University of Mississippi alumnus Roland Burns (BAccy, MAccy 82) is a man dedicated to education. In 1999, with what started as an interest in his own children's school, Burns, along with his wife, Sheryl, helped open what is now Legacy Christian Academy in Frisco, Texas. The school now has 725 students on its 30-acre campus.

More recently Burns made a gift of $1.5 million to seed the Roland and Sheryl Burns Chair of Accountancy in UM’s Patterson School of Accountancy.

“The generosity and commitment of the Burns family will create new educational opportunities for our accounting students,” said UM Chancellor Robert Khayat. “We are grateful for and inspired by their support.”

The Burns Chair—the third endowed chair in the Patterson School of Accountancy—will help in recruiting and retaining the best possible faculty to ensure quality teaching, research and service.

“The School of Accountancy is an outstanding program,” Burns said. “We thought this would be a good way to give something back and attract some world-class talent to the school. Faculty support is a great need and is something I feel strongly about supporting.”

Citing his positive experience as a student as his motivation for the gift, Burns said he had many professors who helped him become who he is today. Under the tutelage of accountancy professors Gene Peery, James Davis and Diane Pearson, Burns excelled in his course work.

“When I look back at Ole Miss, the key part that contributed to my success was the quality of the professors,” he said. “Their whole lives revolved around the students, and you knew that the moment you got there. They really took an interest in their students’ careers and personal development.”

“We have been fortunate to have a tradition in the Patterson School of distinguished, dedicated, student-oriented faculty who truly set the program apart from the competition,” said Mark Wilder, dean. “This generous gift from the Burns family demonstrates their commitment to quality accounting education, and we are so grateful for their support. Roland has had an outstanding career and is such a tremendous success story. We are very proud of him.”

After earning his degrees from Ole Miss, Burns spent eight years with accounting firm Arthur Andersen, LLP, in Dallas. He then went on to join Comstock Resources, a publicly held oil and natural gas company, where he has served as senior vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer. Since then, he’s watched

continued on Page 4
Dear Accountancy Alumni:

We have had a great start to this spring semester at the Patterson School of Accountancy. I am pleased to report that our enrollment is at an all-time high with 748 current students. This total includes 641 in our undergraduate program and 107 graduate students.

Let me take this opportunity to extend congratulations to Chancellor Robert Khayat on his announced retirement and express appreciation for his tremendous support of the Patterson School. During Dr. Khayat’s tenure as chancellor, the Patterson School has prospered. Our national ranking has improved significantly, our facility was fully renovated, our enrollment has grown, and we have been able to attract and retain a very good group of faculty. Both The University of Mississippi and the Patterson School are much stronger academically because of Chancellor Khayat’s outstanding leadership, and we wish him the best for his retirement.

The Patterson School generates visibility for The University of Mississippi on a national basis. We are proud to report that for the fourth consecutive year, the Ole Miss accountancy program is nationally ranked. This year, for the first time, all three of our programs (undergraduate, graduate and doctoral) are among the top 20 in the nation. Our undergraduate program is No. 18, while both our graduate and doctoral programs are 15th nationally.

Our faculty continue to have an impact on our students and the profession, and they are critically important to us. Our mission includes teaching, research and service, and I believe our faculty perform very well in all three of these areas. I would like to emphasize that we remain tremendously committed to teaching and being student-oriented.

We continue to be proud of, and humbled by, the generosity of our alumni. We are so grateful for Mr. Roland Burns, a 1982 graduate of the accountancy program. Roland and his wife, Sheryl, recently provided us with a $1.5 million gift to establish the Roland and Sheryl Burns Chair of Accountancy. Roland has had an outstanding career and is such a tremendous success story. We are very proud of him and grateful for his exemplary commitment to the Patterson School.

We are also proud of the successes of our students and the ongoing development of our academic programs. The senior-year internship program continues to help define our undergraduate program. Now in its sixth year, we have placed students in more than 50 different firms and companies across 15 states and two foreign countries. In spring 2009, we have 67 students participating in internships (and, for the second year, we have a student interning in London).

