

ACCOUNTANT

NEWS FROM THE PATTERSON SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

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Nathan Latifi

Mark Wilder, dean of UM's Patterson School of Accountancy, from left, visits with KPMG partners Tom Avent of Atlanta and Chuck Walker of New York/Nashville, along with Morris Stocks, UM's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Big Four accounting firm KPMG has established a prestigious endowed chair-level faculty position in the accountancy school.

KPMG establishes Chair of Accountancy

Big Four firm commits to faculty support

By Tina Hahn

Big Four accounting firm KPMG LLP, through the KPMG Foundation, has elevated the KPMG Professorship in Accountancy at the University of Mississippi to the prestigious Chair level with a \$1.5 million commitment.

The new chair is the first established by an accounting firm at the nationally ranked Patterson School of Accountancy and the second new chair announced for the school in just under a year. UM Provost Morris Stocks has named Mark Wilder, dean and KPMG Professor in the Patterson School, as the holder of the KPMG Chair of Accountancy.

The major gift comes from a firm that has

built a strong legacy of support at the university through contributions to undergird the Patterson School and through the recruitment of Ole Miss graduates. Several KPMG partners first established a lectureship endowment in 2002 and later were joined by other colleagues to elevate the faculty position to the KPMG Professorship in 2008.

"We recognize that state funding for higher education has decreased across the country," said Tom Avent of Atlanta, Southeast partner in charge of mergers and acquisitions-tax at KPMG and an Ole Miss alumnus. "To maintain a world-class program at a public university, you've got to have private support. We are dedicated to helping strengthen Ole Miss

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Comments or suggestions?
Call 662-915-7623

Dear Accountancy Alumni and Friends:

The 2014-15 academic year is in full swing in the Patterson School of Accountancy. We are proud of what the Patterson School continues to be able to accomplish, thanks to high-achieving students, dedicated and supportive alumni, and a faculty that has maintained our commitment to excellence in the classroom, which has been the hallmark of the Ole Miss accountancy program for decades.

The Patterson School is extremely proud of our national rankings. All three of our programs are ranked nationally by the *Public Accounting Report*. For seven consecutive years, we have been ranked in the top 20, and for each of the past four years our programs have been ranked among the top 10 nationally. In the 2014-15 rankings, which were recently released, the undergraduate program is at No. 6 and is once again No. 1 in the Southeastern Conference. These rankings help us tremendously in recruiting outstanding students and faculty.

Our school continues to grow and thrive, and our official enrollment for 2014-15 reached an all-time high for the ninth consecutive year. Our total enrollment of 1,089 students this year included 962 in our undergraduate program and 127 graduate students. Our enrollment on the Oxford campus has grown 53.7 percent over the past five years. Our spring internship program posted very strong results once again as we had 102 students participate in internships during spring 2014 (an all-time high). These students interned across the nation in cities literally coast to coast (San Francisco to New York and many points in-between). Over a five-year period, our program continues to offer students the opportunity to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees, experience a meaningful internship and be thoroughly prepared for the CPA exam.

This issue of *Ole Miss Accountant* will update you on school events, the accomplishments of our faculty and students, and the achievements of our alumni. We consider it a true privilege to serve you and our students. We are proud of the opportunities we are able to provide students, and we remain deeply grateful for the role our alumni and friends have played in enabling our success. Accountancy supporters have been the standard setters at Ole Miss for decades, and we ask you to continue this commitment to excellence. We appreciate so much your past support of our efforts in the Patterson School and trust that you will remain committed to these efforts.

Sincerely,

W. Mark Wilder

W. Mark Wilder
Dean and KPMG Professor



Kevin Bain

Madison White celebrates after learning she won the election for ASB treasurer.

Senior elected ASB treasurer

Madison White of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was a high school freshman when she first visited the Ole Miss campus with her family, scouting for just the right university for her older sister, but she spoke first.

"As soon as I stepped foot on campus, I knew Ole Miss was the university I would attend," she said. "It is so breathtakingly beautiful and the perfect size as it's not too big or too small."

Majoring in accounting with a minor in marketing, White begins her senior year this fall with a new responsibility. In campuswide elections in February, she won the post of Associated Student Body treasurer. The 2014-15 officers were inaugurated April 1 in a campus ceremony at the historic Lyceum.

Student government is not new to White. She was president of the student body at Hillcrest High School in Tuscaloosa.

"I became involved on the Ole Miss campus during my freshman year, and I have really enjoyed it," she said. "Not only am I part of student government but I am involved in Greek life, and I work as a diamond girl for the Ole Miss baseball team."

She also is committed to community service, including visiting Azalea Gardens retirement home and supporting UM's Big Event.

She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, the university's highest academic honor across all disciplines. She also belongs to the academic honor societies Gamma Beta Phi, Phi Eta Sigma, Lambda Sigma, Alpha Lambda, Golden Key and National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She is a Provost Scholar and recipient of an Academic Excellence Scholarship, Student Body President Scholarship and Holmes Scholarship.

White is slated to graduate in spring 2015. She plans to obtain a master's in accountancy and eventually work for an accounting firm in Nashville. ■

Avent Legacy Honored

Sons create scholarship endowment for first female accountancy grad

By Tina Hahn

Louise Avent was known by many descriptions: first female accountancy graduate of the University of Mississippi, successful leader of a family business, dedicated champion of the Oxford-University community and for Mississippi, and spirited ambassador for all aspects of Ole Miss.

The 1947 graduate also became the first female inducted into the Hall of Fame at the university's Patterson School of Accountancy. Now her legacy will reach future generations of students through a scholarship bearing her name. Her sons, Tom Avent of Atlanta and Murray Avent of Oxford, have committed \$250,000 to establish an endowment, which will fund four annual accountancy scholarships.

"My mother was born ahead of her time and might have had a very different career if she had been born today," said Tom Avent, Southeast partner in charge of mergers and acquisitions-tax at Big Four accounting firm KPMG LLP and an Ole Miss alumnus. "She ran the family business and took care of her three boys – my father, my brother and myself – but she was also a brilliant student. I remember asking her once why she didn't go to work for one of the Big Eight accounting firms after college. To my surprise, she explained that the Big Eight firms at that time didn't hire women, so she started her professional career keeping books for a large steamship company in New Orleans and served as a Spanish interpreter.

"The 10th anniversary of her passing is approaching, and Murray and I wanted to do something that would be appropriate to honor her legacy and passion for Ole Miss. To have her name on an endowment for accountancy scholarships is something truly special for Murray and me, and we know it would also have meant a great deal to mother. Future scholarship recipients should know that she graduated in two-and-a-half years with a perfect grade-point average, taking as many as 24 hours in a semester, without ever making a 'B.' We hope her scholarship recipients will emulate her work in the classroom and also give back to Ole Miss and to their communities as she did," he said.

Murray Avent said his mother had a



Louise Avent

"missionary zeal" about Ole Miss and Oxford and wanted everyone to feel the same way. A song she absolutely cherished, the university's alma mater, was performed by a trumpet player at her graveside services in 2004.

"Mother believed that an education from Ole Miss was as good as any education you could find in this great nation. She truly believed that with an Ole Miss education and a work ethic you could accomplish anything you wanted in life. This endowment in her name and its future scholarship recipients will serve to validate that heartfelt belief on her part. Mother was truly exceptional, and the School of Accountancy is exceptional, as evidenced by the national rankings. She would be so very proud of the school's accomplishments," said Avent,

an Oxford developer who worked more than two decades in Washington, D.C., as an aide and legislative director to U.S. congressmen Jamie L. Whitten and G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery.

