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University to Honor James Meredith's Legacy

Signature event to highlight first African American student's courage, impact

SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 BY CLARA TURNAGE

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The university will honor the courage and persistence of James Meredith at a signature event commemorating the 60th anniversary of his enrollment on Sept. 28 at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Meredith is among the speakers at the two-hour event, which will be live-streamed. Photo by Logan Kirkland/Ole Miss Digital Imaging Services

OXFORD, Miss. – Sixty years after civil rights activist James Meredith integrated the **University of Mississippi**, students, faculty, staff, alumni and guests will gather in his honor to commemorate the anniversary of that defining moment in the university's history.

Meredith, who became the first African American student to enroll at UM on Oct. 1, 1962, will take the stage and speak Wednesday (Sept. 28) at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

The free, two-hour signature event, "The Mission Continues: Building Upon the Legacy," begins at 6:30 p.m. Reserve tickets by contacting umbo@olemiss.edu or calling 662-915-7411. The event also will be **live-streamed**.

"As a civil rights activist, businessman, politician, author and more, James Meredith is an important part of living history who is intricately intertwined with our university," Chancellor Glenn Boyce said.

"Through all the events and activities we have planned to honor James Meredith and the 60th anniversary of integration, I hope that people are inspired by how Mr. Meredith's courage and persistence demonstrate how even one individual can affect change and make an impact, not just for themselves but for future generations."

Besides remarks by Meredith, the evening's lineup will include Boyce, U.S. Marshals Director Ronald L. Davis, retired UM Assistant Provost Donald Cole and Oxford Alderman Kesha Howell-Atkinson. Ethel Young Scurlock, dean of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, will deliver the keynote address.

A series of special presentations also are slated honoring Meredith.

Additionally, the event will feature a screening of the documentary, "Who is James Meredith?" The film is directed and narrated by Meredith's wife, Judy Meredith, a former TV and radio news reporter and anchor who is also a retired college mass communications professor.

"It is the moment for us to all pause and honor Mr. Meredith," said Shawnboda Mead, UM vice chancellor for diversity and community engagement. "This event is all about him, his life, his legacy, the contributions he's made not only to this university but to higher education, the state of Mississippi and

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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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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

really the United States.”



James Meredith reacts during a September 2021 ceremony to celebrate the naming of the Martindale-Cole Student Services Center to honor Don Cole, a longtime UM professor and administrator. Photo by Logan Kirkland/Ole Miss Digital Imaging Services

“It is a time for us as a community to come together and acknowledge the significance of this time in our university’s history.”

Mead said she hopes attendees will see a glimpse of the James Meredith who sits for hours on end in the library, who cracks jokes with his wife and who loves to laugh.

“Giving him the opportunity to stand on the Ford Center stage – where he couldn’t have stood, couldn’t have sat, 60 years ago – to give him that opportunity is really incredible,” Mead said.

Scurlock, who has been a member of the university community for more than two decades, said the university’s mission is to serve each person who walks onto campus, regardless of background.

“The flagship moves the state forward,” Scurlock said. “The legacy that James Meredith left is that the University of Mississippi has to serve every Mississippian.”

When everyone leaves the event and the lights of the Ford Center dim, Scurlock said she hopes attendees will remember the difference Meredith made and the difference they can make, too.

“I want them to feel a sense of ownership, agency,” she said. “They can be agents of history and create change.”

Ultimately, Mead said, the university will not always be able to invite an icon of American history to campus to speak with students. Nor will every student who comes to Ole Miss in years to come be able to look a man in the face and see someone whose influence on the state and campus has been so vast.

“It’s not a moment we will have forever,” said Mead, sitting last week in her office in the Lyceum, just yards away from the location of the iconic photo of Meredith, surrounded by U.S. marshals and hecklers, on the day of his enrollment.

“It’s such a significant opportunity for our community to come over to the Ford Center and hear from a living legend.”

Focused on the theme of “The Mission Continues: Building Upon the Legacy,” the university’s **commemoration** spans more than a year. Besides the signature event on Sept. 28, a series of events, panel discussions, lectures, exhibits and other activities are being planned for the **week of Sept. 26**, culminating with the anniversary of Meredith’s enrollment on Oct. 1.

Other activities and events will be held throughout the entire 2022-23 academic year.

Sponsors for the signature event include the Office of the Chancellor, Office of the Provost, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, School of Education, College of Liberal Arts, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, and Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

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