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## Morgan Family Gift Supports Faculty, Students

Staff Report

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## Morgan Family Gift Supports Faculty, Students

**\$100,000 will help retain, recruit top faculty to UM College of Liberal Arts**

APRIL 5, 2022 BY STAFF REPORT

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Shelly and Kirk Morgan have given \$100,000 during today's Giving Day event to help the College of Liberal Arts continue to recruit and retain talented faculty members. The Morgans earned degrees from Ole Miss, as we as their two sons, Sam and Eddie Morgan. Photo by Bill Dabney/UM Foundation

OXFORD, Miss. – **University of Mississippi** alumni Kirk and Shelly Morgan, of Lexington, South Carolina, are celebrating the university's Giving Day with a \$100,000 gift to help the **College of Liberal Arts** recruit and retain top faculty.

Of course, the biggest beneficiaries of the Shelly and Kirk Morgan Fund for Faculty Excellence are Ole Miss students.

"We feel like we're contributing to the quality education that Ole Miss students receive," said Kirk Morgan, a 1980 graduate with a degree in political science. "So many people at the university and in the College of Liberal Arts, in particular, are sincerely interested in strengthening academics, attracting a diverse student body and equipping students for success.

"We're happy to contribute meaningfully to that effort."

The Morgans' gift is part of Giving Day, a social media-heavy fundraising event, taking place today and Wednesday. Giving Day lasts for one day, eight hours and 48 minutes in honor of UM's founding in 1848.

The first Giving Day at UM, in 2019, secured almost \$550,000, and the event has grown since.

The Morgan family's connections to Ole Miss run deep. Kirk and Shelly met as UM undergraduates, and Shelly Stefoniak Morgan graduated in 1981 with a degree in education. Their two sons, Sam and Eddie Morgan, earned degrees from Ole Miss in 2014 and 2007, respectively.

The couple's gift is making a difference at the university, said Lee Cohen, UM liberal arts dean.

"The Morgans' generous gifts to the College of Liberal Arts help ensure that Ole Miss students continue to receive the very best higher education has to offer," Cohen said. "The Shelly and Kirk Morgan Fund for Faculty Excellence has already had a significant impact, and their continued support ensures that impact will continue for years to come."

For more information on ways of supporting the university, go to <https://give.olemiss.edu>. To get an update on Giving Day, go to <https://givingday.olemiss.edu>.

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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

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#### 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

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#### 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.

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

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