

## ACCOUNTANT

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

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Robert Jordan

Patterson School of Accountancy Associated Student Body officers celebrate the school's recognition as a top national accountancy program by the *Public Accounting Report*. They are (left to right) Carly Warner, secretary; Sarah Olander, vice president/administration; Griffin Williston, treasurer; Caroline Cole, vice president/publicity; Anish Sharma, president; and Derek Burns, graduate representative.

## School's three programs rise to best in SEC

By Edwin Smith

Setting the bar for other Southeastern Conference institutions, all three accountancy programs at the University of Mississippi are ranked in the top 10 nationally by the *Public Accounting Report* in its latest edition.

In its August 2013 issue, the independent newsletter of the accounting profession ranks the Patterson School of Accountancy's undergraduate, master's and doctoral programs at Nos. 4, 5 and 8, respectively, in their categories. Last year, the undergraduate and master's programs were both ranked ninth, with the doctoral program at No. 8.

The Patterson School's three programs are now the highest ranked in the Southeastern

Conference. Other SEC undergraduate programs ranked in the top 25 are Texas A&M (7) and the universities of Florida (9), Georgia (11), Missouri (12), Alabama (23) and Tennessee (24).

Highly ranked master's programs include Texas A&M (8), Missouri (11), Florida (13), Georgia (14), Tennessee (24) and Alabama (26). The doctoral rankings include Texas A&M (10), Georgia (14), Missouri (16), Florida (19) and Alabama (24).

This is the 32nd annual PAR Professors Survey, which bases its results on votes from professors of accounting at U.S. colleges and universities. This is the sixth consecutive year UM programs have ranked in the top 25 nationally.

Dean Mark Wilder said it is a great

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Comments or suggestions?  
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## Dear Accountancy Alumni and Friends:

The Patterson School of Accountancy continues to do extremely well. We recently concluded another successful academic year. Our commencement ceremony was held May 11, 2013 in the Ford Center for the Performing Arts and was highlighted by the commencement address of Ed Krei. Ed has an Ole Miss accounting degree and is a former gold medalist on the CPA Exam. He is the managing director of The Baker Group, a large, independently owned securities investment firm in Oklahoma City, Okla. Ed delivered an inspiring address that was well received by students, families and friends.

We offered a full slate of classes this summer and once again enjoyed a large summer enrollment. Official enrollment this fall is 1,013 students, which represents an 11.3 percent increase over last year. We have 869 undergraduates, 130 in our master's program and 14 doctoral students. We have now enjoyed all-time enrollment highs for eight consecutive years, and the Patterson School continues to grow and thrive.

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. You will see that our faculty members are outstanding representatives of the Patterson School and the University of Mississippi, our students are dedicated and highly motivated, and our alumni are generous and willing supporters of the school and the university.

Our formal internship program, now in its 10th year, enjoyed banner results once again. We had 86 interns during spring 2013, which was an all-time high (up from 76 interns in spring 2012 and a large increase over the 57 in spring 2011). Our students interned throughout the Southeast and Southwest, and we again had several interns in New York with one in London.

Accountancy Weekend 2013 was a great success, beginning with our annual Honors Banquet. Many awards were presented to our students, and the ceremony was highlighted by the induction of longtime outstanding alumni Bill Hope and Guy Moore into the Accountancy Hall of Fame. The faculty awards went to superb teachers and researchers. This year's Outstanding Teacher was Dr. Tonya Flesher, and Dr. Dale Flesher was named Outstanding Researcher.

The next day, our continuing education program featured wonderful guest speakers, including Lynn Loden, Robert B. Nance, Brian Roberson, Cal Christian and Angela Morelock. Around 125 attendees registered for the event, and we are pleased that interest continues to grow.

In early May, Beta Alpha Psi hosted its spring Meet the Firms event, followed the next day by the ninth annual BAP Golf Tournament to raise funds for student activities and travel. Even though golf was rained out, both events were a great success.

As always, I would like to express my deep gratitude for your support of the Patterson School of Accountancy. Our alumni and friends are tremendously generous and a model for the rest of the university. Please visit us when you are on campus, and let us know if we can be of help to you in any way.

Sincerely,

*W. Mark Wilder*

W. Mark Wilder  
Dean and KPMG Professor

## Patterson Accountancy Opportunity Fund Created

The Patterson Accountancy Opportunity Fund, or PAOF, was recently established as a result of the generosity of the Madison Charitable Foundation and Ole Miss Accountancy alumnus James O. (Joc) Carpenter. Contributions to the fund are matched dollar for dollar. The fund was created, in part, as a mechanism to encourage accountancy alumni and friends to give back to the school since those contributions will be matched.

A primary purpose of the PAOF is to help those in need, and several students with documented financial need are receiving scholarships from the fund this fall. The Madison Charitable Foundation is a private, charitable organization created by Carpenter's longtime friend Wiley Hatcher of Houston, Texas.

"The Madison Charitable Foundation is a special organization," Carpenter said. "Our mission is simple. We want to help those in need. We have contributed to several universities, organizations and special projects in Mississippi."

Dean Mark Wilder expressed his gratitude saying, "We appreciate so much the generosity of Joc and the Madison Charitable Foundation for establishing the Patterson Accountancy Opportunity Fund. We hope that accountancy alumni and friends will give back to the school, take advantage of the matching gifts opportunity and also help deserving students."





# Minor Hall named in honor of generous alumnus

By Edwin Smith

**L**ucian Minor has been a generous and loyal supporter of the University of Mississippi for decades. In a campus ceremony April 25, 2013, the 1937 alumnus was accorded the honor of having one of the university's three newest residence halls named Minor Hall.

Previously known as Ridge West, Minor Hall is located along Rebel Drive on the former site of Miller Hall.

"The University of Mississippi is proud to have a residence hall bear the name of Lucian Minor, who has used his accounting degree from our university as the basis for a remarkable career," Chancellor Dan Jones said at the ceremony. "We are grateful to Mr. Minor for his strong and longtime support for our university through the nationally acclaimed Patterson School of Accountancy."

