre-laboratory and post-laboratory survey designed to assess their knowledge of diabetes and to record and tabulate the results. Most reported an increase in knowledge, and an overwhelming majority enjoyed the lab exercise.

“Researching and learning about multiple aspects of diabetes has been very enlightening,” Ables said. “Diabetes has become a serious problem for this country both financially and medically. I can only hope that this laboratory exercise will help educate students about the disease.”

Education about diabetes is particularly important for those planning to work in the health field in Mississippi. The state ranks second in the nation for diabetes prevalence with medical expenses totaling \$2.74 billion in 2012, according to the American Diabetes Association. The Rural Dentists Scholarship was created in 2013 to address another area of need.

**VIDEO:** <http://bit.ly/1tull7W>

PHOTO BY JAY FERCHAUD/UMMC



Dr. Hannah Gay

In the 2013 *View From Ventress* newsletter we reported that *TIME Magazine* recognized Dr. Hannah Gay (BA biology and chemistry '76), associate professor of pediatrics and director of the pediatric HIV program at UMMC, as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. A global media storm surrounded Dr. Gay's functional cure of an HIV-infected child.

In late summer 2010, medics transferred a newborn to the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children in Jackson after the mother discovered during labor that she was infected with HIV. Gay knew the child stood a high risk for infection and treated the infant, then just 30 hours old, with a three-drug antiretroviral therapeutic prescription.

Currently, high-risk newborns born to mothers with poorly controlled infections, including HIV, receive a one-or-two drug antiretroviral combination at prophylactic doses for six weeks. Only if infection is diagnosed do they begin therapeutic prescriptions. Gay's experience pointed to better viral control with earlier intervention.

Tests a few days following birth confirmed an HIV infection. Gay kept the infant on therapy for 18 months, when the child was without follow-up care. For five months the child didn't receive the medications. When returned to her care, Gay expected the child's viral loads to have spiked. Except they hadn't. The stan-

## Time For an Update on Influential HIV Physician

dard clinical blood test for HIV came back clean.

"My first thought was 'Oh no, I've been treating a child who wasn't infected,'" said Gay. But reviewing test results from the baby's first month of life showed that the child had been infected. Gay ordered tests for HIV-specific antibodies, the standard clinical indicator of HIV infection, and for HIV DNA, which detects the virus within infected cells. Both came back negative. She contacted other specialists, who verified her clinical results. The world's first case of a functional cure of an HIV infection in an infant was attributed to Gay's quick administration of therapy.

### Dr. Gay's Statement on July 10, 2014

Regrettably, it was confirmed last week in test results the child known as the "Mississippi Baby" has come out of remission from the HIV virus.

I have been involved with the child's care since birth, and I am deeply saddened by this turn of events. It was a punch in the gut to see these test results last week. I know intellectually the child is going to be fine, but with a lifetime of medicines ahead, it's more than just a little disappointing.

I am confident the child will live a long and healthy life and while, as a clinician, I am more than disappointed for the child, I am hopeful for all researchers still looking for a cure. The search for a cure is like a giant puzzle being put together, and the things that have been learned from this case have contributed many pieces to the puzzle. Unfortunately, it wasn't the final piece. ▣



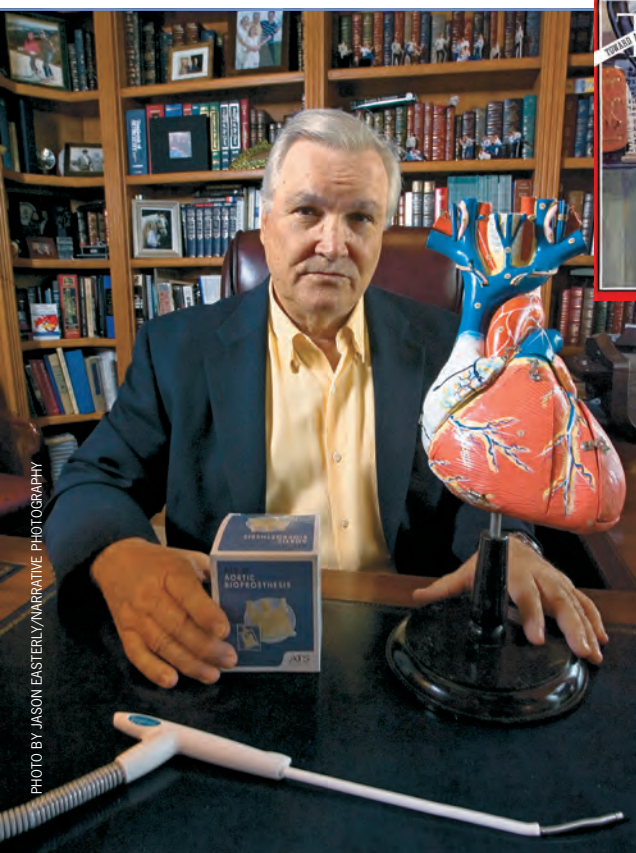
When not busy healing children, Dr. Bill Primos is on medical missions in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Guatemala, and Honduras.

## Doctor's Orders

Wise students will follow this doctor's orders. "My advice to students is to decide what you really want to do and then do what it takes to achieve it," said Dr. Bill Primos (BA zoology '80, MD '85). "Do not be concerned that the preparation and training may take a few more years than you want to go through. Do what you want to do and you won't regret it."

With a keen interest in science, he chose his vocation early. "I decided in junior high I wanted to be a doctor," Primos said. "I selected pediatrics and sports medicine because I enjoy being around and helping children and adolescents. I also have always liked participating in, watching, and learning about sports and athletic activities."

Visit [ViewfromVentress.org](http://ViewfromVentress.org) to learn more about this pediatrician specializing in sports medicine and musculoskeletal medicine who has worked with Paralympic athletes and volunteered at the U.S. Olympic training center. ▣



Patients living normal lives after receiving the Cox-Maze procedure for atrial fibrillation, owe thanks to Dr. James Cox (left), Dr. DeBakey (above).

## Healing Broken Hearts

Courtesy of the *Ole Miss Alumni Review*

A copy of *Life* magazine first offered James L. Cox (BS chemistry '64) a glimpse of open-heart surgery. The photo of an operation being performed by Dr. Michael E. DeBakey so affected Cox—then a young teen sitting in a dentist's waiting room—that he decided to pursue a career in cardiovascular surgery.

