

## ACCOUNTANT

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

[www.olemiss.edu/depts/accountancy](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/accountancy)

## Longtime professor joins the Accountancy Hall of Fame

By Elaine Pugh

**J**ames W. “Jimmy” Davis, Peery Professor Emeritus of Accountancy, has touched the lives of more than 10,000 students over his 45 years of teaching accountancy at The University of Mississippi. He served as the school’s dean, helped the program grow from a department into the Patterson School of Accountancy and has watched hundreds of graduates enjoy successful careers.

Professor Davis announced his retirement in June 2009; however, he has continued to teach and has returned to the classroom this fall after taking his first summer off since joining the faculty in 1965. Soon after taking retirement status, he directed part of his retirement funds to the university to be used toward the James W. Davis Scholarship Endowment in Accountancy, which was created in 2002 by faculty, alumni and friends recognizing his service to the school. This past spring, during Accountancy Weekend, Davis was honored with induction into the Patterson School’s Alumni Hall of Fame.

*Ole Miss Accountant* visited with the professor late this summer and posed the following questions:



Jimmy Davis

Nathan Latif

### Q: What does the Hall of Fame honor mean to you?

A: It’s a distinct honor to join the previous recipients of this award. I recall when then-Dean Tonya Flesher asked Professor Gene Peery and me to help identify the first two recipients in 1988. They were Dean Dunham and Eddie Demiller, and this set the pace for quality inductees. Down through the years, we’ve selected only outstanding individuals who have made distinct contributions to the Patterson School of Accountancy and to the accountancy profession in general. I’m pleased to be among these recipients.

**“Dr. Davis’ impact on the success of the Patterson School of Accountancy is immeasurable. Over the last 45 years, he has influenced the lives of thousands of young men and women toward successful professional careers who have, in turn, supported the school, its faculty and students. The professional commitment that Dr. Davis has demonstrated is a model for young faculty.”**

—Morris Stocks, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of accountancy

### Q: At what point did you decide on a teaching career and why?

A: When I graduated from Ole Miss with a master’s in accounting in 1963, I accepted employment in the Houston office of Arthur Andersen and Co. I stayed there two years, and it was an intensive learning environment. Once, on a visit to Ole Miss, Professor Holmes indicated that he would be taking a leave of absence and encouraged me to apply for his position. I said, ‘and to teach?’ He said, ‘Yes.’ I went to see Dean Dunham that same day, and he said, ‘We just might have a place for you.’ That was September 1965, and from the first day, the offer of assistant professor at my alma mater was very attractive. I knew the faculty, and I knew the standard of quality that would

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Comments or suggestions?  
Call 662-915-7623



## FROM THE DEAN

### Dear Accountancy Alumni:

As usual, we are busy here at the Patterson School of Accountancy.

We recently concluded another exciting academic year in the Patterson School. On May 8, we awarded 179 bachelor's degrees, 80 Master of Accountancy degrees, 18 Master of Taxation degrees and one doctoral degree. Our commencement ceremony was held in the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts and was highlighted by the commencement address of Reatha Clark, who has an Ole Miss accounting degree and is a partner in the Atlanta office of PricewaterhouseCoopers. Reatha 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. For the fifth consecutive year, accountancy enrollment is at an all-time high (817 students) for fall 2010, 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 spring internship program continues to flourish. This spring, 57 students participated, and another nine students interned during the summer. These students interned with 36 firms in 23 cities, and 10 states. We are now preparing for the spring 2011 class of interns, with more than 90 students vying for internships.

Accountancy Weekend 2010 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 faculty member (and former dean) Dr. James W. Davis into the Accountancy Hall of Fame. The faculty awards went to superb teachers and researchers. Dr. J Shaw was named Outstanding Teacher, and Dr. Kendall Bowlin was named Outstanding Researcher.

The next day, our continuing education program featured wonderful guest speakers including John Powell, Bill Parsons, John Cullins, Eric Schmid, Dustin Schultz and Aaron Beam. More than 100 attendees registered for the event, and we are pleased that interest continues to grow.

In late April, Beta Alpha Psi and the Patterson School hosted Dr. Tom Linsmeier on campus as part of the Sherman and Celia Muths Lecture Series in honor of Professor Gene Peery. Dr. Linsmeier is a current board member of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). In addition to the formal address, Dr. Linsmeier also met with faculty and spoke to accountancy classes. Tom had never been to Oxford or Ole Miss, and he left with a highly favorable impression.

