

# ACCOUNTANT

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

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## Horne LLP Lectureship established to provide faculty support



Joey Havens (third from left), Horne LLP executive partner, and James Gordon (fifth from left), Horne partner in charge of core services, visited the Oxford campus recently to announce the firm's additional commitment of \$150,000 to the Patterson School, which, along with a previous \$100,000 gift, establishes the Horne LLP Accountancy Lectureship Endowment. On hand to acknowledge the firm's generosity are (from left) Provost Morris Stocks, University Foundation president/CEO Wendell Weakley, Chancellor Dan Jones and Dean Mark Wilder.

**R**idgeland-based accounting firm Horne LLP recently made a \$250,000 commitment to enhancing faculty support at the Patterson School of Accountancy. The Horne LLP Accountancy Excellence Endowment at the University of Mississippi, established in 2009 with a gift of \$100,000, has been renamed the Horne LLP Accountancy Lectureship Endowment with the new \$150,000 commitment.

The endowment provides resources for faculty members, one of the school's greatest needs. Resources will include salary supplements as well as funds for research and creative support.

"We are profoundly grateful for this tremendous investment by our Ole Miss accountancy alumni with Horne," said Dean Mark Wilder. "This generous gift provides critical resources for faculty support and helps ensure our ability to offer competitive salaries to attract and retain professors of the high-

est quality. We have a great partnership with Horne, and we appreciate so much their commitment to helping provide Ole Miss students with the best accounting education possible through this investment in our faculty."

Joey D. Havens (BBA 80), Horne LLP executive partner, said, "Our hope for the endowment is that it will allow the accountancy school to continue its mission of excellence in accounting education.

"Creating value and making a difference is our daily mission. We are among the top firms in the country and continue to experience strong growth even in a slow economy. We hope our partnership with the Patterson School of Accountancy will continue to help provide leadership for our bright future."

The firm employs 41 Ole Miss graduates, and 21 of them are contributors to the endowment. In addition, Horne offers a matching gift program and matches each of the donations made by the team members.

*continued on Page 9*

## Inside:

### 2 Message from the Dean



### 3 Charles Clark inducted into Alumni Hall of Fame

### 4 Alums win gold, bronze on CPA exam



### 5 Grad presents research to national group

### 6 Alum heads Louisiana CPA Society

### 10 Ph.D. grad is continental marathon runner

### 12 Accountancy Awards

Ole Miss Accountant is published biannually by the School of Accountancy.

Comments or suggestions?  
Call 662-915-7623.



## FROM THE DEAN

### Dear Accountancy Alumni and Friends:

*Things continue to go extremely well in the Patterson School of Accountancy.*

We enjoyed another exciting academic year in the Patterson School. Our commencement ceremony was held May 12, 2012 in the Ford Center for the Performing Arts and was highlighted by the commencement address of David Williams. David has an Ole Miss accounting degree and is the managing partner of Pearce, Bevell, Leesburg and Moore, a large public accounting firm in Birmingham, Ala. David delivered an inspiring address that was well-received by students, families and friends. His son, Thorne, was among the students who graduated, receiving his Bachelor of Accountancy degree.

We offered a full slate of classes this summer and once again enjoyed a large summer enrollment. For the seventh consecutive year, accountancy enrollment is at an all-time high (910 students for fall 2012), and the 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. The spring 2012 class had 76 students participate (an all-time high), with another 19 interns during the summer. These students interned throughout the Mid-South and beyond. We had nine interns in New York City during spring and summer and once again had an intern in London. We are now preparing for the spring 2013 class of interns, with numerous students having already accepted internships.

Accountancy Weekend 2012 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 alumnus Charles C. Clark into the Accountancy Hall of Fame. The faculty awards went to superb teachers and researchers. This year's Outstanding Teacher was Dr. Vicki Dickinson, and Dr. Mitch Wenger was named Outstanding Researcher. The next day, our continuing education program featured wonderful guest speakers including Roy Strickland, Meredith Allen, Chris Haley, Ron Lott, Natalie Watanabe and Bill Taylor. 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 eighth 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*

W. Mark Wilder  
Dean and KPMG Professor

### Phi Kappa Phi Fall 2012

The following Patterson School of Accountancy students were inducted into the Ole Miss chapter of Phi Kappa Phi on Oct. 28. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective honor society that includes students from all academic disciplines. This was the largest induction group that the Patterson School has ever had.

Christie Marie Allen  
Laura Elizabeth Barrier  
Barrett Austin Binion  
Katrina Marie Briscoe  
Sydney Anne Brown  
James Barry Burt  
Louis Philip Cole  
Michelle Davidson  
Gann Roberts Duke  
Claire Griffin Foster  
Patrick Davis Galagan  
Jeffery Ryan Garland  
Virginia Rutherford Gilmore  
Jennifer Cove Green  
Chelsea Janelle Harris  
Erin Farr Hearnshberger  
Traci Leigh Kelly  
Mathew Scott Kiernan  
Kenny Lamb  
Sara Timmons Leatherman  
Courtenay Frances Martindale  
Kelcey Danielle McLemore  
Ann Marie Mercier  
Hugh Devin Lawrence Mills  
Margaret Frances Olander  
Tanner Wade Phillips  
Kaleb Marshall Pitts  
Kesler Lauren Roberts  
Michelle Elizabeth Rose  
Lee Franklin Sanderson  
Rachel Ann Shaw  
Benjamin Gaither Sigman  
John Culling Slaughter  
Elizabeth Blaine Stephens  
Nicolas Alexander Stephens  
Nickole Tigrett  
Gerald Waltman III  
Mallory Clara Watson  
Matthew David Williams  
Stephen Byrne Wittmann  
Ye Xiao  
Karan Lorraine York

# Distinguished alumnus inducted into Patterson School Hall of Fame

**C**harles Clark (BACCY 72) has made it to the top of his profession, but along the way he did not forget the place that provided the foundation for his success.

His extraordinary career and support of the university and Patterson School were recognized with his induction into the school's Hall of Fame.

The ceremony honoring Clark was held April 26, 2012 as part of the annual Accountancy Honors Banquet.