Fortunately, she witnessed her sons earning five degrees from Ole Miss. In addition, Tom received a master's in law degree from New York University.

The late Thomas Webb Avent and the former Louise Anderson Murray were members of two of the oldest families in Oxford and Lafayette County. They began dating while she was working in New Orleans. After her husband's death, she became president of Avent Dairy. She was named Citizen of the Year in 1995 by the Oxford-Lafayette County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development

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Students launch first Mississippi NABA chapter

Patterson School of Accountancy students have launched Mississippi's first chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants. The chapter, which launched in 2013 and received its official charter earlier this year, has flourished.

Kyerra Moody of Olive Branch, who graduated with a Bachelor of Accountancy degree in May, and Nicole Barnes of Marion, Ark., an accountancy major entering her senior year this fall, co-founded the Ole Miss chapter. The group met for the first time Sept. 9, 2013, and the national board approved its charter in February. Moody served as president, Barnes was vice president, and they had this to say during the school year:

"As president of the chapter, words cannot express how excited and proud I am of the progress that Ole Miss NABA has made over the course of this year," Moody said. "Starting from nothing, and against all odds, Nicole, the rest of the executive board and I have put in so much work and effort to become the first NABA chapter to be chartered in Mississippi."

"I really hope this will increase the diversity in the accountancy school," Barnes said. "Currently, we don't have a lot of minority students or faculty. I hope this will help recruit students to the program and

help them stay in the program."

Barnes said she wanted to have a membership in a professional organization that would help her build professional skills and allow her to network more effectively. Although the school provides networking opportunities for students, she said she wanted a smaller, closer-knit group so they could improve together and develop their professional skills.

Barnes said one of her favorite aspects of the accountancy school is that the faculty members really get to know their students.

"They've encouraged me to get involved in opportunities that got me in front of professionals early on," she said. "I want all students to have that experience and those opportunities."

Nationally, NABA started in December 1969, with nine African-Americans meeting in New York City to discuss the challenges and limited opportunities they faced in the profession. At that time, only 136 of the 100,000 certified public accountants in the United States were black. NABA was born out of that meeting and has chapters across the country.

Apart from networking, the association provides other benefits. For instance, NABA helps members learn to dress for the professional world. Last year, the Ole Miss

chapter organized a fashion show, where working professionals offered advice on the dos and don'ts of dressing for a career.

"The biggest impact we've had so far is exposing students to professional development opportunities that they might not have had otherwise," Barnes said. "Just in this past school year, we've had national partners from KPMG and Ernst & Young meet with NABA members. They've also come to campus for Beta Alpha Psi presentations."

NABA members get to participate in professional development workshops and networking activities with professionals from various firms, which create excellent opportunities for them to start establishing connections and building relationships. In only the first year, the group has recruited more than 30 members and attended a regional student conference in Atlanta.

"This is only the beginning for the Ole Miss NABA chapter, and I see big and bright things in its future," Moody said. "It is my hope that the current members will continue to build the chapter and keep the legacy going."

"I would like to thank my fellow classmates in the School of Accountancy for being supportive of our organization," Barnes said. "We have lots of things in store for the future." ■



National Association of Black Accountants officers Jasmine Brown (left), Nicole Barnes, Gabrielle Matthews, Kyerra Moody, Chelsea Harris and Precious Hunt.

Recent graduate earns Hall of Fame distinction

With an impressive record of academic achievement, leadership and service, Anish Sharma (BAccy 14) was inducted into the 2013-14 Ole Miss Hall of Fame.

"My four years at Ole Miss have been incredible," Sharma said. "My most incredible moment was receiving Hall of Fame. I am humbled to be part of such an esteemed group of alumni. I am still in shock that I received such an honor."

Chancellor Dan Jones bestowed the honor upon Sharma and nine other outstanding seniors in a January ceremony at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Recipients are chosen by a committee pursuant to Associated Student Body policy, with selections based on a student's academic achievement, community service and potential for future success.

"The many accomplishments of these exceptional students show the meaningful and diverse community service in which they participate, even while serving in organizations and excelling in their degree programs," Jones said.

The 10 students, along with 146 other Ole Miss seniors, were also recognized for inclusion in the 2014 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

A Greenwood native, Sharma completed his bachelor's degree with a 4.0 grade-point average. He is enrolled in the Patterson School's master's program, although he said he already believes he can be competitive in his profession.

"My (undergraduate) academic experience was top-notch," he said. "My professors were so helpful and encouraging throughout my four years here. Because the School of Accountancy has such a high standard for professors, I feel very prepared for the real world. During my internship, I could tell that I have received a quality education."

Respected by his peers, Sharma was president of the accountancy school's Associated Student Body for 2013-14. His academic accomplishments included membership in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. He held an Honors College Fellowship, Robert M. Carrier Scholarship and Friou Accountancy Scholarship. Listed on the Chancellor's Honor Roll, he was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, UM's highest academic honor across all disciplines, and he received a Taylor Medal, UM's highest academic award.

In service to the university, he was a member of the Chancellor's Standing Committee: Academic Discipline, Creed Week Award Committee and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Advisory Council. He was a member of the Cardinal Club and served on the ASB, Student Alumni Council and UM Big Event Logistics Committee.

His membership in other academic and leadership honor societies included Mortar Board, Omicron Delta Kappa, Order of Omega, Beta Alpha Psi and Gamma Beta Phi. His service legacy includes work with the Warehouse Food Repack Program in New York City and Sigma Nu Charity Bowl, Leap Frog and the Food Pantry locally.

As for his most rewarding experience, Sharma said going to Port Elizabeth, South Africa, during his sophomore year tops the list.

"We volunteered at an AIDS orphanage and a school in a poverty-stricken area. The trip was an eye-opening experience, and it is something I will never forget."

Following graduate school, Sharma plans to join Deloitte in Dallas, Texas. ■



Anish Sharma



Chancellor Dan Jones congratulates Anish Sharma on his induction into the Ole Miss Hall of Fame.

Bill Dabney

Nathan Latti



Kevin Bain

Patterson School graduate student Philip Clothiaux makes his presentation in the Speaker's Edge competition in January.

Accountancy grad student wins Speaker's Edge

By Elaine Pugh

For the second consecutive year, a Patterson School student was the overall winner in the graduate division of Speaker's Edge, a competition sponsored by the Ole Miss MBA program each January.

"MBA and accountancy graduate students seem to love that cross population," said the competition's co-founder Joann Edwards, instructor in speech and director of forensics in the Lott Leadership Institute. "(Dean) Mark Wilder immediately saw the value for the accountancy grads and has been incredibly supportive in providing them information and access to participate."

The latest winner, Philip Clothiaux, said that Speaker's Edge was "a very intense course, and I entered the class with very little speaking experience."

"Fortunately, Mrs. Edwards has put her heart and soul into building a program that can turn any novice into a skilled speaker," he said. "She has created a class that leverages her skills in the art of public speaking, as well as the skills of some incredible alumni that return to Ole Miss to

be coaches and judges."

With the competition divided into three categories, Clothiaux was declared the overall champion after winning a spot in the finals of all three categories. He came in second in Ethical Dilemmas and third in both Informative and Marketplace Pitch. In two days of competition, the 61 students were winnowed down to 19 finalists, with six placing in the first two categories and seven in the third.

