

# Ole Miss Accountant

News from the Patterson School of Accountancy at The University of Mississippi  
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## Alums Remember Patterson School With Scholarship Gift Through Will

An everlasting gift to the University of Mississippi has been assured through the will of two alums who credit their college educations for financial success.

Jesse and Betty Tutor of Houston, Texas, have made provision for an estimated \$500,000 from their estate to be given to Ole Miss to fund the Jesse and Betty Tutor Scholarship in Accountancy.

"We are so grateful to the Tutors for their deferred gift to the Patterson School," said Dean Morris Stocks. "Financial support from our alum-

ni and friends is critical to our success."

In paying tribute to the UM School of Accountancy for his career success, Jesse Tutor said, "Professors Jimmy Davis and Gene Peery were my mentors, and they had a lot to do not only with making sure that I took all the right courses but they also saw to it that I got job interviews with the right people."

After receiving his bachelor's degree in accountancy in 1968—and being a gold medal winner in the state of Mississippi for the CPA

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*Ole Miss Accountant* is published by the Patterson School of Accountancy.

### Editor

Elaine Pugh

Comments or suggestions?  
Call (662) 915-7623

Associate Professor of Accountancy Mark Wilder shares a laugh with Provost Carolyn Staton upon his being named Outstanding Teacher of the Year 2005.

## Mark Wilder Receives Year's Two Top Campuswide Awards

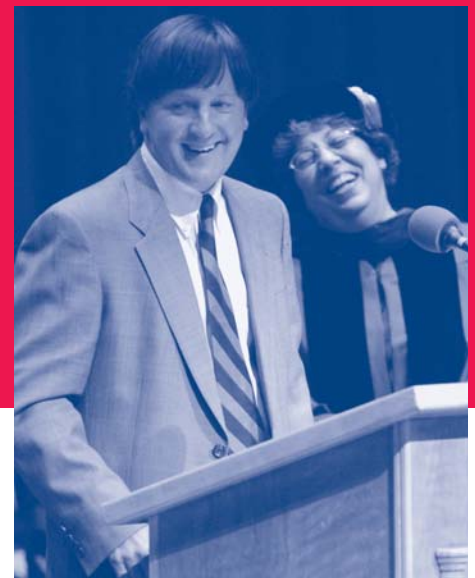
Mark Wilder, associate professor of accountancy and KPMG Lecturer, received the two top campuswide faculty awards this year. At the fall faculty meeting, Provost Carolyn Staton presented him with the Faculty Achievement Award, and at spring Honors Day convocation, she handed him the Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award.

"It is always gratifying to have the opportunity to recognize a deserving faculty member who sets the example of an extraordinary commitment to education," Staton said upon presentation of the former award. "Mark Wilder is the epitome

of what a faculty member should be—an extra-gifted teacher and publisher, a brilliant researcher and a dedicated citizen of both the university and the School of Accountancy."

Wilder, who heads the Patterson School's student internship program, received \$5,000 for the teaching honor and \$1,500 for the achievement award. He was selected for the prestigious awards from among the university's 527 full-time professors.

Nominations for the Hood Award are invited from students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends.



Among the many nomination letters received for Wilder, one student wrote: "(Wilder) is known throughout the accountancy student body for giving the most challenging but fair examinations in the school. When a student leaves one of his exams, he or she usually feel that his or her knowledge has been put to the toughest test possible."

A Certified Public Accountant, Wilder's

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# From the Dean



Morris H. Stocks

We have concluded another exciting and busy academic year in the Patterson School of Accountancy. On May 14, we awarded 142 baccalaureate degrees, 46 Master of Accountancy degrees and 20 Master of Taxation degrees. Our commencement ceremony was held in the Ford Center for the Performing Arts and was highlighted by the commencement address of Dr. Homer Burkett. Dr. Burkett is retiring after 28 years of service to the university and to the Patterson School of Accountancy. He will be sorely missed and we wish him well in his retirement.

At the Honors Convocation on April 7, the Patterson School had yet another faculty member selected as the university's outstanding teacher. With this year's selection, a full one-third of the eligible faculty of the Patterson School have received this award. This year's recipient of the Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award was Dr. Mark Wilder. Mark has been teaching at Ole Miss for 12 years and is widely recognized as one of the most outstanding faculty members at the university. In the fall semester, Mark was also the recipient of the campuswide 2004 Faculty Achievement Award, which is given to one faculty member at the university and is based on teaching, research and service. Also this spring, Dr. Billy Rhodes, instructor and assistant to the dean of accountancy, was named the outstanding faculty member at the University of Mississippi-DeSoto Center in Southaven, where our accounting enrollment continues to grow. As always, we emphasize undergraduate and graduate education at the Patterson School, and we take pride in the recognition that our faculty receive for their commitment to students.