Mark your calendars for Accountancy Weekend, which is scheduled for April 23-25, 2009. The weekend begins with our Accountancy Awards Banquet on Thursday, April 23, and coincides with Oxford’s Double Decker Festival and a home baseball series with Georgia. The following weekend, April 30-May 2, Ole Miss will host the Southeast American Accounting Association annual meeting on the Oxford campus. That same weekend, on Friday, May 1, our student honor society will host our spring Meet the Firms event in conjunction with the fifth annual Beta Alpha Psi Golf Tournament. We invite you to join us for all these events.

We consider it a true privilege to serve you and our students. Your involvement and support are immeasurably important to us. We depend on you to reward our faculty and to help us attract bright new students. We would like to significantly increase the number of accountancy alums that provide support to the school, and we hope that you will help us in this endeavor. We appreciate so much your past support of the Patterson School and trust that you will remain committed to these efforts.

Sincerely,

W. Mark Wilder
Dean and KPMG Professor

Five of the Patterson School’s Phi Kappa Phi initiates are (front, from left) Lindsey Denton, Mary Glenn Christopher; (back, from left) Christy Sims, Lauren Williams and Blair Harden.

Phi Kappa Phi

Last fall 15 students from the Patterson School of Accountancy were inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

Josh Beckham
Mary Glenn Christopher
Lindsey Denton
Martin Edwards
Lori Epping
Blair Harden
Neil Harris
Misty Hartnell
Jason McDavid
Hunter Murphree
Brooks Poole
Christy Sims
Angela Washington
Matthias Wellerman
Lauren Williams

‘Who’s Who’

The following accountancy students were among 140 UM students included in the fall 2008 edition of Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Allie Aiello
Katie Cliburn
Katie Clore
Mitchell Cox
Rob Derivaux
Daniel Holley
Amanda Holsworth
Meredith McDaniel
Jason McDavid
Patrick McDavid
Matthew Metcalf
Emily Mosquera
Jeffrey Payne
Lindsey Peresich
Matt Sights
Ben Van Landuyt
UM accountancy programs ranked in top 20 nationally

A new national ranking places UM’s doctoral and graduate programs in accountancy both at No. 15 and its undergraduate program at No. 18. The list was published in the Oct. 31 issue of the Public Accounting Report.

For many years, UM’s undergraduate program has been ranked in the top 30 nationally, with the highest previous ranking being No. 22 in 2006. The master’s program has previously been ranked as high as No. 23. The new ranking of the Ph.D. program significantly trumps its previous high of No. 28.

"It is a tremendous accomplishment for the Patterson School to be recognized as one of the top accountancy programs nationally."

—DEAN MARK WILDER

"National recognition of the Patterson School of Accountancy affirms the historic quality of the school," Chancellor Robert Khayat said. "Bright, dedicated faculty and students who are generously supported by our accounting graduates enable us to be among America’s finest accounting programs. All of us are grateful to Dean [Mark] Wilder for his leadership."

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

"Being in the top 15 to 18 schools is indeed a significant accomplishment," said Dale Flesher, associate dean and Arthur Andersen Alumni Lecturer. "I was particularly pleased with the ranking of the doctoral program. Not only are we ranked 15th, but the schools above us are the premier schools in America. For example, Harvard is ranked 10th."

The University of Chicago ranked first, with Stanford University and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania close behind.

"Of the schools ranked above Ole Miss at the Ph.D. level, seven of them are private institutions; we rank eighth among public universities," Flesher said.

Schools holding the top three places in both graduate and undergraduate programs have remained fairly constant over the years, with the University of Texas, University of Illinois and Brigham Young University jockeying for the top three positions.

The top-ranked SEC school for 2008 is the University of Georgia at No. 7 at the undergraduate level, 10th at the master’s level and 11th at the doctoral level. Ole Miss is the next-highest-ranked SEC school among graduate accounting programs. Other SEC schools ranked in the top 25 are the universities of Alabama, Florida and Tennessee.