"I was surprised when I made it to the final round in each category; I knew it was going to be close each time," Clothiaux said.

Donna Wade (BBA 74) of Oxford was among more than 50 judges who volunteered this year.

"Speaking in the real business world can be very intimidating if you have never done it before, and I remember what that feeling was like after graduating from Ole Miss," Wade said. "Speaker's Edge gives students an opportunity to practice and improve that skill, which will serve them well for years to come."

Barbara Travis of Jackson, executive director of the Mississippi World Trade

Center, returned as a judge this year after having volunteered for a number of years.

"I consider it both an honor and a privilege to serve as a judge for this superior program," she said. "Each year I'm so impressed with the quality of the presentations and the professionalism exhibited by the Speaker's Edge participants that I think it simply can't get any better – then it does! There's no better or more effective way to teach."

Edwards pointed out that current research shows employers, including those in education, corporations and nonprofits, seek applicants with a "true competitive edge, and that usually means having the ability to articulate a vision and ideas."

"I tell the students they will get out of Speaker's Edge exactly what they put into it," she said. "This year, the students were some of the most naturally gifted that I have coached. They were eager and industrious and overall a joy. There was not one student who did not get better – and several had great anxiety about the competition. But they pushed through, were supportive of one another and each 'won.'"

Dedicated alumnus recognized for public service

University of Mississippi alumnus Jon C. Turner (BBA 78), CPA, has devoted more than 35 years to his highly successful career while also reaching out to the community. For his efforts, he was honored by the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants with the *2013 Public Service Award*.

A Belzoni native, Turner is a partner in the Jackson office of BKD LLP, a national CPA and advisory firm. He serves on the boards of the Mississippi Economic Council and LeFleur East Foundation, and is incoming chairman of the Board of Directors in 2015 of the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson. He has served as president of the Jackson Academy board of trustees and on the boards of directors of Christ United Methodist Church and the YMCA of Metro Jackson.

He is a graduate of MEC's Leadership Mississippi program and is an active member of the Rotary Club of North Jackson, where he is a past board member and a Paul Harris Fellow.

He has served three terms as an appointed member of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Inter-Alumni Council.

Faithful to his alma mater, Turner is a member of the Patterson School's Alumni Advisory Council and a past president of the Ole Miss Alumni Association, the first accountant chosen for that role. He serves on the UM Foundation board of directors, where he chairs its audit committee. He has held leadership roles in the foundation's campaigns for Ole Miss First, The Inn at Ole Miss and MomentUM, as well as in his fraternity Kappa Alpha Order.

Stepping up the ladder of success in his chosen field, Turner started with Peat, Marwick & Mitchell (now KPMG) in Jackson. Three years later, he joined a small CPA firm, which years later became Smith, Turner & Reeves. In 2008, after the firm had grown to be one of the largest in the state, it merged with two other Mississippi firms becoming part of the nation's 12th largest CPA firm, BKD LLP.

Turner lives in Jackson with his wife, Pamela (BBA 77). Their daughters are Raney-Mills Turner Kiely (BA 04) and Mary-Crosby Turner Roberts (BE 10). They have a grandson, Milo Crosby Kiely.

Ole Miss Accountant visited with Turner recently and posed the following questions to



Jon Turner

find out firsthand how he manages success.

Q: What has been the most challenging aspect of balancing your career goals with your commitment to public service?

A: Many CPAs do a whole lot more than I do in the area of public service, and I really admire them. The most challenging thing for me through the years has been not to get overcommitted. I have a real problem saying no, and once I'm "in" with something, I'm pretty much in for life. My problem is that I am intensely and forever loyal, perhaps to a fault. The balancing act comes in not allowing outside activities – as worthwhile as they may be – to impact your family or work; instead, they should enrich and complement. And I'll have to say I've had a wonderfully supportive wife alongside.

Q: You must have a great work ethic. How did that come about?

A: Most CPAs I know have a really strong work ethic, but any work ethic I have started with my father, now 84 year old O.J. Turner. We farmed cotton, soybeans, rice and raised a little catfish. Early on, Dad had me chopping cotton, then later driving tractors in the baking sun from sunup to sundown – before air-conditioned cabs! And when rains came and ran us out of the fields, he'd have us cleaning equipment on the farm or doing yardwork at the house. I didn't think much about all of that at the time, but there was no special treatment granted, and I learned that

hard work, long days and good work habits were how things happened. Public accounting requires a ton of extra, stressful hours, especially in the early years, and I suppose Dad got me ready for that, all the while being an awesome father and friend.

Q: How have your Ole Miss degree and other affiliations with the university contributed to your success?

A: First, I didn't have much choice, growing up in a fourth-generation Ole Miss family, as to where I would matriculate to college. There was a track and football field named for my great-grandfather and a building named after a great uncle. My dad and multiple uncles and cousins had played sports there or otherwise attended. I would be going to college in Oxford!

When you combine the technical aspects of an excellent curriculum with a faculty that cares about each student and a campus environment in which you learn so much more beyond the classroom, dealing with people, developing social and political skills, and networking with students, faculty and alumni who become lifelong friends, the Ole Miss degree has been invaluable.

Q: Thinking back, are there certain professors who particularly inspired you to enter the field of accounting?

A: Yes, without question. I don't know where I would be or what I would be doing if not for Gene Peery. He sought me out as a freshman, he knew my hometown, my family background with Ole Miss, remembered me from fraternity rush, was an avid sports fan like me. For a shy, intimidated small-town guy, I was amazed that a legendary accounting professor would take an interest in me. How could I tell this great man I was not going to major in accounting? He pretty much grabbed me by the collar and [dragged] me into his principles of accounting class. I ended up taking six semesters under him.

It didn't stop there as Mr. Peery would, like other accounting professors, keep up with you and your family after you graduated. Jimmy Davis and other outstanding, early professors incorporated a passionate culture into the school that has carried on to the current day under Dean Wilder's leadership. The Patterson School is a life-long family thing – it really is.

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KPMG Chair, continued from Page 1

and assisting the School of Accountancy in its continuing efforts to produce top tier accounting graduates who can excel in any specialty or environment.

"As a top employer of Ole Miss accountancy students, we wanted to be the first firm to have a named chair-level faculty position there. The establishment of the KPMG Chair at Ole Miss is a dream come true for us and is attributable to the combined efforts and generosity of our partners, employees, alumni and, of course, the KPMG Foundation."

The Patterson School of Accountancy has gained recognition in recent years, due in part to generous gifts from alumni and friends. All three of its programs are ranked nationally by the *Public Accounting Report*. For each of the past four years, its programs have been ranked among the top 10 nationally. In the 2014-15 rankings which were recently released, the undergraduate program is at No. 6 and is No. 1 in the Southeastern Conference.

"When we initially sat down with leadership to discuss the greatest need for the School of Accountancy, it was made clear that faculty support was very important," said Chuck Walker, national partner in charge, alternative investments-tax at KPMG and an Ole Miss alumnus. "Today, we can see a direct correlation between the incredible faculty talent assembled, the quality of the students graduating and the school's rapid climb in national rankings."

"We are fortunate to have such great support from Ole Miss accountancy alumni at KPMG, the KPMG Foundation, the accountancy school and the university. It is a very collaborative and productive joint relationship," Walker said.

Avent also praises the school's rankings.