Our internship program continues to grow and make a significant impact on our overall education program. This spring, we placed 61 interns across the country. An increasing percentage of our students are choosing to participate in this program and it has helped us expand our student placement base. If you are interested in helping us place one or more of these students, please let me know. This is one more way that you can help support our school.

You have also been generous with your financial support. The Jimmy Davis Scholarship Endowment has climbed to just over \$406,000. This endowment now provides significant scholarship support for several students, and we are most grateful for your help in honoring Dr. Davis through the establishment of this endowment. We have also named the first two recipients of the Collins Accountancy Scholarship and are most appreciative to Mitch and Julie Collins for their commitment to our program. If you have an interest in establishing a scholarship endowment or a faculty support endowment, I would love to have the opportunity to talk with you.

Please stop by and visit with us in Conner Hall the next time you are in Oxford. We feel that you, as well as our students, are part of our family, and we want to keep in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Stocks".

Morris H. Stocks  
Dean

## Gov. Barbour Appoints Elam to State Board

Rick Elam, inaugural holder of the Reynolds Chair of Accountancy, has been appointed to the State Board of Public Accountancy by Gov. Haley Barbour. He will serve a five-year term.

The seven-member board is a regulatory state agency created to protect the public welfare of the citizens of the



State of Mississippi, through oversight and regulation of certified public accountants.

Elam joined the Patterson School of Accountancy in 1995, after serving as dean of the College of Business at Middle Tennessee State University. For six years prior to that, he was vice president for education of

the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He earlier was dean of the School of Business at Rutgers University and professor and director of the School of Accountancy at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

A nationally recognized authority on accounting education, Elam holds master's and doctoral degrees in accountancy from Missouri, and a bachelor's degree from Culver-Stockton College. ■

# Professor Burkett Retires, Named to Hall of Fame

Longtime professor Homer Burkett got a send-off that he did not expect leading up to his retirement this spring.

At the Patterson School's annual Honors Banquet, Burkett was named to the Accountancy Hall of Fame. The honor, coming before his retirement on June 30, was a shock, he said. "I thought it was a joke or a mistake. Later, I was walking to the barn to feed my horse, and this illumination struck me: It's a miracle, an inexplicable thing; I don't know how it came about."

Nevertheless, the professor said, "It made me feel good."

Dean Morris Stocks, who announced the honor, said, "We wish Dr. Burkett well in his retirement, but we assure him that he will be sorely missed by the Patterson School of Accountancy."

"For 28 years, he has been an outstanding teacher and faculty member. He has the highest of academic standards and expects the same from his students and his colleagues."

Burkett joined the UM accountancy faculty in 1977, after teaching at the University of Kentucky and Florida State University. He also had worked for three years as a senior accountant with Milligan & Burke and served a stint in the U.S. Navy. He holds master's and doctoral degrees from Florida State University, and a bachelor's degree from Jacksonville University.

Rather than setting out to become a teacher, Burkett said his career evolved when, as a young husband and father, he was striving to meet the responsibility of supporting a family. However, he found satisfaction in the classroom.



Kevin Bain

Professor Homer Burkett was accompanied at the Honors Banquet by his two daughters and three of his five grandchildren. They are (from left) David Brown, Barbara Prather, Miriam Brown, Jennifer Brown and Stephen Brown.

"I enjoyed being with the students, and I wanted them to put forth an effort to learn. I wanted them to want to make a difference in someone else's life. I tried to make sure that I did not become a stumbling block; I did not want to impede their progress."

While the professor said that he doesn't like to "think in terms of having any charitable ideas" about his legacy at Ole Miss, he hopes that he has helped maintain the excellence of the School of Accountancy.

"Our entering freshmen have about the same ACT as engineering and pharma-

cy, so accountancy here is a very reputable program, and it needs to be maintained. I think you do that by not giving away degrees but by having students work hard to earn them."