“It is a tremendous accomplishment for the Patterson School to be recognized as one of the top accountancy programs nationally,” Dean Wilder said. “We have great students who go on to have outstanding careers, a committed and student oriented faculty, and loyal generous alumni. All of these factors contribute significantly to this success and to our recognition in the national rankings."
Dear Readers,

As faculty adviser to Beta Alpha Psi, I’d like to share the success the Alpha Theta chapter has had this year. We started the 2008-09 school year by hosting Lynn Turner, former chief accountant of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. He spoke in advance of the presidential debate held here Sept. 26 on regulating financial markets. You can read more about Mr. Turner’s visit on Page 6 of this newsletter.

Additionally, KPMG sponsored two major events for Beta Alpha Psi during the fall semester. Our “big meeting,” which was open to all firms that recruit students from the Patterson School, was held Nov. 5. The guest speaker, Matt Malinsky, a partner in the Houston office of KPMG who recently transferred from the firm’s London location, gave a presentation on International Financial Reporting Standards. In all, the event attracted 64 students, nine faculty members and 36 professionals from 11 firms. Beta Alpha Psi hosted a reception afterward in Barnard Observatory.

Habitat for Humanity community service day was held the following Saturday, and it was also a huge hit. There were 44 Beta Alpha Psi members and four faculty working in two locations: one in Abbeville, where a project was just beginning, and another in Oxford at a house on the verge of completion. We cleared brush and laid out the property lines at the Abbeville location. At the Oxford location, we painted and did a tremendous amount of yard work. The family members that will benefit were at both sites and had a lot of interaction with the students. KPMG provided T-shirts and boxed lunches for the day.

On Feb. 19, we hosted speaker Mike Carraway of Baird Kurtz & Dobson, LLP, who spoke on President Obama’s proposed tax plan. Mr. Carraway is a graduate of the Patterson School and a partner in the Jackson office of BKD. We invited firms to campus for this meeting as well, and Beta Alpha Psi hosted a social afterward so the students could interact with these professionals in a relaxed setting.

Coming up, we are planning another Habitat for Humanity day this spring to be sponsored by Horne, LLP, and the Beta Alpha Psi golf tournament is set for May 1 at the newly remodeled Ole Miss Golf Course. As in past years, we will have a luncheon and Meet the Firms activity, followed by a golf scramble.

Overall, the students are running Beta Alpha Psi and doing a terrific job. Including our new spring pledge class, we now have 93 participating students. We have also increased the number of officers to 15. Our president, Amanda Holsworth, has done an amazing job. She is extremely organized and hardworking, and she keeps everyone in the organization on task. We look forward to achieving our goal of becoming a Superior Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi.

Sincerely,

J Shaw
Beta Alpha Psi faculty adviser

Members of Beta Alpha Psi volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in a community service project cosponsored by KPMG. Pictured with the UM student and faculty volunteers is the family that will receive the Habitat house upon its completion.

Accountancy chair, continued from Page 1

his career flourish in tandem with Comstock’s growth from a market capitalization of $35 million in 1990 to more than $2.3 billion today. In 2004, Burns played a critical role in establishing and taking public Bois d’Arc Energy, a Gulf of Mexico exploration company that Comstock sold in 2008 for $1.8 billion.

Burns serves on the Patterson School’s advisory board, and, for the last five years, he has enabled Ole Miss students to work as interns at Comstock. He tries to make it back for at least one football game each season, and both his sons have become big Ole Miss fans. Following in his footsteps, Burns’ eldest son, Derek, a high-school senior, is planning to come to Ole Miss next year as an accounting major.

“I think if you have been successful then you have an obligation to give back,” said Burns. “It’s very rewarding to give, especially to Ole Miss, and it means a lot to me personally. It means a lot to be able to contribute back to those who have invested in you.”

Beta Alpha Psi reaches for ‘Superior’ rank
Mission: Peru
Accountancy grads bring stability to mission field
by Sarah Cure

After Bill Bradford graduated from UM’s Patterson School of Accountancy in 1990, he planned to take the path of his father as an accountant in Jackson, but his heart was pulling him in another direction.

