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Basketball Court Named in Sigma Nu's Honor

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Basketball Court Named in Sigma Nu's Honor

UM fraternity elevates support for Magee Center

JULY 15, 2020 BY STAFF REPORT

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UM professor Jimmy Davis (left), Sigma Nu members Tate Fowler and Nathan Foxworth, John Green and David Magee stand on the basketball court in the new South Campus Recreation Center that will be named in honor of the Sigma Nu chapter. Davis and Green are the fraternity's advisers. Photo by Bill Dabney/UM Foundation

OXFORD, Miss. – The Epsilon Xi chapter of the Sigma Nu fraternity at the [University of Mississippi](#) – known for having the largest collegiate Greek philanthropy in America with its annual Charity Bowl – is deepening its commitment to helping students.

The Sigma Nu chapter joined the initial grassroots movement that created the [William Magee Center for Wellness Education](#) on the Oxford campus, which counsels students with alcohol and other drugs, or AOD, education and support. The fraternity has given \$100,000 to the Magee Center and recently pledged another \$100,000 to help it grow, using proceeds from its annual Charity Bowl fundraiser.

As a result, a basketball court at the university's new South Campus Recreation Center will be named for the chapter, honoring the fraternity's efforts to serve Ole Miss students now and into the future with AOD education and support.

"The need is big and the men of our fraternity recognize that leadership means caring for fellow students," said James Davis, a Peery Professor of Accountancy who serves as the fraternity's chapter adviser and has been involved with the chapter for six decades, including his time as a student and alumnus. "These young men are determined to make a difference, and it's rewarding to see their work."

Named after the late William Magee – a student-athlete, Honors College scholar, Sigma Nu member and alumnus who succumbed to addiction, dying from an accidental overdose soon after graduation – the Magee Center opened in fall 2019 with support from students, alumni, faculty and staff.

"It means a lot to everyone in the chapter to help others," said biochemistry major Nathan Foxworth, of Columbia, a Sigma Nu senior and 2020 philanthropy co-chair who plans to attend medical school. "We care, and this is one way to show that."

During that first fall semester, the center had more than 9,000 face-to-face student engagements, including on-campus recovery meetings, presentations to higher-risk populations and First Year Experience classes addressing physical and mental wellness, alcohol and drug misuse, and sexual health. And center employees were involved in many successful one-to-one student assessments, resulting in support and treatment referrals – a process that one student's parent compared to "the Mayo Clinic."

"When we first started talking about creating a center to serve students across campus, members of Sigma Nu approached me and said they wanted to help," said David Magee, William Magee's father and

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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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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

director of institute advancement with the UM Office of Development. "They have been there from the start and are determined to see it through to impact.

"The fact that the fraternity made its gift this year, despite the annual Charity Bowl football game being cancelled due to the pandemic, was inspiring."

The chapter raised more than \$168,000, contributing to the Magee Center; the Manning Fund, which benefits the **Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children** at the UM Medical Center; and one victim of paralysis.

"The chapter was determined," said John Green, of Oxford, a chapter adviser who takes an active role in the Charity Bowl. "Our pledge class did a lot of work in the fall so that by this spring, we were able to complete our fundraising, even without a Charity Bowl game.

"We offered to return sponsors' money when the game was canceled, but they weren't interested. They know it all goes to a good cause."

Sigma Nu gave more than \$100,000 of its funds raised this year to paralysis victim Emmie Brookins, of Lakeland, Tennessee. The money helped her drive again. It's the 30th time in 30 consecutive years that the Sigma Nu chapter has donated money to a paralysis victim.

The Charity Bowl football game began in 1990 when Sigma Nu wanted to raise money for paralyzed Ole Miss football player Chucky Mullins. Three decades later, the event continues to make a difference, supporting victims of paralysis, the Manning Fund/Batson and the William Magee Center.

"It's amazing to think that this chapter has raised more than \$2 million since Bill Courtney, Jason Greer, John Quaka and others had the vision for that first Charity Bowl in 1990," Green said. "It's made a difference in the lives of many people."

Sigma Nu member James-Roland Markos, a 2017 Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College graduate who is attending the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine, was among the Ole Miss students who were determined to make the Magee Center a Charity Bowl beneficiary four years ago.

"Doing something to help others within our community was important," Markos said. "The well-being of all students matters, and we knew this work is crucial."

The South Campus Recreation Center opened in fall 2019, significantly enhancing exercise and wellness services available to students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community. The 100,000-square-foot facility includes basketball courts, a large functional training zone, indoor climbing wall, fitness studios, multiuse court and other amenities.

The facility is on the former Whirlpool property off Chucky Mullins Drive, south of Mississippi Highway 6.

To learn more about supporting the William Magee Center for Wellness Education, contact Brett Barefoot, senior director of development for parent and family leadership, at bmbarefo@olemiss.edu or 662-647-4276.

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