A native of Wetumpka, Ala., Burkett was married for 37 years to the late Susan Emptage Burkett. Their children are Jennifer and Jim Brown of Lexington, Ky, and Barbara and Bruce Prather of Nashville, Tenn. Their grandchildren, by age, are David, Stephen, Caleb, Miriam and Hannah. ■

**Mark Wilder** continued from Page 1

primary teaching has been in financial accounting (Intermediate Accounting I and Intermediate Accounting II) and Governmental/Not-for-Profit Accounting. He has conducted research in a wide variety of areas, including earnings forecasting, financial reporting, issues facing the profession and accounting education.

Wilder has served on numerous doctoral committees and is actively involved in university and professional service, including a term as president of the Northeast Chapter of the Mississippi Society of CPAs. He recently completed a two-year term on the MSCPA Board of Governors.

"We are extremely proud of Dr. Wilder,"

said Morris Stocks, accountancy dean. "He is committed to the university and the Patterson School of Accountancy. Dr. Wilder is an exceptional classroom teacher and is actively involved in the professional development of his students. He has a unique ability to motivate students to strive for excellence and is a model for new faculty." ■

# Accountancy Alum Delivers ExxonMobil Check

A \$103,000 check was delivered recently to the University of Mississippi from the ExxonMobil Foundation.

The donation was handed to Chancellor Robert Khayat by UM accountancy graduate and Exxon Mobil Corp. financial analyst Mark Partin of Dallas in a special ceremony.

“The generous gift from the ExxonMobil Foundation will help us strengthen our academic programs,” Khayat said. “With perhaps the most liberal matching gifts program we have encountered, the ExxonMobil Foundation enables our graduates who are employees of ExxonMobil to contribute significantly

to the well-being of Ole Miss. We are profoundly grateful.”

The gift was made possible by the foundation’s Educational Matching Gift Program in which Exxon Mobil Corp. employees, retirees, surviving spouses and directors make individual contributions that are matched 3-to-1 by the foundation.

“There’s probably no greater honor than to have been asked to represent the ExxonMobil Foundation in supporting the education opportunities for Ole Miss students who will someday possibly be fellow employees,” said Partin, who received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accountancy from the university in 1981 and 1982.

This year as a result of its 2004 program, ExxonMobil will donate more than \$26 million to 932 colleges and universities across the United States. The gift to UM was made possible by individual donations totaling about \$39,000 plus the matching funds. The money represents Ole Miss graduates from several areas of study, including accountancy and engineering, and goes into the university’s general operating budget. ■



Kevin Bain

Accountancy alumnus Mark Q. Partin passes a \$103,000 check from ExxonMobil to Chancellor Robert Khayat in a campus ceremony. Professor Jimmy Davis and Dean Morris Stocks were on hand for the occasion.

*Gift Through Will continued from Page 1*

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exam—Tutor went to work for Arthur Andersen and Andersen Consulting. He recently retired from Accenture, a \$12 billion publicly held consulting firm that evolved from the company’s consulting practice. He was partner at Accenture for the last 23 years of his career.

The Tutors established the UM scholarship in 1998 and make regular contributions toward funding it. However, upon his retirement in 2002, Tutor said they looked for a way to ensure its funding in perpetuity, and the deferred giving arrangement seemed to be the best alternative.

“More and more alumni are choosing a deferred contribution as a means to make the gift of a lifetime,” said Sandra Guest, director of University Advancement. “These thoughtful gifts will help ensure that a permanent source of funds is forever available for Ole Miss students.”

A native of Meridian, Tutor chose to attend Ole Miss because members of his family were graduates and the university offered “excellent programs in pharmacy and business,

the two careers I was considering,” he said.

“Professor Peery introduced me to the Big Eight firms and the associated opportunity. I did not want to be an auditor, but the consulting practice appealed to me.”

Tutor’s career path is impressive: He was the company’s consulting managing partner of the Houston metropolitan area 1987-89, Southwest Region managing partner 1989-91, leader of strategic initiatives for the Americas 1991-93 and managing partner for Americas Business Integration 1994-96.

After the company’s global reorganization in 1997, he became managing partner for the Global Services Organization. Subsequently, he was responsible for the global information technology, human resources, business architecture and partner matters functions.

Looking back on his early career, Tutor said he felt that he received a well-rounded education at UM, learning both inside and outside the classroom. He served as president of Sigma Chi fraterni-

ty, and he was awarded a Taylor Medal and elected to the UM Hall of Fame.

“I felt my education was comparable to the people I began working with,” he said. “I had learned to deal with people, and I found that to be a very important skill in the business world.”

The Tutors first met while they were students on the Oxford campus. A native of Pope, Betty also graduated from Ole Miss, earning a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and master’s in specialized reading.

