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Honors College Alumni Take on Fundraising Challenge

Clash of the Classes to raise money for student needs in friendly competition

OCTOBER 3, 2020 BY ANGELA ATKINS

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Students study in the student lounge of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. The Clash of the Classes online campaign aims to raise money for Honors College students in need by challenging alumni to contribute as part of a friendly competition. Photo by Robert Jordan/Ole Miss Digital Imaging Services

OXFORD, Miss. – A new online fundraising challenge aims to help students in the **University of Mississippi's Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College** by encouraging its alumni to do battle.

Of course, the battle is lighthearted, good-natured, totally virtual and all for a good cause – helping Ole Miss honors students who have technological, economic and safety needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Many of our students are facing great challenges because of the ongoing pandemic," said Douglass Sullivan-González, Honors College dean. "They need our financial support now."

Funds raised in the online challenge, called Clash of the Classes, will provide stipends for Honors College students who do not have adequate technology, small scholarships for students economically affected by COVID-19 and personal safety supplies for faculty, staff and students.

Donors compete by visiting the Clash of the Classes site at <https://ignite.olemiss.edu/g/clashofclasses>. There, they can click on a page designated for their class year and make a gift. Classes are competing in two ways: donor participation and dollars raised.

"We decided to crown a Donor Champion and a Dollar Champion in order to level the playing field a bit," said Anthony Heaven, associate director of development for the Honors College and the architect of the Clash of the Classes. "Our first official graduating class of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College in 2001 had 32 members, but class sizes have grown every year since. Our class of 2020 had nearly 300 members."



Clash of the Classes also invites graduates from the years before 2001 to compete. The precursors to the Honors College, the Honors Program (1987-2000) and University Scholars (1952-86), also have alumni eager to contribute and to connect with other honors alumni,

Heaven said.

"We developed this challenge in direct response to requests from alumni to help them get their friends and classmates involved in giving back to the Honors College," Heaven said. "Our original vision for this, pre-pandemic, had a few more in-person events planned, but this was always an online campaign first

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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

and foremost.

"Graduates of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College are living and working all over the world; it makes sense to reach out to them virtually. We also invite parents, faculty and staff – as well as anyone who appreciates the impact the Honors College has had on our university – to make a gift."

The Honors College was founded in 1997, supported by a gift from Jim Barksdale, of Jackson, and the late Sally McDonnell Barksdale. At the time, the Barksdales' donation was the largest academic contribution in university history.

Their vision allowed honors students to study and work together, taking courses from dedicated Honors College faculty and actively learning through research projects, internships and study-abroad opportunities.

To find out more about Clash of the Classes or to make a gift, visit <https://ignite.olemiss.edu/g/clashofclasses>. For more about the Honors College, visit <https://www.honors.olemiss.edu/>.

To learn more about ways to direct support to the Honors College, contact Anthony Heaven, associate director of development, at alheaven@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3083.

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