In July 1992, Bradford began studying at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, working part time as a youth director and helping his father during tax season. Seven years later, equipped with master’s degrees in divinity and theology and inspired by a Peruvian pastor he met while in seminary, Bradford and his family, along with two other American families, formed Peru Mission in Cajamarca, Peru.

He quickly found he could apply his background in accountancy to Peru Mission’s economic development ministry, developed in an effort to bring financial stability to impoverished communities there. Over the years, several other Patterson School alumni have joined Bradford to apply their accountancy expertise to the mission.

Jamey Elkin has worked with Bradford since he graduated from the Patterson School in 2007. He has helped Peru Mission by investigating account activity, devising account charts, creating monthly budget requests and analyzing the cash flow of the mission’s various ministries, most notably the SALI, the mission’s English institute. The institute is managed for-profit to provide funds for other ventures such as medical clinics.

“Jamey’s presence in the office has also enabled us to have another accounting check, thus improving our financial control,” Bradford said. “These activities are foundational to the implementation of our new accounting system.”

In summer 2008, graduate accountancy student Evan Norton worked with Sinergia Microfinance, one of Peru Mission’s most successful projects. Modeled after Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus’ microcredit concept, Sinergia Microfinance is a microfinancing institution that works with women in the Wichanzao parish.

“Sinergia works with solidarity groups of five women that own small, family-based businesses and need loans to buy more milk for their stores, more bundles of firewood to sell in the street and more chickens to sell at the market,” Bradford said. “The women are accountable to each other to make their payments, and, if they don’t, the group will be disqualified for further loans. Their personal friendships serve as collateral.”

As the women continue to make payments on the small loans they get through Sinergia, they can eventually qualify for higher loan amounts from banks, allowing their businesses to grow.

Norton did an internal audit on the project through mid-2008, prepared financial statements and made an annual report presenting the goals, history, state of the company and some projections for the following year.

Finally, Alex Sherling, who received his bachelor’s degree in 2001 and master’s degree in 2002, both from Ole Miss, and is now pursuing an international Master of Business Administration degree at UM, also spent some time with Peru Mission. From 2005-06, he served as director of the SALI English Institute.

With Bradford’s guidance, Elkin, Norton and Sherling have all realized their accountancy backgrounds can be used for higher purposes.

Sarah Cure is a student intern in UM Media and Public Relations.
Financial expert visits UM to speak on market regulation

An internationally known expert in financial markets and financial reporting delivered the address “Regulation of Financial Markets” Sept. 11 at The University of Mississippi. The talk was one of dozens of campus events planned to help prepare students and local audiences for the first presidential debate, held at UM Sept. 26.

Lynn Turner, former chief accountant of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, spoke under the auspices of the H.E. “Gene” Peery/Sherman and Celia Muths Lecture Series in the Patterson School of Accountancy. His visit was organized by the accountancy school’s Beta Alpha Psi honor society.

“We were delighted to have Lynn Turner visit the Patterson School of Accountancy and speak on a subject that should be of interest to a large number of people,” said Mark Wilder, accountancy dean. “Essentially, all investors and creditors have a vested interest in improving public trust in corporate America and in the capital markets. Mr. Turner’s lecture was very timely given the current state of the economy and some of the recent problems in financial reporting and in the securities markets.”

Turner, who served at the SEC from 1998-2001, was involved in the creation of the International Accounting Standards Board. During his career, he has also been a partner in a major international auditing firm and the managing director of a research firm, as well as a chief financial officer and an executive in industry. In 2007, Turner was appointed to the U.S. Treasury Committee on the Auditing Profession. He has served as an expert witness for and testified before Congress on several occasions. He was involved in the legislative process leading up to passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, a U.S. federal law enacted in response to a number of major corporate and accounting scandals. He has appeared on National Public Radio and major TV networks.

During his visit, Turner was impressed by UM’s accountancy programs. Last fall, in a Treasury Department report investigating the problems of the auditing profession, Turner stated, “Given the complexities and risks of a global business environment, a postgraduate program, similar to that developed at The University of Mississippi, is necessary for future accountants and auditors to provide quality services to investors and others they serve.”