“Betty taught for a few years and then dedicated herself to raising our family and participating as a fund-raiser and special events planner for numerous arts organizations and charities,” Tutor said. “We have two children, Brooks, 33, and Sherida, 31. Brooks and his wife, Kim, recently presented us with our first granddaughter, Layla.”

Although retired, Tutor said he stays busy, including service on the board of directors of the Houston Grand Opera and Houston Symphony, and on the executive committee of the Houston Symphony. ■

# Alumni Profile: Reatha H. Clark

## Present Position:

- Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers  
Atlanta, Ga.

## Education:

- Bachelor of Business Administration  
in Accounting, UM, 1979

**Career Summary:** Reatha H. Clark took her first job in 1979 with Touche Ross & Co. in Memphis. After four years, she went to work for Care Inns, a nursing home chain that later was sold to Voluntary Hospitals of America. At VHA, she started a consulting practice for hospitals, then she joined Coopers & Lybrand in 1991 to work in their health-care consulting practice. She remained in the firm's Memphis office until she became partner in 1997 and transferred to Atlanta. When Coopers & Lybrand merged with Price Waterhouse in 1998, and became PricewaterhouseCoopers, she was asked to tackle a non-client service role. She worked with the firm's global leadership team to study and develop new processes to encourage innovation and creativity. When that assignment was accomplished, she returned to the firm's health-care practice as a consultant, which is where she remains today.

Clark is a member of the Patterson School's Professional Advisory Council. On a recent visit to campus, she spoke candidly about her career.

## What led you to study accountancy?

I was a very young college student. Coming out of high school, I had a lot of college credits, so I entered as a sophomore and I wanted to study journalism. In taking my first journalism course, about mid-way through the semester, the department head asked me to meet with him. Having been a straight-A student in high school (Louisville, Miss.), I was very eager to see him and try to determine what was wrong with his grading scale. He said, "I don't know if you're going to make it in this business because you procrastinate too much." Being young, I took that to mean, "Get out of my class," which is not what he really meant at all; what he really meant was, "Don't procrastinate." But I heard what I wanted to hear, so I changed my major. I was taking Jimmy Davis' class, Principles of Accounting, and I thought it was good. Majoring in account-



|Reatha H. Clark

ing had never crossed my mind before, so it just happened. As I look back, it was an excellent choice.

## What has been the highlight of your career so far?

I would say that if I could pinpoint the event that probably really said, "You've made it," it would be the time that I became a partner in my firm. I knew from the beginning of my career that success could be measured by being a partner in a Big 8 firm. Even though I knew it was coming eventually, it's a long arduous and perhaps uncertain process. But I've also been involved in other rewarding endeavors. I love working in the health-care industry because I feel like it's an area that really makes a difference in people's lives. I spend a lot of time working with hospitals. One of my favorites is a tiny hospital in Scotland Neck, N.C., where we helped save health care in that little community. We did a lot of consulting and advising to help them build a business model that would work in rural America. That was personally rewarding as opposed to a lot of work that we do that's geared more toward big business and maybe less toward human impact. Still, when I work with any client, I'm very focused on helping solve the issues that the industry faces.

## What do you consider to be the reason for your success?

A couple of thoughts: You have to want to be successful, and if you're really focused on a goal, that will give you the energy to get through difficult times. For example, it was very difficult in my early years in the profession to be a woman in the business world.

I've been at it for years, and I've had some really bad experiences; not all of them, of course, turned out that way just because I am a woman. Everybody's job has hard spells. Being focused on a long-term goal gave me the extra adrenalin, energy and perseverance to find a solution rather than give up. And I will say that I learned a lot of that mind-set in the School of Accountancy. My second thought about success follows along with a quote that sticks in my mind, but I'm not sure of the exact words or who said them. It goes something like: If I'm a success, it's half because I earned it and half because someone wanted me to succeed. I have had incredibly good mentors over the years, people who steered me in the right direction or urged me not to give up or they created an opportunity for me to do what I do best.

## How did your education experience at Ole Miss prepare you for your career?

It was the foundation. I felt very prepared for my career choice, I was ready to pass the CPA exam, and I had a good idea of what to expect in the business. But I also knew that I was making a tough choice. I still get a lot of energy from continuing to be involved with the School of Accountancy, from both the faculty and the students. As much as I'd like to say I'm noble and philanthropic, I get more out of coming back than I give to the university, but I think it's important both directions.

