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## Law School to Host Screening of 'You Asked for the Facts'

Documentary examines Robert F. Kennedy's visit to the university

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 BY CHRISTINA STEUBE

**FaTvLiErC&SMPrSt**



U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy speaks to some 6,000 students, faculty, staff and others at Tad Smith Coliseum in March 1966. The talk, organized by the Law Students Speaker's Bureau, is the subject of 'You Asked for the Facts: Robert Kennedy at the University of Mississippi,' which screens Sept. 26 in Weems Auditorium. Photo courtesy Special Collections, University of Mississippi Libraries

OXFORD, Miss. — In conjunction with the week of events marking 60 years of integration at the **University of Mississippi**, the **School of Law** will host a screening of the PBS syndicated documentary film "You Asked for the Facts: Robert Kennedy at the University of Mississippi" on Monday (Sept. 26).

The film chronicles U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's 1966 visit to the university and the behind-the-scenes maneuvering from Ole Miss law students to bring him here.

The screening, at 12:30 p.m. in Weems Auditorium, is free and open to the public.

"We're excited for our students and people in the university community to watch this compelling documentary about Robert Kennedy's visit to campus and the real story about Meredith's integration," said Will Berry, law professor and associate dean for research.

Just four years after James Meredith enrolled at and integrated UM in 1962, university students flouted the statewide speaker ban — later ruled unconstitutional — for college campuses in Mississippi by inviting Kennedy to speak on campus to reveal the truth about roughly 25 phone calls with then-Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett.

At the time of Meredith's enrollment, Kennedy was U.S. attorney general and knew about the conversations between Barnett and the White House. Law students, who attended his talk in Tad Smith Coliseum, asked questions about Barnett's role in the events surrounding Meredith's enrollment. Kennedy responded candidly.

The documentary was produced and directed by Mary Blessey, an independent filmmaker and UM alumna who earned a master's degree in Southern studies in 2016 and an M.F.A. in documentary expression in 2019. She is the daughter of 1966 law alumnus Gerald Blessey, the original organizer of the Law Students Speaker's Bureau, the organization that extended the invitation to Kennedy.

The film contains previously unreleased footage of the speech and interviews with eyewitnesses and individuals directly involved, including Meredith; Ethel Kennedy, widow of Robert F. Kennedy; and



U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy speaks candidly about the events surrounding James Meredith's enrollment at the university

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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

former Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Reuben Anderson.

"This film is a classic story of law students shining light on public issues and causing positive change through unfettered free speech," Gerald Blessey said. "You don't have to wait to become a lawyer to support the rule of law. You can start as a law student."

"You Asked for the Facts" screened first at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in 2019; received numerous awards in 2020 at the San Diego International Film Festival, Montclair Film Festival and March on Washington Film Festival; and aired nationwide in April 2021 as part of the PBS Reel South series.

In March, the law school held a screening of the film as part of Law Alumni Weekend, followed by a panel discussion including several individuals who were students at the time and helped organize the visit. Meredith and Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, daughter of Robert Kennedy, were in attendance.

For a full schedule of events, visit <https://60years.olemiss.edu/>.



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during his March 1966 talk in Tad Smith Coliseum. Photo courtesy Special Collections, University of Mississippi Libraries

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