Also in late April, Beta Alpha Psi hosted its spring "meet-the-firms" event, followed the next day by the sixth annual BAP golf tournament to raise funds for student activities and travel. Both events were a great success, and the tournament concluded with the awarding of the Burkett Cup (named in honor of retired faculty member Dr. Homer Burkett) to the winning team.

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  
Dean and KPMG Professor

### PricewaterhouseCoopers launches endowment

**P**ricewaterhouseCoopers has established an endowment to support faculty at the Patterson School of Accountancy. The endowment will be funded by gifts from PwC employees along with matching gifts from the PwC Foundation.

"Faculty support is critical to the continued success of our top 20 school," said Wendell Weakley, president and chief executive officer of The University of Mississippi Foundation, who created the endowment. "As

a retired **PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS** PwC partner, I am pleased to help in this effort and to work with current PwC professionals with Ole Miss connections to see this endowment grow to provide this critical support." ■

### Chancellor Announces \$100 Million Initiative

**W**ith a goal of raising \$100 million in private gifts, the Barnard Initiative is underway to ensure that The University of Mississippi can attract and retain the best minds in academia.

The initiative includes unrestricted gifts to the newly created Barnard Endowment for Faculty Support, as well as gifts specified for the creation of faculty chairs, professorships and lectureships.

"We have amazing faculty at Ole Miss and are extremely fortunate that we've been able to attract such talented teachers and researchers despite limited funding," said Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the UM Foundation.

Dean Mark Wilder notes that, "Dedicated, student-focused professors have long been the defining hallmark of the UM accountancy program. Now, as a top 20 program, we are competing with other top programs for the best and brightest teachers, and it is absolutely critical for us to be able to offer competitive salary packages."

Gifts of all sizes are appreciated. For more information, please contact Carol Anne Marion at 662-915-1758 or email [camarion@olemiss.edu](mailto:camarion@olemiss.edu).

# Siblings create scholarship for upper-class majors

By Tina Hahn

**M**ississippi Gulf Coast natives and siblings Donna Levens Schmidt (BAccy 85) and Jerry L. Levens (BBA 78) grew up watching their parents help others by providing accounting and financial guidance. Part of a large family of nine children, they both attended community college before transferring to Ole Miss, worked part-time jobs to cover college expenses and became successful in their own careers.

For these reasons, Schmidt and Levens have joined to endow a scholarship with a \$25,000 gift to help college juniors and seniors earn degrees from the Patterson School of Accountancy. Preference will be given to community college transfers.

"We believe that you share what you have," said Levens of Gulfport, who is one of five partners in Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens & Favre, PLLC, a 43-year-old firm of CPAs and consultants with individual, business, governmental and not-for-profit clients. "My sister and I know what it's like to have the intellectual capacity for higher education but to face economic challenges, and we want to give a helping hand to others by providing this scholarship."

That philosophy, as well as their interest in accounting, stemmed from

family interactions.

Mary Levens, their mom, operated a book-keeping and tax practice that grew into two offices and continues to thrive after 50 years. Schmidt said she remembers her mother's clients often stopped her after church and in the grocery store to ask questions. Their dad, the late Gene Levens, sold insurance and was a certified financial planner. Three of the Levens' nine children became CPAs.

"We heard our mom talk about accounting and taxes all the time, and my dad discussed his insurance business," said Schmidt of Houston, Texas, who works in El Paso Energy's tax department with its publicly traded partnership.

"Our professors at Ole Miss really cared about the future of the accounting industry, and they gave tremendous support in regards to job placement—and they still do," Schmidt said. "Helping future accountants is important to Jerry and me, also. We have a love for the School of Accountancy and the doors it opened for us."



Donna Levens Schmidt

Levens said professors, such as Gene Peery and Jimmy Davis, played a role in his career success and professional involvement.

Levens has given of his expertise for more than a decade on the UM accountancy school's Professional Advisory Council and is serving a second term on the national Ole Miss Alumni Association Board of Directors. "I enjoy being involved," he said. "In life's journey, I feel that

we have a responsibility to share our time and to help teach the next generation."

When asked how she felt about the newly endowed scholarship fund, Mary Levens said, "I am very proud of my children for starting this scholarship and for achieving what they have. Education continues to be very important in our family's lives."

This is not Levens' and Schmidt's first involvement with scholarship support, as all nine siblings started a fund in their parents' names and already have awarded 20 college scholarships since 2000 to Long Beach High School students.

