

University of Mississippi

eGrove

University of Mississippi News

2-15-2015

Like Father, Like Son

Bill Dabney

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

Recommended Citation

Dabney, Bill, "Like Father, Like Son" (2015). *University of Mississippi News*. 2818.
<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews/2818>

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.

Like Father, Like Son

Johnson family continues generous support of Ole Miss athletics

FEBRUARY 15, 2015 BY **BILL DABNEY**



Michael Johnson (left) and Larry L. Johnson

OXFORD, Miss. – Like many faithful University of Mississippi alumni, Jackson native Michael Johnson grew up an avid fan of the Rebels – a legacy instilled in him by his father, Larry L. Johnson. Now, through their family foundation, the two have left a more tangible legacy to Ole Miss, having committed \$250,000 to the **Vaught Society/Forward Together** campaign.

The Larry and Michael Johnson Family Foundation's recent gift is among many contributed to the university by the late Larry L.

Johnson, a Jackson-area real estate developer, founder of The Landmark Cos., and oil and gas investor. Besides being a committed contributor to the **Ole Miss Alumni Association** and **Ole Miss Athletics Foundation**, Larry Johnson established two separate Ole Miss First academic scholarship endowments in memory of his parents to support further education for Baldwin High School graduates.

With a generous donation to the Forward Together campaign, Michael Johnson continues his father's commitment to giving.

"We believe that the current administration – especially Ross Bjork and Coach Hugh Freeze – as well as the coaches and student-athletes, have Ole Miss heading in the right direction," Michael Johnson said. "While wins and losses are important, the positive perception that they have brought to Ole Miss is wonderful. As proud alumni, we wanted to do our part. It is vital that we all remain on the same page for Ole Miss to have success, but more importantly, continued success."

The \$150 million Vaught Society/Forward Together campaign was launched in 2011 to strengthen Ole Miss athletics through the construction of a new basketball arena, expansion of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium and improvements to other athletics facilities. Campaign contributions have surpassed the \$130 million mark.

"Forward Together gifts like Larry and Michael's allow us to compete at the highest level in terms of facility growth and enhancement, but it's more than a bricks-and-mortar investment," said Keith Carter, executive director of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation and senior associate athletics director for development. "The campaign symbolizes our shared values and commitment to excellence as we continue to advance in the powerful Southeastern Conference. We are truly thankful for the Johnsons' generosity."

It's the athletics association's dedication to hard work and commitment to hiring outstanding leaders that sparked the Johnsons interest in giving at this time.

"We hope our gift will help continue the current success and contribute to future success," Michael Johnson said. "The coaches and student athletes need the support and facilities that we, as alumni, can provide. It is our desire that our gift will help shape Ole Miss athletics and Ole Miss in a way that will make us all proud."

Larry L. Johnson earned both a bachelor's degree in business administration and a law degree from UM. After graduation, he moved to Jackson, where he began his career in the booming oil and gas industry.

During this same time, he partnered with Bill McGuffee, his father-in-law, to create Landmark Homes. This joint venture became the precursor to Johnson becoming one of the most successful residential (both single and multifamily housing) developers, constructors and owners in the Southeast. Over the last 25 years, Larry Johnson was responsible for the development of 3,000 single-family lots, more than 750 homes and some 5,000 apartments throughout Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Michael Johnson, who continues to run the family business, will always value the times he spent both at

Follow us on social



Campus Briefs

Students Learn 'Real Politics' in Washington, D.C., Winter Session

OXFORD, Miss. – Eleven University of Mississippi students spent their winter break learning about the people who work behind the scenes of the American government in Washington, D.C. Lead by Jonathan Klingler, assistant professor of political science, the students of Pol 391: Applied Politics met not with candidates, but with the people who make candidates'

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

Thank You To Our Donors

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

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

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 abate. The Federal Reserve's

work and at Ole Miss with his father.

"My first memories of Ole Miss are going to football games in Jackson and Oxford," Michael recalled. "We would always meet my grandparents and go to the games. It did not matter what the weather was like; we stuck it out. I remember tailgating and the days of cars in the Grove, and I think I remembered our seat numbers before I could my own home address.

"The countless hours we would get of excitement and joy – laughing, complaining and having heartbreak about Ole Miss sports – is priceless," he continued. "From a very early age, it created a bond that I will cherish forever. Ole Miss athletics via my father taught me so much more than simply wins and losses on the field but more about wins and losses in life. Winning the game is important – but winning in life is what it's all about. And I believe that is why, given the current state of Ole Miss, he wanted to do this."

To learn more about the Vaught Society/Forward Together campaign, visit <http://www.forwardtogetherrebels.com>, contact Keith Carter at jkcarter@olemiss.edu or call 662-915-7159.

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

 FILED UNDER: **ALUMNI NEWS, APPS-ALUMNI & FRIENDS, ATHLETICS, NEWS RELEASES, UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION**

[Return to top of page](#)

Copyright © 2023 · **The University of Mississippi**