Having a campus building named in honor of Minor, who has been a major benefactor of the accountancy school, is most appropriate, Dean Mark Wilder said.

"Mary and Lucian Minor have been dedicated and faithful supporters of the accountancy program for decades and are truly cornerstones of the Patterson School's success."

Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the UM Foundation, agreed, saying, "Considering his own humble beginnings at the university so many years ago and his subsequent generosity thereafter, it is fitting that this state-of-the-art residence hall, which houses promising freshman students, should bear his name."

"I am so pleased that this building will carry the Minor name for benefit of generations of our students," Weakley said. "Lucian and Mary have been such good friends to Ole Miss. Their support has truly made a remarkable, positive impact on our university."

Minor and his wife, Mary, recently provided more than \$5 million in gift annuities to the Patterson School, further defining their dedication to the school and university. Minor's support over three decades has included a trust to establish the Lucian S. Minor Endowment for the accountancy school in 1996 and a trust of \$1 million in 2007, as well as generous contributions to other initiatives across the Oxford campus.



Friends surround Lucian Minor and his wife, Mary, following the campus ceremony dedicating Minor Hall. They are (standing, left to right) Don Frugé, James Davis, Craig Brewer, Larry Hardy, Bill Drummond, Jim Moore and Joe Weller.

"I've enjoyed my relationship with Ole Miss for many, many years," said Minor, retired from a stellar career in accounting and investments. "Many of the courses I took at Ole Miss contributed to my success in the business world, particularly the accounting field. I'm glad to share some of my success. Hopefully, some needy students will benefit from our gifts."

Enrolled at UM during the Great Depression, Minor lived on only \$600 a year, all his family could provide for his freshman and sophomore years on campus. The Macon native ultimately used a personal loan to finance his last two years at Ole Miss, and his dedication to his alma mater has been evident since.

"Lucian's loyalty to Ole Miss has not been equaled by anything else in his life," Mary Minor said.

Recruited by General Mills Inc. in

Minneapolis upon his graduation from Ole Miss, Minor joined the company's internal audit staff, where he was employed until his service in the U.S. Navy in 1942. He was placed with Douglas Aircraft Co. in Los Angeles as a cost inspector and passed the CPA exam during his enlistment.

He was discharged as a lieutenant commander in 1946 and soon resigned from General Mills to open his own accounting firm in Memphis. By 1967, his operation had grown to some 40 employees, large enough to interest the Big Eight firms. His company merged with Ernst & Ernst (now Ernst & Young), and he became partner in charge of the Memphis office, a position he held until his retirement in 1978.

Minor was inducted into the Ole Miss Alumni Association's Hall of Fame in 2005 and the Patterson School of Accountancy's Hall of Fame in 1997.



Roland and Sheryl Burns of Frisco, Texas, congratulate Professor Dale Flesher (right) on his appointment to the endowed accountancy chair they generously created, the Roland and Sheryl Burns Chair of Accountancy.

## Dale Flesher named inaugural Burns Chair

By Katie Morrison

**F**ollowing an exhaustive search among the nation's most venerated accountancy professors, Patterson School of Accountancy search committee members made a discovery while interviewing for the newly endowed position, the Roland and Sheryl Burns Chair of Accountancy. The most qualified candidate, one of the top accountancy researchers and well-respected academics in the nation, was right under their noses — UM's own Dale Flesher, associate dean, Arthur Andersen Alumni lecturer and professor of accountancy.

"At no time did I think that I would be selected to be the initial holder of the Burns Chair, since it was designed to bring in a big-name professor from outside UM," Flesher said. "When the search committee brought up the idea of giving me the chair, I had no objections to that, although I was surprised."

Roland Burns said he was not surprised.

"Sheryl and I were excited to learn that Dale Flesher was selected to be the first holder of the chair. Dr. Flesher is one of the top researchers in the accounting field and has been a major reason why the

university is one of the top-ranked programs in the country."

Burns also said he understands the necessity of quality faculty and mentors to ensure the school's future success and recruitment of top students.

"When I was a student in the accounting program from 1979 to 1982, I had great support from professors including the legendary Gene Peery and Jimmy Davis," Burns said. "My accounting professors took a personal interest in my future career and advised me how to be successful in the business world. I left the university and headed to Dallas, Texas, entering the competitive world of public accounting very well prepared to build a business career. The focus that the nationally ranked Patterson School of Accountancy at Ole Miss places on instruction and student development is what inspires its alumni to support the university."

Roland Burns has done more than just make a major gift. For the last 10 years, UM accountancy students have been given the opportunity to participate in an internship program in the financial reporting department of Comstock Resources,

an independent energy company, where Burns is president and CFO. This opportunity gives students insight into the financial workings of a publicly traded company.

"I became more involved with the School of Accountancy when Dr. Morris Stocks, then dean, approached me to participate in this internship program with the Patterson School of Accountancy," Burns said. "My involvement with this program and interaction with the dean and other faculty led to my interest in adding a new faculty chair in the school."

Dean Mark Wilder reinforced the importance of alumni and friends in the school's preparation of future accountancy and business leaders.

"We appreciate so much the generous support of Roland and Sheryl Burns. The long-term future success of the school depends on our ability to recruit and retain high quality faculty," Wilder said. "The Burns Chair helps us greatly with this need and is a tremendous resource for the Patterson School."

Wilder also praised the school's faculty and, in particular, Flesher.



"Our faculty plays a huge role in the successes of our students and program. Dale Flesher has been an instrumental member of the Ole Miss faculty for 36 years and has mentored hundreds of former students. He is known nationally for his research and professional achievements, and we were all honored that he was named the AICPA Outstanding Professor nationwide in 2011.

"It is because of faculty like Dale Flesher and alumni with foresight such as Roland Burns that our program continues to exceed all expectations and accrue not only national prestige but also top honors for our students. We are so pleased that Dr. Flesher is the inaugural holder of the Burns Chair."

Burns said he appreciates the quality of UM's accounting faculty even more so now that his oldest son, Derek, is enrolled in the program. Burns also credited Flesher with some of his own early success.

