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2004

## Ole Miss Accountant – July 2004

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# Ole Miss Accountant

News from the Patterson School of Accountancy at The University of Mississippi  
[www.olemiss.edu/depts/accountancy](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/accountancy)

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*Ole Miss Accountant* is published by the Patterson School of Accountancy.

### Editor

Elaine Pugh

Comments or suggestions?  
 Call (662) 915-7623

## New For-Credit Internship Program Off to Great Start

Dereck Barr performed auditing assignments at locations from Texas to New York and in Paris, France. Dustin Dunbar participated in an audit of the world's ninth largest database. Edith Sherrill spent her third tax season with H & R Block.

While these scenarios may sound like they relate to real professionals in real-world experiences, they in fact refer to Patterson School of Accountancy students and work they completed as student interns with various companies.

Barr, Dunbar and Sherrill are among some 25 Ole Miss students who spent 10 weeks or longer during the 2004 spring semester earning academic credit and income while getting hands-on experience at accounting firms, cor-

*continued on Page 4*



Graduate students Shantae Hilliard (left) of Eupora and Clay Holland of Caruthersville, Mo., discuss their recent internships with Deloitte & Touche. Hilliard worked in the firm's Memphis office; Holland was placed at the Tampa, Fla., branch.

## KPMG Partners Say 'Thank You' with Lectureship at Alma Mater



School of Accountancy graduates who helped establish the KPMG Lectureship in Accountancy joined Dean Morris Stocks (far right) and Professor Jimmy Davis (second from left) on a campus visit. They are (from left) David Miller of Tampa, Thomas W. Avent of Atlanta, Chuck Walker of Atlanta, Tim Cantrell of Memphis, and Matt Lusco of Birmingham.

Several Ole Miss accountancy graduates have given thousands of dollars each to fund a faculty lectureship in the Patterson School of Accountancy.

The KPMG Lectureship in Accountancy is intended to provide income for the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty to help ensure that quality teaching, research, and service will be available for future generations of Ole Miss accounting students. The fund so far stands at \$250,000.

The benevolence project began when Thomas W. Avent (BBA'74, MBA'76, JD'78) rejoined KPMG after spending many years with a large New York law firm. Avent challenged the Ole Miss KPMG partners to "step up and do something significant," says Chuck Walker (BBA'79). The two soon were joined by David Miller (BBA'79), and Mark Medford (BA'83, MA'84).

"David Miller, Mark Medford, Tom, and I all believed that an

*continued on Page 3*

# From the Dean



Morris H. Stocks

We are pleased to send you the Summer 2004 edition of the *Ole Miss Accountant*. Our goal is to keep you informed of the activities within the Patterson School, the accomplishments of our faculty and students, and the successes of our alumni. We trust that this newsletter will help us achieve this goal. As you read through this edition, you will see that our faculty continue to be excellent representatives of the school and the university and that our students continue to be campus leaders. We are also proud of our alumni, who help make our work possible.

Summer continues to be a busy time at the Patterson School of Accountancy. All of our faculty are either teaching or conducting their research. We are teaching 23 sections of undergraduate and graduate courses this summer with an average of 30 students per section. In addition, we have met and advised almost 100 incoming accounting students this summer. This is an increase in the number of incoming freshmen and transfers for us and we are looking forward to the arrival of these bright young people. Finally, the faculty and staff are preparing to host the 10th World Congress of Accounting Historians, August 3-5, 2004. Attendees will represent at least 20 countries. The keynote speaker on Wednesday, August 4, will be Scott Voynich, the current chairman of the AICPA.

We are also preparing for the interview process for our second class of interns. Our initial internship class was completed in Spring 2004 and included 28 seniors and graduate students who served internships in seven cities. Our Spring 2005 class includes 65 rising seniors with excellent credentials. Interviews are scheduled to begin in September. If you are interested in helping us place one or more of these fine students, please let us know.

We appreciate your support and commitment. I am pleased that alumni of the Patterson School of Accountancy have the highest Alumni Association membership rate of any academic unit at the university. In addition, we have the largest percentage of our alumni who contribute to the financial success of the university. We are proud of our school and your participation in it.

Please mark your calendars for our 2005 Honors Banquet and Accountancy Weekend scheduled to begin Thursday, April 28, 2005, and coinciding with the Annual Double Decker Festival. Feel free to visit us when you are on campus, and let us know if we can be of help to you in any way.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Stocks'.

Morris H. Stocks

## *Tax Students Offer Free Services*

Graduate accounting student Jagjit Saini (left) of India helps Qinpeng Pan (center) and Zhijang Pan (right) prepare their 2003 tax returns. The couple are staff members in the Natural Products Center. Each year during tax season, Professor Tonya Fleisher, newly named Arthur Andersen lecturer, makes arrangements for some of her taxation students to offer free assistance to campus personnel.



