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Another Win from Baseball

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Another Win from Baseball

Omaha business makes donation to Grove Grocery

JULY 14, 2022 BY MAKAYLA STEEDE

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Kevin Culjat (left), owner of Rocco's Pizza & Cantina, greets UM Chancellor Glenn Boyce and his wife, Emily, in Omaha. Submitted photo

OXFORD, Miss. – When **University of Mississippi** baseball players won the College World Series in June, they indirectly scored a gift that will help feed their fellow students.

Fans from all eight CWS teams who traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, for the tournament participated in the Jello Shot Challenge, a simultaneous baseball fan competition happening just steps away from Charles Schwab Field at **Rocco's Pizza & Cantina**. In stepping up to the challenge, Rebel fans out-purchased all others, and Ole Miss was named the contest's 2022 champion.

Grateful for this unanticipated response by Ole Miss fans, Rocco's donated \$37,554 to support the Ole Miss **Grove Grocery** on the Oxford campus. One of Rocco's suppliers, SLRRRP, also made a gift, bringing the total to \$46,614.

"Food is a basic necessity, and it's heartbreaking to think that many students have to sacrifice meals just to afford rent, textbooks, et cetera," said Tina Truong, Grove Grocery's student director. "No one should have to continuously endure this, so we do anything and everything we can to alleviate these burdens."

The gift will enable Grove Grocery to keep the pantry stocked and potentially offer expanded resources for the community, improving its mission to help provide food and meals to students who face food insecurity.

"Honestly, it feels surreal," Truong said. "We weren't expecting the donation, especially one of that size, so it was a really great surprise. I'm incredibly thankful for Rocco's, SLRRRP and the Ole Miss community."

Rocco's owner, Kevin Culjat, said he did not anticipate that fans would start buying in bulk for the thousands of patrons on hand for 10 days of CWS games. Many who couldn't make the trip to Omaha even participated in the challenge by sending their friends money through Venmo.

After witnessing the extraordinary appeal of the challenge, Culjat decided to find a way to give back. Discovering the university's food pantry on the university website, he and his wife, Bonnie, declared that for every item bought by an Ole Miss fan, they would donate \$2 to the Grove Grocery.

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Campus Briefs

Civil Engineering Professor Receives Most-Cited Paper Award

OXFORD, Miss. – Peer recognition is a rewarding experience for anyone, but University of Mississippi researcher Amir Mehrara Molan was elated when an article he co-authored recently received the Most Cited Paper Award at the 102nd Transportation Research Board meeting in the nation's capital. The International Journal of Transportation Science and Technology presented the civil engineering

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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

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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

He sees the gift as a way to thank those who participated in the challenge.

"They were very, very generous with what they tipped, and they took good care of the staff," Culjat said. "It was a win-win-win for everybody. I think they had a wonderful time. My staff made a lot of money, and my wife and I got to donate a lot to charity."

To make a gift to Grove Grocery, visit <https://give.olemiss.edu>.

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