



UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI HONORS REPORT

FALL 2016

'Koi Pond'
by Arielle Wallace

From the DEAN

This year has brought some wonderful changes to the SMBHC, some anticipated and some pleasantly surprising. We have completed the first phase of our construction and have successfully migrated to the new, 15,000-square-foot addition built on the site of the old deck with a new entrance pointed toward Lamar Hall and the residential colleges.

We are very pleased with the new digs, particularly our lovely conference room and the “fish bowl” classroom, a transparent teaching and study space made for the viewing pleasure of our many guests. The vaulted ceiling of the lobby provides a spacious and relaxing entrance for our (torqued up!) scholars who arrive to engage the questions of the day! We now await the renovation of our former headquarters, which when completed, will feature a new kitchen, lobby and study space for our students.

In March, we launched our new website at honors.olemiss.edu. Check it out, and let me know what you think!

We received three lovely major gifts this past year along with a host of very significant contributions that enable us to pursue our mission at the SMBHC. **Bob Galloway** (UM Scholars 64, JD 67), **Christy Cole** (UM Scholars 88) and **McCarty Architects** (**Sarah Robinson** in particular) have made extraordinary commitments to our students by designating their gifts to support student research and creative endeavors as our scholars explore the world.

All of these gifts are the crucial linchpin to our success as a team. We unite as citizens and pool our human and financial resources to create opportunities for our soon-to-be leaders in science, humanities and the arts. What a great moment we live in! Please consider becoming a



Douglass Sullivan-González

member of our newly created **Koi Society**. The SMBHC will thrive with your good stewardship!

Lastly, we celebrate 20 years as the Honors College in 2017. Can you believe it? With the **Barksdale** family's gift, we transformed our historic honors program into the college in 1997, and our first class of SMBHC scholars graduated in 2001. And since 2001, 1,377 have enjoyed receiving their stoles and medallions. We will celebrate the 20th anniversary with special courses for our students; we will dedicate the completed renovation and new building in spring; and we will honor this resounding achievement in our Fall Convocation.

In the meantime, we hope to see you this October, when we'll welcome *New York Times* columnist **David Brooks** to our convocation on the 20th and when we'll hold our annual open house on the 29th. We also hope you'll join us at the investiture of **Chancellor Vitter** on Nov. 10.

We look forward to another great academic year with the high-performing students of the SMBHC!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglass Sullivan-González".

Douglass Sullivan-González



'Learning'
by Hunter Rose Johnson

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **SMBHC Fall Convocation** – Thurs., Oct. 20, Ford Center, 7 p.m.
Keynote speaker: David Brooks, New York Times columnist
- **SMBHC Open House** – Sat., Oct. 29
- Stop by the **SMBHC tent** at these **home football games**:
Sept. 10 — Wofford Oct. 1 — Memphis
Sept. 24 — Georgia Oct. 29 — Auburn
- **SMBHC's 20th Anniversary**
Numerous events will be announced at the beginning of 2017.

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A Year to Remember

BRUCE LEVINGSTON

The past year was a truly extraordinary one for the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College family. A momentous debate, led by many of our honors students, took place on campus and addressed the symbolism of the Confederate flag within the state flag of Mississippi. The honors students helped ensure that discussions remained respectful, civil and deeply thoughtful.

Amid this debate, I happened to be teaching Art in the Republic, an honors class in which my students and I explored how art affects — and is affected by — our society. Our extremely gifted honors students debated this particular issue with a maturity and depth that I can only describe as inspiring. Far from entering the discussion in perfect agreement, the students found and learned ways to “listen” and “hear” one another’s opinions respectfully and to look at such complex issues through others’ eyes.

During this highly charged period, the acclaimed filmmaker **Ken Burns**, who 25 years earlier had created the seminal groundbreaking television series “The Civil War,” arrived on campus for our Fall Convocation.

A good friend, Ken first spent time with my students in the classroom to discuss the meaning of symbols such as flags and monuments and their place in our country’s history. Ken argued for common sense, decency and a thoughtful perspective, which clearly moved our students. Later that evening, he expounded even further to a packed house at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

Frankly discussing issues of race, class and slavery as well as his films that address war, he also delved into many other topics he has explored, including jazz, baseball, our national parks, the Roosevelts and, most recently, Jackie Robinson. The rapt audience of honors students and alumni listened as Ken shared some of the inspiration for his art and filmmaking and memorably discussed his use of music, old photographs and the voices of numerous great actors, bringing history alive to millions of



Bruce Levingston (Photo by Tony Notarberardino)

people. His appearance at the Ford Center, as well as an interview that I conducted with him at the William Faulkner house, Rowan Oak, may be seen on YouTube.