"It is such a great pleasure to induct Charles Clark into our Patterson School Hall of Fame. He has enjoyed a tremendous career both in public accounting as well as in industry," Dean Mark Wilder said. "Charles has served the school and the university in so many ways over the years. We are extremely proud to have Charles as one of our graduates and to now have him as part of the school's Hall of Fame. He is very deserving of this honor."

Clark is a past president of the Accountancy Alumni Chapter and currently serves on the school's Professional Advisory Council. In other service to the university, Clark was the 2009-10 president of the Ole Miss Alumni Association, and, since 2004, he has been a member of the association's board of directors. In 2009 and 2010, he was a member of both the board of directors of the University of Mississippi Foundation and the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. In addition, he is a past president of the Birmingham Ole Miss Alumni Club.

"I am both honored and humbled to be included in the Patterson School of Accountancy Hall of Fame, especially when I consider those individuals that have been inducted before me," Clark said. "I am very proud to be an alumnus of the school and so proud of the many accomplishments and accolades it has achieved over the years. Knowing that we are a top 10 program just makes the honor that much more meaningful to me."

Reminiscing, Clark said he chose Ole Miss "because growing up in Jackson, it was a natural fit for me." He said his decision to study accounting was "more or less random at first" until he had taken two semesters of accounting under Gene Peery.

"I did well in his classes, and at the



Charles Clark (right) was inducted into the Patterson School's Hall of Fame at the annual Honors Banquet program with Dean Mark Wilder presiding.

conclusion of the second semester, he advised me that I would be majoring in accounting," Clark said. "I could not argue with his advice, and before I graduated, I had him for 18 semester hours of accounting. He treated me like a son and made sure I got involved with all the right campus organizations and got the right job interviews. I will always be grateful for all that he taught me and did for me."

**"I am both honored and humbled to be included in the Patterson School of Accountancy Hall of Fame."**

—CHARLES CLARK (BACCY 72)

Clark began his career in Jackson with Ernst & Ernst, where he worked in auditing for two years before entering the University of Southern California and completing the Master of Business Taxation program. He joined Peat Marwick (now KPMG) in Jackson in 1976, becoming a tax partner there in 1982, tax partner in charge of the firm's Birmingham, Ala., practice in

1984 and later taking on the additional responsibility of tax partner in charge of the health care and life sciences practice for the Southeast U.S.

In 1997, after 21 years with KPMG, he left the firm to work for one of his clients, the publicly traded company Caremark Rx. He served as executive vice president, primarily working on mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and turnaround activities. In 2004, Caremark relocated its headquarters to Nashville, Tenn., and was subsequently acquired by CVS, which is now known as CVS/Caremark.

After leaving Caremark, Clark formed his own company, Clark Capital, LLC, where he is involved primarily in venture capital investing in small, privately held companies. He is actively involved with and on the board of directors of two of his investee companies: AQ2 Technologies and MCM Technology, both software companies in Birmingham.

He is a member of the Society of CPAs in both Alabama and Mississippi and a past chairman of the board of trustees of the Mississippi Tax Institute.

Clark is married to the former Ginger Guice of Biloxi. They live in Mountain Brook, a suburb of Birmingham, and are the parents of a son and two daughters. ■



## Ole Miss graduates win gold and bronze medals on CPA exam

**F**or the second consecutive year, a Patterson School graduate brought home the gold for making the highest score on the state CPA exam in 2011, and another alumnus won bronze for coming in third. The awards were announced during the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants annual business meeting, held in June in Destin, Fla.

Holt Irving (BAccy 10, MAccy 11) won the Fred T. Neely Gold Medal, following last year's top winner, Katie Cliburn (BAccy 09, MAccy 10). Drew Chapman (BAccy 10, MAccy 11) won the Silas M. Simmons Bronze Medal.

For calendar year 2011, there were 691 candidates sitting for the CPA examination, according to Susan M. Harris, executive director of the Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy.

"The CPA exam is recognized as an extremely rigorous exam, and to be a medal winner is quite an accomplishment," said Jack Copenbarger, executive director of the MSCPA.

"Holt, Drew and Katie deserve this honor immensely," Dean Mark Wilder said. "In addition to their tremendous success on the CPA exam, they are each off to a great start in their professional careers. We could not be more proud of them."

A native of Canton, Irving is an audit associate at KPMG in Jackson. He praised his accountancy professors for his success not only on the CPA exam but also early in his career.

**"I have the confidence that I know how to go and figure out the answer, and I owe that confidence to my Ole Miss education without question."**

—HOLT IRVING  
(BACCY 10, MACCY 11)



Holt Irving



Drew Chapman

"As I was preparing for the exam, I think I was just as nervous about it as anyone else," Irving said. "Looking back, the foundation of my success on the exam was not nearly as rooted in my preparation in the months leading up to it as it was in the three years I spent in Conner Hall classrooms; I would attribute that to 90 percent of my success. I owe the teachers at Ole Miss a lot of my gratitude."

The same is true for his comfort level in his first job.

"I am rarely ever in a situation that I don't at least have some sort of answer for," he said. "That's not to say that I am not constantly challenged to come up with new ideas or understand new concepts, but I never walk into a situation thinking I can't handle it. Even if I don't know the answer right away, I have the confidence that I know how to go and figure out the answer, and I owe that confidence to my Ole Miss education without question."

Chapman, originally from Fairhope, Ala., is a supervisor in construction services at Horne LLP in Ridgeland. He credited his professors with pushing him to excel, which carried over to his preparation for the CPA exam.

"From Dean Wilder betting me \$5 that I wouldn't attend the balance of his classes midway through the semester to Dr. Davis' fear tactics, I learned that in any professional situation, you get out what you put in," he said. "So I put in the hours necessary to make sure I passed the CPA exam."

He said he's also enjoying the chance to put what he learned in Conner Hall to good use in his work.

"I think Ole Miss did a wonderful job preparing me for the professional world. My team has graduates from all over, and I can say without a doubt that the Ole Miss graduates are the most prepared." ■



# Graduate's presentation on pension plans impresses attendees at national meetings



Marian Tillman celebrates earning her bachelor's degree in accountancy following the Patterson School's diploma-awarding ceremony on May 12. On hand to offer congratulations were her mother, Carolyn Tillman (right), and Annette Pridgen, assistant professor.