What's significant is not that Cox actually became a cardiovascular surgeon, but that the impact of his work is recognized around the world. Today he is the Evarts A. Graham Professor of Surgery Emeritus and Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery Emeritus at Washington University

School of Medicine, Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. His seminal work in the surgical treatment of cardiac arrhythmia ultimately led to the development of the universally known Cox-Maze Procedure. Studies show a 15-year cure rate of 96% for the treatment of atrial fibrillation.

To establish his career, Cox began with classes at UM. "The chemistry and biology departments were superb, with excellent teachers," he said. "I received a great education and was very well prepared for medical school. In fact, I found medical school easier than pre-med school at Ole Miss." Cox was named most outstanding student in his graduating class at the University of Tennessee Medical School.

To learn more about this College alumnus who is named by colleagues as one of the great cardiac surgeons of the 20th century, visit [ViewfromVentress.org](http://ViewfromVentress.org). ▣

## FACULTY AWARDS




PHOTO BY NATHAN LATIL

*Joan Wylie Hall, Jay Watson, and Melvin S. "Buddy" Arrington Jr. receive the 2014 College of Liberal Arts annual teaching awards.*

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS OUTSTANDING INSTRUCTOR

#### **Joan Wylie Hall**, lecturer Department of English


Dr. Hall's areas of specialization include Southern literature, African American literature, and American women's literature.

"I'm honored to receive this recognition for teaching because I feel most alive in the classroom. The opportunity to introduce a variety of literary texts to thousands of undergraduates has been a challenge and a joy. Every day I walk past the rose garden statues of a teacher and students between the Ford Center and the bridge to campus. The bronze Mentor with her gesturing hand and her open book reminds me of the amazing teachers I have known at this school." 

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS OUTSTANDING TEACHER

#### **Jay Watson**, Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies Department of English

Besides William Faulkner, Dr. Watson's specializations include American literature, Southern literature and film, the body in literature and culture, critical whiteness studies, law and humanities, narrative, and literary theory.

"For me as a literature professor, teaching is primarily about bringing energy to the classroom, conveying enthusiasm and excitement about the material, asking good questions—and modeling how to ask them—and challenging students to get out of their comfort zones, take intellectual chances, and enjoy the conversation about what writing—including their writing—can do. What makes the award so fulfilling is knowing that these priorities seem to resonate with the College, and hopefully with my students as well." 

### CORA LEE GRAHAM AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING OF FRESHMEN

#### **Melvin S. "Buddy" Arrington Jr.**, professor Department of Modern Languages

Dr. Arrington specializes in 20th century Latin American writers as well as medieval and Golden Age Spanish literature. He has taught the freshman seminar in the Honors College for 15 years.


"For me, teaching and learning are two sides of the same coin. I spend a lot of time reading and preparing to teach each of my courses. Making each class meeting a valuable learning experience is always the goal. But the education process is not a one-way street. I have learned so much from my students over the years. I have received much more than I have given." 



PHOTO BY ROBERT JORDAN

#### **ELSIE M. HOOD OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD**

*UM's highest recognition of superior  
classroom teaching*

**Ann Fisher-Wirth**, professor  
Department of English  
director of the Environmental Studies Minor

**VIDEO: Interview** <http://bit.ly/1CVSQjK>



PHOTO BY ROBERT JORDAN

#### UM and Mississippi Humanities Council **HUMANITIES TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

*For excellence  
in teaching and research*

**Felice Coles**, professor  
Department of Modern Languages



PHOTO BY ROBERT JORDAN

#### **FRIST STUDENT SERVICE AWARD**

*UM's highest recognition for going  
the extra mile in unwavering  
dedication to students*

**Denis Goulet**, lecturer and lab coordinator  
Department of Biology  
Advisor to The Gamma Beta Phi Society



# FACULTY AWARDS

MISSISSIPPI  
INSTITUTE of



ARTS &  
LETTERS

## Winners of the 2014 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Awards from the University of Mississippi



### NOEL POLK LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**William N. Beckwith**, adjunct assistant professor of art (BA, MFA) Widely known for his portrait busts and public monuments of icons William Faulkner, Elvis Presley, B. B. King, Tennessee Williams, Richard Wright, Eudora Welty, Jefferson Davis, L. Q. C. Lamar, Jim Henson, and Coach Margaret Wade, William Beckwith's work is represented in public and private collections across the nation.



### SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Center for the Study of Southern Culture** for *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS, 2013  
Editors **Charles R. Wilson**, professor emeritus of history and Southern Studies, **James G. Thomas Jr.**, associate director for publications, and **Ann J. Abadie**, associate director emeritus of the CSSC, worked with 32 volume editors and 1,500 contributors to produce the 24-volume series, an update of their award-winning original published in 1989.



### POETRY AWARD

**Derrick Harriell**, assistant professor of English and African American Studies  
*Ropes*

WILLOW BOOKS, 2013

"In four rounds, Derrick Harriell tours us through the cultural history of boxing, from Mike Tyson and Joe Frazier to one of the first African American pugilists, writing from 1855. These richly detailed persona poems are spoken by boxers and also the journalists, cutmen, and girlfriends who surround the ring. Harriell's nuanced ear conveys not just the intimacies of the sport but the intimacies of the human spirit."

—Beth Ann Fennelly, author of *Tender Hooks*,  
associate professor English  
director of the MFA English Program



### FICTION AWARD

**Steve Yarbrough** (BA, MA English)  
*The Realm of Last Chances*

VINTAGE, 2014

"This novel is that rare achievement, a page-turner that also turns pages within the reader."

—Jeffrey Lent, author of *A Peculiar Grace*



"Our faculty and students need a strong library and that's why I'm a member of the Friends."

—STEPHEN MONROE

ASSISTANT DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
AND PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

If you are interested in joining the Friends of the Library and thus strengthening the College of Liberal Arts, please write to Denson Hollis, senior director of development, at [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu)

### LIFT EVERY VOICE AWARD

*For contributions to the betterment of human relationships on campus*



PHOTO BY ROBERT JORDAN

**Susan Grayzel**, professor  
Department of History  
director of the Sarah Isom  
Center for Women and  
Gender Studies



PHOTO BY ROBERT JORDAN

**Charles Ross**, associate professor  
Department of History  
director of the African American  
Studies Program



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIN

National Academic  
Advising Association  
**NATIONAL OUTSTANDING  
ADVISING AWARD FOR  
FACULTY**

*Highest level of national recognition  
for significant contributions*

### AND

Office of Student Disability Services  
**ACCESS AWARD**

*For efforts to accommodate students with special needs*

**Kerri Scott**, instructional assistant professor  
associate director of forensic chemistry  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

To read story, visit <http://bit.ly/1uJXM5M>



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

## Introducing Native American History

**M**ikaëla M. Adams, assistant professor of history, enjoys introducing students to Native American history and watching them evolve as thinkers, writers, and scholars.