The Spring Honors Convocation brought more extraordinary figures to the campus. **Alessandra Ferri** and **Herman Cornejo**, two of the most acclaimed dancers in the world, came to Oxford for a special evening of music and dance. Ferri, a legend in the ballet world who holds the rare title “prima ballerina assoluta,” is one of the most highly regarded figures in the history of dance. Cornejo, a superstar and principal of American Ballet Theatre, is considered one of the finest male dancers in the world. Both joined me in a program called “Trio ConcertDance” at the Ford Center.

This program took place days before our appearances for a series of concerts at the Joyce Theater in New York City. The program featured five new works created especially for us by renowned choreographers from around the world. Interspersed were solo piano works of Bach, Scarlatti, Chopin, Satie and **Philip Glass**. The performance was made all the more dramatic by the presence and artistry of the

WATCH ONLINE:

Fall Honors Convocation with Ken Burns at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts:
youtube.com/watch?v=YD3VJKB_d9w

Interview with Ken Burns and Bruce Levingston at Rowan Oak:
youtube.com/watch?v=W07ZsJQBQiY



Bruce Levingston and Ken Burns stand with (L-R) Eleanor Anthony (SMBHC 16), Charles Dingus (BA 15), Lizzy Wicks (SMBHC 16) and Jesse Webb (SMBHC 17).



Ken Burns visits with Bruce Levingston's honors students during Hon 420: Art and the Republic: Constructing and Questioning Identity.

esteemed lighting director **Clifton Taylor**, who flew in to stage and light the evening's show.

While in Oxford, Taylor, Ferri and Cornejo also generously spent time discussing their art with honors student as well as other students from the theater, dance and music departments. The audience at the Ford Center sat mesmerized by these brilliant dancers' passionate performances and deep interpretations and, at the end, erupted with a roaring standing ovation.

Alessandra and Herman, appearing together this season for American Ballet Theatre's "Romeo and Juliet" at the Metropolitan Opera House, recently told me they could not wait to come back to Ole Miss and the Honors College. Like all who visit us, they were taken by the charm, beauty, graciousness and hospitality of our special world here.

When I first joined the Honors College as the Chancellor's Artist-in-Residence in 2014, it was my hope and goal to bring other stellar

artists and figures to our school and have them interact with our amazing students. This fall, we'll have another very special guest. My old friend **David Rockefeller Jr.**, chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation and one of the great philanthropists and conservationists of the world, will visit and speak at the university. It promises to be an inspiring event for our students and university community.

This past year, the Honors College showed that it can be a platform for education and performance at the highest levels. I am looking forward with immense enthusiasm to our next exciting and adventurous year ahead!