STUDENTS PROVIDE TAX-FILING ASSISTANCE

This spring, graduate students enrolled in Tonya Flesher’s ACCY 603 course, Contemporary Issues in Taxation, participated in Tax-Aide. The AARP Foundation program offers tax assistance to people with low to medium incomes. The service is offered to the public each Tuesday through the April 15 filing deadline at the Stone Recreation Center on Washington Avenue in Oxford. At left, Patricia Snyder has her taxes prepared by AARP tax assistant Jim Hampton (left) and Ole Miss accountancy graduate student Tim Ellis.
Accountancy major inducted into student Hall of Fame

Next stop: Harvard Law School

by Sarah Cure

Robert Derivaux, a senior accountancy major from Jackson, said it was a great surprise to hear his name announced during a recent ceremony recognizing honorees for The University of Mississippi’s 2008-09 student Hall of Fame.

“I was the last student they announced, so it was especially exciting,” Derivaux said. “It is a big honor and a bit humbling to be part of such a distinguished group of Ole Miss alumni.”

Derivaux is one of 10 seniors inducted Jan. 30 in a special ceremony at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Selection is based on a student’s academic achievements, community service, extracurricular activities and potential for future success.

“Only a highly select group of students receive this special honor, and it is something Rob will cherish for the rest of his life,” said Mark Wilder, accountancy dean. “We in the accountancy school are extremely proud of Rob and his accomplishments. He is an extraordinary academic talent as well as an outstanding person.”

Upon graduation in May, Derivaux plans to attend Harvard Law School. He hopes to pursue a career involving accounting, law and international issues, the three main academic interests he has developed at Ole Miss.

A Spanish minor, Derivaux attributes his campus involvement to the opportunities Ole Miss and the accountancy school provide, including foreign-language study, student government, accountancy programs and the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.

“I encourage accountancy majors to pursue all their interests while undergraduates,” Derivaux said. “The Patterson School and Ole Miss have a lot to offer, and you do not want to let those opportunities pass you by.”

Derivaux, a student in the Honors College, is a member of the Spanish Club, Student Alumni Council, Beta Gamma Sigma business honorary, Accounting Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi interdisciplinary honor society and the Chancellor’s Leadership Class. He is president of the Associated Accountancy Student Body and is a former treasurer and senator of the Associated Student Body. He belongs to Sigma Nu fraternity.

With a 4.0 cumulative grade-point average, Derivaux is listed on the Chancellor’s Honor Roll and the National Dean’s List. He is a Taylor Medalist and a 2005 National Merit Scholar. He received the Modern Language Achievement Award for Spanish, the International Friendship Award for Outreach to International Students and the Order of Omega Sophomore Achievement Award.

During the 2008 Homecoming election, he was voted as one of five male Campus Favorites. Derivaux enjoys playing tennis and ultimate frisbee, and he is a volunteer English tutor.

“Rob sets a great example for all of our accountancy majors,” Wilder said. “He is an extremely conscientious student and is proof that there is time to be well-rounded and still excel in academic endeavors.

“We at the Patterson School look forward to seeing his future development, both personally and professionally, and I am certain he will achieve great things.”

Sarah Cure is a student intern in UM Media and Public Relations.

Former accountancy dean named provost

Morris H. Stocks, former dean of the Patterson School of Accountancy and interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UM since Jan. 1, 2008, has been named UM’s provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

“We are fortunate that Dr. Stocks accepted our invitation to serve as provost during this time of transition,” Chancellor Robert Khayat, who retires June 30, said. “I am confident that all of us will be supportive of his efforts as we continue to move the university forward.”

Stocks began serving as interim provost following the December 2007 retirement of Carolyn Ellis Staton, who had held the position since 1999. The provost is the university’s chief academic officer.

Stocks also served three years as associate provost and was senior vice chancellor for planning and operations in 2006-07. He holds bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in accounting. He joined the UM faculty in 1991 and was named outstanding researcher and outstanding teacher in the accountancy school. He won the campuswide Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award in 1998.