Adams' own introduction to the subject came when she was a sophomore at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. "I signed up for a Native American history class only to fulfill a requirement," she said. From that first class, she was hooked. "I had a fabulous professor, Daniel Cobb, who helped me see American history in a whole new way." Adams' interest in the process of cultural contact, adaptation, and the legacies of colonialism led to master's and doctoral degrees at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

She considers the study of Native American history a neglected part of the story of the U.S. "Often in textbooks, Native peoples just show up in the beginning of the story—they are there to meet Columbus, and engage in a few colonial wars, but then they seem to disappear. This is simply not true," Adams said. "Native people were active and ongoing participants in the story of this nation and they continue to be today."

Their history enriches and complicates the understanding of race. "Indians didn't fit into the black-and-white binary of the Jim Crow South, for example, so by studying their place within that society we learn about how and why those racial categories were constructed in the first place," Adams said. "This story is critical not only for understanding the past, but also for understanding the present, as well as thinking about ways to break down racial barriers and discrimination in the future."

Adams' first book, *Who Belongs? Becoming Tribal Members in the South*, looks at how Southern tribes constructed their identity and worked within the context of the Jim Crow South to create ideas of who belonged to their communities based on cultural traditions and kinship practices, along with the realities of living in a segregated, black-and-white world. Her examination of how tribes repurposed older notions of kinship and culture to create new criteria of belonging to meet the challenges of living in a world defined by racial classifications focuses on the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, the Pamunkey of Virginia, the Catawba of South Carolina, the Seminole and Miccosukee of Florida, and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw.

The medical history of Southeastern Indians' response to the 1918 influenza pandemic and its effect on traditional healing practices is Adams' next project.

"I joke with my students on the first day of class that you never know what will happen when you sign up for a class just to fulfill a requirement!" she said. 

**VIDEO: Dr. Adams** <http://vimeo.com/53543637>



*Choctaw family in traditional clothing, 1908 (top) and Mikaëla M. Adams*

## Finding the Invisible Soldiers

**L**ocal African American veterans from World War I and World War II tell their own stories in "The Invisible Soldier," history major Ian Davis' research project for Professor Elizabeth Payne's seminar course.

Working with the Burns-Belfry Museum and Multicultural Center dedicated to African American history in Oxford, he interviewed area veterans of both races to gauge treatment of African American soldiers and race-relations surrounding the wars. "We have these myths regarding the wars and how they changed things between these races," said Davis, who has minors in political science, English, and classics. "Oral histories give that firsthand perspective you can't get from numbers and secondary sources."

The local veterans' stories, along with draft records and university archives, revealed that little changed for the African American soldier between the two conflicts. Segregation was thoroughly entrenched in the military through World War II, and Davis found that it created a vast separation between African American soldiers, white soldiers, and the rest of America. His interviews revealed that while many African American troops were placed in bad circumstances with the worst of the equipment and resources, the individual experience of the African American soldier varied. "The African American soldier was very much invisible in the scheme of the wars," Ian said, "They were very segregated."

Though his focus concluded with World War II, Davis went further, attempting to discover when segregation began to change. He marks the beginning of the shift when the military desegregated during the Korean War.



PHOTO BY ROBERT JORDAN



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS




PHOTO BY PATRICK HAAUSMA

*Burns-Belfry Museum before renovation, a MP in World War II, and Ian Davis*



"The African American soldier goes from being basically invisible to being an integral part of the military machine," said Davis, "not just in terms of service, but in terms of recognition. If you look at the Vietnam conflict, you see the African American soldier. You see his service. You see his duty."

Professor Payne praises Davis's scholarship. "He researches thoroughly and writes beautifully," said Payne. "Few students at this university compare favorably to him in that regard."

Recipient of a Taylor Medal and the Larry D. Givens Outstanding Junior History Award and Scholarship, Davis began graduate studies in history at the University of Alabama this fall. 

Read about Dr. Payne and her students' work with the Museum at <http://bit.ly/1tNaovO>



Crusader-era Jerusalem, as seen in Assassin's Creed video game

## The Assassin's Perspective: Teaching History with Video Games

by Nicolas Trépanier, assistant professor of history

“So how much of *Assassin's Creed* is, like... true?” The voice grows more hesitant as the student realizes how silly he must look asking about a video game in the middle of a serious college history course.

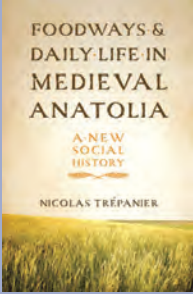
Many of us have had this experience: a question pops up about some historical tidbit encountered in a video game, and we instructors cannot offer much of a reply except to list all the things the game got wrong. That's assuming we know the game in question, of course.

I got tired of being stuck in such a dismissive mode, especially because I know that many students come to college interested in history precisely because they've played historically themed video games. A course about the Crusades, the American Revolution, or the Napoleonic wars might sound especially

interesting for one who has *been* there. As teachers of history, doesn't that give us something to work with?

After designing and twice teaching a course about representations of history in video games, the historical inaccuracies of *Napoleon: Total War* or *Civilization IV* are as obvious to me as ever. But I also realize that, even more than I expected, using video games is a very efficient way to let undergraduates engage with historiography and leave them with a sophisticated, critical perspective that is likely to remain alive long after they graduate. ▣

**Read full article in Perspectives on History: The News-magazine of the American Historical Association May 2014 issue at <http://bit.ly/1n5vRwu>**



**Foodways and Daily Life in Medieval Anatolia: A New Social History**  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS, 2014  
By **Nicolas Trépanier**, assistant professor of history

Bringing to life an overlooked aspect of the dawn of the Ottoman empire, this illuminating study uses the prism of food—from farming to mealtimes, religious rituals, and commerce—to understand how Anatolian society gave rise to a superpower.