Chancellor's Honors College Artist in Residence

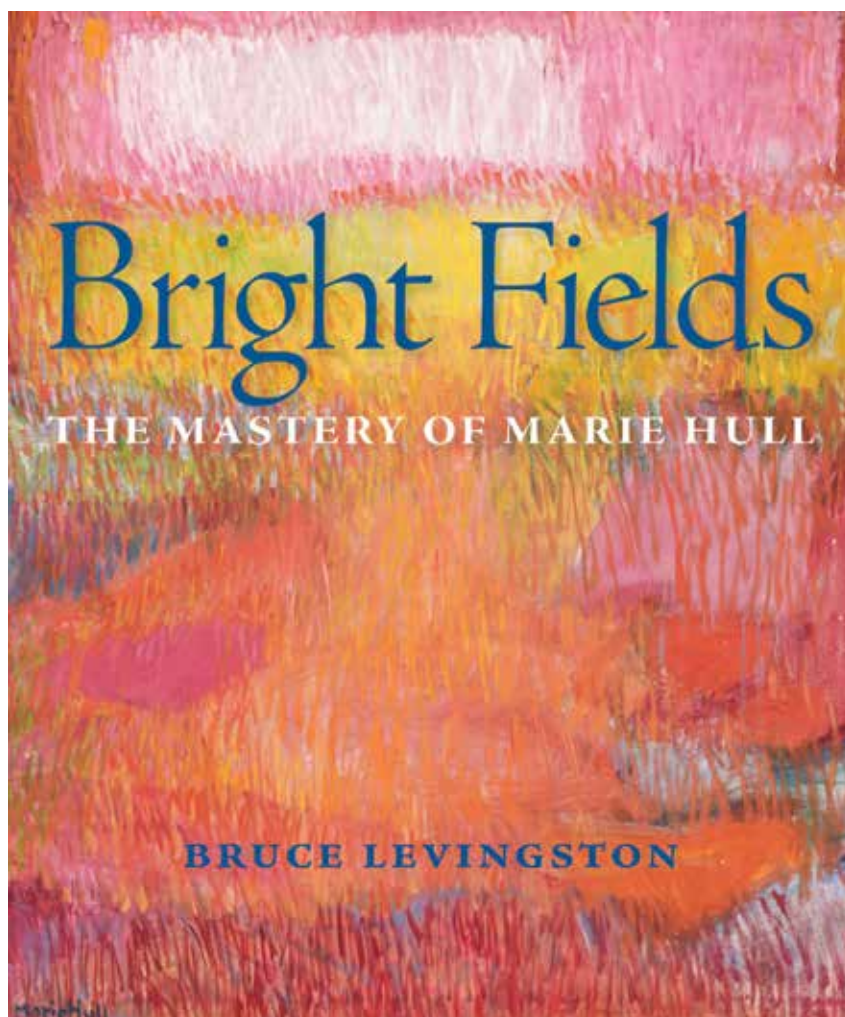
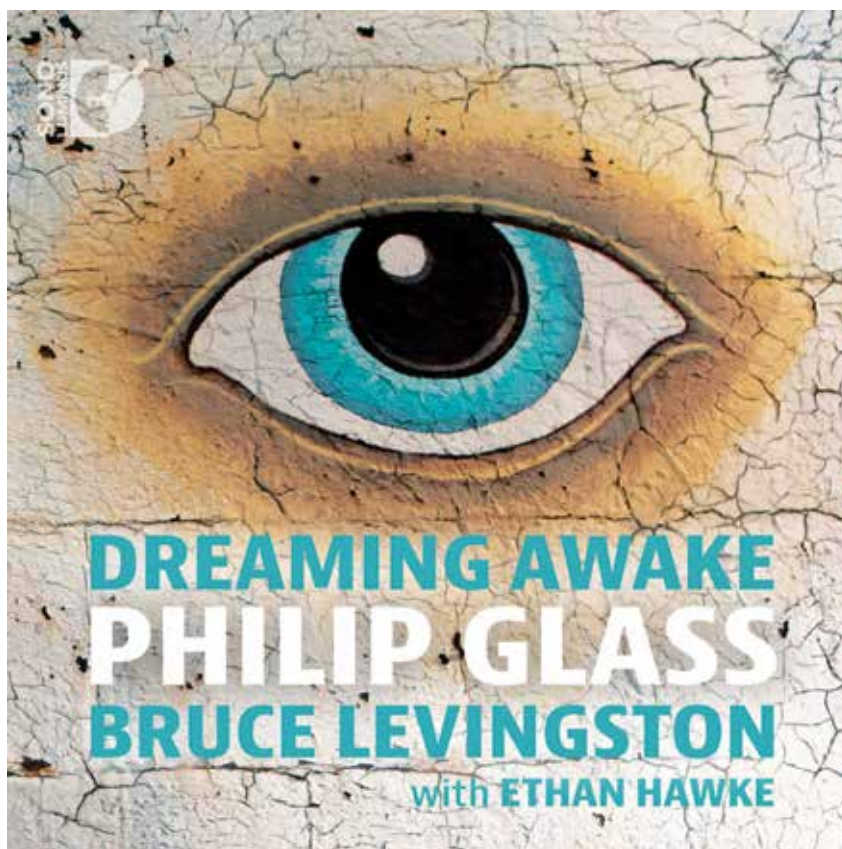
'DREAMING AWAKE'

A remarkable two-CD album honoring the music of Philip Glass will be released Sept. 30, 2016.

The album features Levingston's longtime friend and acclaimed actor Ethan Hawke.

The *New York Times* praised his last album for "Mr. Levingston's mastery of color and nuance."

Preorder the album at www.brucelevingston.com/recordings, Amazon or iTunes.



BRIGHT FIELDS: THE MASTERY OF MARIE HULL

Released last year, *Bright Fields* is a visually stunning and wonderfully narrated book that journeys through the life and artistry of Marie Hull (1890-1980). Order this gem through Amazon or Oxford's own Square Books.



'Roche'

by Hunter Rose Johnson

Meet our SMBHC FEATURED ARTISTS

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, and a member of UM's track team, **Arielle Wallace** (right) is a senior art major and cinema minor. As a 2015 honors fellowship recipient, she studied at the UCLA Film and Television Summer Institute, adding animation to her many talents as an aspiring artist and filmmaker. Inspired by the SMBHC's koi pond, Wallace created the cover for this year's edition of the *Honors Report*.



