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Gate Honors Four Generations of Commitment to UM

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Gate Honors Four Generations of Commitment to UM

Lee family's gift will benefit Ole Miss student-athletes

JULY 31, 2020 BY BILL DABNEY





Dr. Spencer Lee (right), his wife, Rebecca Ramer Lee, and grandson Spencer Lee, a senior general engineering major from Corinth, check out the signage at Gate 9 of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium, which honors the couple's support of Ole Miss athletics. Photo by Bill Dabney/UM Foundation

OXFORD, Miss. – Dr. Spencer Lee and his extended family have come and gone from the **University of Mississippi** over four generations, but the Lee name will be a permanent fixture on the Oxford campus.

Lee, a retired dentist from Pickwick Lake, Tennessee, and his wife, Rebecca, recently made a \$250,000 gift to the Forward Together campaign for Ole Miss athletics, which bolsters facilities and programs for student-athletes. In recognition, the Lee name will be added to the Gate 9 entrance of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

"All our parents were graduates of Ole Miss; thus we have always been Rebel fans and have enjoyed many fall days in the Grove with family and friends before and after ballgames," said Lee, who attended the university's pre-dental program until 1965; he completed his degree in 1969 at the University of Tennessee.

"We've also had four children graduate from Ole Miss along with several of their spouses," he continued, adding their grandson – also named Spencer Lee – is a senior in the UM School of Engineering. "Needless to say, we all enjoy Ole Miss athletics and our gift represents our support for Rebel sports."

Keith Carter, UM vice chancellor for intercollegiate athletics, expressed gratitude to the Lee family.

"Gifts like these are inspiring to others who may be considering whether the timing is right to give back to Ole Miss," Carter said. "Other potential donors will see Dr. Lee leading the way toward increased support and hopefully feel that they want to contribute too.

"We are extremely grateful for the Lees' support and their desire to see our student-athletes succeed in their particular sports, in the classroom and in life beyond college."

Lee retired in 2015 after 46 years of practicing dentistry in Corinth. During his career, he was active in leading many professional organizations, including the American Dental Association, serving in 1999 as president of the Mississippi Dental Association and the University of Tennessee Dental Alumni Association and board of trustees.

He is a past president of the First District Dental Society and Corinth Dental Society. He was secretary of the Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners and active in the American Association of Dental Examiners and Southeast Regional Association of Dental Deans and Examiners.

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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

A member of the Pierre Fauchard Academy and fellow of the American College of Dentistry, Lee attended every state meeting of the Mississippi Dental Association from 1969 to 2005 as well as numerous other association meetings, conventions and continuing education programs. He also has written several articles for the Mississippi Dental Association Journal.

Rebecca Ramer Lee earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in library science from Ole Miss in 1972 and 1975, respectively. She retired after 40 years as a librarian and teacher with the Corinth School System.

When they're not watching Rebels play, the Lees enjoy traveling and spending time on their boat at Pickwick Lake.

The Lees' gift is part of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation's drive to honor donors with naming opportunities for each entrance gate at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

"The gate-naming initiative will play an integral role in completing the \$200 million Forward Together campaign," said Fowler Staines, chief executive officer of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation. "With \$185 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 the Tosh Family Short Course and Oxford-University Stadium."

Naming opportunities remain available in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium for the grand gates at the north, east and west entrances, as well as a limited number of individual gates.

For more information about the Forward Together campaign or the gate-naming initiative, visit http://givetoathletics.com or contact Fowler Staines at 662-915-1143 or fowler@olemiss.edu.

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