

University of Mississippi

eGrove

University of Mississippi News

6-28-2018

Alice Clark Retiring as UM Vice Chancellor for University Relations

Emily Howorth

Follow this and additional works at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews>

Recommended Citation

Howorth, Emily, "Alice Clark Retiring as UM Vice Chancellor for University Relations" (2018). *University of Mississippi News*. 220.

<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews/220>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Mississippi News by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

Alice Clark Retiring as UM Vice Chancellor for University Relations

Clark leaves nearly 40-year legacy of shaping the university as a researcher, mentor and leader

JUNE 28, 2018 BY [EMILY HOWORTH](#)

[Fa](#) [Tv](#) [Li](#) [Er](#) [Cc](#) [SM](#) [Pr](#) [St](#)



Alice Clark and late husband Charlie Hufford enjoy some downtime during a professional conference they attended as colleagues. Submitted photo

OXFORD, Miss. – Alice Clark, a senior [University of Mississippi](#) administrator whose nearly four decades of visionary leadership have driven major advancements, is retiring at the end of June. Clark is an F.A.P. Barnard Distinguished Professor of Pharmacognosy and the university's vice chancellor for university relations.

Clark earned both her master's and doctoral degrees in pharmacognosy at UM and joined the university as a research associate and faculty member in 1979. She later served as the first director of the university's [National Center for Natural Products Research](#).

As a result of her strategic efforts, the center grew from a small unit to one of the world's preeminent research centers for natural products drug discovery. The success of NCNPR has led to longstanding collaborative partnerships with industry and federal agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"It was my privilege to work for 35 years with Alice in various capacities – as a collaborator when she was professor in pharmacognosy, as associate director during her time as director of the NCNPR and as a researcher under her leadership in the administration," said Larry Walker, who became the center's director following Clark's tenure. "She has been a great pillar in this university, with vision, boundless energy and drive to excel. But on top of all that, she's a mentor to me and to so many, and a cherished friend."

In 2001, Clark became the university's first vice chancellor for research and sponsored programs. In this role, she championed the university's research enterprise while overseeing its growth with strategic vision.

The results of these efforts helped the university attain "R1: Highest Research Activity" designation by the Carnegie Classification of Institutes of Higher Education, the definitive honor for doctoral research universities in the United States, representing only 2.5 percent of universities nationwide.

"The first time I met Alice Clark, she was a young faculty member in the [School of Pharmacy](#)," Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat said. "The gleam in her eyes told me that she was very bright. As I followed her career, I learned about her acclaimed reputation as a scientist."

"It was an easy decision to invite her to join our dynamic team as vice chancellor for research. Our

Follow us on social



Campus Briefs

Students Learn 'Real Politics' in Washington, D.C., Winter Session

OXFORD, Miss. – Eleven University of Mississippi students spent their winter break learning about the people who work behind the scenes of the American government in Washington, D.C. Lead by Jonathan Klingler, assistant professor of political science, the students of Pol 391: Applied Politics met not with candidates, but with the people who make candidates'

[Read the story ...](#)

[More Posts from this Category](#)

Thank You To Our Donors

Young Alumna Gives Back to School of Accountancy

OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying "thank you." "It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

[Read the story ...](#)

[More Posts from this Category](#)

Ole Miss In the News

Reuters: Keep an Eye on the Money Supply

U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to abate. The Federal Reserve's

research programs prospered during her leadership years. The designation as a Carnegie R1 research institute is a tribute to her life's work."

As vice chancellor, Clark sought and secured support for several new research centers and institutes on campus. She was instrumental in securing more than \$23 million in funding for the establishment of the university's research park, Insight Park, and the Innovation Hub at Insight Park.

She built a Division of Technology Management (now **Office of Technology Commercialization**) to assist university researchers in bringing their discoveries to the marketplace.

In 2016, at the request of Chancellor Jeffrey S. Vitter, Clark assumed the role of vice chancellor for **university relations**, where she continued to oversee the university's economic development and federal relations efforts. She also became the chief administrator for development, public events and communications, and served as a key figure in implementing recent universitywide strategic initiatives.

