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Enabling Great Teachers

Bill Dabney

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Enabling Great Teachers

Planned gift to establish chair in School of Business Administration

FEBRUARY 19, 2020 BY BILL DABNEY

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Bill and Lee Anne Fry have designated \$1.5 million of their estate as a planned gift to seed the Bill and Lee Anne Fry Chair in Business Administration Endowment at UM. Submitted photo

OXFORD, Miss. – **University of Mississippi** alumnus Bill Fry believes great teachers help nurture and develop great students and leaders.

Fry, who earned his bachelor's degree in public administration from UM in 1980, and his wife, Lee Anne, have designated \$1.5 million of their estate as a planned gift that will seed the Bill and Lee Anne Fry Chair in Business Administration Endowment.

The endowment will provide income for the recruitment and/or retention of an outstanding faculty member in the **School of Business Administration** to ensure that quality teaching, research and service will be available for future generations.

"We are grateful for the generosity of the Fry family and how their gift will create new educational opportunities for our business students," Chancellor Glenn Boyce said. "It's always inspiring when alumni give back because of how their degree and experiences at this university contributed to their successes.

"This commitment and support will help us build on the standard of excellence expected of our business school graduates."

Income from the endowment will be used to provide salary supplements to support the appointment of a nationally recognized scholar in the areas of strategy, leadership, operations and marketing or other support deemed appropriate by the dean.

"Lee Anne and I know that one great professor impacts so many lives," Fry said. "This endowed chair is a way to help generations of students who will learn from the educator named to it. We hope our children will one day read success stories about this chair holder's students."

Inducted in 2012 into the Ole Miss Alumni Association Hall of Fame, Fry himself is a UM success story. He earned a master's degree from Harvard Business School in 1990. Between undergraduate and graduate schools, he spent eight years in the U.S. Navy, last serving as a lieutenant in the Nuclear Propulsion Program.

Fry joined American Securities in 2010 as one of the company's first seven partners. American Securities is a New York-based private equity fund with \$30 billion under management.

Previously, he was CEO of the Oreck Corp. and also has helmed several entities owned by various

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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

private equity firms and public companies, holding positions as president of the Dixie Group, CEO of Bell Sports and Bell Riddell, and president of Easton Bell Sports.

"Lee Anne and I understand from experience the value of great teachers as instructors, mentors and friends," Fry said. "In our own lives, Dr. Vaughn Grisham has served in that role since I graduated.

"There are likely thousands of untold stories regarding the tremendous impact great professors have on students."

Grisham, professor emeritus of sociology, and Fry have kept in touch through the years and are close friends.

"Bill is simply brilliant," Grisham said. "And he's not just brilliant, but he's just a fine human being too. I make a special effort to try to get to know all of my students well, and there's no question that Bill was just a special student."

Fry's involvement as an active member of the School of Business Administration advisory board for more than 15 years has enabled him to develop close relationships with Dean Ken Cyree and a number of professors.

"In speaking with Ken, we understand that our business school needs chairs to deliver our mission," Fry said, explaining that UM has five chairs in business compared to 17 chairs at LSU, for example.

"Endowed chairs will enhance the dean's ability to recruit great talent in the areas of teaching and research and will help Ole Miss continue to be a leader in business education."

Cyree commended the Frys for their forethought in including the School of Business Administration in their estate plans.

"This generous gift from Bill and Lee Anne shows their commitment to higher education and the School of Business," he said. "Their foresight will allow us to hire and retain outstanding faculty, and we are so grateful for their support.

"Bill has had an outstanding career, thanks in part to the instruction he received at Ole Miss, and we know this gift will create educational opportunities so that our future students will have a similar experience."

Denson Hollis, executive director of principal gifts, has known the Frys since their chance meeting at the 2010 Cotton Bowl. They have since become great friends, and Hollis said he admires the Frys for their willingness to give so much of their time and resources to the university.

"I've gotten to know Bill and Lee Anne personally, and they are as passionate about Ole Miss as anyone I have met in my career," he said. "Bill's years of service on the advisory board and now this wonderful gift to the School of Business Administration clearly show they're committed to giving their time and resources to benefit our university."

The Frys' commitment to students is evident every time a UM graduate wants to work in New York City, where they live.

"We try to help each student with advice and introductions and we challenge them to reach out and support other Ole Miss students with similar desires," Fry said. "Additionally, many of these students have become good friends through our mutual participation in the New York Ole Miss Alumni Club."

As an undergraduate, Fry was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and Naw ROTC. Lee Anne Fry is a graduate of Auburn University and worked for the CIA in Washington, D.C., where they met. They have two grown children.

The Bill and Lee Anne Fry Chair in Business Administration Endowment is open to gifts from individuals and organizations by mailing a check, with the endowment's name noted in the memo line, to the University of Mississippi Foundation, 406 University Ave., Oxford, MS 38655; or by visiting <https://give.olemiss.edu>.

For information on including Ole Miss in estate plans, contact Daniel K. Wiseman, senior director of gift planning, at 662-915-7601 or daniel@olemiss.edu.

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