A recent graduate was invited to share her research at two American Accounting Association meetings.

As a member of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, Marian Tillman (BAccy 12) wrote her honors thesis, "State Pension Plans in Crisis: Are Reforms Enough?", based on a study by the Pew Center on the underfunding of state retirement systems.

"I was interested in the effects the economic downturn had on different aspects of the economy, and when I looked through the report on the study, I decided I wanted to focus on reforms states had made since the report was published."

She shared her findings in March at the midyear meeting of the AAA's Government and Nonprofit Section in San Diego and at the association's annual meeting in August in Washington, D.C.

Tillman, who enrolled this fall in the Patterson School's master's program, said she was excited about the opportunity to speak on a national platform but also a bit apprehensive.

"I must say that public speaking makes me very nervous, so I was terrified that I would not do a good job. But with each presentation — including my thesis defense — I gained more confidence.

"It was not until the annual meeting that I realized what a big deal my presentations were. I thought students presented all the time at these conferences, but people I met at the annual conference told me that not many Ph.D. students present, let alone a master's student."

**"Marian presented an organized and thoughtful piece of research with poise and maturity."**

—MORRIS STOCKS

Provost Morris Stocks attended the conference, including the concurrent session that featured Tillman on the program.

"Marian presented an organized and thoughtful piece of research with poise and maturity," Stocks said. "The audience would have been surprised to learn that she completed her research as an undergraduate. She answered follow-up questions from the audience in a professional manner. I could not have been more proud."

The data under consideration, from fiscal 2009, show a \$1 trillion deficit in the

Public Employees' pension fund, Tillman said.

"The funding gap has only been lessened by about \$100 billion. My research determined that the problem is that the current benefits being paid out are much too high for the systems to sustain. Many states are trying to address the issue relating to the current benefits being paid, with the most apparent change being within the cost-of-living adjustment, but retirees are fighting back."

Tillman was a self-starter on her research every step of the way, said Annette Pridgen, assistant professor and Tillman's thesis adviser.

"She secured financial statements for pension plans in every state, coded all the information and learned new software programs using maps and charts and other graphics that made her findings easy to understand. She would come to me to discuss ideas or to ask questions when she didn't understand something."

Tillman said she plans to submit her work to national journals for possible publication.

"She chose a subject that's in the news and on everybody's radar, and I think it will definitely continue to be of interest," Pridgen said.

continued on Page 9



## Alum heads Louisiana CPA Society

**S**hawn Mauldin (PhD 97), dean of the College of Business and the Arlen B. Cenac Jr. Endowed Chair in Accounting at Nicholls State University, was installed as the 2012-13 president of the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants.

With the distinction of being the society's first president to come from academe, Mauldin views the future of the accounting profession alongside the future of accountancy education. His background and passion for higher education inspired his presidential theme: "Embracing Change — Ensuring the Future of Our Profession."

With the resignation of the society's 17-year executive director early this year, Mauldin is also tasked with guiding the organization into a new era of leadership.

"Our plan is called Vision 2020 and is the focus of my presidency," he said. "Both the transition of our association and higher education require a clear vision, strategic focus and leaders who can implement substantive changes in a challenging environment."

Recalling his time as a doctoral student in the Ole Miss accountancy program, from 1994 to 1997, he said he observed "strong leadership and a balance between the academic and practical side of accounting education."

"That's one reason the school has an extraordinarily successful master's program. I think their philosophy helped me understand how to better balance my career. Considering the changes being suggested by the Pathways Commission and the new AACSB standards, I know they have the right model in place to provide a quality accounting education at all levels."

Mauldin was named the school's Outstanding Doctoral Student in 1996. Tonya Flesher, professor and Arthur Andersen Lecturer, remembers her former student.

"I have followed Shawn's academic career with great pride and joy," Flesher said. "He has excelled in teaching, research and service. In particular, he has followed the path of service to the profession that is a hallmark of the Patterson School of Accountancy."

Mauldin said he chose Ole Miss for

his doctorate after meeting with professors in the school who seemed genuinely concerned about his future.

"Several of the professors had just completed their doctoral degrees and could relate to my questions and concerns," said Mauldin, who earned his B.A. and MBA at NSU.

"Mark Wilder and Morris Stocks had just finished their Ph.D.s and helped me with the decision that I was trying to make. They were — and have been — great role models. I was also impressed with Dale and Tonya Flesher in my discussions with them. Their focus on the practitioner aspect of the accounting profession really hit home for me."

Moving from the classroom to administration in 2005 was an easy transition for him, he said.

**"I have followed Shawn's academic career with great pride and joy. He has excelled in teaching, research and service. In particular, he has followed the path of service to the profession that is a hallmark of the Patterson School of Accountancy."**

**—TONYA FLESHER**

"I may be a little touched in the head, but I enjoy being a dean; I also loved being a professor. The ultimate goal in both positions is the same — helping students succeed. However, you're in a better position as dean to make significant changes that will help all students, not only the ones in your classes."

"The future of our profession is contingent on the pipeline of students in our universities. We are competing for stu-



Shawn Mauldin

dents who have myriad career options, and it's our responsibility to make sure students understand the career opportunities in accountancy and business schools."

Dale Flesher, associate dean and Arthur Andersen Lecturer, was among the faculty who helped recruit Mauldin.

"I remember that we were quite excited when Shawn entered the Ph.D. program; the senior faculty thought of him as typical of the type of student we were trying to recruit," Flesher said. "He had teaching experience and practical accounting experience. Our expectations were rewarded in that he did quite well in the doctoral program, and I'm proud of all that he has accomplished since then."

Mauldin joined NSU in 2000 as head of the Department of Accounting and Business Law, and that year, he became the first recipient of the Betsy Cheramie Ayo Endowed Professorship in Accounting.