# Mark Wilder: *Winning Is the Name of His Game*

From national ping pong champ to world-ranked tennis professional, Mark Wilder learned early the meaning of the word compete. Today the word rings true for him in a different context, as he helps prepare Ole Miss accountancy students for successful careers in a competitive job market.

As a 13-year-old national table tennis champion, Wilder says he needed another challenge so he swapped his wooden paddle for a tennis racket. Then when he'd reached his highest world ranking as a tennis professional, he got cold feet, bailed out and returned to college.

"I never could convince myself that I could be successful on a full-time basis on the pro tour," he said. "I was 26 years old and still improving, and at that age you only have about five years left of being competitive professionally. I guess my late start hurt me in this respect.

"I began thinking at that point that I probably should go back to school. I had always planned on getting a Ph.D., and I wasn't getting any younger."

After having accepted a tennis scholarship to the University of Alabama over Ole Miss in 1983, Wilder joined the UM accountancy faculty 10 years later. He had completed doctoral studies at Florida State University, following an MBA from the University of South Alabama.

The Jacksonville, Ala., native won the 1980 Alabama High School Tennis Championship but received little interest in terms of Division I scholarship offers to continue the sport he had grown to love. He turned down appointments to West Point and the Naval Academy, both of which had recruit-

ed him to play tennis, and he sought other options that would allow him to hone his tennis skills.

Accepting a scholarship to play the sport at Freed-Hardeman College, he spent a year there, then played on scholarship the following year at Tyler (Texas) Junior College. At TJC, he was junior college All-American in singles and doubles, winning the juco national doubles championship and reaching runner-up in singles.

His record brought him offers of tennis scholarships from major schools, including Ole Miss and the University of Alabama. He chose Alabama.

"I grew up a huge Alabama fan and had always dreamed of playing for the Crimson Tide," he said.

After being elected team captain at Alabama and making All-SEC as a member of teams there that were ranked in the NCAA top 20, he took the professional route upon graduation. He taught and played the sport through 1987, twice making it to the U.S. Open Qualifying rounds. He lost one of those tournaments to future top 10 world player Jim Courier. Finally, he attained an ATP singles top 300 ranking, holding No. 295.

"The ATP top 300 world ranking was

probably my greatest tennis achievement," he says.

Recently inducted into the Alabama Tennis Association Hall of Fame, Wilder credits his father for inspiring him to succeed not only in tennis but in all of life.

"He was constantly expecting the absolute best from me—typical parent, I guess—and wouldn't settle for anything less," Wilder says.

Despite some injuries—a couple of knee surgeries and elbow surgery—Wilder still occasionally plays tennis competitively. He also partners with his father in father-

son doubles and works with his 10-year-old son, Zach, on his tennis game. Recently, he and his father won a USTA national title by claiming the Super-Senior Father-Son Doubles National Indoor Championship in New Jersey.

"A great thing about a sport like tennis is that it is a lifetime sport," Wilder says. "You can compete with players your age and ability level for the rest of your life."

For the time being, however, Wilder is contented to be a part-time tennis enthusiast and full-time accountancy professor, helping ensure that Ole Miss accountancy students are equipped to compete and win in their future careers. ■



Mark Wilder has been named the inaugural holder of the KPMG Lectureship in Accountancy. The 10-year faculty member heads the Patterson School's revamped and highly successful student internship program.

## *KPMG Lectureship* continued from Page 1

endowed lectureship was the first step in giving back to a place that we all love and credit for an outstanding education and springboard into the public accounting field," says Walker. "Our sincere hope is that this will help other outstanding students to have the same rewarding careers in public accounting that we now enjoy."

Other UM accountancy alumni have become active participants in the project, including Tim Cantrell (BBA'79), Matt Lusco (BBA'79), Woody York (BA'82), and Dale Bullen (BBA'61).

"The love of these alumni for the Ole Miss School of Accountancy and the loyalty to their profession are reflected in their generosity to establish the KPMG Lectureship," said Dean Morris Stocks. "This benevolence comes at a critical time when resources are needed to reward deserving faculty. We appreciate their generosity."

The inaugural recipient of the KPMG Lectureship in Accountancy is Associate Professor Mark Wilder, who joined the faculty in 1993.

KPMG LLP is the audit, tax, and advisory firm that has maintained a continuous commitment throughout its history to providing leadership, integrity, and quality. The Big Four firm with the strongest growth record over the past decade, KPMG turns knowledge into value for the benefit of its clients, people, communities, and the capital markets. Its professionals work together to provide clients access to global support, industry insights, and a multidisciplinary range of services. KPMG LLP (<http://www.us.kpmg.com>) is the U.S. member firm of KPMG International. KPMG International's member firms have nearly 100,000 professionals, including 6,800 partners, in 148 countries. ■

porations, and government agencies.