Hunter Rose Johnson (left) graduated in May with a B.F.A. in art. While she focuses on painting, she loves working on most art media. In her spare time, Johnson draws comics about aliens (www.dearanthonycomics.com), generates bold, inexecutable ideas for art installations, and serves food to college students at a local restaurant. Someday, she will live out her days making art in Colorado. Contact her at hunterrosejohnson@gmail.com.

CALL FOR ART: Email samples of your artwork to Jennifer Parsons at jparsons@olemiss.edu if you would like to be considered as a future SMBHC featured artist! Submissions from current honors students and alumni are welcome!

RIPPLES

in the Koi Pond

GRANT BEEBE (SMBHC 16)

There are, I believe, resoundingly few opportunities in this life to revisit events of the past in order to derive greater meaning. Recalling an editorial I wrote in the spring of 2014, while working as the managing editor of *The Daily Mississippian*, offers me one such chance to recast an interpretation. Remembering the event now has the consequence of producing greater awareness and increased gratitude for the unique opportunities inherent in my honors experience.

The subject I addressed that day was conservation and the importance of protecting natural resources. I made brief references to the late David Foster Wallace. When I sent off copy to design, and ultimately to be printed, I believed that I was — in some small way — doing the good work that DSG calls “staging the debate.” There were seldom days that I did not receive some feedback from others on the opinions I cast into the public space, but few readers took the opportunity to challenge my logic, to provoke deeper inquiry or to challenge that I derive “why.”

After briefly recapitulating Wallace’s 2005 Kenyon College commencement address, posthumously published as *This Is Water*, I received an email from Vince Evans, a Barksdale fellow (2011-13) at the time, with whom I had little previous contact. The brevity of his email belied the gravity of its proposition.

The message read:

SUBJECT: DFW

Would you not agree that the quotation was a bit brief? Seems a bit reductionist.

Hope you continue to enjoy Wallace.

I was not sure how to respond. When attending an Honors College event soon afterwards, I was approached by Mr. Evans. Noting my lack of a response, he briefly introduced himself and began to describe, with great interest, his love of Wallace. Depth, this experience taught me, is a definitive mark of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale difference.



Grant Beebe

Wallace asks that his audience (members) consider their “default settings” and their inherent consequences through the fable of fish. Two younger fish are greeted by an older, and presumptively more wise, fish traveling in the opposite direction. Mystifyingly, he asks of the pair, “Morning, boys, how’s the water?” The younger fish continue on for some time before looking at each other to engage: “What the hell is water?”

The story does well to discuss the loss of clarity inherent in the development of a routine without moralizing the phenomenon that is a largely unavoidable consequence of modern life: being “busy.” Now let’s rest by the koi pond for a necessary moment of remembrance.

The consequence of Vince Evans questioning whether I was reading, thinking or living deeply enough is that the event is the result of a unique faith. Membership in the body of citizen scholars at the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College is more about performance than privilege. Although Mr. Evans did not know me, he believed in my abilities and challenged me to perform. That is the value of an honors education.

While the University of Mississippi boasts a number of enriching opportunities for willing and engaged students to succeed, the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College is uniquely able to shape individual student experiences through immersive course work, exceptional mentorship opportunities, cohort-driven commitments to excellence and openness to experience. Through each of these venues, and more, I am grateful to be a graduate of the SMBHC.

I am grateful to have benefited from the direction of exceptional faculty members and committed staff in the Honors College, and I believe that investing my time with leaders willing to both instruct and advise has prepared me for a lifetime of success. I will forever appreciate the encouragement and high expectations set before me in equal measure as determining factors in my success, and I believe that the unique community of the Honors College has allowed me to seek out expertise on a personal level.

However, the value of my experience is not limited to the substantial financial support offered generously by the Honors College or by the excellence demonstrated in the classroom. Traveling with both faculty and my peers to view museum exhibits, tour historic properties and enjoy the wonders of the earth will forever be treasured memories as I recall the well-rounded education I have received. Trusting me to “fail forward,” I have been nourished in four short years. My thesis work defended the academic accomplishments I am proud to celebrate, but my memories of friends and faculty who mean the world to me have formed my identity.

Dear reader, please remember the immersive experience we often forget; we are blessed daily by its results. For which all the Honors College has prepared you, give thanks, and consider the important work of stewardship.