"We are proud of the national prominence the Patterson School has achieved. It was certainly a compelling factor in making the case for directing private support to the Ole Miss accountancy program. I believe the best schools attract the best students, and the accountancy faculty members are always concerned about their students being prepared for great career opportunities. The professors have a love for their students, for the program and for the university," he said.

KPMG LLP, an audit, tax and advisory firm, is the U.S. member firm of KPMG International Cooperative. KPMG International's member firms employ 145,000 professionals, including more than 8,000 partners, in 152 countries.

Walker pointed to the faculty as the key to the great number of successful graduates.

"We are all grateful for the legacy of excellence left by former professor Gene Peery, which has continued to be forged through Jimmy Davis, Dale and Tonya Flesher, and so many others. I am very proud to be a graduate of the School of Accountancy at Ole Miss, and it is a privilege and pleasure to give back, hoping in some small way to continue that legacy."

Avent agreed. "We feel Ole Miss graduates are very well prepared for professional careers, from their technical accounting skills to their ability to develop relationships with clients, network with business colleagues and conduct themselves in social situations. Ole Miss is a school that imparts that type of individual development."

UM Chancellor Dan Jones called KPMG an important stakeholder.

"The University of Mississippi's goal is to transform lives through exceptional educational opportunities, and providing the most outstanding professors to teach our students is absolutely critical to that goal," Jones said. "Clearly, KPMG understands and appreciates this priority, as evidenced by its deep commitment to help provide our students with the best accounting education possible. We are profoundly grateful for KPMG's involvement and support."

Wilder said the firm's support carries a powerful impact.

"We appreciate so much all that KPMG is doing for our students, faculty and program. The remarkable thing is that the KPMG partners who are alumni of our program are leading by example by contributing to faculty support, but they also are ensuring all Ole Miss alumni in the organization understand that they also need to be part of the firm's commitment," the dean said. "These partners have established a goal to have 100 percent of KPMG Ole Miss alumni giving to this endowment. The KPMG Foundation continues to be instrumental in providing generous matching funds for employees' contributions. Because

of this tremendous support, outstanding teachers and mentors will continue to be a hallmark of our programs.

"KPMG has a number of endowed faculty positions in top universities across the nation, and we are so proud to be part of that group. It is a great honor for me to be named holder of the KPMG Chair."

The Patterson School has six fully endowed faculty positions, with others in the process of being expanded. Named and endowed chairs, scholars, professorships and other esteemed positions are usually held by faculty members whose accomplishments indicate national and international leadership in their field. Typically, the faculty member's efforts are focused on enhancing teaching skills and establishing superior records of research or other scholarly activity.

Wilder, who has taught at UM since 1993, is a certified public accountant whose primary teaching has been in financial accounting. He has conducted research in a variety of areas, including earnings forecasting, financial reporting and issues facing the profession. The dean has been instrumental in the development of the school's highly successful internship program. Wilder has also been active in the Mississippi Society of CPAs, previously serving as president of the Northeast chapter, as state treasurer, appointee to the Board of Governors, and chair of the Awards, Education and Scholarships Committee.

Wilder has received the top two campuswide faculty awards at Ole Miss including the prestigious Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award in 2005 and the Faculty Achievement Award in 2004, which is an all-around faculty award recognizing outstanding teaching, research and service. In 2006, Wilder was honored as the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants' Outstanding Educator and was also the university's HEADWAE Faculty Honoree for 2006. He is also a two-time winner of the Patterson School's top faculty honors, the Outstanding Teacher and Outstanding Researcher awards.

Individuals and organizations interested in learning more about supporting faculty in the Patterson School of Accountancy can contact Brooke Barnes, development officer, at brooke@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1993. ■



Reagan Huey (left), Ann Walton Stringer, Tanner Phillips, Mallory White and Chelsea Harris

Accountancy students ‘make their case’

Three national case competitions give Patterson School of Accountancy students an opportunity to improve their communication skills and impress potential employers.

While accountancy students have participated in the Deloitte FanTAXtic Case Competition for many years, 2013-14 marked their third year of competing in the KPMG International Case Competition and second year of competing in the PwC Challenge.

The KPMG and PwC competitions begin on campus, with opportunities to advance to regional and national levels. The competitions provide real-world scenarios for which students must work together to develop a solution, typically under tight time constraints. PwC’s case involved a firm’s production of and alternative uses for bio-diesel technologies, while KPMG’s case involved the post-acquisition integration of a merger between Kraft Foods and Cadbury Inc. (a British company).

Two teams from Ole Miss competed in the regional round of the Deloitte competition in Atlanta, Ga., last November. At the campus level, teams worked through issues including whether a corporate client should form a joint venture or a limited

liability company (LLC), in which state a client should incorporate and whether the client’s tax provision would be impacted by two reform proposals. Upon arrival in Atlanta, teams were greeted with a twist in the case and were given just two hours to make adjustments and incorporate new information into their presentations.

“It was definitely the most challenging thing about the competition,” said senior Tanner Phillips of Pearl. “We had to make the adjustments using only our prior knowledge of the case, general taxation knowledge and a few basic tax resources. I learned that real knowledge is extremely valuable and that sometimes in the real world, the ability to remember specific statutes and revert to prior knowledge without having to dig around for an answer is what can separate you from a competitor.”

While teams from Ole Miss did not advance to the national rounds of the three competitions this year, students walked away from the experiences enriched and ready to do even better next year.

“The case competition was extremely challenging and a wonderful learning experience,” said Nicole Ross, a junior accountancy student from Kiln, who competed on the team that took top honors in the PwC

Challenge on the Ole Miss campus. “The overall experience will help me in more ways than one. I have more experience working with a diverse team to come to one conclusion. The presentation aspect of the competition strengthened my public-speaking skills.”

Students prepare for the competitions with help from faculty advisers. J Riley Shaw, UM associate professor of accountancy, and Tonya Flesher, UM professor of accountancy and Arthur Andersen lecturer, assisted students in the Deloitte competition, while Victoria Dickinson, UM assistant professor of accountancy, assisted students with the PwC and KPMG competitions.

“The competitions are an intensive activity for the students, and it gives me (as their coach) an opportunity to get to know them on a whole other level than what I know about them from the classroom,” said Dickinson. “No matter how seasoned or novice a student is in the case competition experience, everyone’s abilities to think critically about issues, and to present creative solutions to extremely skilled and knowledgeable professionals, are substantially improved. Each student’s toolbox grows exponentially as a result of the experience, and that’s incredibly gratifying for an educator like myself.” ■

New development officer welcomed

When it comes to her career path, Brooke Barnes will be the first to admit she has traveled in the fast lane.

From being an undergraduate marketing communications student to her latest position as a development officer for the Patterson School of Accountancy, the University of Mississippi alumna (BBA 09, MBA 13) has quickly and steadily advanced over the past five years.

"My current role is to cultivate and maintain relationships with alumni and friends of our accountancy program and to secure financial support to assist in meeting the needs of the program, its faculty and students," said Barnes, who assumed duties April 1.

Before working in the UM Foundation, Barnes was a regional admissions counselor with the Office of Admissions for just over two years. Prior to Admissions, she was a senior clerk typist for the Patterson School and a legal assistant for the Oxford law firm of Garrett, Friday and Garner.

"Working with the faculty and staff of the School of Accountancy previously is what made me most excited about this opportunity," Barnes said. "I have witnessed firsthand their passion for helping students, their dedication to foster success and produce successful graduates."

