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Tina H. Hahn

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Ford Foundation Makes Gift to Accountancy Building

New career center will be named in honor of support

NOVEMBER 12, 2022 BY **TINA H. HAHN**

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The new home for the Patterson School of Accountancy is slated for the corner of University Avenue and Grove Loop. The four-story facility will feature 100,000 square feet of tiered auditoriums and classrooms, study areas, conference rooms, administrative and faculty office suites, and outdoor balconies and terraces.

OXFORD, Miss. – The **Gertrude C. Ford Foundation**, of Jackson, a longtime, generous supporter of the **University of Mississippi**, has stepped forward with a \$200,000 gift commitment for the new **Patterson School of Accountancy** building.

“The Gertrude C. Ford Foundation is proud to support the nationally acclaimed Patterson School of Accountancy,” said John C. Lewis, of Jackson, the foundation’s vice president. “We are grateful to have an opportunity to help continue the strong legacy of this outstanding program.”

The Patterson School is ranked No. 8 in the nation and No. 1 in the Southeastern Conference – marking the 10th consecutive year of top 10 rankings for the school.

The growth in student enrollment is driving plans for the new academic home with a cost of more than \$70 million. To honor the gift, the Gertrude C. Ford Career Center will be part of the four-story facility featuring 100,000 square feet of tiered auditoriums and classrooms, study areas, conference rooms, administrative and faculty office suites, and outdoor balconies and terraces.

Planned for the heart of campus, overlooking the Grove, this new home will provide unprecedented visibility for the school; serve as a recruiting tool in attracting and retaining top students, faculty and staff; and bring everyone under one roof with an enhanced sense of community.

Morris Stocks, professor and the Don Jones Chair of Accountancy, requested the support from the Ford Foundation.

“We have had a great relationship with Dr. Stocks over the years, so when he came to us, we wanted to help,” said Stephen Sims, of Jackson, the foundation’s president. “We feel that the Patterson School, one of the top schools, is very well known and respected.”

“This new building will elevate this school even more. Combined with the new construction of the STEM building and the expansion of the Student Union, Ole Miss is making great strides with this new home for accountancy.”

Stocks said it has been his privilege to work with the foundation for many years.

“I consider the board members – Stephen and Cheryle Sims, John and Helen Lewis, and Tom 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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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

Gayle Papa – as my valued friends,” he said. “These board members have directed long-term and generous philanthropy to the University of Mississippi, placing the Ford Foundation as one of the most significant benefactors in the university’s history.

“This new facility comes at a critical time in the growth of the school. We believe that this magnificent, new structure, placed in one of the premier locations on campus, will help move us toward our goal of becoming the top accounting program in the country.”



Stephen Sims

Sims said the naming of the career center for Ford is appropriate.

“We just wanted to find something that would have an impact on students,” he said. “Mrs. Ford was interested in anything that would strengthen education and opportunities for young people. The career center is right in line with that because it gives students clear paths for their careers.”

When Sims reflects on his hopes for the long-range impact of the foundation’s gift, he points to the preparation offered students.

“We hope the Patterson School will turn out well-rounded, knowledgeable graduates with expertise,” he said. “All accounting is important in our society. We want these students to be well trained.”

That is taking place, according to data from the school, where students have employment opportunities across the U.S. and abroad because of their top-tier preparation. Graduates of the master’s programs were placed in a record 26 different states in 2021-22. The formal internship program continues to thrive, with 235 participants in 2022.

The Ford Foundation’s support will go toward **Now & Ever: The Campaign for Ole Miss**, a fundraising initiative to secure \$1.5 billion in private gifts to strengthen the university for generations to come. The foundation has provided more than \$67.8 million to the Oxford and Medical Center campuses. The Ole Miss Student Union was recently renamed for Ford to honor that support.

This summer, its \$2.5 million gift to the Campaign for Children’s of Mississippi pushed the effort over its \$100 million goal to \$101.5 million. The philanthropic drive helped pay for a multi-story expansion of the state’s only children’s hospital that doubled the square footage devoted to pediatric care at UMMC.

The foundation also committed \$25 million to the **Jim and Thomas Duff Center for Science and Technology Innovation**, a science, technology, engineering and mathematics academic building under construction in the Science District.

Ford Way, a major artery running through the Science District between University Avenue and All American Drive, will be named for the foundation.

Besides being the location for the STEM building, it will include an area honoring Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner and the activities he performed in that part of campus. This pathway will bring together science and Faulkner’s literary works in a way that honors their connection to the liberal arts.

The foundation contributed \$25 million for the 88,000-square-foot Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts, opened in 2002, and gifts to several other university initiatives, such as the Gertrude C. Ford Ballroom in The Inn at Ole Miss, the Daniel W. Jones, M.D. Chair For Faculty Support on the Oxford campus, the Suzan Thames Chair of Pediatrics at the MIND Center research clinic on the Medical Center campus, and land for Gertrude C. Ford Boulevard, providing a new north-south thoroughfare for the ever-growing Oxford-University community.

Naming opportunities are available in the new building, beginning at \$25,000. For more information on supporting the Patterson School of Accountancy Building Fund, contact Jason McCormick, senior director of development, at jason@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1757.

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