"In graduate school, I was in Dale's CPA review course. After completing the course, I went on to pass the CPA exam on my first sitting with the second highest score in the state. Other than taking Dr. Flesher's course, I did not spend any additional time preparing for the exam."

Flesher said he remembers Burns among the standout students early in his tenure at UM.

"I taught Roland Burns when he was a student here in the 1980s, and I remember him well. He was a superstar in our program and was selected as the Outstanding Master's Student of 1983. Thus, to have a former student make such a significant donation to the university was inspirational."

Flesher received both bachelor's and master's degrees from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. He holds a doctorate in accounting from the University of Cincinnati. He also earned CPA, CIA, CMA, CFM, CFE and CGFM certificates and has authored more than 400 articles for more than 100 different professional journals throughout the world, as well as 50 books in 87 editions. He is nearing completion on a book-length history of the CPA firm of Deloitte, which includes its components of Touche Ross & Co. and Haskins & Sells. The firm has already used portions of the material to build an interactive "history wall" at the firm's new training center near Westlake, Texas. Flesher also recently collaborated with his wife, Tonya Flesher, professor and director of UM's Tax History Research Center, on a manuscript for a book chapter to be published in Sweden on the history of tax accounting in the United States.

## Business owner thrives at Insight Park

By Misty Cowherd

**W**alking the halls at the University of Mississippi's Insight Park, one might glimpse a lean young man dressed in Ole Miss tennis gear and mistake him for an intern. But Jonathan Scala (BAccy 95, MAccy 06) is nobody's intern — he's the unassuming president and CEO of JS Health Partners.

A native of San Diego, Scala became a licensed CPA in Tennessee and worked in public accounting for six months before accepting a post as vice president of finance for a commodity trading and distribution firm. Two years later, in 2009, he started JS Health Partners.



Kevin Bain

Scala

"I realized that money buys time, not happiness," Scala said. "When I looked at how many hours I put in and the length of time it would take to make the salary I desired, I thought I could accelerate that time schedule and make things work faster on my own."

Scala entered into the profitable health care business through selling various patient bedding products to large, national health care corporations.

"I learned to foster relationships and grow trust with cotton-based product manufacturers from Pakistan," he said. "I met my textile manufacturing partner in a hotel bar in Frankfurt, Germany, while eating a pepperoni pizza and having a beer. Fast forward from that day, and we have done over \$5 million together in that category alone."

Scala was also able to get his business going without outside investor dollars.

"I didn't want to accept investor money in the early stages, as the valuation of my business was fairly low, and I didn't want to give up too big a piece of the pie for such a small investment amount," he said. "I wanted to take a stab at it on my own, as I had saved about \$100K of my own money and

wasn't going to take investor money until I absolutely needed to."

With some of the nation's top 20 health institutions, plus local facilities such as Graceland Care Center and Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi, as clients, Scala predicted he will further his business both domestically and internationally in hopes of reaching eight-figure sales targets.

Besides leading JS Health Partners, Scala owns a real estate company called Layla Real Estate, with rentals in Oxford, and also is an investor and consultant for a technology company in San Diego and an apparel company in New York.

Most recently, Scala made the decision to relocate to Insight Park, where he has access to the nursing school for clinical research as well as accountancy and MBA interns on hand to mentor.

"We are delighted that Jon Scala chose to locate JS Health Partners in the Innovation Hub at Insight Park," said William Nicholas, the park's assistant director. "I am in awe of his accomplishments, and I appreciate that he is so willing to share his expertise with our less experienced entrepreneurs."

In the future, Scala plans on expanding the footprint of JS Health Partners both domestically and internationally, as well as furthering existing investments and keeping an eye out for additional investment opportunities.

"I'm no one special," Scala said. "I believe that if you have a good business plan and can offer and deliver value that is both qualitative and quantitative, and conduct business with honesty, integrity and with a smile, good things can happen. At the end of the day, I hope to look back and say I had a lot of fun."

Insight Park is a 19-acre research facility and business incubator adjacent to the UM campus. It offers businesses the opportunity to take full advantage of partnering with the university and utilizing its human and physical resources. Besides attracting established firms and startup companies, IP accelerates the creation and growth of new commercial enterprises emerging from the university's research. For more information, visit [www.insightparkum.com](http://www.insightparkum.com).



Professor James W. "Jimmy" Davis (center) is surrounded by some of the recent recipients of the accountancy scholarship that bears his name. They are Michelle Davidson (left), Eric Ott, Ann Walton Stringer, Tanner Phillips, Philip Cole, Madison Blankenship and Forrest Baty. The Davis Scholarship Endowment continues to grow as it honors the respected and admired teacher and mentor.

## Scholarship named for beloved professor attracts outstanding students to school

By Bill Dabney

**L**ike many University of Mississippi freshmen, Stephanie Henson entered college not knowing exactly what career she wanted to pursue. Just five years later, the Jackson, Miss., native earned a master's degree in accounting and a job with KPMG, one of the largest professional services companies in the world.

Now living in New York City and working in business development for KPMG's marketing group, Henson is one of many successful graduates of UM's Patterson School of Accountancy. She credited the James W. "Jimmy" Davis Scholarship for helping to establish her career path.

"I knew the accounting school would provide an overall business background that would serve as a solid foundation in any business-related career going forward

and that has proved correct," said Henson, who received the Davis Scholarship her freshman year and completed her degrees in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

Paying tribute to Davis, Henson said, "He was one of the few teachers who kept you on the edge of your seat, and I ensured I never skipped his class. He is an incredible teacher, mentor and friend."

Students such as Henson apply for the Davis Scholarship and are chosen for the award based on merit, grade-point average and standardized test scores.

The James W. "Jimmy" Davis Scholarship Endowment is one of the accountancy school's premier scholarships. Primarily for incoming freshmen, the scholarship awards outstanding students \$3,000 per year for up to four years.

"In short, the Davis Scholarship helps

us recruit blue-chip and five-star students to the Patterson School of Accountancy," said Dean Mark Wilder.