The arrangement is part of the Patterson School of Accountancy's new internship program, which is a revamping of internship opportunities the school has offered for decades on a non-credit basis. In the past, some students chose not to pursue internships because they didn't want to take time off and delay graduation.

Now besides gaining three hours of credit for their internship, students also have the opportunity to take specially designed and accelerated courses during a "mini-semester" comprising the weeks of the spring semester when they are not

Dunbar, who interned at FedEx in Memphis, says the experience gave him "an incredible understanding of information systems and database management systems that I couldn't get exposure to elsewhere."

Kevin Bailey's experience at Deloitte & Touche has opened the door to employment there upon completion of his master's of accountancy. "I was given the same tasks as other first-year accountants, and I worked full time and overtime as needed," he says. "Having already experienced the first 10 weeks on the job, I know what to expect."

Graduate student Ford Williams, who also was placed with Deloitte & Touche,

Students who wish to be considered submit their resumes, which are evaluated by the Patterson School then posted on the UM Career Center's Web site. Interviews are scheduled early in the fall semester. Students also may pursue internship opportunities on their own to be scheduled during any academic term. However, all internships must be preapproved by the school's administration, and no special course arrangements or interview opportunities are available except for the spring semester.

Sherrill is among the few students who last spring semester made their own arrangements for internships with the school's

**"We are extremely pleased with the development of our internship program. Students benefit from the professional experience and are placed at a competitive advantage with regard to job placement."**

—Morris H. Stocks, Dean

employed. A total of nine credit hours can be earned during the semester, allowing a student to graduate on schedule.

Interns usually are paid entry-level wages and more than 90 percent of them are placed with the same companies in full-time positions after they graduate, says Mark Wilder, associate professor and director of the program.

"It's a win-win situation," Wilder says. "Companies are able to evaluate the performance of a possible future employee, and it opens up the real world to students. They come back to the classroom more confident in expressing their opinions in class about the profession and related issues, and they certainly are more aware of the skills needed to be successful in the accounting profession."

felt that his experience was so beneficial that midway in his internship he requested and received an extension from 10 weeks to the entire spring semester. He, too, has an employment offer at the company following graduation.

"I've gotten a practice run at life outside of school, and it has been refreshingly different, yet complicated," Williams said. "I have constantly drawn on my education to perform the tasks set before me, and I can't give enough credit to the brilliant teaching I have received at the Patterson School of Accountancy."

The innovation has been designed to make students available for internships during the spring semester, because that's when accounting firms experience busy seasons.

preapproval. Having worked for H & R Block during two tax seasons and gaining experience preparing tax returns, interacting with clients, preparing reports for the district office, and manning a company kiosk at a shopping mall, she had no trouble landing the internship; it was the work or lack of it that bothered her.

"Because this was H & R Block's first year for the location where I worked, the office was not as busy as I would have liked," says Sherrill.

As word about the benefits of an internship spreads among students, Wilder says interest in the program is growing rapidly, and the number of participants for the coming year is expected to double over those placed in 2004. ■

## Accountants from 20 Countries Expected at UM for

The University of Mississippi will host the 10th World Congress of Accounting Historians on August 3-5, 2004. This will be a good opportunity for area CPAs to obtain up to 13 hours of "fun" CPE. Attendees will be coming from at least 20 countries. The keynote speaker on Wednesday, August 4, will be Scott Voynich, the current chairman of the AICPA, who will speak on "The Profession's Core Values: Connecting Our Past to Our Future." Other topics to be addressed during the day in concur-

rent sessions on August 4 will be accounting biographies, the relevance of financial statements, inflation accounting, internal controls, auditor independence, speciality certifications, human assets, railroad accounting, social accounting, and the evolution of auditor liability. Wednesday's luncheon speaker will be Joe Urgo of the Ole Miss English Department who will speak on "William Faulkner: The Ne'er-Do-Well Accountant." An afternoon session will feature Eugene H. Flegm, the former General

# Longtime Professor Collects Treasure Trove of Memories

During 39 years on the University of Mississippi School of Accountancy faculty, James W. Davis has endeared himself to hundreds of Ole Miss students. Many will remember the feisty, sandy-haired professor whose trademark voice often belies his stature, and he in turn will recall dozens of them.

However, to chronicle his memories, Davis recently completed a collection of Ole Miss yearbooks, from the first edition, circa 1897, through 2004. While there also are complete sets of the 108 books in UM's Special Collections in the Williams Library and in the Office of Alumni Affairs, Davis says he knows of no others.