We who have come to love wisdom and have been tended should support those along the way. What gifts will you give? Whether through mentoring, connecting current students to professional and educational development opportunities or financially supporting our honors family, our ties to the Honors College should remain strong. I am young and struggle to consider how I will best navigate a working world without attendance scanners and weekly newsletters, yet I embark with strength acquired from my honors experience, and I am grateful. ■ HR



DEAR SMBHC FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

Koi fish are revered in some cultures for their perseverance in swimming upstream and for representing success, courage, longevity and good fortune, among other notable characteristics.

This past year, the Honors College welcomed contributions from loyal constituents as well as new donors. As our honors student body continues growing, so does the need for additional monetary support. The **Koi Society** is our way of acknowledging your critical contribution to the success and longevity of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. An annual gift of \$500 for **Koi Society** membership ensures that our students will continue experiencing rewarding opportunities through programming and fellowships. Members will receive:

- Two complimentary tickets to honors fall and spring convocations
- Special Koi Society events
- SMBHC goodies throughout the year

All of your contribution will help prepare citizen scholars who are fired by the life of the mind, committed to the public good and driven to find solutions. Of course, gifts of all sizes make a difference.

Join us!

Jennifer Parsons
Assistant Dean

To make a contribution to the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, please send your donation to **The University of Mississippi Foundation, 406 University Ave., Oxford, MS 38655**, or you may give online at **honors.olemiss.edu/give**. For more information on supporting the Honors College, please contact Jennifer Parsons at 662-915-1797 or jparsons@olemiss.edu.



Recent UM School of Law graduate Jess Waltman stands with Professor Czarnetzky.
(Photo by Jenny Kate Luster (BA 06))

Law professor **COUNSELS** wisely, **PARTNERS**

School of Law and Honors College

JESS WALTMAN (SMBHC 13, JD 16)

In fall 1994, John Czarnetzky began teaching and transforming lives at the University of Mississippi School of Law, and, in 2006, he was the first law professor to be invited to teach Honors 101 and 102 to students in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. In recognition of his wonderful teaching, the law school students have selected him as the School of Law's Outstanding Law Professor four times, and, in 2016, he was selected as the winner of the 2016 Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award. This award is the highest honor that the University of Mississippi bestows upon a teaching faculty member, and I can think of no more deserving recipient than Professor Czarnetzky.

Before joining the School of Law's faculty, Professor Czarnetzky earned a degree in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and he served as an officer in the

U.S. Army before he entered law school. He practiced law in Illinois and Virginia after earning his law degree from the University of Virginia, where he served as executive editor of the *Virginia Law Review*, editor of the *Virginia Journal of Natural Resources Law*, and received the James C. Slaughter Honor Award for being the most outstanding member of his graduating class.

As a faculty member, he serves on several School of Law and university committees and advises the St. Thomas More Catholic Legal Society and the Business Law Institute. In addition to his responsibilities at Ole Miss, he serves as a legal adviser to the Holy See's Mission to the United Nations and participated in negotiations that led to the establishment of the International Criminal Court, the International Law Commission and the Convention on Persons with Disabilities among other issues. Professor Czarnetzky is married to Sylvia

Robertshaw Czarnetzky, who practiced and taught law before answering the call into ministry as an Episcopal priest.

In his more than two decades of teaching at Ole Miss, Professor Czarnetzky has proven himself to be one of the most kind, considerate and engaging professors in the Ole Miss family. He models civility and professionalism, and he combines those attributes with his signature charm and humor to make his teaching all the more effective. His engaging classroom style challenges students to master the material while encouraging them to expand their understanding.

Professor Czarnetzky's law school courses, including Bankruptcy, Civil Procedure and Secured Transactions, are perhaps some of the most complicated courses the school offers, but his classes are always in demand because he is able to effectively communicate his mastery of the subjects to students so that they can one day use their expertise to represent their clients.

His commitment to students extends beyond the classroom. Whether it is helping students practice for an advocacy

competition, advising a student on a research project, or meeting with a student to help him or her understand a particularly elusive point of law, Professor Czarnetzky is always welcoming and ready to help.

His Honors College teaching style is equally as engaging and effective. Students in his Honors 101 and 102 classes learn to think and write critically, and, regardless of their views, Professor Czarnetzky challenges them to communicate their ideas clearly and provide support for their arguments. He helped establish a partnership between the Honors College and the School of Law that allows Honors College students to take an introductory law school course and then participate in more advanced law school classes. Going above and beyond the call of duty, he has advised three undergraduate honors theses, including mine.