Recently, the endowment received a gift of more than \$150,000 from the estate of Elizabeth G. Hope, mother of accountancy alumnus William M. "Bill" Hope of Memphis, bringing its balance to \$850,000.

Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the UM Foundation, said he would like to see the endowment become a true testament to the man for whom it is named.

"I hope our donors who have been influenced by Jimmy will join me as we push this endowment over the \$1 million mark as one way we can say thank you for all he has done and continues to do for the Patterson School of Accountancy," Weakley said.

A member of the faculty since 1965, Davis holds the distinguished H. Eugene

*continued on Page 12*



## CPA soars in career, service

**D**avid Miller (BBA 79), CPA, has parlayed his Ole Miss degree into a successful career, including an impressive record of professional service.

He joined Nail McKinney Professional Association upon graduation in 1979. A shareholder in the firm, he has been its president since 2007, after having served as treasurer for 14 years. The firm has offices in Tupelo, Corinth, New Albany and Amory.

Miller's extensive record of volunteer service and participation in professional organizations includes his longtime membership on the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, or NASBA.

His efforts there culminated last year with his appointment to a three-year term to the AICPA Auditing Standards Board, or ASB, as a NASBA-nominated representative. The ASB is the AICPA's senior committee for auditing, attestation and quality control applicable to the performance and issuance of audit and attestation reports for nonissuers.

Miller said the commitment "has been the most challenging volunteer service that I've ever undertaken, both from an intellectual standpoint and from an effort standpoint.

"The amount of material to digest each meeting and the level of detail is truly staggering," he said. "I've been so impressed by the resources that the national firms bring to the ASB, as well as the technical knowledge of those members and the AICPA technical staff. Being from a small firm, I am a unique member of the ASB and am in a position to present a point of view from a different perspective."



Miller

A member at large of the Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy since 2008, Miller is serving a second five-year term appointment by Gov. Phil Bryant that runs through 2017. He has been an active member of the Mississippi Society of CPAs throughout his career, having served the organization as treasurer, president and a member at large of the Board of Governors, as well as chair of the Peer Review, CPE and Building committees.

"We are extremely proud of David Miller," said Dean Mark Wilder. "He is enjoying a phenomenal career, and is an outstanding leader for his firm and for the accountancy profession not only in Mississippi but also nationally."

Wilder also noted that to his knowledge "only one or two Mississippians have ever been chosen to serve on the Auditing Standards Board. His selection is a great accomplishment and is a testament to his knowledge, work ethic and leadership skills."

As for his successes, Miller gave credit where he sees it's due.

"Whatever success I've enjoyed is, first of all, a blessing from the Lord," he said. "I've also been blessed to have a supportive wife (Ellen Davis Miller, BBA 80), who has encouraged me every step of the way. Growing up near Kossuth on a dairy

farm, my Dad, along with my older brother, taught me the value and honor of hard work. Throughout my career, I've rarely been the sharpest person in the room, but hardly anyone outworked me. Effort goes a long way."

He also acknowledged the value of his time at Ole Miss.

"My education provided a great foundation, and two of my accounting professors had an immeasurable impact on me as a student: (the late) Gene Peery and Dr. Jimmy Davis (Peery Professor Emeritus of Accountancy). I've been fortunate to maintain a relationship with Dr. Davis through the years. He has been a real source of encouragement to me. During my year as president of the MSCPA, we began a building project of which I was the chair; he was extremely supportive.

"I was also fortunate to begin my career at Nail McKinney, working with CPAs who had the patience to teach and guide me to a lifetime of learning through research and reading the standards. Our firm has a strong tradition of participation in the MSCPA and the state board, and our former presidents and board members were great mentors to me."

Miller extended a word of encouragement and advice to young accountants seeking successful careers.

"I am proud that I can demonstrate that someone from a small firm can participate in this profession at the highest levels," he said. "I encourage young professionals to get involved and give back to this profession that is so rewarding. All it takes is desire and effort, which will be richly rewarded."



### Accountancy students serve as ASB officers

The 2013-14 UM Associated Student Body officers were inaugurated in a spring ceremony at the Lyceum. Members include accountancy students Carson Rutledge (right) of Brandon, treasurer; and Allie Winters (second from right) of Corinth, secretary. They were sworn in by the 2012-13 ASB president Kimbrey Dandridge (far left) of Como.



Cannada



Rademacher



Moore



Westerfield

## World Ready

### *Alumni lead Butler Snow in London*

By Michael Newsom

**T**hree Patterson School of Accountancy graduates are doing big things in the world of international tax law practice. They helped establish Butler Snow's first overseas office, which opened in London earlier this year.

Three of the four-member Butler Snow UK, LLP staff are Samantha Rayburn Moore (BACCy 05, MACcy 07, JD 09), Kurt Rademacher (BACCy 95, MACcy 96) and Brad Westerfield (BACCy 99, MACcy 00). All three also hold LL.M. degrees in taxation from New York University. Rademacher and Westerfield hold law degrees from Notre Dame and Mississippi College, respectively.

R. Barry Cannada (BBA 77, JD 80), chairman of Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens and Cannada's business department, said the new UK office has an impressive list of clients, including billionaires from all over the world, who trust Moore, Rademacher and Westerfield.

"They are as good as anyone in the world at what they do," Cannada said.

The three have added a whole new list of clients and new business to Butler Snow, which has more than 240 attorneys on staff in 12 offices across the U.S. and now the international office in London.

"They bring us great talent," Cannada said. "What they have added is a dimension

on international tax with a whole new orbit of clients. The value they bring to us in that arena is significant and growing."

Rademacher, who is from Brandon, was a partner with a large international law firm based in London and was a founding partner of its Hong Kong office. Today, he represents ultrahigh net worth families and family-controlled businesses throughout the world, among other duties at Butler Snow.