The effort has brought self-satisfaction, he says. "I don't think there's anybody else trying to do this."

The editions most difficult to find and that come with higher price tags are the very old ones and those published during the William Faulkner and Depression eras. To acquire these, Davis says he occasionally "paid outlandish prices and traveled many miles," from West Virginia to California.

"Some things I've done in compiling this collection make no business sense at all, but it's certainly not an attempt to turn a profit."

For example, he found two from the Faulkner years at a bookstore in Massachusetts, and he paid \$3,000 for one of those. For another, published during the university's early years, he paid \$400 sight unseen then found it to be in terrible condition. He paid to have it repaired and rebound. The final four that completed his collection

were editions from 1904, 1905, 1917, and 1933. For the latter, he paid \$1,000 to the Frank Moak Estate.

Davis says he won't place a dollar value on his collection because to him it's priceless. One thing he has learned, however, is that there now are enough collectors of Ole Miss



Professor James W. Davis, who holds the distinguished Peery Chair of Accountancy, tells students that his best memories from his career carry him back to the classroom.

yearbooks that their value has escalated far above that of yearbooks from other universities in this region. Whether it's a result of faithful alums or because of some unknown phenomenon, "it's the magic that is Ole Miss that makes them special," he says.

Although his collection is complete, Davis says he has networked with so many collectors that he will continue to acquire the books, perhaps replacing some of his with ones of better quality, then selling those he doesn't need. So during his travels, he'll con-

tinue to haunt bookstores and other likely places searching for the *Ole Miss*. He also collects first-edition books of William Faulkner and other Mississippi writers.

A native of Sardis, Davis entered Ole Miss as a freshman in 1958. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in accountancy, in 1962 and 1963 respectively. After working two years for Arthur Andersen & Co., he returned to the university as an assistant professor of accountancy. He earned his doctorate in accountancy at UM in 1972 and long has held the distinction of certified public accountant.

Davis was named associate dean in 1988, and he served as dean from 1993 until 2002, when he chose to return to the classroom full time. When asked what

he cherishes most in his career, Davis says, "My greatest pleasure in my years at Ole Miss has been teaching accounting."

The professor was honored by some of his former students in 2002 with the James W. Davis Accountancy Scholarship Endowment. Over the years, and including this year, his teaching excellence was recognized when students voted him four times as Teacher of the Year in the accountancy school. And he once won the university's campus-wide Outstanding Teacher Award. ■

## World Congress

Auditor with General Motors Corporation, speaking on "Reflections on a Perfect 21st Century Accounting Storm." The Thursday morning session (August 5) will feature sessions on standard setting, honoring famed accountants, 18th century managerial accounting, and—in the only tax session—college tuition tax credits. Altogether during the two days, attendees may select from 57 concurrent presentations. Attendees will also have the opportunity to tour the fabulous AICPA library housed at Ole

Miss. Information about registration can be found at the World Congress website at: <http://accounting.rutgers.edu/raw/aah/worldcongress/>. The \$195 registration fee includes 13 hours of CPE, two receptions (Tuesday and Wednesday evenings), the Wednesday night banquet, and two luncheons (Wednesday and Thursday). For more information, contact Dr. Dale Flesher at 662-915-7623 or [acdlf@olemiss.edu](mailto:acdlf@olemiss.edu). ■

# 2004 Honors Banquet and Accountancy Weekend



Daniel Hudson Sparks: Mississippi Tax Institute Fellowship



### CPE Faculty During Accountancy Weekend

Presenters at the continuing education event held during Accountancy Weekend gathered outside Johnson Commons are (from left) Hugh Parker of Horne CPA Group, Rick Elam, UM's Reynolds Professor of Accountancy; Pascal Bizarro, UM assistant professor of accountancy; Brian Roberson (BACCT '92, MACCT '93) of KPMG; Guy Moore (BBA '72) of Deloitte; and James Gordon (BACCT '87) of Union Planters Corporation. Gordon and Moore serve on the Patterson School's Professional Advisory Council. Not available for the photo was Donna Adler, UM associate professor of law, who also served on the CPE faculty.



Sydnia Townsend: Hickonbottom Scholarship

### Roger & Susie Friou Scholarship

Roger Friou (BBA '56, MS '59) of Jackson (center), is shown with recipients of the Roger & Susie Friou Scholarship. They are (from left) Carlin Marie Williams, Stacy Henson, Emily Wilkins, Brett Cantrell, Kimberly Watts, and Allison J. White. Friou, a private investor, serves on the accountancy school's Professional Advisory Council.



Kristopher Carl Lange: Deloach and Ray Scholarship

### McCarty Family Scholarship

Recipients of the McCarty Family Scholarship are (from left) Whitney Farrell, Lindsey Madison, and Samantha Rayburn.





