

University of Mississippi

eGrove

University of Mississippi News

1-31-2022

Honoring a Mississippi Leader

Mary Stanton Knight

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

Recommended Citation

Knight, Mary Stanton, "Honoring a Mississippi Leader" (2022). *University of Mississippi News*. 2362.
<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews/2362>

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.

Honoring a Mississippi Leader

Anonymous donor seeds Fannie Lou Hamer Scholarship in African American studies

JANUARY 31, 2022 BY MARY STANTON KNIGHT



Derrick Harriell (left), UM interim director of African American studies, talks with Patrick Alexander, an associate professor of English and African American studies. A new \$100,000 scholarship endowment that honors Mississippi civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer will benefit students pursuing an education in African American studies. Photo by Kevin Bain/Ole Miss Digital Imaging Services

OXFORD, Miss. – A generous gift from an anonymous donor will provide the **University of Mississippi African American studies program** with an endowed scholarship that honors a Mississippi civil rights leader.

The \$100,000 gift establishes the Fannie Lou Hamer Scholarship Endowment to help students who are pursuing an education in African American studies through the UM **College of Liberal Arts**.

“As Mississippi’s flagship university, one of our core missions is to provide opportunities to the students of this state, and scholarships are a crucial component in maintaining and exceeding that ongoing goal,” said Lee Cohen, UM liberal arts dean.

“We are truly grateful for this gift establishing a scholarship endowment in honor of the late Ms. Hamer. It will open doors for our students here at the University of Mississippi and provide for future generations for years to come, while commemorating past generations that laid the foundation for progress and change.”

Hamer, a **Mississippi Delta** native who co-founded the **Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party**, was instrumental in the fight for voting equality and women’s rights.

“Ms. Hamer was vital to the progression of African Americans in Mississippi and nationally, and her work really began at the grassroots level and the struggle for voting rights,” said **Derrick Harriell**, interim director of African American studies.

“Naming the scholarship after Ms. Hamer, the Mississippi civil rights activist giant, will provide our students with the incentive to work harder and reach for higher goals while honoring Hamer’s important legacy.”

Hamer, a renowned orator, spoke at the **1964 Democratic National Convention**, giving a speech that resonated with the scholarship’s founder.

“She worked so hard for the state of Mississippi and is a folk hero,” the donor said. “I hope she continues to be an inspiration to students and that this scholarship can provide the financial support to

Follow us on social



Campus Briefs

Donations Sought for 25th Annual Books and Bears Program

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi is asking the community to help spread a little joy this holiday season by donating to the 25th annual Books and Bears program. Donations such as toys, books, dolls, bicycles and other children’s play items are being accepted through Dec. 14. All donations will be collected and sorted

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

Thank You To Our Donors

Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship Aims to Build Leaders

OXFORD, Miss. – Twenty-five inaugural recipients of the Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship – a program hosted by the University of Mississippi School of Education in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Coaches and the Mississippi High School Activities Association – are expected to increase their impact on student-athletes and their communities. The coaching fellowship

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

Ole Miss In the News

Clarion-Ledger: New Essay Collection Tells the Story of Meredith’s Enrollment

Essays celebrate 60th anniversary of James Meredith’s enrollment at University of Mississippi By Lauren Rhoades Oct. 1 marks the 60th anniversary of James Meredith’s 1962 enrollment at the University of Mississippi as the school’s first African-American student.



Fannie Lou Hamer. Photo by Warren K. Leffler

The African American studies program seeks to develop and coordinate an interdisciplinary curriculum that focuses on the African American experience in the United States, especially in Mississippi and the South.

The program provides students with an interdisciplinary understanding of Black history, culture, politics and society while preparing them for professional careers in relevant areas.

"We are hoping to grow our majors and our program and continue to be active on campus and in the surrounding community, in Mississippi and across the nation," Harriell said.

"To do so requires dynamic faculty and, more importantly, dynamic students who are at the heart of what we hope to represent as a program. These scholarships will assist in this mission, and we are grateful for the support."

The Fannie Lou Hamer Scholarship Endowment is open to support from businesses and individuals. Gifts can be made by sending a check, with the fund's name noted on the memo line, to the University of Mississippi Foundation, 406 University Ave., Oxford, MS 38655 or by visiting <https://give.olemiss.edu>.

For more information on ways to support the African American studies program, contact Rob Jolly, managing director of development for the College of Liberal Arts, at jolly@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3085.

FILED UNDER: COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS, NEWS RELEASES, UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION

"James Meredith: Breaking the Barrier," a collection of essays edited by UM professor of journalism Kathleen Wickham, honors this historic milestone with

[Read the story ...](#)

[More Posts from this Category](#)