## What advice do you offer students in the Patterson School?

I tell them that they are choosing a career that has a lot of challenges and a lot of rewards. I try to be very honest with them about the business they're going into. And I guess my mantra would be that grades are the ticket to the dance, your GPA is what gets a recruiter to look another layer down.

## What are your interests outside of your work?

My husband, who is retired, and I have four children: A 23-year-old daughter who graduated from the Croft Institute for International Studies (at Ole Miss) who works in an international-based government job in Washington, D.C.; a 21-year-old daughter who is a junior in college; and two sons, a 19-year-old, who is a sophomore at Ole Miss, and a 14-year-old in high school. I'm also very active in my church.

# 2005 Honors Banquet and Accountancy Weekend



Neil Thomas Tabor received the 2005 Peery Scholarship.



Holderes of the Roger & Susie Friou Scholarship are (from left) Justin Andrew Smith, Brandee Camille Buntyn and Brett Wooten Cantrell. Buntyn received the scholarship in 2003, along with Emily Holland Wilkins (not pictured); Smith, Cantrell and Ann Barrett Blackburn (not pictured) received the award in 2002.



J Riley Shaw, assistant professor, was named the 2005 Outstanding Researcher.

Jane Olivia Lusco (right), president of the 2005-06 School of Accountancy Student Body, is shown with other officers (front, left) Sarah Lee Wall, secretary; Johanna Faulk, vice president/administration; Lusco; and (back, left) William C. Drummond Jr., vice president/publicity; and Walter Lee Robison, treasurer.



Allison Jay White won the 2005 Beta Alpha Psi Award.

Yanxia Bao (center), flanked by Dale and Tonya Flesher, received the Flesher & Flesher Fellowship.





Winners of the 2005 Accountancy Alumni Chapter Academic Achievement Award are (from left) Phillip Seth Rowland, Sarah Lee Wall, Johannah Faulk and Eleanor Maria Hightower. Not pictured are Nancy Suzonne Schaffhauser and Mellisa Caroline Murphree.



Mitch Collins (center) is flanked by Cassie Gwendolyn Thrash and David Ralph Bailey III, winners of the Collins Scholarship in Accountancy and Collins Graduate Scholarship in Accountancy respectively.



Winners of the McCarty Family Scholarship for 2004 and 2005 are (from left) Whitney Marie Farrell, Robert Carl Bain and Gerilynn Petty. Not pictured is James William McLeod.



Roberta Lynn Humphrey received the Graduate Achievement Award for Ph.D. in Accountancy.



Winners of 2005 Taylor Medals are (from left) Brent Michael Kitchens, Jennifer Leah Jordan, Kristin Clay Dunavant, Jeremy David Jones, Joseph Nabil Shayeb and William Brett Galloway. Not pictured is Steven Ray Mathis.



Samantha Marie Rayburn won the Mississippi Tax Institute Fellowship.

# Rhodes Receives Outstanding Teacher Award at UM DeSoto Center in Southaven

Billy Rhodes is the inaugural winner of the T.P. Vinson Outstanding Faculty Award at the University of Mississippi-DeSoto Center in Southaven.

Rhodes, assistant to Dean Morris Stocks and instructor in accountancy, coordinates both the Southaven and Tupelo accountancy programs. Besides advising students at the Patterson School, he also recruits at high school and community colleges. He teaches Principles of Accounting, Cost Accounting, CPA Law Review and Federal Income Taxes.

The award honors the late UM faculty member Theopolis P. Vinson, who served the School of Education from 1989 until his untimely death in 2003. He was director of undergraduate advising and records, assistant dean and assistant professor of curriculum and instruction. Vinson taught, advised and recruited students at the DeSoto Center, leaving a legacy that needed to be recognized, said Bonnie Buntin, director of the center.

“Dr. Vinson was an advocate for our students who looked beyond where they were and helped them plan their future,” Buntin said. “With this award in his honor, we feel that we not only are recognizing his selfless service, but we also are pointing to others like him who go above and beyond the call of duty to assist our staff and students. We feel that Billy Rhodes reflects the spirit in which Dr. Vinson served others.”

The DeSoto Center staff chose Rhodes to receive the award, and he was presented with a framed certificate.

“I feel very honored to receive the first



Harry Briscoe

Patterson School faculty member Billy Rhodes shares a moment with UM staff member Jacqueline Vinson, whose late husband, T.P. Vinson, has been memorialized with the T.P. Vinson Outstanding Faculty Award at UM-DeSoto Center in Southaven. Rhodes is the inaugural recipient of the award.