**Stimpson Scholarship**

Ronald W. Stimpson (BBA'76) of Germantown (far right) was on hand at the Honors Banquet to greet recipients of the Stimpson Scholarship. They are (from left) Shea Sides, Adam King, Carol Anne Marion, Frances Clair Boyd, Jennifer Gilliam, Paul Pless, Morgan Leah Stone, Clark Mills, Jennifer Jordan, Jeremy Jones, Patricia McDowell, Brooks Anne O'Brian, and Andrea Lewis. Stimpson, president of Leader Investment, is a member of the Patterson School's Professional Advisory Council.



Will Townsend: Peery Scholarship



**Associated Student Body Officers**

Serving their fellow students as officers of the School of Accountancy Associated Student Body during 2004 were (from left) Ryan Nelson, Paul Pless, Will Lomax, Joseph Shayeb, and Isaac Byrd.



Anne Caroline McNeel: James W. Davis Scholarship in Accountancy



**Rhea & Ivy Fellowship**

Anthony Clark (BACCT '83) of Memphis (right), managing member at Rhea & Ivy, congratulates Keith Wilson McCullar on receiving the Rhea & Ivy Fellowship. Clark serves on the Professional Advisory Council.



Sally McCullough: Roger & Susie Friou Scholarship



# Prof keeps business accountable – *But for U of M's national adviser, it's about family*

By David Flaum [flaum@commercialappeal.com](mailto:flaum@commercialappeal.com)

You might think a man who wrote two books and 150 articles holds an endowed chair in accounting at a big university and just became one of 30 experts named to a committee to help straighten out corporate accounting would be most proud of his work.

Not Zabihollah 'Zabi' Rezaee.

His son Nick, 4, and daughter Rose, 14 months, "are the far best things I've ever done," said Rezaee, 50, Thompson-Hill Chair of Excellence holder and professor of accountancy at University of Memphis.

Books—including his second work, "Financial Statement Fraud," published just before the Enron accounting scandal broke in 2002—fight for space in his office with photos of the children and his wife, Soheila.

"Hard worker" is the phrase that pops up most often when she and professional colleagues talk about Rezaee.

It's not that Rezaee doesn't appreciate his professional accomplishments—the most recent, his appointment to a 30-member standing advisory committee to the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (insiders call it peekaboo). That's the group Congress approved to try to set accounting and auditing standards to help avoid the scandals of the past few years.

For the Iranian-born Rezaee, family trumps career accolades. That started with his father. Rezaee wanted to be an electrical engineer in Iran but he couldn't make it into a college program. "My father registered me for the college of business exam without telling me," Rezaee recalled. "He told me the day before the exam." Rezaee did well,



By Mike Maple/Copyright, *The Commercial Appeal*/Used with permission

Dr. Zabihollah 'Zabi' Rezaee holds an endowed chair in accounting at University of Memphis.

earned a bachelor's degree and formed an accounting practice with two older partners. At age 22, he came to the United States to earn a master's degree and a certified public accountant (CPA) designation.

Forty days before he was to return, the Shah of Iran was overthrown. The new government shut down accounting firms and took over a lot of privately owned businesses. Rezaee's father told him not to come home.

So he went to the University of Mississippi to work on a PhD. That was during the 444 days that Iranians held 52 Americans hostage. "It wasn't easy for me to work," Rezaee said. "Some people judge you based on your nationality.... I gained their acceptance and respect as they got to know me."

After that, he moved on to his first teaching job at University of Alabama-Huntsville, close enough to Ole Miss to complete his dissertation.

Family again played a part as he moved to the University of Detroit four years later—his younger sister in Iran has a spinal tumor and the best treatment available was in Michigan, Rezaee said. After two years, another sister came to the United States to care for the recovering sister, who was paralyzed from the waist down, and they all moved to Nashville when Rezaee got a post at Middle Tennessee State University.

"It became my ambition to get an endowed chair," he said. That happened in 2001 when U of M tapped him for the

Thompson-Hill position.

Kenneth Lambert, director of the school of accountancy, said credentials and prolific writing convinced him to hire Rezaee. "We were looking for someone who wasn't finished climbing the mountain yet. Everywhere we checked, we concluded he had the desire to be successful," Lambert said. "He gets more articles published than most because he's focused, he's dedicated and he works hard." That's Rick Elam's take on Rezaee as well. The two have co-authored manuscripts for professional journals.

"For anyone fortunate enough to be co-author with Zabi it is a break," said Elam, Reynolds professor of accountancy at Ole Miss and dean of the business school at Middle Tennessee when Rezaee was on the accounting faculty there.