I benefited greatly from Professor Czarnetzky's wise counsel as an undergraduate, and I continued to benefit from his wisdom throughout law school. I hope to be an attorney who is worthy of his teachings, ... and I hope to one day have a fraction of the positive impact that he has had on me. ■ HR

SMBHC ADDITION COMPLETED; RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

We continue to make progress on our expansion and renovation. We moved into the addition over spring break 2016 and turned over the original building to the construction company to be renovated.

The addition has five seminar rooms, a study room, a large conference room and a beautiful new lobby. The renovated space will have five seminar rooms as well, two being brand new; an enlarged "Dungeon" with three times as many study carrels as the old one; an expanded computer lab; three study rooms; and, perhaps best of all, a large lounge where honors students can gather to engage with one another or cheer on the Rebels on the big-screen TV.



Renovations should be completed by December, and we will dedicate our new and expanded building as part of our 20-year celebration in 2017. We thank Jim Barksdale and the university administration for making this much-needed expansion possible.

Requiem for

PAMELA HAMILTON

Lecture, scholarship
established in her honor

KEYANA WASHINGTON (SMBHC 02)

Last year, the University of Mississippi and the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College lost a bright, young alumna. Pamela Hamilton (MBHC 02) died Aug. 10, 2015, after a long, valiant battle with lupus.

Pam was a native Mississippian, born in Laurel, and would have celebrated her 36th birthday this year. While at the university, she began writing for *The Daily Mississippian* and was most well-known on campus for her role as editor of the DM during 2000-01.

Pam was an active student in the McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.* Being among the second class of students admitted to MBHC, she found it exciting to “chart a course” for the students coming behind her. She did just that, not only for the students behind her but also for the students in her class.

J.R. Rigby (SMBHC 03), a fellow Honors College student, said he remembers Pam as smart, hardworking, kind and thoughtful. She was all of those things and fiercely committed to making an impact in her community by using her voice as a journalist. In addition to writing for and becoming editor of the DM, she also completed an editorial board internship at *The New York Times*.

She strongly believed in the importance of media. In her journal, she wrote, “Since when did journalists become politicians? The newspaper does not have to represent the views of its audience. A newspaper – a good one – is supposed to push for positive social change.”

Pam will continue to be sorely missed by her parents, younger sister, extended family, friends and her Ole Miss family. A memorial scholarship fund has been established in her honor. This



Pam Hamilton (left) and Keyana Washington on Jan. 12, 2013 (Photo by Valencia Edochie)

fund will ensure the continuity of Pam’s influence by supporting an annual lecture on social justice and media as well as an annual scholarship to a student in the Meek School of Journalism and New Media. Please go to <https://ignite.olemiss.edu/pamsimpact> for more information. ■ HR

**After Jim Barksdale’s first wife, Sally, passed away, the McDonnell Barksdale Honors College was renamed the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.*

VETERAN JOURNALIST COVERS CONFLICT AND UNFAMILIAR CULTURES IN CLASS

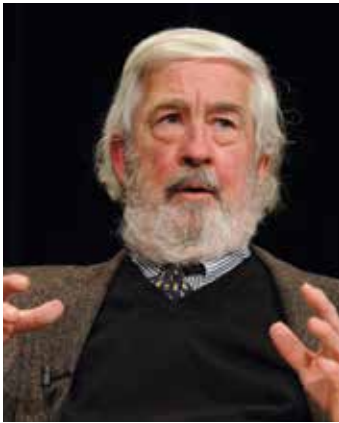
JAZ BRISACK (SMBHC 19)

“To understand the world, you must first understand a place like Mississippi.” Here, in William Faulkner’s hometown of Oxford, Mississippi, one sees this quote everywhere — on T-shirts and painted wooden signs, in brochures and magazines. Yet few of us truly grasp the complex and stirring history that has made us, as Mississippians, what we are today.

Professor Curtis Wilkie’s (BSJ 63) honors class, “Covering Conflict and Unfamiliar Cultures,” commences with an oral civil rights pop quiz: We must attempt to identify key terms from the movement, from Medgar Evers to John Lewis to Aaron Henry to Neshoba County. As the names and places grew increasingly obscure, everyone in the class became stumped, confirming Professor Wilkie’s assumption that we did not have an adequate knowledge of this relatively recent era in our own past. How, then, could we hope to achieve an understanding of foreign cultures?

Our professor brought a fascinating, uniquely Mississippian perspective to the class. The great-grandson of Civil War soldiers, including a volunteer in Lafayette County’s Lamar Rifles company, Mr. Wilkie was a senior at Ole Miss during the James Meredith crisis, where he witnessed the confrontation — and had his first encounter with tear gas.