## Learning from the Study of Foodways

Cultural geographer Catarina Passidomo joins UM as the first faculty member hired specifically to teach foodways classes. She merges the study of food and society through a joint appointment with the Center for the Study of Southern Culture (CSSC) and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

The professorship in the academic study of foodways was endowed in 2013 by the Southern Foodways Alliance (SFA), an institute of the CSSC, and augmented by generous gifts from individuals and foundations.

“UM's academic environment is greatly enriched when we are able to offer classes and faculty members representing new fields,” said Glenn Hopkins, dean emeritus of liberal arts. “The study of foodways provides another important facet for our students to explore understanding the world around them.”

Passidomo holds a BA in sociology and anthropology from Washington and Lee University, and a MA in ecological and environmental anthropology and PhD in geography, both from the University of Georgia. Her dissertation examining post-Katrina food access projects in New Orleans drew connections between those initiatives and broader struggles for racial and social justice.

**MAKE A GIFT: Nikki Neely, [nneely@olemiss.edu](mailto:nneely@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-6678**

“More broadly, my research and teaching consider food and foodways as lenses through which we can contemplate and challenge social problems that we may not initially connect to food,” Passidomo said. “For example, in my teaching we'll consider what food—and the ways in which it is both physically and symbolically produced, consumed, shared, and discarded—can reveal to us about racial formation, gender roles, labor and immigration, and regional identities. Each of these themes could easily be considered through some lens other than that of food, but I believe food captivates and intrigues us. I am eager to contribute to an enhanced appreciation of food as a topic of scholarly interest, both in its own right, and for what it can teach us about other social problems and processes.”

The new professorship enriches the College. “She brings an important and unique perspective to the department as a cultural geographer,” said Kirsten Dellinger, chair and associate professor of sociology. “Her interests in space, food, and engaged community research complement the work of many of the department's anthropologists and sociologists in ways that have already sparked talk of synergistic collaborations.” ▣



PHOTO BY GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

Passidomo eating beignets at Café du Monde in New Orleans

### The Larder: Food Studies Methods from the American South

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA PRESS, 2013  
Edited by **John T. Edge**, SFA director, Elizabeth Engelhardt, and **Ted Ownby**, professor of history and Southern Studies and director of the CSSC

“Edge, Engelhardt, Ownby, and their contributors touch on issues familiar in Southern Studies—especially the roles of race, class, and gender—and do so in an exceptionally fresh and tangible way, through food. This is one of the best collections of food scholarship.”

—Warren Belasco, author of *Food: The Key Concepts*



PHOTO BY NATHAN LATIL



John Winkle

## College Celebrates Winkle's Vast Contributions

The John W. Winkle III Fund for Faculty Excellence honors the emeritus political science professor's nearly four decades of service to UM. The initiative provides resources for faculty support in the Department of Political Science and encourages the pursuit of excellence in the spirit of Winkle's devotion to teaching.

The recipient of both the Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award and the Faculty Achievement Award, Winkle concluded his long tenure teaching and advising in 2013. He was chosen to deliver the inaugural Mortar Board Last Lecture. As a professor of constitutional law and judicial politics and faculty advisor to the undergraduate Mock Trial team, Winkle helped generations of students prepare for law school. His two courses on constitutional law were widely perceived as incredibly rigorous and were highly sought by students. Upon news of his retirement, many students contacted the department with stories of their positive experiences in Dr. Winkle's classes, often describing his courses as altering the course of their professional careers. ▣

**MAKE A GIFT:** Nikki Neely, [nneely@olemiss.edu](mailto:nneely@olemiss.edu) or 662.915.6678

## Political Scientist Follows the Money

American politics keep Conor Dowling busy. Last spring, the assistant professor of political science taught Voting and Political Participation as well as Political Parties and Interest Groups, conducted research, and published *Super PAC! Money, Elections, and Voters after Citizens United*.



PHOTO BY NATHAN LATIL

Conor Dowling

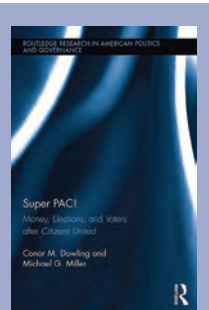
### Super PAC! Money, Elections, and Voters After Citizens United

ROUTLEDGE, 2014

By **Conor M. Dowling** and Michael G. Miller

"... a pioneering and must-read book for all who care about campaign finance, organized interests, and U.S. elections."

—Peter L. Francia, East Carolina University



"The book examines recent federal court decisions

that effectively created a new campaign finance environment in federal elections," said Dowling. "It details the flow of money in federal politics in recent elections, and employs a number of public opinion surveys and embedded survey experiments to gauge not only how much people know about existing campaign finance law, but also whether they notice the activity of super PACs and related groups and/or are able to distinguish between their activities and those of candidates."

John Bruce, chair and associate professor of political science, describes his "stunningly prolific" colleague's publication as a "timely research project and a demonstration of his ability to envision a project and complete it in short order."

Dowling joined the department two years ago from Yale University where he was a postdoctoral associate at the Institution for Social and Policy Studies and Center for the Study of American Politics after completing his PhD at Binghamton University (SUNY).

He studies both mass and elite political behavior with a substantive focus on issues of electoral competition, representation, and public policy. "This leads me into areas of research involving public opinion, political behavior, and political psychology, among other fields," Dowling said. He looks for societal significance by delving into these areas for previously untapped answers. "I believe answering these questions is important because they speak to larger issues about electoral competition and public policy. For example, are all voices heard equally by our elected leaders?"

"Conor Dowling is an impressive addition to our already strong faculty," Bruce said. "He has a remarkable research record, is a very good teacher, and is a valuable citizen of the department. His research is noteworthy in both volume and quality. Professor Dowling brings an experimental approach to his study of the American voter, applying creative solutions to interesting questions. In the time he has been here, Professor Dowling has developed collaborative projects with other faculty in the department. This type of synergy serves our students by creating an exciting intellectual atmosphere, which enhances opportunities for learning." ▣

## Scholarship Is Tribute to Professor's Passion for Woodwinds

Gene Saucier was eight years old when he discovered his calling. Listening to classical music on the radio in Shreveport, Louisiana, he heard a piece that featured the clarinet and instantly fell in love with the sound.



Gene Saucier

Saucier remained dedicated to the instrument his entire life. He toured and performed for packed concert halls with Benny Goodman's orchestra, studied at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and later, taught music at UM for 33 years. When he died in January 2013, his family did not want the music to end.