"Alice is well-known for her steadfast commitment, visionary leadership and immense institutional knowledge," Vitter said. "She has had a tremendous role shaping so many of the university's successes during her decades at Ole Miss.

"As the longest-serving member of the university's leadership team, the impact of her retirement will most certainly be felt at the leadership level and across so many different facets of our university."

A renowned pharmaceutical scientist, Clark has published extensively on the discovery of novel biologically active natural products and pharmaceuticals, authoring and co-authoring more than 100 original research articles, reviews and book chapters. As a principal investigator, she received continuous peer-reviewed NIH funding from 1984 to 2014 to conduct research related to the discovery and development of new drugs for opportunistic infections. The grant, one of the longest continually funded antifungal research programs in NIH history, led to the identification of many new natural products.

Her late husband, Charles D. Hufford, associate dean emeritus for research and graduate programs and professor emeritus of pharmacognosy, was a longtime collaborator. In total, Clark secured more than \$20 million in research support.

Clark's scientific expertise has informed public policy at the federal and state levels. She has testified to Congress on issues related to antimicrobial resistance and the safety and quality of dietary supplements.

She served on the charter advisory council for the NIH Center for Scientific Review and is a member of the National Advisory Council for Complementary and Integrative Health for NIH. She has also served on many expert review panels for NIH, chairing panels on AIDS and related research and drug discovery and antimicrobial resistance.

In 2010, she received the Marcy Speer Outstanding Reviewer Award, the highest honor for commitment to peer review given by the National Institutes of Health's Center for Scientific Review. She was the 1996 Rho Chi National Lecturer and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

Clark has also served in several leadership positions in national and international professional associations, including chair of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and president of the American Society of Pharmacognosy.

In 2017, Clark was named recipient of the UM Distinguished Research and Creative Achievement Award. This annual award, which was instituted during Clark's time as vice chancellor for research, recognizes an Ole Miss faculty member who has shown outstanding accomplishment in research, scholarship and creative activity.

Clark's impact extends beyond research and leadership roles to service and mentorship. She was a founding member of the **Ole Miss Women's Council**, a group of philanthropic women committed to developing UM students through leadership, scholarship and mentorship.

She has served on the board of the **CREATE Foundation** and also served as a mentor to dozens of undergraduate and graduate students.

"Alice Clark is the reason I went into science," said Melissa Flagg, U.S. Army Research Laboratory Northeast lead and former deputy assistant secretary of defense for research. "She ensured I was never apologetic for having questions, encouraged me to think beyond the traditional career pathways and reminded me that we can be both excellent and kind as leaders.

"She set me on a career with a foundation of personal responsibility – that I'm responsible for my impacts on those around me, but also responsible for setting my own bar and being true to myself,

[Read the story ...](#)

[More Posts from this Category](#)



Alice Clark

cultivating excellence in myself and others.”

After 38-plus years of service, multitudes of new programs and initiatives, millions of research and philanthropy dollars raised, and hundreds of educational and career paths shaped in her role as a mentor, Clark is looking forward to a slower pace and spending lots of time on her new back porch that is under construction. She also expects to burn up the roads to Huntsville, Jackson and Nashville to spend time with her beloved family.

“I am deeply grateful for the wonderful opportunities given to me to serve the University of Mississippi in many ways over 38-plus years and for the rich and fulfilling life I’ve enjoyed as a result of being part of this extraordinary community,” Clark said. “Coming to Ole Miss as a graduate student changed the course of my life.

“It has been a privilege and honor to work with some of the finest, most dedicated people anywhere who are committed to providing such opportunities to others. I want to especially thank the countless friends and colleagues who have been so helpful to me throughout my professional life – you all have made the years fly by!”



FILED UNDER: [FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS](#), [FEATURED NEWS](#), [NEWS RELEASES](#), [SCHOOL OF PHARMACY](#)

=====