Postgraduation, as a young reporter in the Delta, he spent hours sitting in NAACP leader Aaron Henry’s drugstore,



Curtis Wilkie
(Photo by Robert Jordan)

beneath the portraits of martyred Freedom Summer volunteers Chaney, Schwerner and Goodman enshrined above the pharmaceutical supplies. An associate of legends, including Martin Luther King Jr. and Roy Wilkins, Professor Wilkie also encountered the everyday heroism of rank-and-file movement members.

After navigating the complicated maze of biases and distorted history endemic to our own region, we shifted our focus to the Middle East. This time, the pop quiz was even briefer in duration: students were puzzled by names such as Mahmoud Abbas, Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat. Professor Wilkie, who spent years traveling from his home base in Jerusalem to cover stories ranging from the oppression of occupied Palestine to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon to the First Intifada, proved a knowledgeable guide to the complexities of the region’s ongoing conflicts.

A visit from South African activist Ivor Jenkins, who has



Jaz Brisack
(Photo by Cathleen Brisack)

dedicated himself to applying the lessons learned from the struggle to end apartheid to modern-day conflicts worldwide, supplemented our discussion of marginalized peoples.

A fellow student, math education major Jake Wheeler (SMBHC 17), appreciated the “dynamic that is provided by a small conversation-style class,” calling the seminar “a breath of fresh air in the monotony of the school day.”

Professor Wilkie had stated at the course’s onset that it would be taught from “a journalist’s perspective.” Its flexible format, comprising a mixture of class discussion and stories from our professor’s lifelong experience, allowed us to delve into topics as diverse as the presidential election, social media, the Vietnam War, local politics, Mexican-American relations, and religion. Ultimately, we all acquired a deeper comprehension of the factors that have shaped our identities as Mississippians, Southerners, Americans and citizens of the world. ■ HR

PAVANE, & FLAIR

a Night of Music & Dance



Trio ConcertDance with Alessandra Ferri,
Herman Cornejo and Bruce Levingston
(not pictured). (Photo by Thomas Graning)



SMBHC hosts premiere of Trio ConcertDance

JESSE WEBB (SMBHC 17)

What is the role of the arts in education? Is it to offer reprieve from the innumerable pages of dense textbooks? Or to remind us that the function of learning is, ultimately, to enable creation? I'd argue the latter. The latter is what Bruce Levingston brought to the University of Mississippi's campus on Feb. 23, 2016.

The Gertrude Castellow Ford Center hosted an evening of exquisite dance and musical mastery as Levingston, a renowned concert pianist and artist in residence at the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College; Alessandra Ferri, Italy's prima ballerina assoluta; and Herman Cornejo, master dancer of Argentina, performed for a full house. The Trio ConcertDance premiered at Ole Miss before running in New York during the first week of March.

FLAIR. The show begins with a single bass note from the Steinway. Then another. A discordant rhythm develops as the dancers — a primordial pair folded over each other — breathe, expand, gather their footing and witness each other. The inharmonic, rhythmic melody introduces the two into a new world, illuminated by superb lighting designer Clifton Taylor.

MOMENTUM. The pianist introduces the next movement with a Philip Glass interlude. He asserts his role as a character in the dance, a force that moves the dancers, a puppeteer (a motif deliberately introduced by the cover of the playbill). Ferri is drawn to Levingston as a flower is drawn to the sun, but Cornejo, the longing lover, always brings her back into his arms.

PAVANE. At the height of their passion, the marionettes take control, dictate rhythm, move the pianist.

SANS TEMPO. A prelude of Bach's. Then Cornejo, alone, primal. He moves across the stage with calm intention, focused devotion and, in moments, a wild spirit. Now it's Ferri's turn. Her attraction to Levingston is now unbridled. She places a gentle hand on his shoulders and then performs a display of grace with the vigor of humanity's most animalistic nature.

ENTWINE. The pair return to each other, fold back into each other, rely on each other's movement to "Nocturne" by Chopin — a lullaby, a swan song; the pianist laments he cannot leave his bench and dance with the woman himself. And then a quartet, a waltz by Mozart — Adagio dal Concerto. The man anchors as the woman flies.

The value of the performance that Honors College Dean Douglass Sullivan-González and Artist in Residence Bruce Levingston brought to the university cannot be measured in tickets sold or donations tendered. The Trio ConcertDance's premiere in Oxford continued, and even elevated, the rich cultural traditions of the city and the state to which it belongs. Furthermore, the SMBHC's devotion to promoting the artistic spirit as an equal and essential characteristic of the "citizen scholar" affirms its place among the best honors colleges in the nation.