"The foundation of what I'm doing now was laid at Ole Miss," Rademacher said. "I don't just mean that academically. The accountancy program was very rigorous; you had to study really hard to do a good job, and that was great. But in particular, (Professor Emeritus) Jimmy Davis in the accountancy program was very good at making sure people were prepared for the business world in nonacademic ways. He encouraged professionalism and relationships. He was always working for students to get them jobs and professional experience."

Moore, who is from Wiggins, works in estate planning and administration, international taxation and general taxation. She said her training at Ole Miss made her transition into tax law much easier.

"It was really foundational for tax school because a lot of people will go to law school and then go to tax school not having an accounting background," Moore said. "It's

much harder for those people to get caught up to where they are supposed to be, even on simple concepts. Kurt, Brad and I all had that going in, which made tax school much easier on us, which led to us being much better tax lawyers in the long run."

Westerfield, also from Brandon, helps ultrahigh net worth families and their advisers with U.S. federal income, estate and gift tax issues, with an emphasis on U.S. inbound and outbound investment structuring, international estate planning and U.S. taxation of foreign trusts, among other U.S. cross-border tax issues.

"With the training I received in the Ole Miss accountancy program, as well as the master's program, I was exposed to some law school tax classes, which really set a strong foundation for [individuals] going into accountancy, especially if they want to springboard into tax law," Westerfield said.

Dean Mark Wilder said the success of these alumni is a testament to the foundation they received at the accountancy school.

"We are very proud of these students and their many successes," Wilder said. "They are great ambassadors for the university as well as the Patterson School of Accountancy. Our accountancy program provides a strong foundation for a variety of career opportunities, and these three alumni are tremendous examples of this."



## Two distinguished alumni inducted into Hall of Fame

**W**illiam M. “Bill” Hope (BBA 66, MAccy 67) and Guy W. Moore Jr. (BBA 72) were honored with induction into the School of Accountancy’s Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held as part of the annual spring Honors Banquet.

“It is such a great pleasure to induct Bill Hope and Guy Moore into our Patterson School Hall of Fame,” Dean Mark Wilder said. “They have both enjoyed long, successful careers in public accounting and have served the school and the university in so many ways over the years. We are extremely proud to have Bill and Guy as Ole Miss graduates, and to now have them as part of the school’s Hall of Fame. They are both very deserving of this honor.”

Now retired from careers in public accounting, both honorees made it to the top of their profession but have not forgotten the place that provided the foundation for their success.

“The successes that I enjoyed in my career can be traced directly back to my experiences and studies at Ole Miss,” Moore said. “My professors – Gene Peery, Jimmy Davis, Charles Taylor and many others – prepared me well for my chosen profession of public accounting. They inspired me to enter that profession and to seek excellence in whatever I do. Those experiences provided a firm foundation for my career.”

Likewise, Hope said, “You really don’t realize how important your education is until you begin to reflect on ‘How did I get here?’, and you go back to the foundation you received. Without a doubt, those degrees – and just my entire Ole Miss experience – made it happen.

“Gene Peery had a great influence on my education, not only on the accounting side but also the business side. I also took auditing from Jimmy Davis and really enjoyed it. His course was the motivating factor for me to go with public accounting right out of school.”

A native of McComb, Hope spent three years early in his career with KPMG before joining the firm Rhea & Ivy in Memphis. He served there as partner in charge of audit, followed by 15 years as managing partner. In 2000, he stepped down as managing partner but has remained as a partner with the firm. Rhea & Ivy merged with Dixon Hughes in 2008 and then with Goodman and Co.; the firm has been named Dixon Hughes Goodman for around three years.

Moore retired from Deloitte LLP and Deloitte & Touche LLP in 2012 after 40 years, including 30 as an active partner. He worked from 2006 to 2012 at the firm’s national office in Wilton, Conn., including three years as head of the national departments responsible for auditing policies, consultation, quality assurance and risk management, followed by three years as senior adviser of its professional practice network. He began his career with Deloitte in 1972 in New Orleans and also worked in the firm’s South Florida office. In 1998, he became a consultation partner in the firm’s national office. From 2002 to 2006, he was regional practice director located in Atlanta, covering nine states and Puerto Rico.

Both honorees expressed surprise and appreciation for having been chosen for the Hall of Fame.

“The honor, for which I am very grateful, was completely unexpected and very humbling for the simple reason [that] I had a number of classmates who went through the program with me who have gone on to do well and probably are just as deserving of

this recognition,” said Hope, who lives in Memphis with his wife, Clara Dean. Their son Spence and wife, Kristin, along with their son Austin, also reside in Memphis.

Moore said the Hall of Fame honor was special to him for several reasons.

“Chief among them is the greatness of the school,” he said. “A real source of pride for me is telling others that I am an alumnus of Ole Miss and the accounting program, and letting them know about the wonderful things happening there.

“To be recognized by my alma mater in my field of study and for my professional practice is very special to me and a wonderful crown on my career. I will be forever grateful for my time and experiences at Ole Miss and in the accounting school, and for those who helped me so much.”

Moore was born in Kosciusko and spent most of his youth in Moss Point. He and his wife, Lucy, reside in Pascagoula. Their sons, Christian and Scott, live in New Orleans and Franklinton, N.C., respectively.



William M. “Bill” Hope (left) and Guy W. Moore Jr.

## Doctoral program recognized campuswide for 'inclusiveness'

UM's 2013 Excellence in Promoting Inclusiveness in Graduate Education Award was presented to the Patterson School of Accountancy during the university's doctoral hooding ceremony May 10.

Don Cole, assistant to the chancellor for multicultural affairs, introduced Dean W. Mark Wilder and Associate Dean Dale Flesher, and complimented the accountancy school for being chosen to receive the award.

"Over the years, this academic unit has been quietly building expertise in diversity while 'unquietly' building a national premiere reputation academically," Cole said. "In their application (for this award), the school maintains that 40 percent of their on-campus Ph.D. students are from diverse populations (African Americans), a statistic that caught the attention of the selection committee. Moreover, they lead all other Southeastern Conference schools in this statistic."