Barnes has already set both short- and long-term goals for herself.

"My immediate goals include getting to know many of the program's dedicated alumni," she said. "We are fortunate to have many active alumni who give back to our program through not only financial support but avenues such as advisory board service, guest speaking engagements, internships and job-placement opportunities for our students."

Farther down the road, Barnes said she hopes to continue to strengthen the support of the accountancy program by engaging more alumni involvement and providing opportunities to match the needs of our growing program with the desire of generous alumni and friends to give back.

A native of Ripley, Tennessee, Barnes received her bachelor's degree in marketing communications in 2009 and her MBA in 2013. In her free time, Barnes enjoys spending time with her two labs, Nicki and Millie, and traveling to visit family and friends. ■



Brooke Barnes

Kevin Bain



Johan Backstrom

Tennis player named Academic All-American

Ole Miss men's tennis senior Johan Backstrom was named to the Capital One Academic All-America At-Large Third Team as announced by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) in June.

The at-large team for the program includes the sports of fencing, golf, gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, rifle, skiing, swimming and diving, tennis, water polo, volleyball and wrestling.

Backstrom is one of six student-athletes from the SEC and the only one from the sport of tennis to be named to one of the three Capital One Academic All-America At-Large teams for men's sports.

To be eligible for the award, student-athletes must hold a 3.3 GPA or higher and must be in their second year at the nominating institution. Student-athletes also must have competed in at least 50 percent of the team's competitions at the time of nomination.

An Uppsala, Sweden, native, Backstrom boasts a 3.92 cumulative GPA in accounting and managerial finance, which includes a perfect 4.0 this past semester. He was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi national honor society last fall. Backstrom helped the Rebels to their 21st consecutive NCAA appearance and clinched the team's first round win over Northwestern.

"Johan has been a complete player, a coach's dream," head coach Billy Chadwick said. "He's very coachable, and a lot of that has to do with the fact that he is a very intelligent young man. This achievement shows that he is one of the top student-athletes not only at our university but in the entire country. Johan is a great tennis player and was a great leader for us. We congratulate him on this most deserving honor."

Backstrom becomes the sixth Capital One national academic honoree in Ole Miss men's tennis history, joining Rebel alums Joakim Appelqvist (second team – 1994), Johan Hede (first team – 1997), Sebastien De Chaunac (first team -1998), Matthias Wellermann (third team – 2008) and Bram ten Berge (second team – 2009).

Appelqvist, Hede, De Chaunac and Wellermann are all enjoying successful careers in business around the world, while ten Berge is pursuing a Ph.D. in the classics at the University of Michigan. ■



Ryan Smith (left), Track and Field, *Park Hills, Ky.*; **Georgia Russell**, Soccer, *Tupelo, Miss.*; **Cameron Dishon**, Baseball, *Beaumont, Texas*; **Johan Backstrom**, Tennis, *Uppsala, Sweden*; **Quintavius Burdette**, Football & Track, *Senatobia, Miss.*; **Cade Peeper**, Basketball, *Collierville, Tenn.*; **Julia Jones**, Tennis, *St. Petersburg, Fla.*; **Julius Lembke**, Track & Field, *Germany*; **Kailo Moore**, Football, *Rosedale, Miss.*

Making the Grade

Accountancy Student-athletes strive for academic success

The stars of Rebel athletics programs are University of Mississippi students first and foremost. And for many of them, intercollegiate athletics is their golden opportunity to obtain a college education.

Currently, 376 student-athletes are enrolled at Ole Miss, of whom 45 percent earn a 3.0 cumulative GPA or better every semester. At least 26 of them achieve a perfect 4.0.

Nine of the 376 are accountancy majors. Most of them agree that successfully managing their lives is a constant balancing act.

"I think the most important quality a student-athlete needs to have is time-management skills," said Ryan Smith, who recently graduated with the B.Accy. degree and was on the track-and-field team. "Every day, there needs to be time to study, go to class, practice, eat, sleep and have some down time. Finding a balance between

school, sports and a social life is the key." Smith interned this summer with KPMG's Seattle office.

Julia Jones, a senior tennis player, agreed, saying, "I would say that good time-management skills are something I've had to practice my entire life. I've had a hectic schedule with tennis and school since I can remember, and prioritizing and multitasking are two skills I have had a lot of experience with."

Georgia Russell, a junior soccer player, pointed to the university's FedEx Student-Athlete Academic Support Center as being very helpful in keeping Ole Miss athletes grounded.

"They provide us with tutors that are very hands-on and experienced in the class," she said. "There's easy access to computers, as well as other technology. Our academic advisers assist in helping us keep our schedules on track by giving us deadlines and certain tasks that keep us organized. There are

also quiet study rooms for us to find a place to get away from all the chaos."

Russell was named to the 2013-14 Capital One Academic All-District First Team, which makes her eligible for Academic All-America honors. Other accountancy majors with recent academic recognition are Johan Backstrom, Cameron Dishon, Quintavius Burdette, Julia Jones, Cade Peeper and Ryan Smith.

The academic success of student-athletes is a major priority, said Derek Cowherd, senior associate athletics director for academic support, who credits campuswide devotion to helping them succeed.

"Everyone is working together to give our students the best collegiate experience imaginable – from the chancellor to the provost to the deans, to the professors, down to the coaches, staff, groundskeepers, etc. We are all responsible for the success of our entire student population," Cowherd said. ■

Jon Turner, continued from Page 7

Q: What are some benchmarks that come to mind as you reflect on your career?

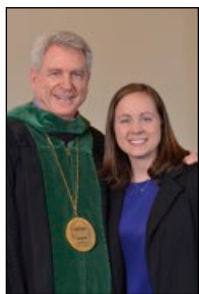
A: The first job is always critical, and Peat, Marwick in Jackson provided me with a great start. There was a large pool of talented people at that firm, and

I was fortunate to have an offer there. An obvious benchmark that was very scary at the time, with only three-plus years out of college, I accepted an offer to join 33-year-old Henry Burkhalter and his seven-member CPA firm. Then even scarier was taking on significant debt 10 years later to purchase his controlling interest and continuing as Smith, Turner

& Reeves, then the big move in 2008 to join a national firm, BKD. That said, true "benchmarks" in public accounting come over a long period of time in the form of clients, large and small, casting their lot with you and your firm, entrusting their personal and business lives with you. It's all about relationships. ■

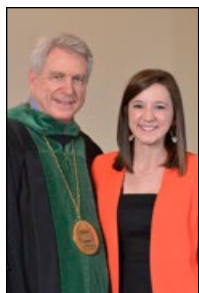
2014 Taylor Medals

Seven accountancy students were recognized as recipients of the University of Mississippi's highest academic honor, the Taylor Medal, on April 10 at the 71st annual Honors Day Convocation. The Taylor Medal is awarded annually to no more than the top 1 percent of UM students. Recipients in the Patterson School of Accountancy are as follows:



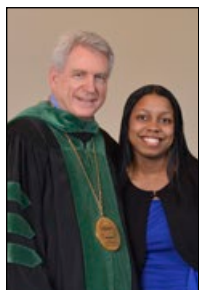
Katrina Marie Briscoe of Oxford is a May 2014 graduate of the accountancy school. She is pursuing a Master of Accountancy degree at UM and plans to join international public accounting firm Deloitte in Memphis in

fall 2015 after obtaining her CPA designation. A student in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College as an undergraduate, she belongs to Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Alpha Psi and Phi Eta Sigma academic honor societies. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She received a McDonnell-Barksdale Honors Scholarship and an Accountancy Alumni Chapter Academic Achievement Award.