Under his leadership as dean, a successful Executive MBA Program is in place and separate AACSB International accounting accreditation has been achieved. He has served on many AACSB

## Honors alum appointed to Tennessee board

**J**ohn G. “Gabe” Roberts (BAccy 03, BBA 03), an associate with the law firm Sherrard & Roe in Nashville, has been appointed to the Tennessee State Board of Public Accountancy as an attorney member by Gov. Bill Haslam. His service runs through June 2015.

Roberts graduated from Ole Miss in 2003 with bachelor’s degrees in accountancy and business administration (economics), both with magna cum laude distinction. A member of UM’s Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, he was one of 10 students inducted into the university’s 2002-03 Hall of Fame. His honors included membership in Phi Kappa Phi and Beta Gamma Sigma.

Roberts credited the Patterson School with contributing to his success. “The demanding curriculum of the Patterson School of Accountancy, the intensity of daily classroom discussions and the extraordi-

nary aptitude of my classmates accelerated my development as a critical thinker and underscored the importance of doing even the ‘little things’ correctly.

“Of course, these attributes of the Patterson School were created and then nurtured by our professors, who possessed the brightest of scholarly minds and the most engaging of demeanors. These lessons my professors taught me and the habits they instilled in me have been instrumental in my professional and personal development since graduation. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to spend my days as a student in the Patterson School.”

After graduating in 2003, Roberts worked for Ernst & Young in Memphis, where he earned his CPA distinction before enrolling in law school. He graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School in 2008, and, while there, he received a certificate from the Vanderbilt Law and Business Program and served as a member of

the *Vanderbilt Law Review*.

The focus of Roberts’ legal practice is corporate law with a specialty in mergers and acquisitions, and venture capital investment transactions.

Roberts volunteers through several Nashville-area nonprofit organizations and is a member of the Patterson School of Accountancy Alumni Chapter board. He was named one of Nashville’s “Top 30 Under 30” honorees, who are recognized as outstanding young professionals and philanthropists.

A Jackson native, Roberts is married to the former Ashleigh Harb of Knoxville. They are active members of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Nashville. ■



Gabe Roberts

Photo by Nathan Latif

## Accountancy grad named president of Ole Miss Alumni Association

**A**n accountancy alumnus was announced as president of the Ole Miss Alumni Association during Homecoming festivities on campus on Oct. 13.

Larry Bryan, who earned a B.B.A. with a major in accounting at Ole Miss in 1974, is serving as president for 2012-13 after completing a one-year term as president-elect. A Winona native, Bryan is the founder and director of Diversified Trust Co., a comprehensive wealth management firm with offices in Memphis, Nashville, Atlanta and Greensboro, N.C.

Bryan serves as chairman of the board of the Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital Foundation and also serves on the boards of directors of Bridges Inc., the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis and the University of Mississippi Foundation.

Bryan is also on the executive board of the Ole Miss Alumni Association and serves on the Patterson School of Accountancy’s Professional Advisory Council.

He is married to the former Susan Marsh, and they have two sons, Austin and Spencer, and one grandchild.

“I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as the 2012-13 president of the Ole Miss Alumni Association,” Bryan said. “It is exciting to see such positive momentum on many fronts at Ole Miss. The opportunities to continue that momentum are many, and I encourage everyone to jump on board.”

Bryan is the third Ole Miss accountancy alumnus during the past decade to serve as Alumni Association president, joining Charles Clark (president in 2009-10) and Jon Turner (president in 2004-05). ■



Larry Bryan



## Audit research draws national attention

**K**arl Wang, associate professor of accountancy instruction, was cited recently in the national arena as an expert on the impact of auditor rotation on auditor-client negotiation, which was the subject of his doctoral dissertation at the University of South Carolina in 2002.

His research concerns mandatory audit firm rotation, a major policy proposal that could dramatically change the landscape of accounting practice in the U.S. and around the world. The study is of interest to the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board as the board reconsiders this proposed policy for possible adoption.

Wang's findings were discussed during the PCAOB's March 22 public meeting on auditor independence and audit firm rotation, in which he was quoted by academic panelist Barbara Arel of the University of Vermont. In August, Michael Gurbutt, associate chief auditor of the PCAOB, and another PCAOB member interviewed Wang by telephone concerning his research.

The study was co-authored with Brad Tuttle, USC professor and chair of accountancy, and Wang's dissertation chair.

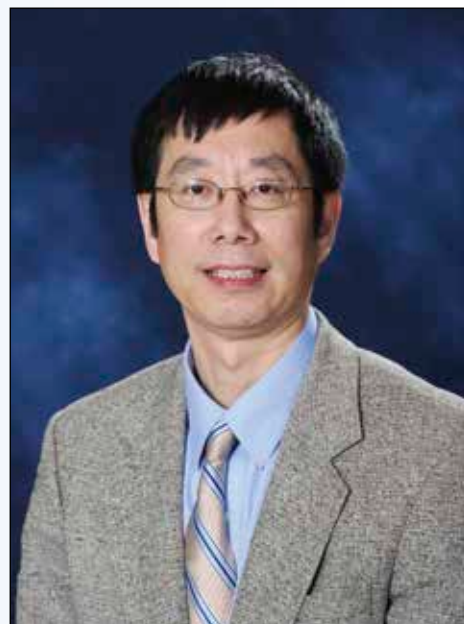
"Dr. Wang was one of the most intriguing

and creative Ph.D. students I have mentored," Tuttle said. "His dissertation was a cutting-edge experiment that investigated an issue with high-level policy implications then and that continues to be as relevant and relied upon today as when he first conducted his study — perhaps more so today.

"The problem is how to make the auditors of large publicly traded companies independent of the companies they audit when the company pays for the audit."

Wang said his research examines the negotiation strategies used by both auditors and clients, and the outcomes of their negotiations under alternative experimental settings in which mandatory auditor rotation is either imposed or not imposed.

"The study posits that mandatory auditor rotation changes the dynamics of the audit market as well as the political costs to the client," Wang said. "These incentives, in turn, alter the willingness of auditors and clients to cooperate during a negotiation. The results suggest that auditors adopt less cooperative negotiation strategies under mandatory rotation, thus producing asset values that are more in line with the auditor's incentives than with the client's incentives. Furthermore, the study finds



Karl Wang

that mandatory rotation produces more negotiation impasses."