The award was established as a result of the Graduate School receiving a national award last year recognizing its efforts to create an inclusive environment for graduate education. In its award application, the school proposed annual recognition of an

individual or program that best exemplifies the ideals of enhancing inclusiveness in graduate education, explained Graduate School Dean John Z. Kiss, who presided at the ceremony.

"An important goal of the Graduate

School is to promote diversity in our student body and academic programs," Kiss said. "The university is proud of the success of its minority and international students and attempts to provide a supportive environment for all graduate students."



John Z. Kiss (center), Graduate School dean, presents a framed certificate that celebrates Excellence in Promoting Inclusiveness in Graduate Education to Dean W. Mark Wilder and Associate Dean Dale Flesher.

### *continued from Programs, Page 1*

accomplishment for the school to once again be recognized as a top national accountancy program and to achieve all-time high rankings in all three program categories.

"This honor is a testament to the hard work of our faculty in delivering a rigorous educational experience," Wilder said. "Our faculty [members] are highly successful in their research and professional-service endeavors while maintaining the commitment to excellence in teaching that has been the hallmark of our accountancy program for many years."

"I also greatly appreciate our faculty selflessly working together toward our common goal of having one of the top accounting programs in the nation."

Wilder also credited students for having a positive impact on the school's reputation.

"The Patterson School is fortunate to have outstanding students who go on to have phenomenal careers," he said. "The academic profile of our accountancy student body gets stronger every year, a fact

that is certainly being recognized in the marketplace."

Last year, for the first time, the report added a ranking of schools that eliminates votes of faculty members who placed their school's own accountancy program as No. 1 in the country.

"In that ranking, we are first in the undergraduate categories, ranking up there with Chicago and MIT, and ahead of perennial power Illinois," said Dale Flesher, associate dean.

More than 1,000 schools in the United States offer accounting programs, and around 500 of those, including UM, are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, or AACSB International, as being among "the best accountancy and business programs in the world."

PAR voters who determine the rankings are influenced by several other factors that set the Patterson School apart, Flesher said.

"Many voters, some of whom may not know much about Ole Miss, know

that the university houses the AICPA Library, the largest accountancy library in the world," he said. "Also, a recent study showed that we are the only university of our size in the country that has every accounting class taught by a professor with CPA designation."

A visiting lecturer program, the publishing success of faculty members and hosting a couple of major conferences are other ways the Patterson School has been showcased, he said.

Wilder also noted the importance of private support in the Patterson School's successful equation.

"The successes we are enjoying are directly attributable to the loyalty and generosity of our alumni and friends," he said. "Their support helps us to offer scholarships to attract outstanding students, to reward our faculty and to strengthen our program. We are grateful for their loyalty and willingness to give back to the school — it is absolutely a difference maker for us and allows our successes to be built upon and perpetuated."



## Remembering Howard L. Davidson

**P**atterson School members and others in the university and Oxford communities were saddened to learn of the death of Ole Miss supporter and alumnus Howard L. Davidson (BBA 49). Davidson, 92, died Sept. 7 at the Landmark Nursing Home in Booneville. Services were held Sept. 11 at the Waller Funeral Home chapel in Oxford, followed by interment in St. Peter's Cemetery in Oxford.



Davidson lived in Booneville for 50 years, where he was a Chevrolet-Buick dealer until his retirement in 1994. He was a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Southwest Pacific Theatre. He kept his interest in aviation as a commercial pilot and chaired the Booneville-Baldwyn Airport board for 40 years. He was a longtime

Shriner, Mason and member of the Scottish Rite. He belonged to the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Davidson was a loyal and generous contributor to the university, was active in the UM Alumni Association and was a longtime member of the Patterson School of Accountancy's Advisory Council. His support included the School of Accountancy, and one of those gifts was a new 1998 Chevrolet Lumina, to provide accountancy faculty with transportation to professional meetings. Those who knew him said he was most proud of the university students he had helped throughout the years.

Davidson leaves a daughter, Linda Brewer Kerr of Jackson, Tenn.; a sister, Jean Davidson Crawford and her husband, Kirby, of Oxford; a brother, Whit Davidson and his wife, Clara, of Oxford; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Contributions can be made in Howard L. Davidson's memory to the University of Mississippi Foundation, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677 and First Presbyterian Church, 924 Van Buren Ave., Oxford, MS 38655.

## Grad honored in Florida

**D**ena Lester Harrison (BACCy 07, MACcy 08), CPA, was chosen by the Florida Institute of CPAs as a 2013 "26 Under 36" honoree. The honor recognizes FICPA members under age 36 who have made notable accomplishments in service to the organization, profession and community.

"We congratulate the honorees on being selected as the best and brightest young members of the FICPA," said Deborah Curry, FICPA president and CEO.

Harrison joined the global consulting firm Protiviti as a senior consultant in December 2012. The firm helps companies solve problems in finance, technology, operations, governance, risk and internal audit. Previously, she worked for three years at KPMG, where she was promoted from associate to senior associate within two years.

She recently participated in the AICPA Leadership Academy in Durham, N.C. A member of the FICPA Young CPAs Committee, she served the FICPA for two years as the newsletter/website



Harrison

chair. She is a member of the Young Certified Public Accountants, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Institute of Internal Auditors.

At Protiviti, she provides financial statement audit and audit of internal control services for publicly and privately held clients, including several large corporations in accordance with Public Accounting Oversight Board requirements and U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. She is proficient in Sarbanes-Oxley and 404 financial statement audits.

Harrison credited her UM experience for her successes.

"My education at Ole Miss has meant everything to me," she said. "The professors, especially within the School of Accountancy, are among the best in the country; their caring attitudes and willingness to go the extra mile truly allowed me to grow and succeed as a student and, now, as a professional."