Throughout his time at UM, he has made an impression on his colleagues, including James W. Davis, holder of the H. Eugene Peery Chair in Accounting.

“Morris Stocks listens well and has the remarkable ability to gain consensus from others, even when their opinions are disparate,” Davis said. “He loves teaching, engages in meaningful research and is a most capable administrator. Ole Miss is fortunate to have him in this position of leadership.”

Stocks is looking forward to his next journey at UM. “I consider it a tremendous privilege to serve The University of Mississippi community as provost,” he said. “I have been blessed to work with Chancellor Khayat and look forward to supporting our new chancellor.”
Edinburgh Experience
Parliamentary internship enhances student’s study of accountancy, economics and policy

Although Scotland is as old as the moors, its Parliament has been in existence for only about a decade. Vince Chamblee, a junior from Fulton, is experiencing that juxtaposition firsthand this semester.

Chamblee, an accountancy, public policy and economics major, is in Scotland for an intensive five-week term at The University of Edinburgh and a subsequent 10-week internship with the Scottish Parliament.

“I hope to become engaged in a system of government where the needs of an autonomous Scottish people are now being communicated to a legislative body within Scotland’s borders—a government that is still so embryonic, yet so controversial, in its development,” Chamblee said.

Scottish history, culture and politics will be his topic of study while in the classroom. Once the classroom work is done, Chamblee will have a chance to help research and shape policy in the internship part of the program by shadowing Rob Gibson and Dave Thompson, senior members of Scottish Parliament. Both are members of the Scottish National Party. Gibson is deputy convener of the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee and a member of the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee. Thompson is a member of the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee and the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

Chamblee, who spent last summer in England studying at the London School of Economics, is student director of the Sally McDonell Barksdale Honors College, the equivalent of the college’s student body president. This spring, he was named one of two recipients of the Honors College’s coveted Barksdale Award. While Chamblee’s academic experience has been multifaceted, he points to his time at the Patterson School as essential to his future career aspirations.

“This will let me combine everything I have studied [at Ole Miss]. I can apply all my interests in the field of which I one day hope to become a part.”

— VINCE CHAMBLEE

New assistant professors round out accountancy faculty

KENDALL BOWLIN
Kendall Bowlin, assistant professor, joined UM’s Patterson School of Accountancy faculty in 2008 after earning his Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to his doctoral studies, Kendall received a Bachelor of Business Administration from UM’s School of Business Administration and a Master of Accountancy from the Patterson School in 1998 and 1999, respectively, and then, as a certified public accountant, spent four years as an auditor in Ernst & Young’s Memphis office.

Bowlín’s primary teaching and research interests are in the field of auditing. His research focuses on the strategic aspects of interactions between auditors and client managers. He is particularly interested in the ways in which institutional features of the audit environment affect the auditor’s ability to anticipate and respond to the manager’s possible tendencies toward financial misreporting.

Bowlin and his wife, Lisbeth, have two children, Mary Kennedy and Charlie.

ANNETTE K. PRIDGEN
Annette K. Pridgen, assistant professor, earned her Ph.D. in accounting from UM’s Patterson School of Accountancy in 2008 and joined the faculty the same year. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in accounting from Jackson State University. In April 2008, she received the Graduate Doctoral Achievement Award in Accountancy, and in April 2007 she received the Doctoral Teaching Award from the Patterson School. Prior to her doctoral studies, she was an instructor for three years at JSU. In 2003 she was named Teacher of the Year for the JSU School of Business, and, in 2004, she was named Adviser of the Year for the JSU College of Business.

Pridgen is a certified public accountant and a certified government financial manager. She has more than 15 years of combined experience in auditing with the...
Top 50 accounting firm supports school

Jackson-based accounting firm Horne, LLP, has created the Horne, LLP, Accountancy Excellence Endowment at The University of Mississippi with a gift of $100,000. The endowment will support the Patterson School of Accountancy, which has a longstanding partnership with Horne.

