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## Memorial Scholarship Created by Papa John's CEO and Archie Manning

Fund memorializes late UM student Fenton Kottkamp

MAY 1, 2015 BY TINA HAHN



Fenton (left), Harrison, Rush, Jane and Stephen Kottkamp gather in one of their favorite spots, the Grove at the University of Mississippi. Fenton Kottkamp's spirit will live on at Ole Miss, where a scholarship has been created in his memory. His parents will accept his diploma at the May 9 Commencement. Courtesy photo.

OXFORD, Miss. – "In honor of Fenton, please love one another," read the last line of the obituary for University of Mississippi senior John Fenton Kottkamp, a request added by his dad, Stephen Kottkamp of Louisville, Kentucky.

"Fenton would want everyone to love one another, and he would want all of us to go forward with our lives," said the dad, describing his son as having a "huge heart with great love for his family and friends."

And people likewise loved Fenton, as evidenced from the outpouring from around the country when he lost his life in a tragic Feb. 25 accident in Oxford. He and his identical twin brother,

Rush, were slated to graduate May 9, both from UM's **Patterson School of Accountancy**. Fenton's parents will accept his diploma during Commencement exercises.

Fenton's influence will continue on campus for generations to come through the Fenton Kottkamp Memorial Scholarship Endowment, created by John Schnatter, president and CEO of Papa John's Pizza, and Archie Manning, businessman and Mississippi football icon.

The Kottkamp brothers chose Ole Miss because of its nationally recognized accountancy program and well-rounded college experience, along with the university's size and tightknit community.

"Ole Miss gave us the best four years anyone could have wanted," Rush Kottkamp said. "Fenton loved everything about Ole Miss and Oxford. He loved every single sporting event. No matter what time the football game started, Fenton was in the Grove as early as possible."

Stephen Kottkamp recalls spending Thanksgiving 2014 in Oxford with wife Jane and youngest son Harrison, preparing dinner for the twins' friends who lived too far from campus to go home for the holiday.

"We love Ole Miss for Ole Miss," Stephen Kottkamp said. "Ole Miss became our happy place. As Rush said to Jane on the way home from Fenton's visitation, 'Fenton and I caught lightning in a bottle when we chose Ole Miss.' Fenton and Rush hit their stride in the Ole Miss environment; they blossomed and excelled. Our family will strive to make Ole Miss our happy place again."

Schnatter encourages others to honor Fenton by supporting the scholarship fund.

"My family and I have been deeply impacted by the tragic passing of Fenton Kottkamp, not only because of the fine young man that Fenton was, but also because of the relationship between the Kottkamp family and my family," he said. "Over the years, my wife, Annette, and I have become close to Fenton's mother and father, Jane and Steve. Fenton's youngest brother, Harrison, can often be found at our home hanging out with our son, Beau."

Fenton's Ole Miss experience was not lost on his four-year journey in Mississippi, Schnatter said. "Fenton and his brother Rush both served as interns at Papa John's headquarters not far from our Anchorage, Kentucky, homes. Ole Miss clearly had an impact on Fenton; he was bright and ambitious and welcomed the experience. He embodied all of the qualities we want from a young professional looking to make his place in the world.

"Working with Ole Miss alumnus Archie Manning to create the Fenton Kottkamp Memorial Scholarship Endowment was a way for my family and other donors to honor Fenton's memory and highlight for the Kottkamp family how much affection and respect we hold for their son."

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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

Manning agreed, adding, "We are deeply saddened by the loss of Fenton, a beloved member of our Ole Miss family. Our hearts continue to be with the Kottkamp family during this difficult time. We hope others will join us in remembering this extraordinary young man by helping build this scholarship endowment to help others experience Ole Miss in Fenton's name."

The Kottkamps agree that Fenton would be pleased to have his name on a scholarship. "He probably would have been a little embarrassed, too, for all the attention – but very proud," Jane Kottkamp said.

In addition to his great love of people, among other descriptions family and friends offer include "excellent student," "fun and funny," "welcoming and kind," "compassionate" and "adventuresome."

The scholarship committee will look for recipients who embody Fenton's spirit, character and integrity. Those eligible for consideration are students in the Patterson School of Accountancy and the School of Business Administration. Recipients must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade-point average.

The scholarship is an appropriate means of remembering Fenton, said Mark Wilder, dean of the Patterson School.

"His life had such a positive impact on the faculty and students in our school, as well as other members of the Ole Miss family. Fenton was always friendly, cheerful, smiling and never in a bad mood. He was instantly likeable because of his good nature. Fenton worked very hard in school, and his determination showed. It was obvious that his parents had raised him right."

Jane Kottkamp said she feels Fenton's deep enjoyment of the university stemmed from his devotion to family, something she also sees in Ole Miss.

"Fenton was always happy and excited to come home and be close to his family and cousins in Kentucky, and then he would be eager to get back to his college home," she said. "Ole Miss is the place where you develop lifelong friends – friends who are like family – and not just among students but also parents of students. We hope Fenton's scholarship will make it possible for other young people to go to Ole Miss and also for them to be a part of this great tradition of developing great lasting relationships."

Laura Johnson of Atlanta, a senior education major and close friend of Fenton, graduates in May and intends to carry forward his impact.

"Fenton was an all-around great guy," Johnson said. "He was so inspirational in that he lived every day to the fullest. He was always down for a night out with friends and taking new adventures. I met Fenton at the freshman welcome picnic the day before classes started, and we had an instant friendship. He's been my best friend for the past four years at Ole Miss.

"I want the individuals who receive this scholarship to know that Fenton always had a smile on his face and made any situation positive. To recipients, I encourage you to aspire to live your lives in a similar way – to live life to the fullest and to take chances. Fenton always took the extra step to make others happy and include everyone before even thinking about himself. I aspire to live my life like him and to be welcoming to everyone."

A graduate of Anchorage Public School and DuPont Manual High School, Fenton planned to pursue a master's degree in accountancy at Ole Miss beginning this fall.

His goal was a career in public accounting, but he recognized that his degree provided many career options. He was a member of St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church and Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, and an avid Rebels and Louisville Cardinals supporter.

In addition to his parents and brothers, Fenton is survived by his grandparents, Dr. Wayne and Eileen Kotcamp; and a large number of aunts, uncles and cousins. He also leaves his loyal dog, Biggs.

Individuals and organizations can make gifts to the Fenton Kottkamp Memorial Scholarship Endowment by sending a check with the fund noted in the memo line to the University of Mississippi Foundation, 406 University Ave., Oxford, MS 38655 or online at <http://www.umfoundation.com/makeagift>. For more information, contact Brett Barefoot, director of development for Parents Leadership, at 662-915-2711 or [bmbarefo@olemiss.edu](mailto:bmbarefo@olemiss.edu).

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