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## Honoring a Family Lineage

Bill Dabney

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## Honoring a Family Lineage

### Hendrix gift benefits Ole Miss student-athletes

FEBRUARY 6, 2021 BY BILL DABNEY

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Bettye and Dick Hendrix

OXFORD, Miss. – Gate 12 of the **University of Mississippi's** Vaught-Hemingway Stadium will bear a new name – the Bettye and Dick Hendrix Family Gate – and stand as a monument to the lineage of Woodruff and Hendrix family members who graduated from Ole Miss.

Bettye W. Hendrix, of Helena, Arkansas, a 1956 graduate of the **College of Liberal Arts**, made a \$250,000 gift to the Forward Together campaign, which bolsters facilities and programs for student-athletes.

While the gift honors more than 20 members of her family, all of whom attended Ole Miss, it represents an especially appropriate tribute to Hendrix's father and brother, both Rebel football players.

"My dad, Lee 'Cowboy' Woodruff, played fullback for Ole Miss in 1927-29 during the Homer Hazel days and my brother, Jim 'Cowboy' Woodruff, played halfback in 1956-59 for Johnny Vaught and Wobble Davidson," said Hendrix, a native of Batesville.

"One of my favorite memories includes being there on the first day of the signing period when Coach Vaught came to our home to share breakfast and sign my brother to play for Ole Miss."

Keith Carter, vice chancellor for **intercollegiate athletics**, expressed gratitude for the gift.

"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 Bettye leading the way toward increased support and, hopefully, feel that they want to contribute too."

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

Among those Hendrix hopes to honor are her grandfather; a paternal great-aunt and two maternal great-aunts; her father and two of his sisters; her brother; four paternal first cousins; three maternal first cousins; her sons, Rick, Ron and Phillip; Ron Hendrix's wife, Debbie; two granddaughters, Brooke and Lori Lee; and a niece.

"I am sure I have left out someone, but you can see that we are and have been an Ole Miss family for a long time," Hendrix said.

Additionally, the gift honors her late husband, Dick Hendrix, a 1955 graduate of the **School of Business Administration**. The two met at Ole Miss through mutual friends.

"I completed my studies in three years, receiving my BSHE one weekend and marrying the following weekend," Hendrix recalled.

In college, Hendrix was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. After graduating, she taught high school in Helena for 21 years while Dick Hendrix owned and managed the family retail shoe business. Both were actively involved in community improvement projects, and Bettye Hendrix serves as chair of the Helena Regional Medical Center Board and the Helena Health Foundation Board.

Hendrix said she hopes her gift will help Ole Miss "continue to impact hearts and lives in a positive way. We formed lifelong friends and contacts. When my brother died three years ago, his service was held in the Batesville Methodist Church and was attended by several pews full of his former Ole Miss teammates."

Naming opportunities remain available in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium for the grand gates at the north,

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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

east and west entrances, as well as a limited number of individual gates.

"The gate-naming initiative plays an integral role in completing the \$200 million Forward Together campaign," said Fowler Staines, CEO of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation. "With \$188 million raised toward a multitude of capital projects, we can't thank our donors enough for their generosity and unwavering support."

For more information about the Forward Together campaign or the gate naming initiative, visit <https://givetoathletics.com> or contact Denson Hollis at 662-915-8455 or [dhollis@olemiss.edu](mailto:dhollis@olemiss.edu).

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