To learn more about establishing scholarships or to contribute to the Schmidt and Levens Accountancy Scholarship Endowment, contact Carol Anne Marion, associate director of development, at 662-915-1758 or [camarion@olemiss.edu](mailto:camarion@olemiss.edu). ■



Jerry L. Levens

## 3 earn honors at competition

**T**hree University of Mississippi-Tupelo accounting students earned top honors at the state Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) competition in February.

Lisa Michelle Payne, who graduated in August with a Bachelor of Accountancy degree, received first place in account-


ing analysis and decision making and first place in marketing concepts. Matt Conway of Tupelo received first place in computer concepts and second place in accounting principles. Kimberly Smith of Myrtle received third place in accounting principles and second place in management concepts.

Payne, a native of Blue Springs,

Miss., served as treasurer of PBL for two years and attended the national PBL conference in Nashville.

"I was able to attend the opening ceremony where Robin Crow, founder of Dark Horse Records in Nashville, spoke. Repeatedly, Crow said, 'Don't be waiting for the miracle. Be the miracle,'" Payne said. ■





In his spare time, Kendall Bowlin enjoys taking photographs of his children and landscapes.

## Alumnus returns to teach accountancy, research experimental economics

By Rebecca Lauck Cleary

**A**lthough law school was Kendall Bowlin's original plan, he found his true calling in accountancy.

"Until my senior year, I intended to go to law school, but when I started taking upper-level accounting classes, I decided I wanted to be a CPA," said Kendall Bowlin (BBA 98, MAccy 99), assistant professor of accountancy.

After graduating from Ole Miss, Bowlin, a native of Florence, Miss., worked for four years at Ernst & Young in Memphis, doing financial statement audits, and toyed with the idea of getting his MBA.

As fate would have it, while visiting Ole Miss to recruit students for Ernst & Young, he talked to Provost Morris Stocks, former dean of the Patterson School of Accountancy, who suggested he should pursue his Ph.D. in accounting. Shortly thereafter, Bowlin entered the University of Texas in Austin to do just that. Armed with his Ph.D. in 2008, he knew he wanted to return to Mississippi to teach.

"I was fortunate because my teaching and research interests are in auditing, and Ole Miss had just lost the person I replaced about a year before I graduated. So there was

a need for someone like me," Bowlin said.

His primary interest is the strategic interaction between the auditor and client personnel, and the type of research he does is called experimental economics, which was developed originally by Pulitzer Prize-winning economist Vernon Smith.

"One of the things that attracted me to Ole Miss was the tradition of experimental economics, and we have a lab downstairs in Conner for doing that kind of research," Bowlin said. Fellow UM professors Mark Van Boening and Karl Wang also work on experimental economics.

For Bowlin, the best thing about teaching is the academic freedom to work on his research, and, of course, the interesting students. One such student is Paul Ordyna (MAccy 09, JD 10), who began Purdue University's Ph.D. in accounting program this fall.

Ordyna said Bowlin is very approachable and friendly and is always ready to talk about accounting or any other subject.

"When I mentioned to him that I was interested in getting a Ph.D., he bent over backwards to make sure I would get into a good program, and I can honestly say that he was instrumental in helping me secure a

spot in a great Ph.D. program," Ordyna said. "His method of using experimental economics in research is innovative and impressive. It's truly a unique type of research that not only is important to accounting research, but it also builds on the reputation that The University of Mississippi is a top-notch, cutting-edge research institution. Aside from Kendall being a brilliant researcher and wonderful professor, I am grateful to have known [him] while I was at Ole Miss, and I consider him a great friend."

Bowlin is not all numbers and spreadsheets. He spends time renovating his Batesville residence, where he already has completed his son's and daughter's bedrooms and the living room. His other hobby is photography.

"I picked up my parents' camera in the '80s over vacation when I was 12 or 13, and I really got into it. They had a Canon AE1, which had auto-exposure and was good for a beginner," Bowlin said.

Now, equipped with his Canon 5D Mark II, he is able to capture his 5-year-old daughter blowing on a dandelion or his 2-year-old son in overalls, which are two of the photos on his office wall. ■



# Alumni take stage at graduation

Graduates weren't the only representatives of the Patterson School of Accountancy highlighted during the graduation ceremonies held May 8 at The University of Mississippi. Accountancy alumni also stepped to the podium to offer their advice to the new graduates.

Reatha Clark (BBA 79), a health industries advisory partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers and School of Accountancy Advisory council member, spoke at the accountancy school's ceremony held at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Clark spoke to graduates about lessons she learned as an accountancy student at Ole Miss and how those lessons have impacted her career and life.