Ellen Bramlett McLaurin of Tupelo is a May 2014 graduate. She is pursuing the Master of Taxation degree and then plans to work for KPMG in Atlanta. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Beta Alpha Psi academic

honor societies and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. McLaurin received the Accountancy Alumni Chapter Academic Achievement Award.



Chelsea Janelle Harris of Searcy, Arkansas, is a 2014 graduate. She is pursuing her Master of Taxation degree at Ole Miss and then plans to work in public accounting at Ernst & Young in Memphis. She is a member

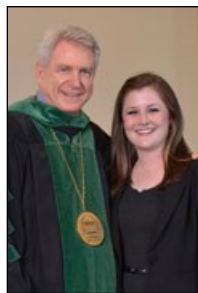
of the National Association of Black Accountants, Beta Alpha Psi, Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key International Honor Society,

Gamma Beta Phi, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Beta Gamma Sigma and the Black Student Union. A Provost Scholar, Harris has made the Chancellor's List for outstanding grade-point average for seven semesters and is the recipient of the Accountancy Alumni Chapter Academic Achievement Award.



Xinyi Long of Oxford is a senior majoring in accounting and real estate, with plans to graduate in spring 2015. She is preparing for a career in public accounting with a focus on real estate tax. A student

in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, she is listed on the Chancellor's Honor Roll. She is a member of Beta Alpha Psi, Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Lambda Delta academic honor societies. Long is a Global Ambassador and member of the Green Dot Organization. She received the Outstanding Undergraduate Real Estate Student Award and the Accountancy Alumni Chapter Academic Achievement Award, and she was named Outstanding Student in Spanish.



Ann Marie Mercier of Hattiesburg is a May 2014 graduate. She plans to attend medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. A student in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, she received

a 2013-14 Chancellor's Scholarship. She is a member of the Order of Omega, Mortar

Board, Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Alpha Psi, Alpha Epsilon Delta and Rho Lambda academic and leadership honor societies. Mercier has served on the Student Traffic Appeals Board and the Ole Miss Judicial Council. She is a member of the campus Bioethics Club and Cardinal Club. She is a recipient of the McCarty Family Accountancy Scholarship.



Caroline Diane Purcell of Houston, Texas, is a May 2014 graduate who is pursuing graduate school at Ole Miss to earn her master's in accountancy. A member of Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Gamma Sigma, Phi Eta Sigma, Gamma

Beta Phi and the Golden Key International Honor Society, she was the 2013-14 recipient of the Accountancy Alumni Chapter Academic Achievement Award.



Anna Claire Wammack of Nashville, Tennessee, is a senior accountancy major who plans to work as a certified public accountant in Dallas, Texas, following the completion of her accountancy degree. A member of the Sally

McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, Delta Delta Delta, Beta Alpha Psi and Phi Kappa Phi, she is the recipient of the Donald S. Pichitino Memorial Scholarship, the Peery Accountancy Scholarship, the UM Academic Excellence Scholarship and the Holmes Scholarship. ■

Phi Kappa Phi Spring 2014

The following accountancy students were inducted into the Ole Miss chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, the oldest, largest and most selective honor society in the nation. Phi Kappa Phi includes the best and brightest students from all academic disciplines.

Elizabeth Drew Austin
Jane Elizabeth Bashaw
James Wesley Howell
Xinyi Long
Tyler Kennedy Madden
Madelyn Meryl Mohr

Rachel Victoria Nieters
Sekyoung Oh
Erika Elizabeth Robinson
Madison Adair White
Katie Victoria Wilson

Alumni board builds support for school

The Accountancy Alumni Chapter board of directors is helping the Patterson School of Accountancy continue to reach new heights and is a committed group.

For instance, when asked to serve on the board, Buddy Dearman, partner with Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP in Memphis, accepted without hesitation.

"I have been involved in recruiting Ole Miss students for about 20 years, and this was an opportunity for me to get more involved and hopefully give back a bit to the school," said Dearman (BAccy 86), who is serving as president of the board for the 2014-15 term.

The board, formed in 2012, comprises 15 active members and three ex-officio members. The members represent a variety of graduation classes and reside in 13 different cities. That kind of representation helps the board reach its goals of assisting the school and the dean with student recruitment, job placement and alumni engagement.

"When it comes to helping the dean get out and visit communities, there is nothing better than having a strong alumni network to help," said Clay Cavett, UM associate director of alumni affairs, who also



Mark Wilder (left), Don Jones, Clay Cavett, Brooke Barnes, Marshall Rivers, Molli Flynt, Chris Haley, Buddy Dearman and Jason Honeycutt

serves as executive secretary of the board. "Those events make it possible for the dean to present the wonderful accomplishments of the accountancy school and allow alums to network with each other."

In addition to social activities, including an alumni tailgate that is scheduled for Nov. 1 (Auburn game) in front of Conner Hall, the board supports academic programs, assists with an annual student-led golf tournament and participates in the honors banquet. From Memphis to

Nashville, and Dallas to Atlanta, the board is committed to helping the school build on its national ranking and keeping alumni connected to Ole Miss.

"A few of our board members have assisted in making presentations and thesis reviews for the new Honor's College program that has been specially designed for accounting students," Dearman added. "We will continue to work on strategies to keep our accounting school alumni connected with one another and with the school." ■

The University of Mississippi **Patterson School of Accountancy Alumni Board 2013-14**

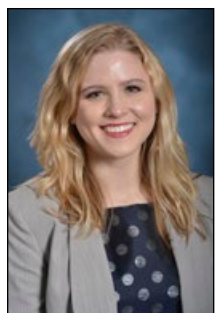
Name	City	Company	Board Title	Email
Don Jones	Oxford	Retired	Past President	pilot@northrock.bm
Buddy Dearman	Memphis	Dixon Hughes Goodman	President	buddy.dearman@dhgllp.com
Clay Cavett	Oxford	UM Alumni Affairs	Executive Secretary	clay@olemiss.edu
Hunter Carpenter	Little Rock	The Stephens Group	Board Member	hcarpenter@stephensgroup.com
Mike Carraway	Madison	Grantham Poole	Board Member	mcarraway@granthampoole.com
Molli Flynt	New York/Atlanta	KPMG	Board Member	mflynt@kpmg.com
Chris Haley	Jacksonville	Harbor View Advisors	Board Member	chris.haley@me.com
Jason Honeycutt	Memphis	EY	Board Member	jason.honeycutt@ey.com
Sonny MacArthur	Atlanta	Porter Keadle Moore	Board Member	smacarthur@pkm.com
Gerilynn Petty Odetunde	Dallas	PwC	Board Member	gerilynnpetty@gmail.com
Susan Pierce	New Orleans	Entergy	Board Member	hpierce2@entergy.com
Marshall Rivers	Birmingham	Regions	Board Member	marshall.rivers@regions.com
Gabe Roberts	Nashville	Bureau of TennCare	Board Member	johngabrielroberts@gmail.com
Aaron Samuels	Jackson	Horne	Board Member	aaron.samuels@horne-llp.com
Jeff Wills	Memphis	Deloitte	Board Member	jwills@deloitte.com
Johnathan Zoeller	Houston	KPMG	Board Member	jzoeller@kpmg.com
Mark Wilder	Oxford	Dean	Ex Officio Member	acwilder@olemiss.edu
Brooke Barnes	Oxford	Development Officer	Ex Officio Member	brooke@olemiss.edu

Ten accountancy students named to Who's Who

Each year, the University of Mississippi, along with numerous other colleges and universities, honors those students who have made significant contributions to its campus in the areas of scholarship, leadership and service by selecting them to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Ten of UM's 2013-14 honorees were students in the Patterson School of Accountancy:



Kelsey Maynard of Chattanooga, Tennessee, completed the master's degree in accountancy in May. She was a student in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and studied at the London School of Economics. She was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Beta Phi and Beta Alpha Psi academic honor societies and was an officer for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She held a Northrop Grumman Scholarship and was chosen for the Ole Miss Women's Council Leadership Series. She was a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and UM's Big Event. She will begin working with Deloitte in Atlanta this fall.