"He keeps you moving," Elam said. "He really has a mind for research and accounting. The guy is not only extremely bright, but he's a tireless worker."

Soheila Rezaee, who met her husband on Christmas Eve 1996 during one of his periodic visits to teach accounting in Iran, agreed that her husband is a tireless worker, but said his drive concerns her. Rezaee wakes up at 3 or 4 in the morning, studies at home until 9, goes to campus and returns at 6 or 7 p.m., she said. "I ask him to relax because his children won't have a father (if he doesn't)," she said. "I'd like him to slow down a little. He has big plans for the future. He's very responsible about everybody.... He wants to help everybody. It's too much for him."

But, Rezaee said, it is his family that inspires him professionally. "They encourage me to work harder and be successful so their future is secure." ■

– David Flaum: 529-2330

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## Reunion of Doctoral Grads at World Congress

The University of Mississippi has granted 99 doctoral degrees in accounting, beginning with the first in 1964. Many of these individuals will revisit campus for a reunion during the August 2004 World Congress of

Accounting Historians. In fact, at least 17 of them are on the program for the World Congress, and several more will be in attendance. Although it is too late to get your name on the list of speakers, there is

still time to register and attend. Call Dale Flesher for more information, or see the World Congress website at <http://accounting.rutgers.edu/raw/aah/worldcongress/>

# Leveraging Success

## *Patterson School's doctoral program provides gateway to posts in higher education*

Nowhere is the saying “the proof is in the pudding” better exemplified than in the University of Mississippi’s doctoral accountancy program. A look at the success of graduates reveals why.

Since 1964, the program has produced some 100 graduates, most of whom teach in higher education institutions scattered across more than 20 states, from California to Florida. Several head business and accountancy teaching programs, including Keith Atkinson ('96), chair of the Department of Accounting at the University of Central Arkansas.

Pointing to ways the Ole Miss doctoral program equipped him for his career, Atkinson says the faculty modeled for him the “actions and behaviors of a good professor.”

“They taught me how to relate to students, how to teach, how to publish, and how to manage my time and my career.

“The University of Mississippi continues to be one of the three most influential forces in my life. Most of my professional successes can be attributed to my education, the friendships, and the network of support I developed and continue to develop related to Ole Miss.”

Graduate John W. Gill ('92), dean of the School of Business at Alcorn State University, agrees with Atkinson.

“Getting my Ph.D. from Ole Miss has allowed me to achieve my career goals, and I don’t think you could ask for more than that in your professional life,” Gill says.

Russell Hardin ('95), dean of the Kelce College of Business at Pittsburg State University, concurs.

“Without my Ole Miss degree, my present job would not be possible. I learned a lot at Ole Miss, both in terms of new knowledge and in terms of research skills.”

Douglass Izard ('81) made a valuable stop at UM in his journey from being a Mississippi CPA to joining the faculty at the University of Tennessee, where he started and administered the graduate tax program and chaired the master’s of accountancy program. He then was the first dean of the School of Taxation for the Internal Revenue Service. Izard says he learned two specific things while enrolled in UM’s accountancy doctoral program: research and service.

“I entered the Ph.D. program intending to be a teacher, a role which came fairly naturally,” he says. “What the professors really gave me was the ability to conduct research and the service orientation that goes with teaching.”

D. Shawn Mauldin ('97) heads the Department of Accounting and Business Law at Nicholls State University. Before deciding to pursue a doctorate, Mauldin spent a career in accounting-related positions in the oilfield service industry, from staff accountant to controller to vice president. A taste of teaching led him to know that’s what he wanted to do, but not without a Ph.D. After visiting several universities, he settled on UM

“I chose Ole Miss because of the faculty that I met during my visit,” he said. Once there, Mauldin says he “observed a faculty commitment to the School of Accountancy and Ole Miss that really impressed me.”

“As a result, I am trying to provide this type of commitment in my current position.” He also points to the value of the research aspects of his UM learning experience. “The relationships that I made there have been incredibly helpful in my research endeavors. The program allowed me to grow intellectually and pursue research ideas that I was interested in. As a result, I have been able to compete with

('95) and Frances McNair ('87) at Mississippi State University, Jerry Dale King ('75) at the University of Southern Mississippi, Sharon Ford ('96) at Delta State University, and James W. Davis ('72), Tonya K. Flesher ('79), and Duffy A. Morf (2000), all at Ole Miss.

Lending an international perspective to the university’s Ph.D. program in accountancy are Horng-Ching Kuo ('84), a professor of accountancy at National Chengchi University in Taiwan, and Zabi Rezaee ('85), a native of Iran who occupies the Thompson-Hill Chair of Excellence at the University of Memphis.