T.P. Vinson Outstanding Faculty Award,” Rhodes said. “Dr. Vinson was totally dedicated to his students, and I try to emulate that commitment. I enjoy my service at the DeSoto Center; the students are very eager to learn and they make my job a pleasure.”

Rhodes holds an MBA and juris doctorate, both from Ole Miss. His undergrad-

uate degree, in mathematics, is from Delta State University.

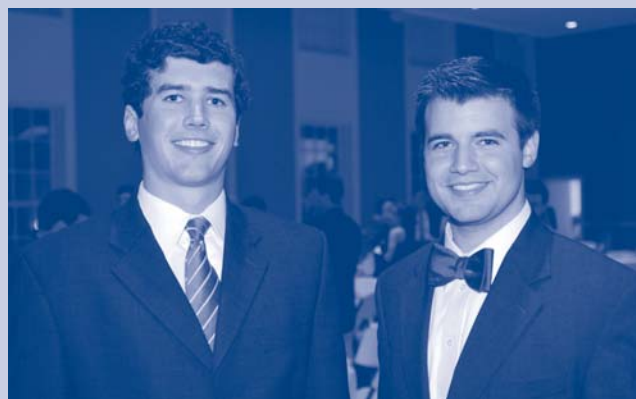
A longtime member of the Oxford Kiwanis Club, he is serving as the local president. He is a member of the Mississippi Bar, AICPA, Mississippi Society of CPAs and the Northeast Chapter of the Mississippi Society of CPAs. ■

## Honors Banquet



Kevin Bain

Professor James W. Davis is shown with recipients of the James W. Davis Scholarship in Accountancy. They are Baker Cannada and Stephanie Ann Henson.



Kevin Bain

Accountancy students William Moore Walker (left) and Justin Andrew Smith are new members of the Ole Miss Hall of Fame.



# International Accounting in London: An Interview with Judith Cassidy

by Lana Rogers

## Present Position:

- Associate Professor of Accountancy

## Education:

- Texas Tech University, PhD in accounting; University of Texas-Arlington, MBA in accounting, Tulane University School of Public Health; Newcomb College, bachelor's degree in economics

Accounting in the United States is rooted in the United Kingdom, so what better place than London to have a study-abroad accounting program?

There is no better place, says Judith Cassidy, associate professor of accountancy, who this summer for the sixth straight year serves as resident director of the Patterson School's International Accounting Program in London. The session is a well-established academic program set in one of the world's leading financial centers and coordinated through the university's Study Abroad Office.

Cassidy, who has taught at Ole Miss for 16 years, plans to accompany a class of a dozen UM accountancy students for this year's London Summer Session, July 6-Aug. 8. The program offers an exciting curriculum, distinguished faculty and convenient living arrangements.

Earlier this year, Cassidy spoke candidly about her experiences.

## How did you become involved in the study abroad program?

I already traveled a great deal, and I was teaching International Accounting on campus. On my first day of teaching International Accounting, I joked that my claim to fame in international accounting was that I fell off the gangplank in China. I assured them that we would learn together. Also, I had studied abroad when I was in college. I think that experience has helped me in every aspect of teaching abroad, from planning to understanding what the students should experience.



Judith Cassidy (left) visits with friends in a London tearoom during one of her sojourns to the United Kingdom as resident director of the Patterson School's International Accounting Program.

## What is your role in putting the course together?

Putting an American class together to be held in London is not an easy task, but the Study Abroad Office is very helpful and completely supportive. An entire year of work is involved before the classes ever begin. I try to incorporate site visits into the program. Many are not open to the general public, therefore, I must plan ahead to get access to these places. One of my favorites was our visit to the International Accounting Standards Board where Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the board, spoke to our group. Another special occasion was going to the Winfield Home, the U.S. Ambassador's residence, for the Independence Day picnic.

## How do you decide what to include in the program?

We visit some places every year, such as the accounting firms, the Accounting Standards Board and Lloyds. Others depend on what can be arranged. It's always different. Last summer, we visited Gate-Gourmet (an international airline catering company). We heard about differences between the United States and the European Air Carriers. We learned about

the "indestructible rolls" and had first class catering serve us lunch.

## What traits should a faculty member possess to be successful in study abroad undertakings?

They should have a love for young people and a willingness to work with them 24 hours a day, because you never know when you might be awakened at 3 a.m. when a student has an earache. In addition, faculty must be willing to resort to Plan B when Plan A falls through.