Wang joined the Patterson School faculty in 2003. He holds master's and bachelor's degrees in accountancy from USC and Fudan University, respectively. ■

## Alumnus receives scholarship to study international business in Scotland

**D**ennis Pickens (BAccy 10, MAccy 11) is studying at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland on an international scholarship from the Rotary Foundation.

Pickens received a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to pursue the M.Sc. degree in International Business and Emerging Markets at UE. The program helps students understand how to conduct business internationally and, in particular, how to do so from developmental states, according to the UE business school's website.

"I hope to walk away from the program with a firm understanding of how to conduct business in developing countries and an understanding of where the global economy is headed," said Pickens, who spent



Dennis Pickens

the last year working for KPMG in Atlanta.

Pickens graduated from UM's Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. He learned about the Rotary Scholarship through a national scholarship information session conducted by Debra Young, associate director of the Honors College.

Rick Elam, Reynolds Professor of Accountancy, taught Pickens in Introduction to Accountancy his freshman year and served as his honors thesis adviser. He said Pickens continually seeks new ways to serve and be involved.

"Dennis and I worked very closely on his honors thesis," Elam said. "The topic was school funding from 16th section land in Mississippi. That research was one of the most interesting thesis projects I ever advised. I expect great things from Dennis because he is so driven to identify and achieve new goals."

As an undergraduate, Pickens was recruited nationally as a participant in the Institute for Responsible Citizenship, an intensive two-summer leadership program in Washington, D.C., for talented African-American college students. He was one of 10 Americans to participate in the Merrill Lynch Atlantic Fellowship Program, serving the company as an ambassador in London, and he was awarded a fellowship to study at the London School of Economics. ■



#### Horne continued from Page 1

Terry Traylor (Baccy 87), director of finance, is among the donors.

"The success of the Patterson School of Accountancy, and the national recognition it continues to receive, excites me about being an integral part of its program," Traylor said. "The school provided me with the education and professor influence that have helped me have a successful 25-year career in accounting. I hope our commitment to the endowment will help attract and retain professors that provide the education and career guidance to the students who are future leaders of our profession."

The publication *Accounting Today*, in its 2012 "Top 100" list, ranks Horne as the 53rd largest accounting and business advisory firm in the country. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in business this year, the firm has 12 offices, in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas.

"The Ole Miss accountancy program is a top 10 program in the country that sits squarely in the middle of our Southeastern footprint," Havens said. "We know our Ole Miss team members are some of the most qualified in the profession, and this program provides us with lots of opportunity for recruitment of new talent. We feel that the Ole Miss program is special, and we want to be part of making a difference for our profession." ■

### Ole Miss Horne Team

These alumni work for Horne and contribute to the company's Accountancy Lectureship Endowment:

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| • Dorine Adams                            | • Patrick Gough               |
| • Robert Alexander                        | • Joey Havens                 |
| • Jesse Alford                            | • Lance Hill                  |
| • Joel Bobo                               | • Kirk Hines                  |
| • Irvin "Trey" Breckenridge               | • Jeff Horner                 |
| • Virginia "Ginny" (Stearns) Breckenridge | • Bryan McDonald              |
| • Casey Cade                              | • Norman Moore                |
| • Javier DeRossette                       | • Aaron Samuels               |
| • Michael Edwards                         | • Mary Kathryn (Thomas) Allen |
| • Paul Foster                             | • Terry Traylor               |
| • James Gordon                            |                               |

#### Graduate's presentation continued from Page 5

Tillman graduated cum laude and with honors from the SMBHC. She expects to complete the master's program in May and then begin her career in public accounting at KPMG in Jackson, where she interned last spring.

"I really want to work with nonprofits and eventually be the controller at a public university, although some of my professors would like for me to get my Ph.D. and teach. I don't really see that in the cards, but I won't rule it out as a possibility," she said.

A Jackson native, Tillman said she was attracted to Ole Miss because she knew she wanted to major in accounting, and she learned about the school's outstanding job placement statistics.

"I chose Ole Miss before I really knew much about it, honestly," she said. "I visited the campus, and I knew this is where I belonged. The campus was amazing, and everyone I met on my visits was very nice and hospitable. Everything just felt right."

Her education has not been limited to academics, she said. In spring 2012, she participated in the accountancy school's internship program in Jackson and the study abroad program in London.

"I think I have gotten a great education. I've also grown a lot as a student, which is really great because I will always be a student, as there is always an opportunity to learn. I've also learned the importance of building relationships with my classmates and how to network." ■

*Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Marian and her family for the recent loss of her father, Ron Tillman.*

#### Business dean alumnus continued from Page 6

accreditation teams for business and accounting programs. He recently taught an International Accounting MBA class at Reims Management School in Reims, France.

He is a licensed CPA and holds the CMA, CFP and CGMA designations. He serves on the AICPA Council and the AICPA Precertification Education Execu-

tive Committee.

Noting he did not decide that teaching at the college level was his calling until he was in his mid-30s, Mauldin advises students to always follow their passion.

"Success is tied to a career you enjoy, and you're never too old to make a change."

His decision to make such a change

led him to Oxford.

"In hindsight, I'm glad I chose Ole Miss for my doctoral work; it was a perfect fit for me," he said.

A native of Laurel, Mauldin spent most of his youth in Houma, La. He and his wife, Becky, a teacher, live in Thibodaux, La. Their daughter, Kandace, is a certified public accountant. ■

## Runner refuels in Ph.D. program

**B**arbara White (PhD 12) pounds the pavement with purpose, whether it's maneuvering her way through life or meeting the challenge of a 26.2-mile footrace.

She has competed in marathons in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as in Europe and Australia. Sprinting through life, her route has included stops at Millsaps College, Auburn University at Montgomery and the University of Mississippi.

With a bachelor's degree in business from Millsaps and Master of Business Administration from AUM, White worked as a CPA in industry for more than 20 years. She first experienced teaching as an adjunct professor at AUM in 1991-92 and took a five-year break following the birth of the second of her three boys. She returned to teaching in 1997 as an adjunct professor at Huntingdon College and then made a life-changing decision.