Before entering Ole Miss for his doctorate, Rezaee received his bachelor’s degree from the Iranian Institute of Advanced Accounting and MBA from Tarleton State University (Texas).

“My Ole Miss educational training and experience have been very valuable in achieving my professional, educational, and career goals,” Rezaee says. “The lifelong learning process approach advocated at the University of Mississippi has been instrumental in my teaching and research endeavors.”

Other UM accountancy doctoral graduates in higher education administrative posts include Khamis Bilbeisi ('89), assistant dean at Troy State University School of Business; John B. Duncan ('95),

**“The lifelong learning process approach advocated at the University of Mississippi has been instrumental in my teaching and research endeavors.”**

**—Zabi Rezaee ('85)**

my peers from other Ph.D. programs without any problem. In fact, many of my peers at the assistant professor level from other programs had a very difficult time establishing a research agenda immediately after graduation.”

Besides Gill, there are several other UM doctoral accountancy alums serving higher education in Mississippi. With Gill at Alcorn is Steve Wells ('94), director of the MBA program and professor of accountancy. Others include Mark W. Lehman

dean of the School of Business at Charleston Southern University; Richard B. Griffin ('79), coordinator of graduate programs in business administration at the University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Public Affairs; Linda Leinicke ('87), coordinator of the master’s in accountancy program at Illinois State University College of Business; and Tara L. Sudderth ('99), dean of business and graduate programs at Birmingham Southern College. ■

# Profile in Generosity

Lucian Minor knows firsthand the importance of scholarship funds because there were not any available when he attended the University of Mississippi shortly after the Depression.

"It was tough," he says. "There were few if any scholarships or jobs. My family provided about \$600 for my first two years to pay tuition, purchase books, and live on, and that was it. The last two years were financed through a personal loan."

Minor's general business degree in accountancy plus years of hard work have positioned him financially to be able to give to the university so that young men and women will have access to scholarships for many years to come. For this purpose, he recently established a Charitable Remainder Trust. His will also provides for a substantial contribution to Ole Miss after the death of his wife should she survive him.

"I decided that the trust option would allow me to make a gift to the university now and provide substantial income for my wife and me throughout our lives. I was also able to get a charitable deduction in the year that the trust was created. In my opinion, securities that have appreciated substantially in value but pay little or no dividends make an ideal

gift to a Charitable Remainder Trust."

Joining others who have made provision for UM through planned gifts, Minor is a member of the university's 1848 Society. Named to commemorate the founding of Ole Miss, the society provides lifetime recognition for those who participate in planned giving.

"We are indebted to Mr. Minor, who has had the wisdom and the foresight to invest in the future by making a planned gift to the University of Mississippi," says Don Frugé, president/CEO of the UM Foundation.

Looking back on his years at Ole Miss,

Minor points to improvements that have been made since that time, especially during Chancellor Robert Khayat's tenure.

"I came along right after Bilbo's appointments, and certainly, standards today are far superior to what they were when I was there," he says. "I think the university has made great progress under its present leadership, and I'm willing to help build on that foundation. Robert

Khayat deserves a lot of credit."

Minor, who was reared on a farm near Macon, graduated from Ole Miss in 1937 and was recruited right away by General Mills Inc. in Minneapolis. During a year-

long training course there, he worked in more than 50 departments in eight different offices, often logging 80 hours per week.

Following his training, Minor joined the company's internal audit staff, where he was employed until his induction into the U.S. Navy as an ensign in 1942. He was placed with Douglas Aircraft Co. in Los Angeles as cost inspector. In charge of a civilian staff of approximately 50 employees, he was responsible for approving the costs reimbursable under contracts that Douglas had with the Navy. While enlisted, he passed the CPA exam in California.

Minor had attained the rank of lieutenant commander before his military discharge in 1946. He soon resigned from General Mills and moved to Memphis to be closer to his family and open his own accounting office.

"Good luck enabled me to acquire a few clients and make a hard living," he said.

By 1967, Minor's operation had grown to some 40 employees, which was large enough to interest some of the Big Eight firms. After discussions with several of them, he opted to merge with Ernst & Ernst (now Ernst & Young) and become partner in charge of the Memphis office, a position he held until he retired in 1978.

When asked what he now does, he candidly says, "Nothing." Then, with a chuckle, he adds that he does some financial consulting from his Memphis office, and he and his wife, the former Mary Williams of Crenshaw, spend several months each year at their home in Delray Beach, Fla. ■



Lucian Minor

## Two Alumni Inducted into 2004 Accountancy Hall of Fame

Leo Boolos Jr. of Vicksburg and Charles Wesley Caldwell of Natchez were honored during 2004 School of Accountancy Weekend as the newest members of the school's Alumni Hall of Fame. Both received their degrees at Ole Miss in 1947.