## What type of students should consider studying abroad?

The qualities for a great study-abroad student are maturity, self-reliance, and most of all, intellectual curiosity.

## How have you benefited from teaching abroad?

I have made so many friends over the years, and this past summer, I collected data for a research project.

*Lana Rogers is a spring 2005 graduate of the School of Business Administration with a degree in marketing communications.*

# Patterson School Students Win Regional

A team of accountancy students from the University of Mississippi recently won first place in competition at the South-eastern Regional Beta Alpha Psi Conference in Tampa, Fla.

In the innovation category of the event, students Brandee Buntyn of Union, Sharon Salu of Nigeria and Allison White of Ripley, Tenn., made a presentation outlining work that chapter members have been doing to raise money for chapter activities.

The UM team beat out their peers from the University of Alabama by relating to the judges how, for the last two years, chapter members have been working with UM's Internal Auditing Department.

Fees for their work are donated directly to the chapter to provide for chapter activities, including travel to Beta Alpha Psi meetings.

Such service helps the chapter grow

and expand, and the extra activities broaden the students' educational experiences, said Suzanne McCaffrey, instructor and Beta Alpha Psi faculty adviser since 2002.

The meetings provide invaluable networking, workshops and professional training, meeting other students, and more importantly, meeting members of the profession, including many UM alumni, said White, who already has signed on to begin her career with PricewaterhouseCoopers. She completes her master's degree this summer.

"The Big Four accounting firms love to see Beta Alpha Psi on a resume," said McCaffrey. "Firms have supported the chapter by making presentations at meetings, offering internships, sponsoring fund-raising golf tournaments and even funding social events."

The national organization recognizes

academic excellence and complements members' formal education by providing interaction among students, faculty and professionals, and fosters lifelong growth, service and ethical conduct. To be eligible for membership, students must meet certain criteria, including academic standing and dedication to service.

Salu said she was pleased with their showing in Tampa. "For me, it was my first time to support the chapter outside of Ole Miss, and it really meant a lot to me." A junior accountancy major, Salu said she hopes to see the chapter rise from its baseline status to attain distinguished, then superior rating.

The UM team plans to compete at the national level in August at the Beta Alpha Psi meeting in San Francisco. ■

# Beta Alpha Psi Sponsors First Fund-raiser

University of Mississippi accountancy students hosted the first Beta Alpha Psi Invitational Golf Tournament fund-raiser in April on the Ole Miss golf course.

The four-person scramble pitted 15 teams and raised around \$2,700, said chapter adviser Suzanne McCaffrey, instructor in accountancy.

Part of the funds were donated to Angel Ranch, a local temporary shelter for abused children.

The remainder will be used for chapter activities, including sending a team of students to national competition this fall.

"The students and I knew little to nothing of golf, let alone organizing and

hosting a golf tournament," McCaffrey said. "Someone must have been smiling on us that day, because the storm clouds moved through to leave us with sunshine and a great day."

Because of the tournament's success, "both in fund-raising and in fun," plans call for making it an annual event, McCaffrey said. ■

# Who's Who 2005

Several of the 22 Patterson School students who are among the 139 Ole Miss students listed in the 2005 "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" gathered for a photo following the Honors Banquet. They are (from left) Allison Jay White, Andrea Lenee Lewis, Justin Andrew Smith, Samantha Marie Rayburn, Joseph Nabil Shayeb, Jeremy David Jones, William Moore Walker, Brett Wooten Cantrell, Frances Claire Boyd and Ann Barrett Blackburn.



Kevin Bain

# IT Auditing Class Solves Software Problem

A project between UM's Internal Audit Department and Professor Pascal Bizarro's class, Information Technology Auditing (Accy 530), this spring semester has devised an accounting software program customized for a campus department needing an updated system.

However, students who took the elective class say they're the ones reaping the greatest rewards.

"Already, what I learned in Dr. Bizarro's class has been of great value to me," said David Alverson, who completed the master's in accountancy program this spring and goes to work in June with Ernst & Young in the company's Technology and Security Risk Services (TSRS) Department. "In fact, if I had not taken the class, I might not have this job. So much of what I learned about software, and the surrounding theories and framework, helped me to effectively answer questions during the job interview."

Parameters for the software procurement project were largely the work of Igor Voytsekhivskyy, who graduated last year with a master's in accountancy and works for the Indianapolis office of PricewaterhouseCoopers. The goal was to come up with an effective accounting software package for the anonymous UM department.