"In 2005, after many years of being an adjunct professor, I finally decided

teaching was my true passion and that I would leave the business world to enter academia," she said.

With a wide range of teaching experience at Huntingdon College and the school's Outstanding Teacher Award in hand, she was accepted into the Patterson School's Ph.D. program in January 2009.

"In addition to Barbara's excellent academic background and high admission scores, another reason she was accepted into our doctoral program was because of her teaching experience," said Dale Flesher, associate dean and professor of account-

**"In other words, she was doing more for Alabama not-for-profit organizations than any other CPA in that state."**

—DALE FLESHER

tancy. "Since our doctoral students typically teach sophomore-level accounting classes, we want to have outstanding teachers in those classes, and she fit that description."

White moved to Oxford and commuted home to Montgomery, Ala., on weekends to visit her family. She took more than the normal course load and completed her course work in four semesters instead of the usual five.

"Barbara was an excellent student who excelled under what most people would consider try-

ing circumstances," Flesher said.

Reflecting on her UM experience, White said she chose the Patterson School because of "the professors and the program."

"My experience at Ole Miss was wonderful, and I feel so grateful to have studied under such great minds in the accountancy school, and since I chose finance as my minor, I was able to study under some great professors in the finance department. In addition, my fellow Ph.D. students were extremely bright and cordial and made the program much more manageable.

"I also feel that my teaching improved through some of the lessons I learned from my Ole Miss professors. I gained a new appreciation for research, and I saw how it can be used to improve one's teaching. Having access to the national accounting library and other archival data provided an opportunity to perform some interesting and unique research, and gave me a knowledge base I did not have before. Overall, the experience was great, and I highly recommend the school's Ph.D. program."

In addition to her amazing professional and academic endeavors, White has not neglected another side of her life, which relates to a famous quote posted on her website: "Don't confuse having a career with having a life."

While at Ole Miss, White completed her goal of running a marathon in every state and D.C. Also, while in the program, she was honored by the Alabama Society of CPAs with the society's Public Service Award.

"In other words, she was doing more for Alabama not-for-profit organizations than any other CPA in that state," Flesher said.

And she has run from two to eight marathons each year since 2000, when her pastime passion became a commitment.

"In 2001, my grandma was suddenly

continued on Page 19

Barbara Sumrall White, assistant professor of accountancy at Huntingdon College, was selected to represent the Patterson School at the 2010 American Accounting Association's Deloitte Foundation Doctoral Consortium in Lake Tahoe. She is a certified public accountant, chartered bank auditor and chartered global management accountant. She's also a marathon runner.



## Patterson Society created to recognize donors

**T**he School of Accountancy recently created the Patterson Society, a program to encourage annual giving to the school. Every gift of every size to the Patterson School makes a difference, serving to help students and faculty as well as strengthening the school's programs.

"Annual giving is absolutely critical to the school's success, and we need the help of all of our Patterson School alumni," said Dean Mark Wilder. "These gifts help us provide scholarships for students and professional development opportunities for our faculty, and help us support our Beta Alpha Psi chapter."

Patterson Society categories of annual tax-deductible support include gifts of \$1,000 from friends and graduates prior to 2002, \$500 from graduates of 2002 or later and \$100 from current Patterson School students.

"We are proud of the opportunities we are able to provide students, and we remain deeply grateful for the support of our alumni and friends," Wilder said. "Private support is truly a difference maker in our

success."

Giving benefits alumni by strengthening the school's programs and subsequently increasing the value of degrees already earned.

**"We are proud of the opportunities we are able to provide students, and we remain deeply grateful for the support of our alumni and friends."**

—DEAN WILDER

"The success of the Patterson School is due in large part to the continued private support of our alumni and friends," said Wendell Weakley, president and CEO of the University of Mississippi Foundation and chair of the school's Professional Advi-

sory Council. "We hope you will join us in helping our school maintain its recognition as one of the top programs in the country."

With the decrease in state appropriations for higher education, private financial support is critical. For the year that ended June 30, 2012, state appropriations funded only 16.5 percent of the university's budget. This percentage has been steadily declining for a number of years.

The School of Accountancy leads the university in terms of percentage of alumni who give back to Ole Miss. Among 5,961 living School of Accountancy alumni, 4.7 percent of them provided financial support to the school during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, 7.9 percent were donors to the UMAA, and a total of 13 percent of Ole Miss accountancy alumni gave to any designation at the university.

"It is a point of pride that the School of Accountancy leads the university in these percentages. There is much room for growth, however, and we hope that alumni will help support the Patterson School this year," Wilder said. ■

## Class of 1986 holds reunion

**T**he graduating class from the 1986 Ole Miss master's program in accountancy held a 25-year class reunion over the Ole Miss vs. UTEP football weekend Sept. 7-9. The class toured Conner Hall and visited with Jimmy Davis, Peery Professor Emeritus of Accountancy, Sunday afternoon after the game. All of the reunion attendees said they continue to have fond memories of the accountancy graduate program and were successful in gaining employment in accounting firms immediately after graduation.

The reunion attendees included (maiden names of female members are in **bold**):

- Cindy **Martin** Hollingsworth from Madison
- Amy **Ray** Aycock from Yazoo City

- Pamela **Davidson** Reeder from Tampa, Fla.
- Brant Perkins from Jonesboro, Ark.
- Suzanne **Thompson** Bock from Portland, Ore.
- W. Bruce Swain Jr. from Atlanta, Ga.
- John Michael Sherman from Clarksdale
- Peter McDowell from Nashville, Tenn.
- Susan **Green** Thompson from Memphis, Tenn.
- Jody Varner from Jackson

Reunion attendee John Sherman (BAccy 85, MAccy 86, JD 90), speaking on behalf of the group, said, "We all agree that the Ole Miss master's program made a lasting impact on our professional careers. We are grateful to the faculty and staff for such a wonderful experience." ■

## Save the Dates



**April 25-26 ... Accountancy Weekend**

**May 2 .....** *Meet the Firms*

**May 3 .....** *Beta Alpha Psi Golf Tournament*

**May 11 .....** *Commencement*

### *Thanks for your attendance*

Thank you for attending our alumni reception in New York on June 27 and for participating in our fall alumni luncheons in Memphis on Aug. 30, New Orleans on Sept. 21, Jackson on Sept. 28 and Atlanta on Nov. 2.