To pay tribute, the family established the Gene A. Saucier Excellence in Music Scholarship for full-time music students who share his passion for woodwind instruments. With \$125,000 from Rick and Susie McNeely and additional gifts to seed the endowment, the scholarship was available immediately.

"He was such a giving man," said daughter Susie McNeely. "If you knew Daddy, you knew the love he had for music and for his students. It was a no-brainer; we had to set up the scholarship."

Before retiring in 1993 as professor of music and head of the wind, percussion, and string division, Saucier established an award-winning ensemble, composed chamber music pieces still widely performed and studied by music programs throughout the U.S., and published a textbook, *Woodwinds: Fundamental Performance Techniques*.

Daughter Paula Gibbs hopes scholarship recipients understand the honor. "My wish is for them to have a true love and desire to work with music the way he did." ▣

**MAKE A GIFT:** Denson Hollis, [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-5092



## Anonymous Gift Provides Competitive Edge for Recruiting Brass Players

An anonymous gift of \$100,000 to the Pride of the South Marching Band in honor of Chris Presley, drum major 2010–2012, has created the Polished Brass Band Scholarship Fund providing eight four-year awards of \$3,000 to help deserving students participate in band and earn degrees.

“I am grateful for being a member of the Pride of the South Marching Band, as it gave me the opportunity to develop as a true leader on campus,” said Presley (BA biological science ’12), who received a MEd from the University of South Carolina and is an advisor at Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis.

“At Ole Miss, I was part of a family of 300 who shared our love for playing music. I was also blessed to establish lifelong relationships with both the staff and band members from different backgrounds. As drum major for the Pride of the South, I achieved my goal of bringing more positive recognition and respect to our band from students, faculty, administrators, and alumni.”

The Polished Brass Band Scholarship Fund allows David Willson, director of bands, to recruit incoming freshmen or community college transfer students from Mississippi who excel at the trumpet, trombone, baritone, or tuba and who exhibit strong leadership qualities. “We are thrilled about this generous gift,” Willson said. “The donor family has been supportive for many years, coming to fundraisers and concerts. We hope this interest will motivate others to help endow scholarship funds to maintain a strong margin of excellence against our peer institutions.”

The scholarships also honor alumni and longtime band supporters Betsy and Wade Creekmore and Jan and Lawrence Farrington of Jackson, Mary Sharp and Jim Rayner of Oxford, and Amanda and Edward Wilson of Birmingham, who enjoy friendships with Chris Presley and appreciate the work of Willson and William DeJournett, director of the marching band.

Ron Wilson, director of development for the College of Liberal Arts, conveyed the need for such scholarships. “As costs for college rise, students are



Chris Presley

sometimes forced to choose between participating in enriching activities such as band or taking on additional employment,” he said. “Scholarship support makes it possible for students to fully realize their potential, earn degrees, and participate in programs that augment the UM experience for us all.”

**MAKE A GIFT:** Ron Wilson, [jrwilso3@olemiss.edu](mailto:jrwilso3@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-1755

## Enriching Southern Harmony

The academic study and documentation of the American South was scarce until the 1970s when UM founded the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. Now a flagship academic enterprise, the Center is raising funds to create a full professorship for the study of Southern music.

Among the first to support the Music of the South Endowment is the Feder family of Ocean Springs with their pledge of \$100,000. Alumni Ron and Becky Feder, daughter Elizabeth Feder-Hosey and her husband, Matthew, are strong believers in growing this area of emphasis. Having welcomed granddaughter Evelyn Rose Hosey, they are working to make the future at UM brighter for her generation.

Ron Feder (BA political science ’73, JD ’81), chair of the Center advisory committee, remembers the first conversations about increasing resources for Southern music. “We realized the South was losing lots of musicians and recognized the need for oral histories, stories, and archives,” said Feder. “We started with the blues but grew to include gospel, country, Appalachian hill-billy music, and more. The Center—with its faculty, students, and resources—is the natural place to headquarter the study of Southern music.”

The Center introduced the Music of the South Conference and Concert Series in 2012 to supplement its *Living Blues* magazine, Mississippi Public Broadcasting radio segment *Sounds of the South*, and *Highway*

*61 Radio* program. Like its other offerings, the Center’s music classes and programming will be interdisciplinary in nature, and Director Ted Ownby anticipates partnering with other campus entities. Thanks to faculty in anthropology, English, music, and sociology, the College already offers courses on blues and literature, blues anthropology, and African American music traditions.

“We are an interdisciplinary program, so we like things that cut across traditional boundaries and find connections between numerous elements of cultural traditions,” said Ownby. “The ideal scholar for this professorship will approach the study of Southern music in a multifaceted way. We are not deciding what type of music is important to study, nor are we looking specifically for a jazz scholar, a blues scholar, or a country music scholar. We want someone who cares about how to study music traditions and contemporary music.”

Ron Feder emphasizes the need for additional funds to bring the music professorship to fruition. “We need two types of donors for this endowment: passionate people who can make small, meaningful gifts, and people with the ability to make larger gifts who want to have a guiding role in bringing this new focus to the Center.”

Perhaps the second generation says it best. “One of the things all humans have in common is that they recognize music at any age and respond to it,” said Feder-Hosey (BA art history ’05, JD ’09), who practices law in



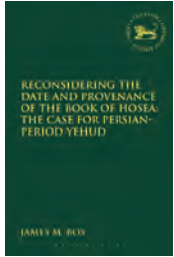
Matthew Hosey, from left, and Ron M. Feder; Elizabeth Feder-Hosey, from left, Evelyn Rose Hosey, and Becky Feder

Ocean Springs. “Ole Miss is in a unique position. We boast a lot of very progressive programs that stand out in ways with which other universities can’t compete. Part of that is the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. The Center approaches issues and elements of our past in a way that doesn’t shy away from our struggles but highlights the many gifts our culture crafted and even those we are still creating. I’m honored my family can play a role.”

**MAKE A GIFT:** Nikki Neely, [nneely@olemiss.edu](mailto:nneely@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-6678



## FACULTY BOOKS

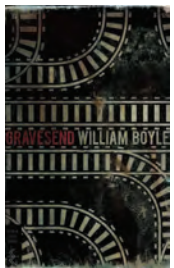


**Reconsidering the Date and Provenance of the Book of Hosea: The Case for Persian-Period Yehud**

BLOOMSBURY T&T CLARK, 2013

By **James M. Bos**, assistant professor of religion

Bos challenges the traditional 8th-century date of the text and emphasizes the evidence that suggests the book should be viewed as a 6th-century Judahite text.



