

University of Mississippi

eGrove

University of Mississippi News

4-6-2019

Frious' Gift Supports Ole Miss Athletics

Bill Dabney

Follow this and additional works at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews>

Recommended Citation

Dabney, Bill, "Frious' Gift Supports Ole Miss Athletics" (2019). *University of Mississippi News*. 1994.
<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews/1994>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Mississippi News by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

Friou's Gift Supports Ole Miss Athletics

Stadium gate named for longtime supporters of university programs and students

APRIL 6, 2019 BY [BILL DABNEY AND TINA H. HAHN](#)



Just before choosing their gate at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium, Susie and Roger Friou enjoy a visit with the Ole Miss Athletic Foundation's Keith Carter (left) and Matt Mossberg (right). Photo by Bill Dabney/UM Foundation

OXFORD, Miss. – New signage at Gate 14 of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium will serve as a lasting tribute to [University of Mississippi](#) alumnus Roger Friou and his wife, Susie, who have made a major gift in support of Ole Miss athletics.

"When Billy Brewer was coach here, I was a real insider," said Roger Friou, who graduated from Ole Miss with bachelor's and master's degrees in accountancy in 1956 and 1959, respectively. "I really was. So that brought me close to the athletic department and, ever since, I've been a very active supporter of the athletic programs. So I just decided one day that it was time to make a gift to the athletic department.

"The Lord has been good to me, the stock market has been very good to me and I've been good to Ole Miss."

The Ridgeland couple's \$250,000 gift is part of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's drive to honor donors with naming opportunities for each of the entrance gates at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium and The Pavilion at Ole Miss, the Rebels' basketball arena.

"The Gate Naming Initiative is the first of its kind and will play an integral role in completing the \$200 million Forward Together campaign," said Keith Carter, senior associate athletics director for development and executive director of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation. "With \$178.4 million raised toward a multitude of capital projects, the final phase of the campaign saw the opening of the William F. Galtney Indoor Tennis Center and completed renovations to Oxford-University Stadium."

Friou hopes his gift will help improve the Rebels' competitive edge.

"The NCAA issue really impacted our program, but we're gradually coming back," Friou said. "We must have resources for scholarships. So that's the purpose of my gift: to help the program continue to award scholarships and improve what we're doing."

Matt Mossberg, a development officer with the [Ole Miss Athletics Foundation](#), said he hopes the Frious' gift will inspire similar support for the campaign.

"Now, more than ever, it's critical for Rebel fans to give back," Mossberg said. "We greatly appreciate Roger and Susie for stepping forward in support of Ole Miss. Their generosity will help to significantly

Follow us on social



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

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

Thank You To Our Donors

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

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

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

improve our facilities, giving our student-athletes the competitive edge they deserve.”

Friou might have attended a different university, except his mother, Annie Belle H. Friou, of Tupelo, sought the advice of a family friend on the best accountancy program available for her only child.

In turn, Friou assures many young people also enjoy the benefits of his alma mater’s accountancy program through scholarships and other support, as well as utilizing his accountancy background through alumni service to strengthen the overall university.

“Roger is a clear thinking, no-nonsense, passionate advocate for Ole Miss,” said Don Fruge, professor emeritus of law and chair of the Ole Miss Athletic Foundation Board of Governors. “He has an unswerving dedication to Ole Miss athletics, the Patterson School of Accountancy and to the University of Mississippi Foundation, having served as chair of the UMF board and a longtime member of the Joint Committee on Investments.

“Roger provided steady leadership during a period of significant growth for the university and its endowment fund. I am proud to call him my friend and thank him for his wonderful service to our university.”

Friou also served the UMF Investment Committee as chairman of its audit committee, the Accountancy Advisory Board and the Ole Miss Alumni Association.

“My mother was absolutely correct in guiding me to Ole Miss,” Friou said. “When she passed away in 1984, the first scholarship I established was in her memory. I have always maintained a great interest in income taxes, and the scholarship bearing her name assists outstanding fifth-year students focusing on taxes and preparing for a career in public accounting.”

Friou and his wife became interested in establishing a second scholarship in 1998, when James W. “Jimmy” Davis was the accountancy dean and began efforts to increase the number of accountancy scholarships. With a \$250,000 gift, the couple set up the Roger and Susie Friou Scholarship Fund.

“At that time, there were no scholarships for freshmen who had already selected accountancy as their major. I decided that having such a program would definitely help to attract quality students to the accountancy program.

“This has been very rewarding for Susie and me, presenting eight to 10 scholarships annually. Meeting each year’s scholarship group has been a great pleasure,” said Friou, who is a member of the **Patterson School of Accountancy** Alumni Hall of Fame and also a donor to a scholarship fund named for Davis and faculty endowments at the UM Medical Center.

Friou has witnessed his investments making a mark. The undergraduate (No. 7), master’s (No. 9) and doctoral (No. 7) degree programs in the Patterson School of Accountancy are all ranked within the nation’s Top 10, with the undergraduate and doctoral programs placing Ole Miss as the No. 1 Southeastern Conference school in the national rankings.

“It’s spectacular to know the Patterson School has come so far,” the alumnus said. “We have generous alumni support and outstanding professors. I’ve wanted to be involved as an alumnus because attending Ole Miss was such a life-changing experience for me.

“My dad passed away when I was 14 but he left me just enough money to go to college, inspiring me to help deserving young people pursue college degrees.

“I would hasten to tell alumni that without private gifts, Ole Miss would not be the university we know. Our future is unlimited as far as continually moving ahead, but resources are an absolute requirement.”

Friou began his career at Standard Oil (now Chevron) and retired as vice chairman and CFO of Jitney Jungle Stores of America in 1997. He served 14 years on the board of the Luckyday Foundation, which provides major scholarship support and other programming at Ole Miss for academically deserving students with financial need.

The Frious are the parents of two sons, Tom and Stuart, and five grandchildren.

Naming opportunities remain available for the grand gates at the north, east and west entrances as well as a limited number of individual gates. In 2018, the stadium’s south entrance was named for Diane and J.L. Holloway, of Ridgeland; Gate 4 was named for Doug and Jane Simmons, of Hollandale; and Gate 2 was named the Braddock Beagle Family Gate in memory of Larry “Big L” Braddock.

For more information about the Gate Naming Initiative, contact the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation at 662-915-7782 or visit <http://givetoathletics.com/gates>.

abate. The Federal Reserve’s

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