# ACCOUNTANCY AWARDS



## AASB Officers 2012-13

From left to right: Anish Sharma, vice president-administration; Patrick Kin-Wing Lo, graduate representative; Joel Raymond Reeves, vice president-publicity; Rachel Hope Morgan, secretary; Stewart Samuel Vaughn, treasurer; Philip Graham Jones, president



## Accountancy Alumni Chapter Academic Achievement Award

David Thorne Williams Jr. (left), Alexander Parrish Tanner, Susan Elizabeth Shetley, Alyssa Marie Green, Rachel Hope Morgan, Jinal Ramesh Patel, Mary Margaret Myers, Brooke Elizabeth Hendrix



## Accountancy Excellence Scholarship

Phillip Lamar Schmidt (left), Susan Elizabeth Shetley, Rachel Hope Morgan, Jinal Ramesh Patel, Brooke Elizabeth Hendrix, Mary Cannon Spradley



## BKD, LLP Scholarship

Matt Glover (left), Tim Adler, John Culling Slaughter, James Barry Burt, Jon Turner, Thomas Threadgill



## Accountancy Dean's Scholarship

Kaleb Marshall Pitts



## Accountancy M Club Scholarship

Mary Alan Bailey



## Accountancy M Club Scholarship

John Thomas Jordan





**CBIZ MHM Thompson Dunavant Scholarship**

Michael Glenn Mayo (left), Rebecca Duke Ruleman, Gordon Thompson



**Charles & Ginger Clark Scholarship**

Charles C. Clark (left), Alyssa Marie Green, William Ashton McLamb



**Collins Scholarship in Accountancy**

Kimberly Denise Young (left), Kyerra Charnese Moody, James Darnell Shelton, Marian Rebecca Tillman, Cassiana Marshai Miller



**Dixon Hughes Goodman Scholarship and Fellowship**

Buddy Dearman (left), Kenny Lamb, Derek Anthony VanDunse, Anthony Clark, Jay Oliphant



**Annie Belle Friou Fellowship**

Mary Katherine Graham



**Arthur Andersen & Co./W. Kelly Clifford Fellowship**

Courtney Kay Pinac



**Crowe Horwath Scholarship**

Laura Elizabeth Barrier



# ACCOUNTANCY



## DeMiller Scholarship

Virginia Rutherfordford Gilmore, Patrick Davis Galagan



## Wendell Weakley Scholarship

Buckner Anderson Corso (left), Jessica Rae Jones, Wendell Weakley



## Will Townsend Memorial Scholarship

Louis Dent Rogers, Mary Margaret Myers



## E.R. Hines Scholarship

David Paden Patterson (left), Kirk Hines



## Deloitte & Touche Fellowship

Matthew Collins Garber



## Deloitte Scholarship

Mary Cannon Spradley



## Financial Executives International Scholarship

Briana Elise Russell





#### **Flesher and Flesher Fellowship**

From left: Dale Flesher, Elizabeth Mead Randall, Emilee Christine Young, Tonya Flesher



#### **Ernst & Young Fellowship**

Bill Drummond (left), Patrick Kin-Wing Lo



#### **Peery Scholarship**

Pete Williston (left), Martha Peery Williston, Mary Eleanor Starnes, John Adkins James, Clayton Duncan Wammack



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

Mike Gladney, Miller Childers Majors



**Institute of Management Accountants  
Outstanding Graduate Student**  
William Gay Flautt III



**Lucian Minor Scholarship in Accountancy**  
Virginia Anne Gamble



**Lefoldt & Co./Waller Fellowship**  
David W. Lee



# ACCOUNTANCY



## Roger & Susie Friou Scholarship

From left: Joel Ethan Forest Avey, Anish Sharma, James Martin Shepherd, James W. Davis, Emilee Christine Young, Karan Lorraine York, Mallary Clara Watson, Jennifer Cove Green, Rachel Victoria Nieters, Nicole Barnes, Jessie James Austin



## Hall of Fame Recipients

Homer H. Burkett (left), James W. Davis, Charles W. Taylor, Jacob M. Fried Jr., Arnold L. Young, Larry J. Hardy, Charles C. Clark, Joseph C. Weller



## Harper Rains Knight Fellowship

Joey Fletcher (left), Mary Margaret Myers, Matt Farage



## Horne LLP Scholarship in Accountancy

Kirk Hines (left), Gann Roberts Duke, Elizabeth Mead Randall, Byron Green Burkhalter, Jeffery Ryan Garland, James Gordon



## Mississippi Tax Institute Fellowship and MSCPA Achievement Award

David Paden Patterson



## MSCPA Outstanding Senior Award

Alyssa Marie Green



## Outstanding Accounting Major – DeSoto Center

Derek Anthony VanDunse





**Pearce, Bevill, Leesburg & Moore Scholarship**  
Paige Nicole Huhlein, David Williams



**James W. Davis Scholarship in Accountancy**  
David Ford Thompson (left), Michael Forest Baty, Elizabeth Louise Carroll, Rachel Ann Shaw, Madison Haley Blankenship, Tanner Wade Phillips, Louis Philip Cole, James W. Davis



**KPMG Fellowship**  
Keith File, Alyssa Marie Green, Betsy McGahey Sights (right)



**Louis Blanchard Scholarship**  
Martha Blanchard (left), Erin Farr Hearnberger, Louis Blanchard



**James and Paula Martin Scholarship**  
Paula Martin (left), Jinal Ramesh Patel



**Thomasson Scholarship for Women**  
Kelcy Danielle McLemore



**Tutor Scholarship**  
Caroline Brice Williams (left), Chelsea Janelle Harris



# ACCOUNTANCY



## Luckyday Scholars

Gerald "Jess" Waltman III, Danielle Levette Ivy, Marian Rebecca Tillman (right)



## McCarty Family Scholarship

Steven Jay Montross (left), Lisa-Marie Schalk, Ann Marie Mercier, Mason Sands Smith II, Patrick Kin-Wing Lo