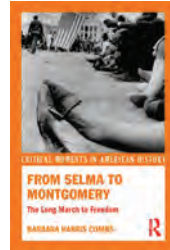
**Gravesend**

BROKEN RIVER BOOKS, 2013

By **William Boyle**, adjunct instructor of writing and rhetoric

"An irresistible combo of an insider's tour of Brooklyn and true and authentic 21st Century Noir. Boyle is one to watch."

—Ace Atkins, author of *The Broken Places* and Robert B. Parker's *Wonderland*



**From Selma to Montgomery: The Long March to Freedom**

ROUTLEDGE, 2013

By **Barbara Harris Combs**, assistant professor of sociology and Southern Studies

"With admirable insight, Barbara Combs nicely frames and examines the great significance of the Selma campaign. She not only places this high point of the Civil Rights Movement into an historical context but equips us to understand the ripple effects of this 'moment in time,' especially as relevant to the quality of contemporary American citizenship and the franchise."

—Todd C. Shaw, author of *Now Is the Time!* *Detroit Black Politics and Grassroots Activism*



**West African Drumming and Dance in North American Universities: An Ethnomusicological Perspective**

UNIVERSITY PRESS OF MISSISSIPPI, 2014

By **George W. K. Dor**, McDonnell-Barksdale Chair of Ethnomusicology and associate professor of music

"...the first full-length study of its subject. Rich and timely, it should inspire fruitful discussion of the global appropriation of African performing practices."

—Kofi Agawu, author of *Representing African Music*



**Chase Us: Stories**

NEW HARVEST, 2014

By **Sean Ennis**, adjunct instructor of writing and rhetoric

"Ennis has crafted a beautiful, hard-hitting collection."

—*Publishers Weekly*



**Ukrainian Cinema: Belonging and Identity During the Soviet Thaw**

I.B. TAURIS, 2014

By **Joshua First**, Croft assistant professor of history and international studies

The first concentrated study of Ukrainian cinema in English explores the politics and aesthetics of Ukrainian Poetic Cinema during the Soviet 1960s–1970s.

## A Tribute to Lifelong Friendship

Much like chess pieces moving around a gameboard, Ruff Fant and Hubert McAlexander have been in and around each other's lives since they were boys. In fact, it was the game of chess that bonded their friendship.

"We were both kind of intellectual little boys and I think that intellect was one of the bonds between us," said McAlexander (BA English '61, MA '66), professor emeritus of English at the University of Georgia and celebrated author of biographies of writers Peter Taylor and Sherwood Bonner.

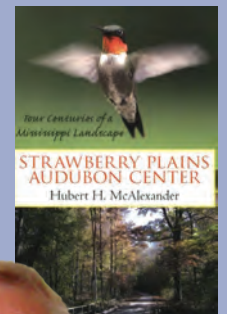
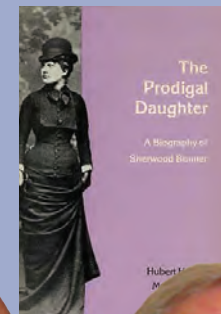
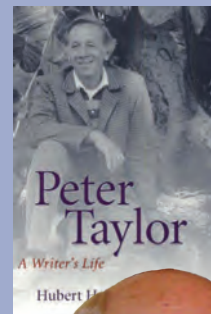
Fant and his wife, Susan, now of Washington, D.C., honored that friendship with a \$1.5 million gift to UM establishing the Hubert H. McAlexander Chair of English.

"His career should be an inspiration to all students," Fant said. "I also wanted to honor, indirectly, Hubert's many friends at Ole Miss and in Oxford. Much is said about change at Ole Miss, but Hubert and his generation were at the center of change. What we look back on as change was, to them, as college students, their life. I truly believe that Hubert and his generation were Ole Miss' great generation; I hope they will always be remembered as such."

The son of former UM law professor Lester Glenn Fant Jr., Fant has been a practicing attorney and is founder and chairman of TowPath Partners, a Washington, D.C.-based specialty finance company that invests in mature renewable energy projects.

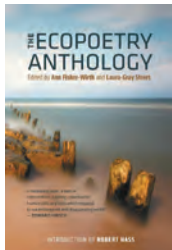
"I wanted to give to the English Department to support the study of liberal arts," Fant said. "Today liberal arts education is under attack in the press and from certain politicians on the grounds that study of liberal arts is not good job preparation. But liberal arts teaches students how to think critically, adapt to new situations, and communicate with others; these are the most valuable skills in the job market today. I was an English major in college, and I believe that my study has been extremely valuable to me both in my professional life and in my life in general." ▣

*Hubert McAlexander (left) and Ruff Fant*





## FACULTY BOOKS



### The EcoPoetry Anthology

TRINITY UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2013  
SECOND PRINTING, 2014

Edited by **Ann Fisher-Wirth**, professor of English and director of the Environmental Studies Minor, and **Laura-Gray Street**

The groundbreaking collection of 320 poems by 176 poets includes an introduction by former U.S. poet laureate Robert Hass.



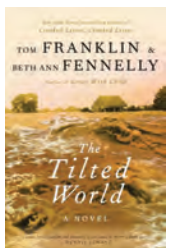
### Ellis Island Nation: Immigration Policy and American Identity in the Twentieth Century

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS, 2013

By **Robert L. Flegler**, instructional assistant professor of history

“With this book, Flegler has made his own important contribution to the academic literature of ethnic and immigration studies.”

—Vincent J. Cannato, author of *American Passage: The History of Ellis Island*



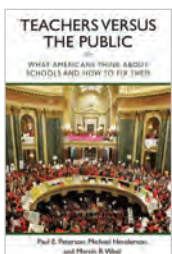
### The Tilted World

WILLIAM MORROW, 2013

By **Tom Franklin**, associate professor of English, and **Beth Ann Fennelly**, associate professor of English and director of the MFA program

“A swift, soulful mix of love story and crime saga ... evocative characters and unpretentious but shapely prose ... *The Tilted World* is literary crime fiction of the highest order.”