"Look around at the others, graduates," she said. "Which one will be your partner? Who will be your client? Who will be your financial advisor? The CEO of a

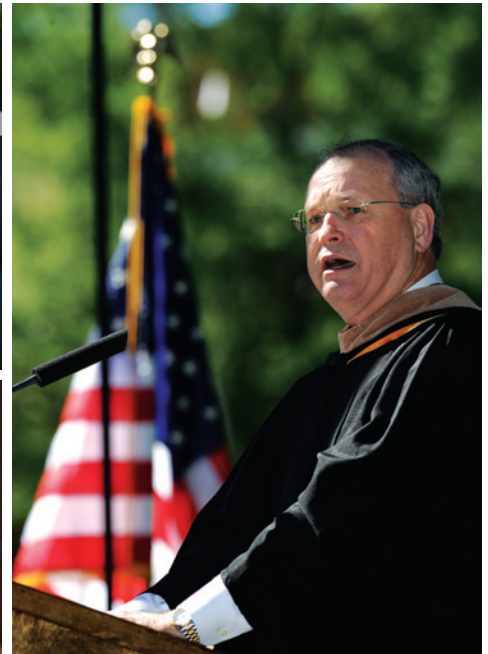
**'[The Ole Miss] network is your greatest professional asset. It's the real legacy of the Patterson School of Accountancy.'**

—REATHA CLARK

bank? The CFO of a Fortune 500 company? Who'll be a lawyer? A philanthropist? They are the beginning of your professional network. But your Ole Miss network isn't just your classmates; it's everyone who's gone before you and all the students who'll come after you. This network is your greatest professional asset. It's the real legacy of the Patterson School of Accountancy."

Earlier that day, Charles Clark (BBA 72), UM Alumni Association president, School of Accountancy advisory council member and managing member at Clark Capital, LLC, spoke at the university-wide ceremony that took place in the Grove. Clark asked students to stay connected with Ole Miss, get involved and give back by joining the Alumni Association. He said he was overwhelmed with emotion on graduation day.

"I wish all Ole Miss alumni could have the same experience I had that beautiful morning in May. It was truly magnificent," Clark said. ■



Accountancy alumni Reatha Clark (left, middle) and Charles Clark (right, top) spoke at the School of Accountancy and university-wide graduation ceremonies, respectively, on May 8.

## Community shows overwhelming support for golf tournament

The Ole Miss Beta Alpha Psi sixth annual golf tournament was not only a grand success, but it also marked a first for the winners.

The tournament, which is the organization's single fundraiser, was held in April on the Ole Miss Golf Course and comprised 18 four-man teams. The event raised \$8,700.

"The winner of this year's Burkett Cup was a student team," said BAP member Coby Parker. "This is the first time a student team has won the tournament, which was made up of Chris Thomas, Colin Knight, Alex Masten and David Stamatis."

Platinum sponsors were Deloitte, Dixon Hughes, KPMG, Reynolds, Bone and Griesbeck, Thompson Dunavant and Ashley Furniture. Other sponsors included BancorpSouth, BDO, Ernst & Young, Locke Lord Bissell and Liddell, Porter Keagle Moore and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The community showed overwhelming support for this year's tournament, with more than 80 door prizes donated by community leaders and businesses.

For winning a putting contest, Albert Sappington, who played for Horne LLP, took home a recliner, donated by Ashley Furniture. Student David Stamatis won longest drive. Student Ryan Hoormann attained closest to the pin, and Andy Cates of Reynolds, Bone and Griesbeck accomplished the straightest drive.

"The money that was raised at this year's tournament will be used throughout the year to help maintain our Beta Alpha Psi superior status and to help send a few officers to San Jose, Calif., for the Beta Alpha Psi national meeting and to the regional meeting in March," Parker said.

The Alpha Theta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi achieved "superior" status for the second year in a row.

J Shaw, associate professor of accountancy and chapter adviser, said he is amazed by the student officers' ability to run the chapter of Beta Alpha Psi.

"The Ole Miss chapter of BAP provided almost 1,500 hours of community service last year and amassed over 1,200 professional hours. We had our most successful golf tournament ever last spring, and it was due to the incredible job done by Coby Parker and Dante Esposito and the work of our other student officers," Shaw said. ■



The winning team poses with retired faculty member Homer Burkett (fourth from left).

## Graduate sets new pace

He runs up to 100 miles a week, that's right, 100 miles a week in preparation for his races.