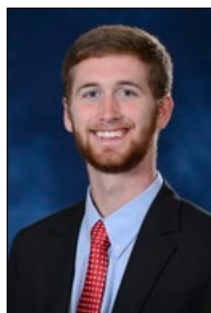
Lorraine York of Jackson completed her bachelor's degree in accountancy in May. She was a student in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. She was in the Chancellor's Leadership Class and a member of the UM Gospel Choir. She was an officer in Alpha Lambda Delta and Lambda Sigma and member of Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Alpha Psi, Order of Omega, Mortar Board and Omicron Delta Kappa academic and leadership honor societies. She was a representative for the Diversity Workshop in the William Winter Institute. Her service activities included being a team leader with UM's Big Event and working with Service for Sight, Green Grove Game Day, Oxford Film Festival and Relay for Life. She was a recipient of the Friou Accountancy Scholarship and interned with KPMG in Memphis during spring 2014.



Christie Allen of Jackson completed the master's degree in accountancy in May. Her honors included membership in Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Beta Phi, Order of Omega, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Sigma Alpha Lambda and Phi Eta Sigma. She was awarded the Nettie Young Scholarship in Accountancy, Academic Excellence Scholarship and Leadership Scholarship. Her service included work with the UM Big Event, Relay for Life, Children's Miracle Network and RebelTHON. She plans to join KPMG in Jackson this fall.



Byron Burkhalter of Jackson completed the master's degree in accountancy in May. He was a member of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and recipient of the Horne LLP Accounting Scholarship. He served as vice president of the Student Alumni Council and was a member of Reformed University Fellowship and Campus Crusade. His service included chairing Derby Day fundraising and volunteering for MANNA to provide food for families in need. He plans to join KPMG in Atlanta this fall.

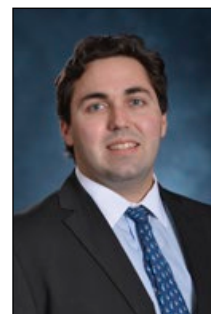


Hunter Nicholson of Brandon completed his bachelor's degree in May with a triple major in accountancy, public policy leadership and Spanish. A student in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, he won a Barksdale Award. He studied in Spain, Scotland and Ecuador. He served internships at the Scottish Parliament and the U.S. House of Representatives. He held membership in Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Beta Kappa and received a Taylor Medal. He served the ASB as senator and member of the academic affairs committee. He volunteered as an international ambassador for

Ecuadorian students in summer 2012. He plans to work for PricewaterhouseCoopers in McLean, Virginia, starting this fall.



Tyler Campbell of Little Rock, Arkansas, completed the bachelor's degree in accountancy in May 2013 and the MBA in May 2014. He was a four-year starting punter on the Ole Miss football team and the 2010 NCAA statistical punting champion. He participated in the 2012 FanTAXtic competition. He has been listed on the Dean's and Chancellor's honor rolls, and was listed on the SEC Honor Roll 2009-2012. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he volunteered with Reading with the Rebels and as an accounting tutor.



Sterling Jowers of Dyersburg, Tennessee, completed his bachelor's degree in accountancy in May. He was the ASB external affairs associate with the city of Oxford in 2010-12. He was a member of the Pride of the South marching band and UM's Concert Band. He entered the 2012 KPMG International Case Competition and the 2012-13 PwC xTREME Case Competition. His service work included helping establish a professional clothing closet for the Patterson School and volunteering with UM's Big Event. He interned with Decosimo in Memphis during spring 2014.



Rachel Hyde of Fort Worth, Texas, completed her bachelor's degree in accountancy in August. A Provost Scholar, she has served on the student advisory board. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Sigma Alpha Lambda, Beta Alpha Psi and Beta Gamma Sigma. She is a Leap Frog volunteer. She interned with Ernst & Young in Houston during spring 2014.

Avent Legacy, continued from Page 3

Foundation – an honor paying tribute to her servant-leadership style.

Her longtime involvement included her service as a gubernatorial appointee to the Mississippi Institute of Arts Commission; chair of the Oxford Tourism Council; founding member and president of the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council; president of the Oxford-Lafayette County Chamber of Commerce, Ole Miss Business School Alumni, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Oxford Garden Club; vice president of the University High School Alumni Association; president of the House Corporation for Delta Delta Delta sorority; grand marshal of the Oxford/Lafayette County Fourth of July Parade; and tour guide for historical journeys through St. Peter's Cemetery in Oxford.

She served on the boards of the Mississippi Blood Services, United Way, Ole Miss Alumni Association, Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi, Agricultural Extension Service and Merchants & Farmers Bank, as well as gave of her time to the Ole Miss Campus Improvement and Oxford Tour Bus committees, First Baptist Church, Friends of the Museum and Rotary Club.

Tom Avent said that although his father was the fourth generation of the family to attend Ole Miss – making Murray and him the fifth generation – Louise Avent added the most enthusiastic voice to the chorus supporting the university and its events and programs. The “Ole Miss fanatic,” as her sons call her, also enjoyed membership in the Ole Miss Quarterback, Bullpen and Tip-Off clubs and the Lady Rebel Roundballers. As an early member of the Quarterback Club, she rallied local lawyers, physicians, other professionals and everyone else to join.

“Mother raised Tommy and me to be Ole Miss fanatics too. I actually feel sorry for anyone who sits in close proximity to us



Wendell Weakley (left), Tom Avent, Murray Avent and Mark Wilder

or is within our orbit at Ole Miss athletic events – we’re loud,” Murray Avent said, laughing. “If an Ole Miss team had a game, Mother was always there in her seat giving her full support, whether it was football, basketball, baseball, volleyball – you name it.”

Mark Wilder, dean of the Patterson School of Accountancy, points to her as a role model.

“Louise Avent was an extraordinary individual and remarkable Ole Miss alumna,” said Wilder. “We are deeply grateful to Tom and Murray Avent for establishing this scholarship endowment, which will help our school recruit top students and continually strengthen our nationally ranked programs. Both of these achievements will be a fitting tribute to their mother, who was the consummate ambassador for this university. She believed in Ole Miss and its place in the national spotlight. We are thrilled to have the Avent name associated with scholarships in the Patterson School.”

Tonya Flesher, the Arthur Andersen Professor of Accountancy and a former dean of accountancy, said a scholarship fits

this alumna and pioneer.

