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Family Business Owners Support Future Generations

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Family Business Owners Support Future Generations

Corinth Coca-Cola creates UM business school scholarships

OCTOBER 8, 2022 BY JONATHAN SCOTT

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To honor their UM legacy while helping future generations of students, the Williams family, owners of Corinth Coca-Cola Bottling Works Inc., has funded one scholarship and formalized a second. Four generations of the family hold degrees from Ole Miss, including (from left) Sandy Williams, chair of Coca-Cola Bottling Works; Ken Williams Jr., COO; and Kenneth Williams, president and CEO. Photo by Angela Brown/UM Development

OXFORD, Miss. – Corinth Coca-Cola Bottling Works Inc. has been serving beverages since 1907. In that time, the family-owned and operated organization has expanded from its original location in Corinth to multiple locations across the Mid-South.

And all the while, family members have run the business. In its fifth generation of owner-operators, Corinth Coke not only has deep roots in Coca-Cola and the Mid-South but also at the **University of Mississippi**, where four generations of the family earned degrees.

To honor their UM legacy while helping future generations of students, the family has funded one scholarship – the Corinth Coca-Cola Business School Scholarship Endowment – and formalized a second one, Refreshments Inc. Partners in Business Scholarship Fund, which has supported **School of Business Administration** students for many years.

“Our family has owned and operated this business for more than 100 years, and we’ve got connections to Ole Miss that go back for generations as well,” said Ken Williams Jr., who has two children who are either recent graduates or current students and represent the fourth generation of family at the university.

Corinth Coke’s chair, Sandy Williams (BBA 57), and his wife, Rosemary Taylor Williams (BS 60), a native of Lucedale, as well as president and CEO Kenneth Williams (BBA 63) and his late wife, Nancy Kincade Williams (BS 63), a native of Clarksdale, all earned degrees from Ole Miss.

After completing undergraduate work at Millsaps College, Corinth Coke’s COO, Ken Williams Jr., earned his MBA in 1994 from the university. His daughter Emma is a junior at Ole Miss pursuing a degree in communication sciences and disorders. His oldest daughter, Elizabeth, graduated in 2018 with a degree in elementary education, just like her grandmother Nancy Kincade Williams did in 1963.

Nancy Williams’ father, Robert P. Kincade, played football for the Rebels from 1935 to 1938, including the Rebels’ first and only appearance in the Orange Bowl, in 1936.

“Our connections to Ole Miss are early and often,” Williams said. “And several of us have been educated in the School of Business Administration.

“Our involvement with Ole Miss has been extremely beneficial to us, and we want to aid students in

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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

northeast Mississippi, so they have the same opportunities at the business school.”

To achieve this goal of helping other students, the Coca-Cola Business School Scholarship awards a minimum of \$1,000 for four semesters to full-time students enrolled in the school who are residents of Alcorn, Itawamba, Lee, Prentiss or Tishomingo counties.

Scholarship recipients must have a strong academic record, as well as a history of involvement in extra-curricular activities and service to others and their communities.

“We believe it’s important to educate young people from our region in the decades to come,” Sandy Williams said. “And we think Ole Miss is one of the premier places for that to occur, and it’s right here in our own backyard.”

The Refreshments Inc. Partners in Business Scholarship provides funds to full-time sophomore, junior and senior students in the school who are residents of Alcorn, Itawamba, Lee, Marshall, Pontotoc or Union counties.

The Refreshments Scholarship is funded in part by an annual golf tournament, said Ken Cyree, Ole Miss business dean and a veteran participant in this fundraiser.

“I have enjoyed the relationship with Kenneth and Sandy Williams since I have attended their charity golf tournament that benefits the Refreshments Inc. Scholarship for about a dozen years,” Cyree said.

“These events reveal the heart of this wonderful family to educate and elevate people in their organization and across the state and region.

“It has been great to meet the family members and interact with them over the years. They are selfless and caring individuals, and I appreciate their dedication and commitment. They have left quite the legacy on their family, company, Corinth and Ole Miss, in addition to the region.”

Family members hope the scholarship helps strengthen northeast Mississippi communities, Kenneth Williams Sr. said.

“Our dream is that, with our assistance, some of the students from this area will attend the business school and then stay in Mississippi and join one of the many quality companies already established or perhaps even start their own business venture,” he said. “Hopefully, they will use their talents to better the state for generations to come.”

“We believe that those who live and work in the communities in these counties are part of our family,” said Ken Williams Jr. “We’ve always felt that being involved in community events across the territories is an essential part of what we do.”

The Corinth Coca-Cola Business School Scholarship Endowment and the Refreshments Inc. Partners in Business Scholarship Fund are open to accept gifts from individuals and organizations. To contribute, send a check, with the endowment’s or the fund’s name noted in the memo line, to the University of Mississippi Foundation, 406 University Ave., Oxford, MS 38655, or give online at <https://give.olemiss.edu>.

For more information about supporting the School of Business Administration, contact Angela Brown, senior director of development, at browna@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3181.

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