“We have more than 40 Ole Miss graduates working at Horne and have more starting in the next few months,” said Ron Applewhite, a Horne partner who earned his accountancy degree from UM in 1975. “We all agreed that we have benefited personally and financially from our relationship with Ole Miss and the Patterson School of Accountancy, and we have an obligation to give back.”

The endowment will create a general fund for the Patterson School’s greatest needs, which include scholarships and faculty support.

“We are grateful for Horne’s support as well as the time they give to our students,” said Mark Wilder, dean of the school. “Horne is a longtime supporter of the Patterson School and many of our graduates go on to rewarding careers with the firm. Clearly Horne is committed to helping provide our students with the best accounting education possible.”

Horne team members and UM alumni Terry Traylor, Joey Havens and Ginny Stearns have also made contributions to the endowment.

“The Patterson School provided me with the education that has helped me succeed throughout my career,” said Traylor, Horne chief operating officer and partner, who earned his accountancy degree in 1987. “I grew up in Oxford, and this gives me the opportunity to give back to the university that I grew up loving. I hope this gift will assist the Patterson School with the resources they need to attract and retain professors and students and to prepare the students for the workplace.”

Havens, a 1980 graduate who is a Horne partner-in-charge and board member, agreed. “Ole Miss has achieved excellence today because of its great family of people. Achieving and growing excellence requires significant investments in facilities, faculty and critical resources.”

Giving back is also a top priority for Stearns, a 2005 graduate and Horne senior associate. “The opportunities I was given at Ole Miss were made possible by the generous donations from alumni and friends of the university,” she said. “I wanted to do my part to make sure current students are given the same opportunities I was while at Ole Miss.”

The 2008 Public Accounting Report ranked Horne one of the top 50 accounting and business advisory firms in the country. The firm has 13 offices in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana and Arizona.
The Patterson School of Accountancy thanks our friends and donors who supported us with their generosity.

**JANUARY 1, 2008 – DECEMBER 31, 2008**

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- Julie S. and Charles W. Caldwell Jr.
- Estate of Carl Warren Nabors
- Financial Accounting Foundation
- KPMG Foundation

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Grad students take on teams in regional tax challenge

Last fall, four graduate students from the Patterson School of Accountancy applied their knowledge, skills and teamwork in a race against the clock and other teams to solve complex tax scenarios.

The students were competing in the regional Deloitte Tax Competition, held Oct. 18 in Atlanta. The annual competition, in which teams attempt to solve hypothetical tax case studies, is sponsored by the Deloitte Foundation, the nonprofit services arm of Deloitte, LLP.

“This competition takes students’ preparation for the business world beyond the classroom and presents challenges they would encounter as tax professionals in client-service settings today,” said Shaun Budnik, president of the Deloitte Foundation and partner of Deloitte, LLP.

UM team members were Jeannie Blair of Dallas, Colby Carmichael of Oxford, Warren Pate of Gallatin, Tenn., and Mary Kathryn Thomas of Jackson. They were among more than 230 students from 44 colleges and universities to gather at 11 regional sites across the country to tackle real-world tax issues and compete for scholarship awards. They were accompanied by Professor J Shaw, who served as the team’s coach.

“I was very proud of their performance and was also gratified to know that they were genuinely interested in participating so that they could learn more about taxes,” Shaw said. “They were terrific representatives of the Patterson School, and I thank them for their dedication.”

The students met several times in advance to prepare for the competition, and they sacrificed a weekend to travel to Atlanta to compete.

“It was really important to prepare for this because we had no idea what kind of problem they would throw at us, and we needed to be very familiar with all of the tax rules we have learned,” Blair said. “I definitely benefited from the experience because I was able to test my own knowledge and compete with other schools across the nation. It was also a good experience to work with our whole team and to be able to utilize everyone’s different strengths to benefit our group.”

Save the Dates

April 23-25  Accountancy Weekend

April 30- May 2  2009 AAA Southeast Regional Meeting at UM

May 1  Beta Alpha Psi Golf Tournament and Meet the Firms