Barnabas Kirui (Baccy 10, BBA 10), who is a two-time winner of the Southeastern Conference cross country championships, puts that kind of dedication into his studies and has opted to continue his accountancy studies at Ole Miss and pursue a Master of Accountancy degree.

"I like all my teachers, and the program is very strong compared to many other schools," Kirui said. "Also, I have connections. It's more of a family than anything else."

A native of Litein, Kenya, Kirui said he's looking forward to a challenging year academically and to learning from such professors as Dave Nichols, whom he said "takes extra time to make sure you understand what he's doing."

He also has lined up a three-month internship in spring 2011 with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Dallas, where he'll be filing taxes for companies.

"Hopefully, the internship will open a lot

of opportunities for me," he said. "I would love to work [for a firm] for several years and get a lot of experience and eventually open a firm of my own."

Because Kirui was red-shirted in 2008 due to injury, he also is able to continue to compete on Ole Miss' cross country team. That's good news for the team.

Besides being the only runner in school history to be a two-time winner of the SEC cross country championships, he also was named 2009 SEC Male Cross Country Athlete of the Year. Kirui has received academic honors as well. In 2007, he was named the Division I Track and Field National Co-Scholar Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. In addition, he was named a first team Academic All American by *ESPN The Magazine* during the same season. ■

Barnabas Kirui



Nathan Letti



### Hall of Famer, continued from Page 1

be required. I worked hard to fit in, and, of course, I entered the Ph.D. program. The faculty was gracious enough for me to pursue the doctorate while being an assistant professor. I took courses during the summers and some during the regular school year. By the time I received my doctorate in 1972, they were only hiring people with doctoral degrees.

#### **Q: What in your teaching career has brought you the most satisfaction?**

A: Observing the progression of students toward becoming professionals. Early on, I taught individual students as many as five different courses from beginning accounting through graduate school, so I had the unique privilege to observe their professional development. We had—and continue to have—outstanding students. In the late 1960s, for three years straight running, the awards for

outstanding performance on the CPA exams all went to Ole Miss graduates. And keeping in touch with many of them throughout their careers has been easy because doesn't everyone come back to Ole Miss?

#### **Q: How do you feel about faculty, friends and alumni honoring you with establishing and/or giving to the James W. Davis Scholarship in Accountancy Endowment?**

A: That has been a very humbling experience.

#### **Q: I understand this is the first summer you have not been in the classroom in the 45 years you have been teaching, so what have you been doing?**

A: Traveling. Catching up on things I needed to do. I'll be back in the classroom this fall teaching my standard load of two courses: Beginning Accounting and Advanced Accounting.

#### **Q: Has the accounting profession and the way accounting is taught changed over the years you have been teaching?**

A: The accounting profession has changed, but the basics are still the same. My approach to teaching hasn't changed: rigor and attention to detail, and understanding accounting in a broad sense.

#### **Q: What are some of the other highlights of your career?**

A: Among my proudest moments have

**"Although Jimmy is only four years older than me, he had a definite influence on my life. He not only taught me in two or three accountancy courses, guiding and directing me in much the same manner as I had experienced under his wonderful mentor, Gene Peery, but he also provided me encouragement and guidance as I sought a position in public accountancy upon my graduation. Likely, Jimmy has been the most influential dean/professor in the school. His Hall of Fame honor is richly deserved."**

—Don Jones (BBA 66, BUS MACcy 67), Oxford, Miss.

been receiving the university-wide Outstanding Teacher Award (1985) and being named the Patterson School's Outstanding Teacher five times (1983, 1988, 1993, 2004 and 2008). I was honored to have been elected president of the Mississippi Society of CPAs. Also, being asked to serve as dean and the accomplishments during my time as dean, from 1993 to 2002: receiving the Reynolds Foundation gift and becoming the Patterson School of Accountancy; renovating Conner Hall, much of which was financed with private funds; and securing the world's most prestigious accounting library, the AICPA Collection.

#### **Q: Do you have any regrets?**

A: None. ■

**"We are so proud to induct Dr. Davis into the Patterson School's Hall of Fame. He has devoted his life to Ole Miss, the School of Accountancy and our students. His long-standing commitment to excellence is one of the key reasons our program enjoys the success that it does today. We are so grateful for his dedication to students and to accounting education."**

—Mark Wilder, dean of the School of Accountancy and KPMG Professor

## School welcomes new professor

By Rebecca Lauck Cleary

A new professor said high achieving students and alumni involvement were the initial reasons she was interested in teaching at the Patterson School of Accountancy, but her future colleagues really won her over.

