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## Gift Honors Generations of Rebel Fans

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## Gift Honors Generations of Rebel Fans

**Windham Family Gate stands as tribute to past, future UM supporters**

NOVEMBER 20, 2021 BY [BILL DABNEY](#)

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The Windham family gathers at the William Abbott Windham Family Gate at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium. They are: Bill Windham (center, in cap) and (from left) his son-in-law and daughter, Drake and Summer Adams, grandson William, niece Kristin Patrick, grandson Abbott, wife Carol, grandson Windham, nephew Rob Mahaffey, and sons Carter and William. Photo by Bill Dabney/UM Foundation

OXFORD, Miss. – Gate 11 at the [University of Mississippi](#)'s Vaught-Hemingway Stadium represents past and future generations.

The William Abbott Windham Family Gate memorializes the life of an Ole Miss graduate while also honoring his great-grandchildren and namesakes: siblings William, Abbott and Windham.

"My dad lived and breathed Ole Miss and taught us to do the same, so I wanted this gift to honor him," said Bill Windham, of Bossier City, Louisiana, referring to his recent gift to Ole Miss athletics that secured the gate naming. "I also want the gate to honor my dad's grandchildren who are Ole Miss graduates and his great-grandsons who will someday also be Rebels.

"I was fortunate enough to be surrounded by a lot of good, loving people who've helped me and blessed me in a way that allows me to be able to make a gift like this. Dad would be very pleased to know this gift was made in his memory – and more so in honor of him."

The elder Windham, a resident of Tallulah, Louisiana, died in April 2016. Born in Bastrop, Louisiana, he grew up in Georgetown, South Carolina, and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1951 to 1954.

A Korean War veteran, Windham graduated from Northeast Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in education. Then, as a classmate of Rebel legends Robert Khayat and Jake Gibbs, Windham earned a master's degree in school administration from Ole Miss in 1959.

Also extending the footprint on the Oxford campus is his lifelong best friend, Denny Blomquist, who played Rebel baseball and still holds two school pitching records.

After graduation, Windham returned to Louisiana where he worked as a math teacher and assistant principal at Tallulah High School for nine years before serving as principal of the school.

"Dad's passion for education and care for children made him a strong, supportive leader for so many of his students, Bill Windham said. "That's why I felt that this gift was so appropriate. It stands at a university, representing a man who loved education and it honors young people – his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and the students at Ole Miss who will be helped by the gift."

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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



As a toddler, Bill Windham lived in married student housing while his father earned a master's degree at Ole Miss. Here, his mother, Patsy, and dad have him dressed and ready for the Ole Miss-Memphis State football game. Photo courtesy Bill Windham

Keith Carter, vice chancellor for intercollegiate athletics, expressed gratitude for Windham's generosity, which will bolster facilities and programs for student-athletes.

"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 Bill's support and hopefully feel that they want to contribute too."

Bill Windham grew up south of Tallulah on his family's farm, the first catfish operation in Louisiana. They also raised cattle, cotton, corn, soybeans and rice.

A graduate of Louisiana Tech University journalism school, Windham said attending Ole Miss was never really an option.

"But Ole Miss was in my blood and still is," said Windham, an investor in real estate, casinos, health care, and oil and gas. "When Ole Miss played Louisiana Tech during the Coach O years, I wore an Ole Miss shirt and a Louisiana Tech hat."

Windham and his wife, Carol, have a home in Oxford and enjoy attending Rebel sporting events together. Their daughter, Summer Adams, and her husband, Drake, graduated from the university in

2006. Her brother, Carter, is also an Ole Miss graduate in the Class of 2020; another brother, William, graduated from Duke University.

The elder Windham also has two other grandchildren, Kristen Patrick and Reagan Nossner, both Ole Miss graduates in the classes of 2006 and 2014, respectively, as well as UM freshman Rob Mahaffey.

The Ole Miss Athletics Foundation recognized the Windhams' gift by placing the family name on an entrance gate to Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

"We are thrilled to be able to honor the Windham family and their philanthropy by having their name on such a significant part of Ole Miss athletics," said Fowler Staines, CEO of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation. "We are grateful to Bill and Carol for the support they continuously give to our programs."

For more information on how to support Ole Miss athletics, visit <http://givetoathletics.com> or contact Staines at 662-915-1143 or [fowler@olemiss.edu](mailto:fowler@olemiss.edu).

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