—*Seattle Times*



### Teachers Versus the Public: What Americans Think About Schools and How to Fix Them

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION PRESS, 2014

By **Michael Henderson**, assistant professor of political science, P. E. Peterson, M. West

“This in-depth report explores the minds of American teachers, their focus on educating students, and the minds of the general public, identifying the opportunities—and the challenges—for all those who seek to improve the education of the next generation.”

—Jeb Bush, Governor of Florida 1999–2007, chairman of the Foundation for Excellence in Education



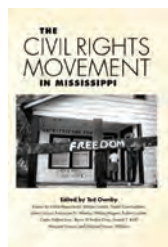
### Lifesaving Labradors: Stories From Families With Diabetic Alert Dogs

KOEHLER BOOKS, 2014

By **Ben McClelland**, professor and Otilie Schilling Chair in English Composition

“Lassie and Rin-Tin-Tin have nothing on these lifesaving Labradors. The heroes featured in Ben McClelland’s work not only save lives—routinely—but they also free families from the nightmare of Type 1 Diabetes. *Lifesaving Labradors* illuminates the miraculous bond between human and dog.”

—Neil White, author of *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts*

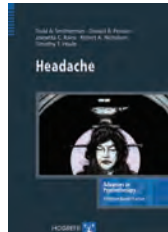


### The Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi

UNIVERSITY PRESS OF MISSISSIPPI, 2013

Edited by **Ted Ownby**, professor of history and Southern Studies and director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture

Based on new research and combining multiple scholarly approaches, these 12 essays tell new stories about the civil rights movement in the state most resistant to change.



### Headache

HOGREFE PUBLISHING, 2014

By **Todd Smitherman**, associate professor of psychology and director of the Center for Behavioral Medicine, D. B. Penzien, J. C. Rains, R. A. Nicholson, T. T. Houle

Practical, evidence-based guidance on diagnosis and treatment for the most common disorders seen in clinical practice—written in a uniquely reader-friendly manner.



### Daughters of Israel, Daughters of the South: Southern Jewish Women and Identity in the Antebellum and Civil War South

ACADEMIC STUDIES PRESS, 2013

By **Jennifer A. Stollman**, academic director for the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation

In an overwhelmingly Protestant South, Jewish women created and maintained unique American Jewish identities through their efforts in education, writing, religious observance, paid and unpaid labor, and relationships with Christian whites and enslaved African Americans.



### Faulkner and Mystery

UNIVERSITY PRESS OF MISSISSIPPI

Edited by **Annette Trefzer**, associate professor of English, and **Ann J. Abadie**, associate director emeritus of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture

Essays that illuminate crime stories, who done it, and quandaries in the Nobel Laureate’s fiction.



### Making Space Public in Early Modern Europe: Performance, Geography, Privacy

ROUTLEDGE, 2013

Edited by **Joseph P. Ward**, chair and professor of history, and **Angela Vanhaelen**

This book examines how the spatial dynamics of public making changed the shape of early modern society.



### Registres du Consistoire de Genève au temps de Calvin, 1553 (Volume 8)

DROZ, 2014

Coedited by **Jeffrey R. Watt**, professor of history, and **Isabella M. Watt**

The records of the Consistory of Geneva for 1553, like those for the two previous years, reveal the bitter conflicts between Calvin and the Consistory, on the one hand, and the so-called Enfants de Genève, on the other.



### Democracy and Leadership: On Pragmatism and Virtue

LEXINGTON BOOKS, 2013

By **Eric Thomas Weber**, associate professor of public policy leadership

“This superbly researched and written book defines more clearly than anything I have read in recent years the elements that are essential for a democratic political system to fulfill its proper mission.”

—William F. Winter, Governor of Mississippi 1980–1984

More books by faculty are featured on the College of Liberal Arts website at [libarts.olemiss.edu/faculty-publications](http://libarts.olemiss.edu/faculty-publications)

## Physicists' Black Hole Studies Get International Attention

A global team of scientists, including a UM physicist, has uncovered a curious case of cannibalism among super-massive black holes in space.

The research findings appear in the July 2013 issue of *Physical Review Letters*, one of the most prestigious peer-reviewed academic journals in the field. "Universality, Maximum Radiation and Absorption in High-Energy Collisions of Black Holes with Spin" is co-authored by Emanuele Berti, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, and fellow researchers Ulrich Sperhake, Vitor Cardoso and Frans Pretorius. The paper details how the scientists, who work in the U.K., Portugal, and the U.S., explored the impact of black hole spins on the dynamics of high-energy black hole collisions.

"When black holes collide, their encounter gives birth to large amounts of gravitational waves," Berti said. "These waves are traveling ripples in the fabric of space-time—the same fabric as black holes. According to the team's results, when black holes collide close to the speed of light, the outcome of their encounter is surprising: regardless of their structure, the black holes swallow the waves they generated, eating about half of their gravitational-wave progeny. Therefore, two small black holes colliding at large energies may result in two slow-moving, fat black holes."

By monitoring apparent horizons before and after scattering events, researchers found that the "missing energy" is absorbed by the individual black holes in the encounter.

The study results can be used to investigate the modifications to the Standard Model of particle physics, and this may have implications in searches for extra dimensions of space-time using the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva (where the breakthrough discovery of the Higgs boson was reported).

Sperhake, a lecturer at the University of Cambridge, an adjunct professor of physics at UM and a visiting associate professor at the California Institute of Technology, included the work in an invited plenary talk at the 20th International Conference on General Relativity in Warsaw, Poland. Cardoso is an assistant professor at the Instituto Superior Tecnico in Lisbon, Portugal, adjunct professor of physics at UM, and distinguished visiting professor at the University of Belém do Pará (2013-2014). Pretorius is a professor of physics of Princeton University, distinguished research chair at Perimeter Institute and a former Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow (2007-2011). ▣

**This study was funded, in part, by National Science Foundation Grant No. PHY-0900735 and by CAREER Grant No. PHY-1055103. Read the paper at <http://bit.ly/1wj400l> and keep up with the Gravitation, Astrophysics, and Theoretical Physics group on their webpage at <http://bit.ly/1BuRdy9>.**



Emanuele Berti

PHOTO ROBERT JORDAN

## Alumna Leads High School to World Robotics Competition

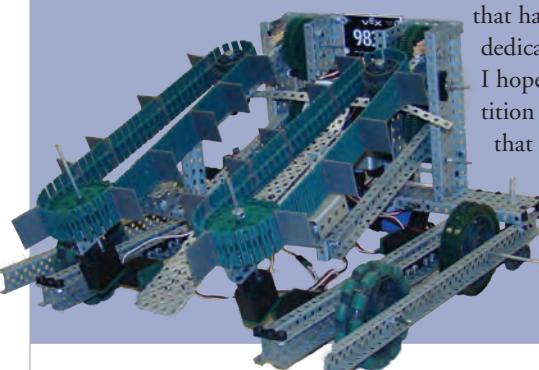
In just her second year of teaching engineering at Tupelo High School, Amanda Gamble Wood (BS physics, BA mathematics '10) led a team of sophomores and juniors to win the VEX Robotics State Competition.