"They are among the very best, and I'm honored to be joining such a wonderful faculty and staff," said Vicki Dickinson, who is a CPA and has a B.S. and M.S. in accounting from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dickinson joined the accountancy faculty as assistant professor this fall. She received her Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was on the faculty at the University of Florida prior to joining Ole Miss.

She enjoys teaching for two reasons in particular:

"First, when students are amazed at how much they learned over such a short period of time and, second, when students come back and tell me how a project or concept learned in class helped them either land a job or better perform in their current job," Dickinson said. "It's great to see students take pride in their accomplishments and feel like they earned an above-average return for their time invested in the class."

Dean Mark Wilder said he is delighted to have Dickinson join the faculty.

"She has a reputation for outstanding teaching and has the potential for publishing in the very top accounting journals," Wilder said. "In addition, she has a track record of

continued on Page 8



Vicki Dickinson

## COO credits school for success

By Erin Parsons

**A**s chief operating officer for the North America region of a leading global commodity trading company, H. Thomas “Tommy” Hayden Jr. (BAccy 91) undoubtedly has found success in the workplace. He credits much of this success to the Patterson School of Accountancy and its faculty.

Hayden, a Caruthersville, Mo., native, looks back fondly on his time in Oxford and said he especially enjoyed getting to know the accountancy faculty.

“I really enjoyed the closeness with the professors,” Hayden said. “With the School of Accountancy being a relatively small school, you really have a great opportunity to know all of your professors well.”

Two professors stood out as mentors for Hayden: Jimmy Davis and, in particular, Gene Peery.

“I met both of them while at Ole Miss, and they were extremely instrumental [in] my achievements as a student,” Hayden said.

Peery stood out as a professor who took a vested interest in his students and challenged them, he said.

“Mr. Peery reached out to me and convinced me to change my major to accountancy,” he said. “From that point on, he counseled me throughout my time at Ole Miss and into my career in the profession of public accountancy. Mr. Peery and I became very close friends while I was at

Ole Miss. He even arranged my first job interview with Ernst & Young when I was a junior, which resulted in a summer internship and eventually a full-time position. After graduation, my wife, Shelly, and I stayed very close with him up until his death.”

Hayden worked in Ernst & Young’s Assurance and Advisory Business Services practice in Memphis for eight years. Then, in 1999, he joined the cotton division of Louis Dreyfus Commodities in Memphis

**‘With the School of Accountancy being a relatively small school, you really have a great opportunity to know all of your professors well.’**

—H. THOMAS HAYDEN JR.

as controller. Louis Dreyfus Commodities is one of the world’s leading commodity merchants and processors of agricultural products. In 2005, Hayden was named chief financial officer for the global cotton division and maintained that position until 2008, when he was appointed to his current position of chief operating officer for the North

America region, based in Wilton, Conn.

Hayden enjoys the professional challenges of being a COO in a multinational company. Though he maintains his home in Memphis, he travels often within North America and to multiple overseas locations, primarily Europe, Asia and South America.

“Louis Dreyfus Commodities has offices in over 50 countries and has over 30,000 employees,” he said. “I very much enjoy the global aspect of our business. At a global commodity trading company such as Louis Dreyfus Commodities, one is exposed to many of the issues that have a meaningful effect on the global economy. As a result, I have been involved in some very interesting transactions thus far in my career.”

Hayden is thankful for the education and advice that he received at Ole Miss and frequently gives back to the School of Accountancy. He is an active member and a past president of the Accountancy Alumni Chapter of the Ole Miss Alumni Association, and has counseled entering college freshmen to join the accountancy school.

“I recommend a career in accounting or at least getting a degree in accountancy, which provides a student many career options,” he said. “A solid understanding of accounting is extremely important in the business world.”

Hayden and his wife, Shelly Neville Hayden (BAccy 91), have three children: Hallie, 12, Thomas, 10, and Annie, 9. ■

### New professor, continued from Page 7

student service and being very involved with the firms and companies that come to campus to recruit. In short, I believe Vicki is a great addition to our faculty and will be a perfect fit for our program.”

Besides teaching, Dickinson was an auditor and in management advisory services for Schweitzer, Rubin, Gottlieb and Karon in Minneapolis, Minn. She held several positions outside of public accounting, including senior financial analyst at Wells

Fargo in Minneapolis and risk analyst at Lockheed Martin in Calabasas, Calif.