A native of Clarksdale, Boolos was employed by Haskins & Sells for two years following his graduation from Ole Miss. He then became a partner in the Vicksburg firm Boo-



los and Hawkins, which later became Boolos, Hawkins and Richardson. The practice was sold in 1987, and he took semi-retirement.

A World War II veteran, Boolos served with the U.S. Air Force in the European Theater of Operations.

His long record of church

Dean Morris Stocks (right) congratulates Leo Boolos Jr. (left) and Charles Wesley Caldwell (center).

# Accountancy Senior Casey Butts Inducted into Ole Miss Hall of Fame

*Great-grandson of former UM chancellor is spring graduate*

Casey Butts of Laurel may not have been seeking selection to the Ole Miss 2004 Hall of Fame over his four-year academic career but his record of achievement speaks volumes about his worthiness for the honor.

"I never thought about Hall of Fame," Butts says. "It's a great honor, and I'm really excited about it, but I never had that in mind."

The young scholar attracted the attention of people like Dean Morris Stocks.

"Casey is an outstanding student and individual," says Dean Stocks. "He is an excellent representative of the Patterson School of Accountancy and the university. He is a person of character and an example for all of us."

Perhaps Butts looked past his undergraduate experience toward a higher goal: He has been accepted to the UM School of Law as a member of this fall's entering class. He received his bachelor's degree in accountancy, with a minor in English, at Ole Miss commencement May 8.



Casey Butts

"I look forward to the challenge of law school, and I am excited to have three more years in Oxford," says Butts, whose great-grandfather was Alfred Benjamin Butts, UM's eleventh chancellor. His grandmother Norma Butts founded Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority on the Oxford campus.

Butts' outstanding record in both academics and leadership made him an obvious choice for his recent high honor. Listed on the Chancellor's Honor Roll, he had a cumulative grade-point average of 3.7. Early in his Ole Miss career, he

was the only sophomore selected for a summer 2002 internship for U.S. Sen. Trent Lott in Washington, D.C.

A student leader, Butts was honored by fellow class members as Senior Class Favorite. His elected leadership posts include Associated Student Body treasurer, Accountancy Student Body vice president, chartering president of the Pre-Accountancy Society, School of Accountancy senator, and Alpha Lambda Delta president. In his fraternity Sigma Chi, he was presi-

dent of the pledge class and chapter editor, as well as recipient of the Model Pledge Scholarship.

Listed in Who's Who Among College Students and National Society for Collegiate Scholars, he also is a member of Mortar Board leadership honorary, Golden Key Honor Society, Beta Alpha Psi, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Chancellor's Leadership Class.

**"He is an excellent representative of the Patterson School of Accountancy and the university. He is a person of character and an example for all of us."**

**—Morris H. Stocks, Dean**

A graduate of R.H. Watkins High School (now Laurel High School), Butts is the son of Lampkin and Susie Butts of Laurel. His father is vice president for sales at Sanderson Farms and his mother is a retired schoolteacher. ■

and community service reflects 19 years as a member of the board of Wood College, where he twice was presented with the Distinguished Service Award. He chaired many boards, including United Way and the American Red Cross, serving the latter as a national delegate.

Caldwell was reared in Oxford and graduated from then University High School. Upon completion of his degree at Ole Miss, he went to work in Natchez for accountant Silas M. Simmons. He distinguished himself by making the highest grade on the state CPA exam in 1951. In

1952, the four-member firm Silas M. Simmons and Company was formed, with Caldwell becoming a partner. He retired from the firm as senior partner in 1992.

Caldwell also served in the War, with the ill-fated 106th Infantry Division, which bore the brunt of Hitler's final attempt to drive the Americans out of Europe. He was captured, then liberated several months later by the Russian Army.

Active for over 50 years in the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants, Caldwell recently was awarded hon-

orary membership in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. His many years of church and community service include long-term treasurer of the local Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club. He earned a 25-year perfect attendance pin as a Kiwanis member.

Both Boolos and Caldwell are members of the University of Mississippi Alumni Association.

The Accountancy Hall of Fame was started in 1989 to honor the achievements of alumni and faculty. ■

# Ole Miss Accountancy Order

The Accountancy Order is an organization established by the Accountancy Alumni Chapter of the University of Mississippi Alumni Association. The purpose of the organization is to administer large gifts for the benefit of the Patterson School of Accountancy and to promote recognition of the school as a leader in the field of accounting education. These gifts directly benefit faculty and students.

Membership in the Accountancy Order can be obtained through a gift or pledge of at least \$5,000. Pledges are payable over a period not to exceed 10 years. For more information, contact Clay Cavett at 662-915-7375 or [clay@olemiss.edu](mailto:clay@olemiss.edu).

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