That win catapulted the budding engineers all the way to the world competition in Anaheim, California. "This was our first year to compete in any robotics competition," Wood said. "My team began building their robot in January, much later than other schools, and the students did not have a background in robotics, so we were elated to become state champions and then advance to the World Championship."

Students from China, Japan, New Zealand, France, U.S., and other countries competed. Based on a game called "Toss Up," robots earned points by moving objects of different sizes across a court. The teams formed alliances with other schools to score points. Wood's Tupelo team finished 80th in their division at the World Championship.

"Through this journey, we learned a lot about each other and teamwork," Wood said. "I hope my students learned

that hard work and dedication pay off. I hope this competition taught them that they can do what does not seem possible." ▣



## Professor Keeps Investing in Students

The strong legacy Professor Don Summers built teaching hundreds of students physics and astronomy has expanded through his gift of \$175,000 to assist graduate students pursuing degrees in experimental particle physics. Summers has named the fund in honor of James J. Reidy, the former chair and professor emeritus of physics and astronomy, whom he credits with bringing UM to the attention of the international scientific community through high-energy physics research.

"I saw the opportunity to help with what I consider to be a real need of our graduate students, while also honoring Dr. Reidy, who started particle physics research here," Summers said. "I think we have to provide more support to our graduate students so they do not have to work full time while pursuing important research. Funding for higher education is much more challenging these days, and at the same time teachers for the sciences are scarce in many parts of the country. I saw this gift as a way I could make a real contribution to address these needs."

Summers' research interests are focused on the investigation of the fundamental nature of matter. The professor has collaborated on high-energy physics experiments at Fermilab in Illinois and at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research headquartered in Switzerland. He worked on the discovery of the  $W^+$ ,  $W^-$  and  $Z^0$  heavy particles, which mediate all weak interactions, and this identification at CERN was eventually awarded the Nobel Prize. With his experiments at Fermilab, Summers accumulated the world's largest sample of these heavy quarks.

Thanks to the James J. Reidy Fund for Experimental Particle Physics Graduate Students, students will also be engaged in challenging research. "This certainly ranks as the greatest honor I have received at Ole Miss," said Reidy, a close research colleague of Summers. "I am deeply grateful to Dr. Summers for his thoughtfulness and generosity." ▣

**MAKE A GIFT: Denson Hollis, [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu) or 662.915.5092**



Chancellor Dan Jones (from left) with Professors Summers, Reidy, and Cremaldi

PHOTO ROBERT JORDAN



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## Russell's Planned Gift to Strengthen Political Science Faculty

Kentucky native Gail Russell (BA political science '76) has committed a generous planned gift to the Department of Political Science. A partner with the Louisville, Kentucky law firm Goldberg Simpson, her main areas of practice are bankruptcy law and creditors' rights. "Ole Miss provided a tremendous educational opportunity, and I left campus prepared to compete at the next level," said Russell, who received her JD from the University of Kentucky School of Law. "I owe a debt to this university for a wonderful foundation upon which to build a legal career."

Her gift will help recruit, retain, and support faculty. With proper resources, faculty members excel in their research and remain at the top of their field. Students benefit when professors bring this expertise to the classroom.

"Ms. Russell's gift will profoundly strengthen the department in the years to come," said John Bruce, chair and associate professor. "She credits her courses with John Winkle for the trajectory of her legal development. Our goal is to have each of our students enjoy such an experience. Ms. Russell's gift will help establish a financial base to support and develop such exceptional people in the future."

The 1848 Society recognizes alumni and friends who fund or plan a deferred gift, such as a bequest or a life income plan. 

**MAKE A GIFT: Ron Wilson, [jrwilso3@olemiss.edu](mailto:jrwilso3@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-1755**



*Gail Russell*

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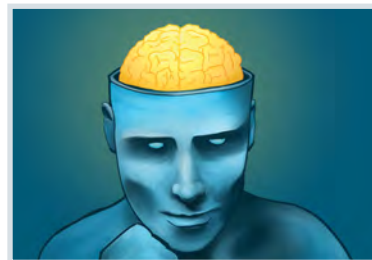
PHOTO BY DIANA MULLICH

*Biology Interns Blaze Through British Columbia*  
 Fellowships from the U.S. Department of Agriculture funded three biology graduate students' work with ecological restoration and fire ecology in the Rocky Mountains this summer.



PHOTO BY NATHAN LATIL

*Horizons Summer Learning Program*  
 The multi-year learning experience for underserved kindergarten–second grade students is a key project of the McLean Institute.



*Bringing World-Class Consciousness Experts to Campus*  
 The conference showcased how the humanities can work side-by-side with the sciences to answer fundamental questions about who we are and what our place is in the world.

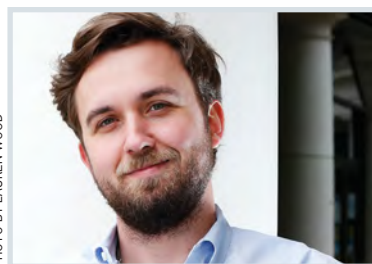


PHOTO BY LAUREN WOOD

*Physics Alumnus Is National Moot Court Champion*  
**Trey Lyons** (BA physics and mathematics '09, MA physics), a student at the UM School of Law, and a classmate won the family law Gabrielli National Moot Court Competition at Albany Law School in New York.

This publication is funded by the Ventress Order, an organization established by The University of Mississippi Alumni Association in cooperation with The University of Mississippi Foundation to support the College of Liberal Arts. Active membership in The University of Mississippi Alumni Association helps make *The View from Ventress* possible. Active members have \*\*\*\* on their mailing labels. Please contact the Office of the Dean, College of Liberal Arts, if you have any questions or comments.

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