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7-20-2019

Giving Ole Miss Athletics a Stamp of Approval

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Recommended Citation

Dabney, Bill, "Giving Ole Miss Athletics a Stamp of Approval" (2019). *University of Mississippi News*. 2110.
<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews/2110>

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Giving Ole Miss Athletics a Stamp of Approval

Hankins gift supports facilities and programs for student-athletes

JULY 20, 2019 BY BILL DABNEY

FaTvLiErCStPrSt



J.D., David and Harold Wayne Hankins (seated, from left) love to support the Ole Miss Rebels. Joining them are (standing, from left) Jordie Kindervater, UM associate director for development; Matt McLaughlin, associate director for development; Beverly Hankins; Rita Hankins; Patsy Hankins; and Interim Athletics Director Keith Carter. Photo by Bill Dabney/UM Foundation

OXFORD, Miss. – The Hankins name is stamped on every piece of lumber that leaves the family’s mill in Ripley.

“It’s because we want people down the line to know who made it, and it represents that our family believes in the quality of the product we produce,” said David Hankins, a registered forester and the eldest of three brothers whose company manufactures, dries and planes Southern Yellow Pine lumber sold nationwide.

Soon, the Hankins name will appear on Gate 15 of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium at the **University of Mississippi** and will represent the family’s support for Ole Miss athletics.

David and Rita Hankins, J.D. and Beverly Hankins, and Harold Wayne and Patsy Hankins recently made a \$250,000 gift to the Forward Together campaign for the **Department of Intercollegiate Athletics**, which bolsters facilities and programs for student-athletes.

In a meeting on the Oxford campus, Interim Athletics Director Keith Carter expressed gratitude to the Hankins 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 the Hankins family leading the way toward increased support and hopefully feel that they want to contribute, too.”

“The Hankins family story is remarkable because of the longevity of support they’ve given Ole Miss as faithful donors for more than 25 consecutive years.”

In fact, the brothers are third-generation Rebel fans; their grandfather’s enthusiasm for Ole Miss continues to spread to his descendants. They and their wives rarely miss a game in the trifecta of most-popular sports: football, basketball and baseball. They sit together in the stands; they laugh and cheer together; and they’re best friends.

J.D. Hankins, a 1976 UM graduate who earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting with an emphasis in marketing, credits that relationship and the family’s faith – both nurtured by their mother – for the financial success that enables them to give back.

“It wasn’t a gray train; it was a battle all the way,” he said, referring to the company’s startup

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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

challenges and the housing market crash of 2008. "We've really been blessed through it all. God really took care of us.

"Especially looking back, you can see His footsteps here, there and everywhere, and we've just wondered why He was taking such good care of us."

With 100 onsite employees, 700-plus indirect supporting workers and state-of-the-art manufacturing and distribution equipment, Hankins Inc. is in the top-tier of U.S. mills using the latest technology.

The brothers grew up in Grenada, working in a lumber business owned by their father and uncle. After their father's death, his ownership passed to them. In 1988, they decided to sell their interest and start a new company in Ripley by purchasing an existing sawmill.

In 1993, the company embarked on a seven-year plan to modernize the entire production line. The mill has a production capacity nine times that of its first year.

"We've gone from 12 million board feet annually during the first year to 110 million board feet in 2018 and a total exceeding 2 billion board feet over the past 30 years," said Harold Wayne Hankins, a 1980 Ole Miss graduate with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. "Our special ability in the industry for product mixture is what set us apart competitively.

"Throughout our business, we stress the core values of quality, integrity and safety, and we strive to provide a superior product, without any compromises to our beliefs or to the safety of our employees."

The brothers are semiretired, but the business remains in the family: J.D.'s son Trey Hankins, a 2003 graduate, is chief financial officer and David's son Blake Hankins, a 2007 graduate, is chief procurement officer.

The Hankins' 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 is the first of its kind and will play an integral role in completing the \$200 million Forward Together campaign," Carter explained. "With \$180.9 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."

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 2017, the stadium's south entrance was named for Diane and J.L. Holloway of Ridgeland; Gate 4 was named for Jane and Doug Simmons of Hollandale; Gate 2 was named the Braddock-Beagle Gate in memory of Larry "Big L" Braddock of Laurel; and Gate 14 will serve as a lasting tribute to alumnus Roger Friou and his wife, Susie, of Ridgeland.

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

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