## Fall 2013 Phi Kappa Phi

Destinee Ball  
Johan Backstrom  
Michael Frederick Forrest Baty  
Terri Adams Carter  
Lisa Garner Clark  
Orrin Marie Emanoil  
Virginia Otela Holman  
Elliott Channing Lansdell  
Katelyn Oleiva Milleville  
Lisa-Marie Schalk  
Mary Eleanor Starnes  
Anna Claire Wammack  
Thomas Dan Ward  
Denny Lee Weaver  
Worth Whitten  
Caroline Brice Williams  
Qing Yun Xie

## Two new faculty members join Patterson School

The Patterson School welcomed two new faculty members this fall, each with unique educational, professional and cultural backgrounds, who are sure to help enrich students' experiences both in and outside the classroom.

Rachna Prakash, assistant professor, is a native of Delhi, India. She holds



Prakash

a doctorate from Goizueta Business School at Emory University. Her master's in accountancy is from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and MBA from the University of Rochester. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Delhi and is a Chartered Accountant in India. She has professional experience with KPMG in Delhi and Smith Barney in New York City.

Jackson native Brett Cantrell (BAccy, BA 05, MAccy 06), assistant professor, is no stranger to the university, having completed three UM degrees. Following graduation, he spent 2006-08 as a senior associate in audit at KPMG LLP in Birmingham. A CPA, he completed his doctorate in accountancy in August at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin.

"A large part of the appeal of joining the Patterson School faculty was due to my firsthand understanding of the commitment to excellence of the school and faculty here," Cantrell said. "I knew the standards would be high and that the school does an excellent job serving the profession and its students, while maintaining an excellent research presence."

A specialist in financial reporting

research, with a particular interest in bank reporting issues, Cantrell is teaching Accy 201 Introduction to Accounting Principles and Accy 605 Cost/Managerial Accounting. He said he enjoys "getting to introduce new ideas to students."

Prakash was attracted to the Patterson School because of its national reputation and the AICPA Library.

"I joined the school because it has



Cantrell

very good undergraduate and graduate programs [and is] extremely well reputed and nationally ranked," she said. "The faculty is doing interesting research, publishing in top journals in the field, and the library has a great accounting collection, including some very rare manuscripts."

Prakash teaches Accy 407 Governmental Accounting on UM's Oxford campus and also at UM's Tupelo and DeSoto campuses. She said she likes working with the students because "they are intellectually curious, respectful and interesting."

Most of her research considers how accounting relates to capital markets.

"I examine how accounting decisions affect a firm's market value and the choices firms make," she said.

"We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Cantrell and Dr. Prakash to our faculty ranks," said Dean Mark Wilder.

"They both have outstanding educational backgrounds as well as relevant practical professional experience. We have high expectations for what they will bring to our program, and students are thrilled to have Brett and Rachna as part of the Patterson School.

*continued from Professor, Page 6*

Peery Chair in Accountancy. He was awarded the university-wide Outstanding Teacher Award in 1985 and received the Patterson School's Outstanding Teacher Award in 1983, 1988, 1993, 2004 and 2008. He was honored with the Mississippi Society's Outstanding Educator Award in 1993. Davis has directed his own retirement fund to the scholarship endowment to help Ole Miss continue competing for the brightest accountancy students.

"Jimmy Davis has provided a lifelong commitment to the pursuit of excellence in the Ole Miss School of Accountancy," Wilder said. "He is clearly a key reason that the school is enjoying many successes these days, including having its undergraduate, master's and doctoral programs all ranked in the top 10 in the nation."

The James W. "Jimmy" Davis Scholarship Endowment in Accountancy was created in 2002 by faculty, alumni and friends to honor the professor for his service to the school. It is open to receive other gifts. Individuals and organizations that would like to contribute can send a check with the fund noted in the memo line to the University of Mississippi Foundation, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677 or visit online at [www.umfoundation.com/makeagift](http://www.umfoundation.com/makeagift).

## 2013 Mortar Board

Philip Cole  
Buckner Corso  
Michelle Davidson  
Ann Marie Mercier  
Kesler Roberts  
Carson Rutledge  
Karan Lorraine York

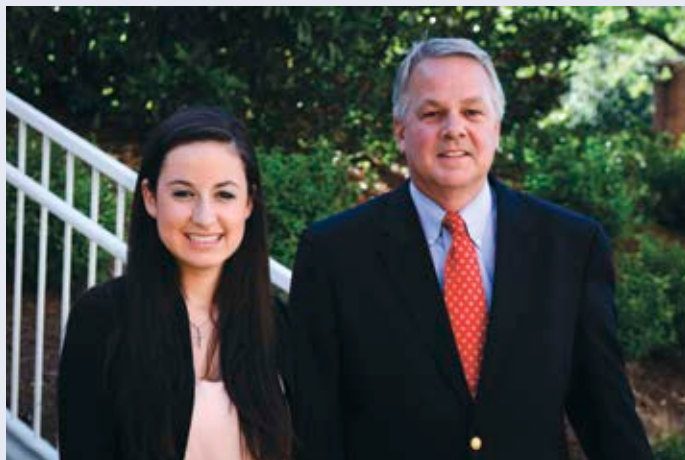




# Accountancy Awards



**Ingalls Shipbuilding Scholarship**  
Joseph Zegel (left), Kelsey Maynard, Chris Hayes



**E.R. Hines Scholarship**  
Caroline Purcell, Kirk Hines



**Doctoral Teaching Award**  
Brian Goodson (left), Dean W. Mark Wilder



**CBIZ MHM Scholarship**  
Moir House (left), Rebecca Ruleman, Clayton Templeton



**Dixon Hughes Goodman Fellowship**  
Anthony Clark (left), Jinal Patel, Jay Oliphant



**Tutor Scholarship**  
Caroline Williams (left), William Manning, Michelle Davidson





**Accountancy Alumni Chapter Academic Achievement Award**  
Bramlett McLaurin (left), Caroline Purcell, Jinal Patel, Kesler Roberts, Katrina Briscoe



**Accountancy Excellence Scholarship**  
Nicolas Stephens (left), Rachel Hyde, Kaleb Pitts, Harsh Kandoi, Jinal Patel, Philip Schmidt, Andrew Tanous