## Nettie Young Scholarship in Accountancy

Arnold Young (left), Richard Young, Christie Marie Allen, Randy Young, Willis Young



## Outstanding Faculty Awards

Mitch Wenger, Vicki Dickinson



## Griesbeck Scholarship

Matthew Franklin Shorter (left), Philip Graham Jones



## Doctoral Teaching Award

Ryan Seay (left), W. Mark Wilder



## Frank Hughes Scholarship

Kristina Cail Petrie, Daniel Safley Reynolds





Scholarship recipients and donors

Runner continued from Page 10



diagnosed with acute leukemia and died within a week of diagnosis. That renewed my commitment to run and raise funds for blood-related cancers, and I started directing a 10k, 5k and one-mile run/walk in her honor. The race is held each year in August at our church, and we raise funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Last month, I directed the race for the 11th year, and each year, we are able to make a contribution of several thou-

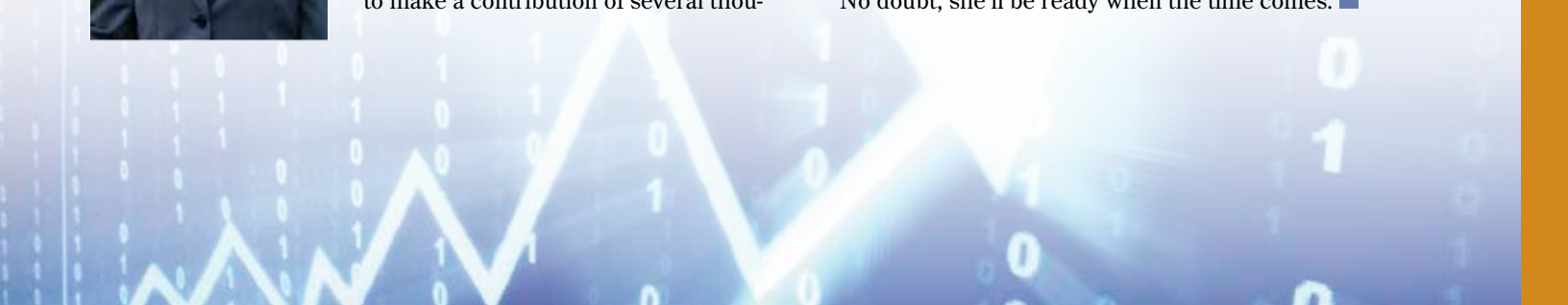
sand dollars."

White said she has not decided where she will run her 2013 continental marathon but is leaning toward either South America or Asia. For 2014, she's on the waiting list to run in Antarctica.

Waiting, perhaps, but she's rarely idle.

"I try to keep my mileage base up so that I am prepared to run a marathon, as desired, with limited additional training," she said. "On the weekends, I will do anywhere from 10 to 22 miles, depending on where I am in the training process. During the week, I will usually do shorter runs of six miles or so on three other days."

No doubt, she'll be ready when the time comes. ■





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## Remembering Paul Johnson

Patterson School members and others in the university and Oxford communities were saddened to learn of the death of Paul Hayne Johnson III (BBA 66) on Feb. 3, 2012.

Johnson, 67, died of natural causes at his home in Oxford. A private graveside service was held Feb. 9 in Dallas, Texas, followed by a celebration of his life on Feb. 11 at Oxford's First Presbyterian Church.

Johnson followed his Ole Miss degree in accounting with a juris doctorate from Harvard Law School in 1969. He enjoyed a long and highly successful career as a CPA and attorney. He was an international tax partner with the accounting firm of KPMG Peat Marwick, serving in both the Houston, Texas, and Jacksonville, Fla., offices. He was later a tax partner with Kelly, Hart and Hallman law firm in Fort Worth, Texas, and of counsel with Phelps Dunbar law firm in Jackson.

While with KPMG, Johnson was actively involved in recruiting Ole Miss accountancy students, and many of the students he hired and mentored continue to enjoy successful careers in the accountancy profession today. He was a frequent

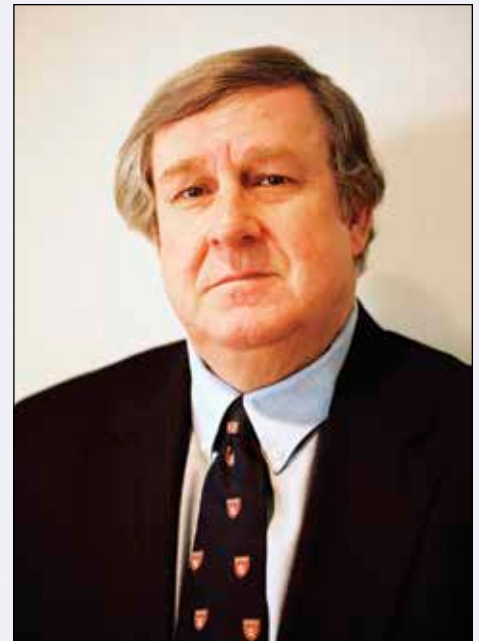
speaker and author on legal, tax and business topics and an adjunct professor of law at Texas Wesleyan University.

In recent years, Johnson answered a call from Gov. Haley Barbour to serve as the Mississippi Development Authority's Toyota project director. He was responsible for all major aspects of the construction of Toyota's Blue Springs manufacturing facility. He worked tirelessly on the establishment of the Center for Manufacturing Excellence (CME) on the Oxford campus, focused on providing outstanding students with greater opportunities through its innovative educational programs.

He served on the boards of directors of the CME, the University of Mississippi Foundation and UM's National Alumni Association.

Johnson served as the keynote speaker for the May 2009 Patterson School of Accountancy commencement exercises, a great honor for both the school and him. At the CME building dedication on campus on Oct. 18, it was announced that the new building's boardroom would bear his name.

Johnson is survived by his wife of 45 years, Gwen Mills Johnson; his daughter, Blair Johnson Wylie; and two grandchildren.



Paul Hayne Johnson III

Memorials can be made to the University of Mississippi Foundation, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677, to benefit a scholarship to be established in his name at the Center for Manufacturing Excellence. ■