While at the University of Florida, she received the 2007-08 J. Michael Cook Excellence in Teaching Award, the 2008 Warrington College of Business Teacher of the Year Award, the 2009 Judy Fisher Teaching with Technology Award, and was a 2008-09 Anderson Scholar Faculty Honoree.

Her research examines the effect

of financial statement analysis on equity valuation. She has presented her research at several national conventions and serves as a reviewer for numerous accounting journals.

She enjoys cooking, reading and traveling, as well as one other “secret” hobby.

“I probably shouldn’t reveal this so soon after being hired, but I am occasionally a Saturday night ‘Guitar Hero,’” Dickinson said. ■



# Accountancy Awards



**2010 Associated Accountancy Student Body Officers**  
Wesley Shaw Anderson (left), Nathan Joseph Jew, Natalie Leilani Ferrell Watanabe, Taylor Francesca-Victoria Corso, Samuel Hardy Farris IV, Charles Nathan Cloud



**Accountancy Alumni Chapter Academic Achievement Award**  
Matthew Collins Garber (left), Caitlin McCullough Cassidy, Blair Karisa Harden, Christine Marie Sims, Lauren Elizabeth Williams, Mallory Alyse Britt, Ben Hammond Satyshur, Mary Glenn Christopher, Margaret Joyner Barefoot



**Accountancy Excellence Scholarship**  
Blake Cameron Ivy (left), Christine Marie Sims, Lauren Elizabeth Williams



**PricewaterhouseCoopers Fellowship**  
Lauren Elizabeth Williams (left), Reatha Clark, Ben Wilson Van Landuyt



**Arthur Andersen & Company/  
W. Kelly Clifford Fellowship**  
Zachary O'Neal Moore



**Institute of Management  
Accountants Outstanding  
Graduate Student**  
Patrick Sanford McDavid



**Annie Belle H. Friou  
Tax Fellowship**  
Natalie Leilani Ferrell Watanabe



**Harper Rains Knight Fellowship**  
Jason Harkins McDavid



# ACCOUNTANCY AWARDS



## **BKD, LLP Scholarship**

Jon Turner (left), Elizabeth Lee Bagley, Elizabeth Lea Thomas, Amanda Claire Mixon, Elizabeth Flowers Weiss, Rachel Elaine Epps, Dante Alighieri Esposito, Christopher Michael Lalo, Anna Langley



## **Boolos Scholarship**

Natalie Leilani Ferrell Watanabe (left), Leo Boolos Jr., Briana Elise Russell



## **Collins Scholarship in Accountancy**

Gino Lashaey Johnson (left), Marian Rebecca Tillman, Cassiana Marshai Miller, Julie Collins



## **Deloitte & Touche Fellowship**

Barry Atkins (left), Christine Marie Sims, Charles Robert Gautier



## **Frank Hughes Scholarship**

Michelle Anthony Washington and William Wesley Crowley



## **Deloitte Scholarship**

Barry Atkins (left) and William Allen Farrington



## **Haddox Reid Burkes & Calhoun Scholarship**

Mike Gladney and Caitlin Brooke Huffines





**James and Paula Martin Scholarship**

Allison Ann Garner (left), Paula Martin, Katherine Elizabeth Barfield



**James W. Davis Scholarship in Accountancy**

David Ford Thompson (left), Charles Robert Gautier, William Eric Ott, James W. Davis, Derek Austin Burns, Lee Hubert Thompson III



**Luckyday Scholars Class of 2010**

Kristen Leigh Burnette (left), Taylor Francesca-Victoria Corso, Corina Bonilla, Briana Elise Russell, Floyd Allen Holland III



**McCarty Family Scholarship**

Patrick Kin-Wing Lo (left), Cynthia Ann Fry, Mason Sands Smith



**Lefoldt and Company/Waller Fellowship**

Margaret Joyner Barefoot (left) and Judy Waller Shannon



**Carl Nabors Ole Miss First Scholarship**

Emilee Christine Young



**Lucian Minor Scholarship in Accountancy**

Antonia Louise Pittari (left) and Kaitlin Ann Dennis



# ACCOUNTANCY AWARDS



## Edward A. DeMiller Jr. Scholarship

Blair Karisa Harden (left), Zachary O'Neal Moore, Margaret Joyner Barefoot



## Flesher and Flesher Fellowship

Byron David Hillman (left), Mary Glenn Christopher, Dale L. Flesher



## Hall of Fame

Joseph C. Weller (left), Leo Boolos Jr., Charles W. Taylor, James W. Davis, Arnold L. Young, Larry J. Hardy, Homer H. Burkett