**Wendell Weakley Scholarship**  
Wendell Weakley (left), Buckner Corso



**BKD, LLP Scholarship**  
Jon Turner (left), Philip Murphy, Tim Adler, Caroline Cole, Trey Turnage



**Collins Scholarship in Accountancy**  
Destinee Ball (left), Taylor Collins, Kimberly Young, Ana Collins



**Harper Rains Knight Fellowship**  
Amber Carmack (left), Mason Smith, Matt Farage, James Quinn





**Horne, LLP Scholarship in Accountancy**

James Gordon (left), Carson Rutledge, Caroline Hendershot, Maggie Olander, Stephen Wittmann, Joey Havens



**Roger & Susie Friou Scholarship & Fellowship**

Anish Sharma (left), Rachel Nieters, Alec Tanner, Reagan Huey, Roger Friou, Nicole Barnes



**Dixon Hughes Goodman Scholarship**

Anthony Clark (left), Sidney Brown, Jay Oliphant



**Taylor Medal**

Aaron Moeller (left), Jinal Patel, Alexander Tanner, Matthew Garber, Anish Sharma



**Federation of Schools of Accountancy  
Outstanding Student Award**

Courtney Pinac



**Ernst & Young Fellowship**

Austin Dragoun



**Johnny Williams Memorial Scholarship**

Kaleb Pitts





#### Hall of Fame Recipients

Joseph C. Weller (left), Bill Hope, Larry J. Hardy, Charles C. Clark, Jimmy Fried, Howard Davidson, Leo Boolos, Arnold Young, Roger Friou, Guy Moore, James Davis



#### Doctoral Students

Tyler Williams (left), Brian Goodson, Sydnee Manley, Ryan Seay, Chevonne Herring, Jack Winstead, Kelly Williams, Andy Almand, Dereck Barr



#### Haddox Reid Burkes & Calhoun Scholarship

Mike Gladney, Sarah Olander



#### Collins Graduate Scholarship in Accountancy

Taylor Collins (left), Benjamin Sigman, Ana Collins



#### Crowe Horwath Scholarship

Ryan Smith



#### Frank Hughes Scholarship

Kristina Petrie



**Financial Executives  
International Scholarship/Beta  
Alpha Psi Outstanding Pledge**

Chelsea Dickinson



#### Doctoral Consortium Fellow

Ryan Seay





**McCarty Family Scholarship**

Orrin Emanoil (left), Steven Montross, Lisa-Marie Schalk, Mason Smith, Ann Marie Mercier, Kevin Zeek, Kaitlin Aspinwall



**Nettie Young Scholarship in Accountancy**

Janice Young (left), WE Young, Mary Margaret Simmons, Richard Young, Christie Allen, Arnold Young



**C Spire Scholarship**

Katelyn Watts, Ward Toler



**Pearce, Bevill, Leesburg & Moore Scholarship**

David Williams (left), Parker Slay



**Mississippi Society of CPAs Achievement Award**

Benjamin Sigman



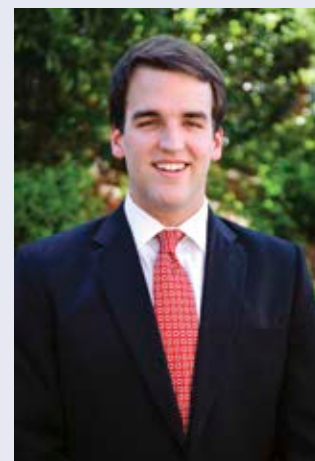
**Deloach & Ray Scholarship**

Amanda Emfinger



**Thomasson Scholarship for Women**

Kelcey McLemore



**Accountancy M Club Scholarship**

John Jordan





**James & Paula Martin Scholarship in Accountancy**  
Sarah Leatherman (left), Jinal Patel



**Peery Scholarship**  
Clay Wammack (left), Martha Peery Williston, Anna Claire Wammack, Eleanor Starnes



**Charles & Ginger Clark Scholarship**  
William McLamb (left), Charles Clark



**Deloitte & Touche Fellowship**  
Rebecca Ruleman, Matthew Garber



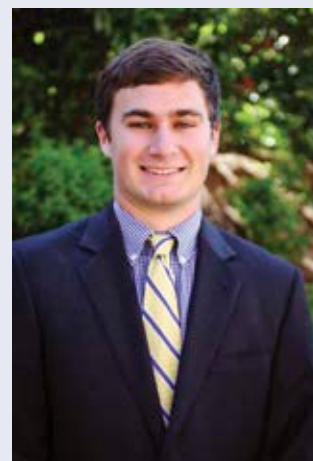
**Business/Accountancy Scholarship**  
Matthew Garber



**Mississippi Tax Institute Fellowship Mississippi Society of CPAs Ross/Nickey Award**  
Paden Patterson



**Lucian Minor Scholarship in Accountancy**  
Morgan Lamb



**Kerry J. West Scholarship**  
Christopher Parker





**Outstanding Graduate Students**  
Matthew Garber (left), Paden Patterson



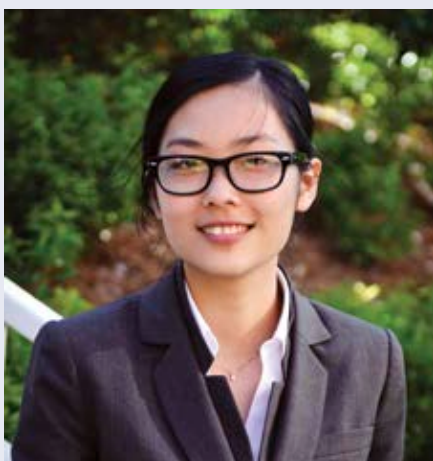
**Outstanding Faculty Awards**  
Dale Flesher (left), Dean W. Mark Wilder, Tonya Flesher



**DeMiller Scholarship**  
Andrew Daniel (left), Matthew Williams



**Boolos Scholarship**  
Leo Boolos, Carly Warner



**Levens & Schmidt Scholarship**  
Qing Xie



**Louis and Martha Blanchard Scholarship**  
Jessica McKenzie



**Will Townsend Memorial Scholarship**  
Tyler Rodewald





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