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**—Lynn Mills, Audit Department**

"We actually had to step into the shoes of an IT (information technology) consultant or at least a company employee trying to find an organization's next accounting package," said August master's graduate Kris Lange, who has accepted a job offer with Ernst & Young in Nashville.

Fifteen students, working in four groups, were tasked with conducting research and proposing two to three of the most suitable accounting software providers/packages they could find. Sources of information could include online



Harry Briscoe

Professor Pascal Bizarro (left) discusses a campus software problem with accountancy student Allison Ashford (standing) and Lynn Mills, senior auditor in UM's Internal Audit Department and a 1999 graduate of the School of Accountancy.

resources, library resources and queries with software providers.

"The departmental director desired information on possible computer software alternatives to update or replace their cur-

rent system," said Lynn Mills, senior auditor in UM's Internal Audit Department.

Such outdated systems are common in business given the continuous evolvement of computer technology and the mandates handed down with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, Bizarro said. "While education institutions are not mandated under the act, many of the practices that it recommends are very desirable for implementation to help ensure a strong system of internal control."

The UM department being addressed has two operations, with functions that

range from overall administration to negotiating contracts and managing inventory. Many details had to be considered in the software upgrade.

Lange said he feels that his group "worked smarter and not harder" than the others.

"We saved hours of sifting through technical jargon because we were lucky to find this consulting company that knew the technical jargon for us, and we were able to focus on price, quality, reliability and bells and whistles."

"The information Dr. Bizarro's class has provided has been great," Mills said. "They (in the campus department under consideration) are thrilled to have been provided with so much information."

This project continues a working relationship between the accountancy school and Internal Audit.

"We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful School of Accountancy, with people willing and able to work with other areas of campus to help solve problems that come up," Mills said. "And we, in turn, keep a couple of accountancy students working in our department. It's just a rewarding working relationship." ■

# Alumni News

## Professional

**Milton J. Cuevas II** (BAccy 88) was promoted to vice president, chief financial officer and chief operating officer of ICOR International in Indianapolis.

**Ashley McDaniel** (BAccy 96, MAccy 97) of Birmingham, Ala., was promoted to director of accounting for Southern Living at Home.

**Rachel Sanders** (BAccy 03) passed the CPA exam in July. She is an assurance associate with Horne CPA Group in the Jackson office.

## Weddings

**Meredith Rhewann Green** (BAccy 03, MTax 03, JD 04) and **Hugh Agnew Gamble III** (JD 04) Aug 16, 2004.

**Jessica Lynn Hamilton** (BAccy 02) and **Ben Wilson**, July 31, 2004.

**Staci Ann Henson** (BAccy 03, MAccy 04) and **Thomas Brent Tyler**, Aug. 7, 2004.

**Wendy J. Keith** (BAccy 90, JD 93) and **J. Carter Thompson Jr.** (JD 84), July 31, 2004.

**Mary Allison Ormon** and **Joshua N. Rakestraw** (BAccy 02), Aug. 14, 2004.

## Births

**Anna Katherine**, daughter of **Ashley Jolliff Ayres** (BAccy 97, MAccy 98) and **Chad W. Ayres** (BS 97), May 19, 2004.

**Timothy Reid**, son of **Michelle Hughey Davis** (BAccy 00) and **Timothy Davis**, July 15, 2004.

**Colin Bond**, son of **Hope Kizer-O'Briant** (BA 99) and **Ronald Allen O'Briant Jr.** (BAccy 99), Aug. 12, 2004.

**Caroline Cecilia**, daughter of **Suzanne Foushee Nappier** (BAccy 92) and **Herbert C. Nappier IV** (BAccy 96, MTax 97), May 30, 2004.

**Lillie Leonor**, daughter of **Dana M. Warrington** and **Robert Warrington** (BAccy 85, JD 88), July 28, 2004.

**Amelia Juliet**, daughter of **Amelia Long Webb** and **Michael A. Webb** (BAccy 87), Sept. 1, 2004.

*Please submit address and e-mail updates to: [records@alumni.olemiss.edu](mailto:records@alumni.olemiss.edu).*

# Hall of Fame



Kevin Bain

**Homer Burkett** (third from right), the newest member of the Alumni Hall of Fame, is shown with other Hall of Fame members, (from left) **Leo Boolos Jr.** of Vicksburg, **Charles W. Taylor** of Oxford, **Howard L. Davidson** of Booneville, **Burkett, Jacob M. Fried Jr.** of New Orleans and **Charles Wesley Caldwell** of Natchez.

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