“Mrs. Avent was one of the first female accountancy graduates, and she was also a successful businesswoman. It is very appropriate for her sons to honor her pioneering role in Mississippi with a scholarship for Ole Miss accountancy students. Her accomplishments are further evidence that a degree in accounting is excellent preparation for success in any business endeavor. The future recipients of the Louise Avent Scholarship in Accountancy will help pay tribute to the role that Mrs. Avent played in opening doors for women in accountancy.”

Individuals and organizations that wish to support the Louise M. Avent Memorial Scholarship Endowment in the Patterson School of Accountancy can send checks with the fund noted in the memo line to the University of Mississippi Foundation, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677; contact Brooke Barnes, development officer for accountancy at brooke@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1993; or visit online at www.umfoundation.com/makeagift. ■



Carson Rutledge of Brandon completed his bachelor's degree in accountancy in May. He held a Holmes Scholarship, Academic Excellence Scholarship, Horne LLP Accountancy Scholarship and General

Accountancy Scholarship. He won second place in the PricewaterhouseCoopers accounting case competition. An Ole Miss Ambassador, he was a member of the Mortar Board, Beta Alpha Psi, Lambda Sigma, Alpha Lambda Delta, Gamma Beta Phi and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. His many volunteer efforts included serving as a team leader for UM's Big Event and working with Relay for Life, Transylvania Blood Drive, Boys and Girls Club, More

Than a Meal and Leap Frog. He completed an internship with Ernst & Young in Atlanta during spring 2014.

Anish Sharma (See the story about Sharma on page 5) ■

Patterson School of Accountancy

Internships Spring 2014

Intern	Firm	Location
AJ Barrios	Horne LLP	Memphis, Tenn.
John Bedula	E&Y	Houston, Texas
Katherine Bieger	Deloitte	Houston, Texas
Drew Bigelow	Nichols and Co.	Hattiesburg, Miss.
Jessica Bond	Mayfield Church of Christ	Saltillo, Miss.
Sydney Bramlett	Deloitte	Nashville, Tenn.
Ryan Brettel	KPMG	Houston, Texas
Katrina Briscoe	Deloitte	Memphis, Tenn.
Sydney Brown	E&Y	Houston, Texas
Ryan Bruynell	Tyson	Springdale, Ark.
Meagan Busalaki	Health Check	Oxford, Miss.
Terri Carter	North Mississippi Medical Center	Tupelo, Miss.
Devon Chaberski	KPMG	Dallas, Texas/Johannesburg, South Africa
Jacob Clark	The Inn at Ole Miss	University, Miss.
Amanda Claunch	Brad's BBQ	Oakland, Tenn.
Philip Cole	E&Y	Atlanta, Ga.
Caroline Cole	KPMG	Atlanta, Ga.
Buckner Corso	E&Y	Houston, Texas
Martina Cotelo	E&Y	New York, N.Y.
Dannielle Craddock	Health Check	Oxford, Miss.
Amanda Cummings	KPMG	New York, N.Y.
Madeline Cutrer	Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens & Favre	Gulfport, Miss.
Andrew Daniel	KPMG	Denver, Colo.
Michelle Davidson	Deloitte	Boston, Mass.
Tavia Dennis	Health Check	Oxford, Miss.
Taylor Dial	Horne LLP	Jackson, Tenn.
William Drummond	Horne LLP	Memphis, Tenn.
Tracy Dye	Scott Transportation	Shannon, Miss.
Amanda Emfinger	Deloitte	Memphis, Tenn.
Maria Escamilla	Tate County School District Business Office	Senatobia, Miss.
Joshua Farrell	Dixon Hughes Goodman	Memphis, Tenn.
James Foster	E&Y	New Orleans, La.
Kyle Frankenfeld	Comstock Resources	Frisco, Texas
Candace George	Chatham Builders	Fulton, Miss.
Justin Gordon	School of Pharmacy	University, Miss.
Kale Green	KPMG	Atlanta, Ga.
Elizabeth Hallmark	Syntax Accounting	Saltillo, Miss.
Chelsea Harris	E&Y	Memphis, Tenn.
Caroline Hendershot	E&Y	Nashville, Tenn.
Sarah Higgs	Deloitte	Houston, Texas
Brett Holmes	Deloitte	Houston, Texas
Rachel Hyde	E&Y	Houston, Texas
Fahim Jiwani	Your Accounting Advisor	Olive Branch, Miss.
John Jordan	KPMG	Memphis, Tenn.
Sterling Jowers	Decosimo	Memphis, Tenn.
Harsh Kandoi	Horne LLP	Ridgeland, Miss.
Traci Kelly	Dixon Hughes Goodman	Memphis, Tenn.
Richard Kintz	CBIZ MHM	Memphis, Tenn.
Brett Kulesza	Coastal Accounting	Destin, Fla.

Intern	Firm	Location
Morgan Lamb	Horne LLP	Ridgeland, Miss.
David Lambert	McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks and Co.	Macon, Ga.
Sarah Leatherman	E&Y	Memphis, Tenn.
Seth Leblanc	KPMG	Memphis, Tenn.
Emmett Manning	Deloitte	Dallas, Texas
Lawrence Martin	Deloitte	Dallas, Texas
James McKee	E&Y	Houston, Texas
Bramlett McLaurin	KPMG	Atlanta, Ga.
Ashley McLeod	E&Y	Houston, Texas
Devin Mills	KPMG	Memphis, Tenn.
Anna Mitchell	E&Y	Houston, Texas
Kyerra Moody	Dixon Hughes Goodman	Memphis, Tenn.
Lucia Murff	E&Y	Houston, Texas
Philip Murphy	E&Y	Houston, Texas
Samantha Muzer	CBIZ MHM	Memphis, Tenn.
Blake Neal	Hartmann, Blackmon and Kilgore	Fairhope, Ala.
Matthew Nichols	Health Check	Oxford, Miss.
Hunter Nicholson	PwC	McLean, Va.
Sarah Olander	Horne LLP	Ridgeland, Miss.
Margaret Olander	PwC	Dallas, Texas
Camille Olson	Horne LLP	Memphis, Tenn.
Christopher Parker	E&Y	Houston, Texas
Tanner Phillips	KPMG	Nashville, Tenn.
Kaleb Pitts	Crowe Horwath	Nashville, Tenn.
Caroline Purcell	PwC	Houston, Texas
Joel Reeves	FedEx	Memphis, Tenn.
Kesler Roberts	E&Y	Dallas, Texas
Tyler Rodewald	E&Y	Houston, Texas
Nicole Ross	Dixon Hughes Goodman	Memphis, Tenn.
Carson Rutledge	E&Y	Atlanta, Ga.
Morgan Ryals	Health Check	Oxford, Miss.
Elizabeth Schmitz	Silas Simmons PLLC	Natchez, Miss.
Anish Sharma	Deloitte	Dallas, Texas
Mary Margaret Simmons	Deloitte	Memphis, Tenn.
Patrick Slattery	Tyson	Springdale, Ark.
Jonathan Stephens	KPMG	Boston, Mass.
Nicolas Stephens	CBIZ MHM	Memphis, Tenn.
Christoph Thiemann	PwC	New York, N.Y.
Marcel Thiemann	PwC	New York, N.Y.
Charlie Tran	KPMG	San Jose, Calif.
Emily Tunnell	The Byrne CPA Firm PA	Houston, Miss.
Robert Turnage	Horne LLP	Ridgeland, Miss.
Thomas Ward	E&Y	Houston, Texas
Carly Warner	PwC	San Francisco, Calif.
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