## Horne, LLP Scholarship in Accountancy

Front row, from left: Stephanie Joy Stewart, Taylor Francesca-Victoria Corso, Samantha Lynn Guthrie; back row, from left: Joseph Mims McLennan, Clay William Escude, Joey Havens, Sebastian Lopez Duarte, Byron David Hillman



## Haddox Reid Burkes & Calhoun Scholarship

Caitlin Brooke Huffines (left) and Jennifer Paige Gordy



## Will Townsend Memorial Scholarship

Mary Margaret Myers (left) and Mary Glenn Christopher



## Outstanding Teacher

W. Mark Wilder (left) and J Riley Shaw





**Nettie Young Scholarship in Accountancy**

Randall Young (left), Emily Elizabeth Mosquera, Caitlin McCullough Cassidy, Arnold Young, Willis Young



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

Victoria Lynn Meadows (left), David Williams, Erin Marie Lotz



**Dixon Hughes Scholarship**

Anthony Clark (left) and David McArthur Neyhart



**Peery Scholarship**

Clayton Duncan Wammack (left), Samuel Hardy Farris IV, Martha Peery Williston, Peter Williston, Preston Clayton Templeton



**Northrop Grumman Scholarship**

Reid Wunderlich Wesson and Natalie Leilani Ferrell Watanabe



**Mississippi Society of CPAs Outstanding Senior Award**

Mary Glenn Christopher and Ben Wilson Van Landuyt



**Roger and Susie Friou Scholarship**

James Martin Shepherd and Emilee Christine Young



# ACCOUNTANCY AWARDS



## Thompson Dunavant Scholarship

Moirra Howard (left), Phillip Wrather DeBardeleben, James Tyler Michael, Jenna Lea Presley



## Wendell Weakley Scholarship

Wendell Weakley (left), Jessica Rae Jones, Ben Hammond Satyshur



## 2010 Taylor Medalists

Blair Karisa Harden (left), Lauren Elizabeth Williams, Margaret Joyner Barefoot, Christine Marie Sims, Igor Shkilko



## Collins Graduate Scholarship in Accountancy

Patrick James Richardson and Julie Collins



## Ernst & Young Fellowship

Blair Karisa Harden



## Claude Thompson Ole Miss First Scholarship

Gino Lashaey Johnson



## Federation of Schools of Accountancy Outstanding Student Award

William Wesley Crowley



## Outstanding Researcher

Kendall O. Bowlin





**Columns Society 2009-10**

Tommy Vincent Chamblee (left) and Dennis Pickens, Jr.



**Doctoral Teaching Award**

Randy Bunker (left) and W. Mark Wilder



**Dixon Hughes Fellowship**

Anthony Clark and Lindsey Brooke Denton



**Peery Scholarship**

Clayton Duncan Wammack (left), Samuel Hardy Farris IV, John James Adkins



**Hall of Fame 2010**

Tommy Vincent Chamblee



**W.R. Newman Scholarship**

Samuel Hardy Farris IV



**Outstanding Graduate Student**

Dana L. Hart



**Paula Salter Women's Council  
Scholarship**

Lindsey Brooke Denton





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**Accountancy M Club Scholarship**

Members Elizabeth Flowers Weiss (left), Keith McKey, Blair Karisa Harden

*Accountancy M Club Scholarship Fund*

**A**thletics meets accountancy with a new scholarship fund established by Keith McKey (BBA 73) of Edwards, Miss.

The Accountancy M Club Scholarship Fund benefits accountancy students who have a parent or grandparent who is or was a member of the M Club, composed of former University of Mississippi letter winners. The club's mission is to further the relationships of these former student athletes with the university and to provide members with meaningful programs.

Interested in showing your support? Direct a gift to the Accountancy M Club Scholarship Fund:

Online: Visit [www.umfoundation.com/makeagift](http://www.umfoundation.com/makeagift), and include a note designating your gift to the fund.

By check: Mail a check payable to The University of Mississippi Foundation with a note directing your gift to the fund to The University of Mississippi Foundation, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677.

By phone: Call 1-800-340-9542 to make a gift to the fund. ■

**Save the Dates in 2011**

April 28-29	Accountancy Weekend
May 5, 4-6 p.m.	Beta Alpha Psi Meet the Firms
May 6	Beta Alpha Psi Golf Tournament

**Thank You**

**Fall Alumni Luncheon**

*Thank you for participating in our fall alumni luncheon in Jackson on Aug. 26, Memphis on Sept. 2, and Dallas on Oct. 28.*