The spring Honors Convocation served as a reminder that beneath the intellectualism integral to higher education, we must understand our own bodies, the rhythms and melodies that move us beyond our capabilities; that we have the unique gift to create, and that with that gift comes a responsibility to cooperate, to work together to expand our horizons. The creative force that moves the artistic spirit and draws us — like the primordial pair — from the dark earth and into the sun must always have a presence in our minds as we grow, achieve and reach for excellence. ■ **HR**



UM alumni Dr. David (BA 80, MD 84) and Claire Sullivan (BFA 82) celebrate with their daughter, Grace Sullivan, who is the university's third Udall Scholarship recipient since 2008. (Photo by Robert Jordan)

UDALL

Scholarship winner discards labels, finds passion for sustainability

GRACE SULLIVAN (SMBHC 17)

Some people label college years your “selfish years.” I hate that. Internet articles take this concept to the extreme, calling it a waste of energy to care about people who don’t return affections or suggesting you place your happiness above all else. In high school, I believed a less extreme version of this label, thinking that college was about accolades and connections, a chance to rack up achievements. That’s why I was particularly devastated when I was not accepted into the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.

I cycled through two approaches freshman year: I went in with the idea that I needed to reinvent myself — clearly I wasn’t an academic as I had thought. During this time, I truly understood the power of a label. Before college, I had labels like accelerated and advanced placement to tell me I was doing well. Did my lack of an Honors College label really change anything about me?

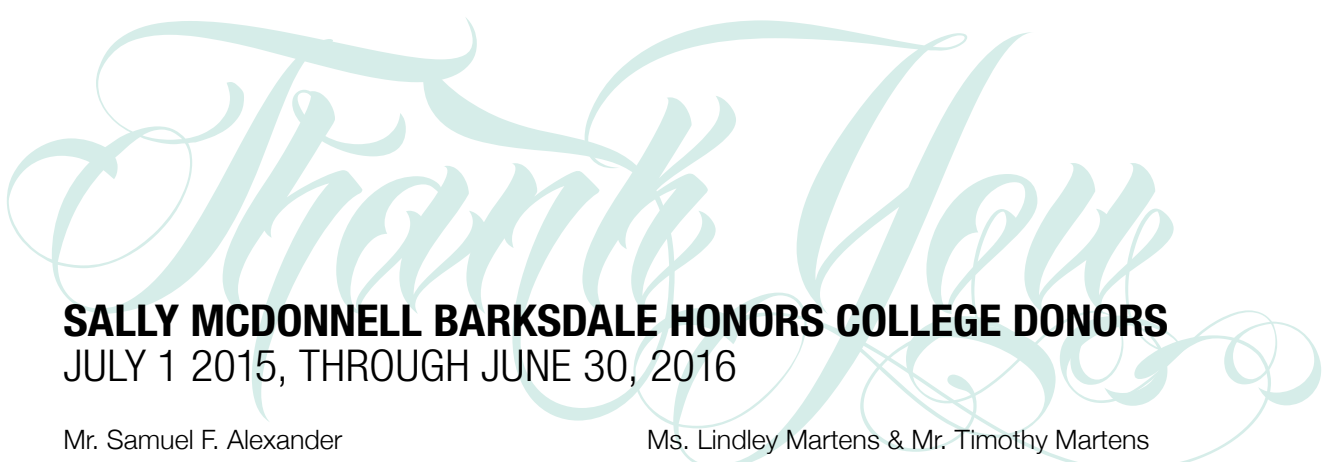
So my new approach to college was about proving to myself that I didn’t need a label to do what I knew I wanted to do. As I kept following my interests, I found that my long-held love for the environment and sustainability became a way I could be of service. I volunteered with Green Grove and Students for a Green Campus, supported sustainability legislation on the ASB senate and used my online journalism internship to spread awareness.

By sophomore year, I realized something great about my beyond-labels approach — people knew me by my passion. I became a Green Grove coordinator and was asked to serve as director of campus sustainability for the

ASB, leading to a position on the Green Fund Committee. I’ve been involved with countless other projects that even strangers will ask me to join simply because they know I’d be interested and have the drive and connections to help. Sustainability is a concept that takes all of us, all of us caring about each other enough to use our resources respectfully, and I love to think that I’ve helped even a handful of people get on board.

My most enriching college experiences, and the best experiences of admired peers, all go something like that — they’re the times we get to be helpful with whatever talents and interests we bring to the table. So sure, college could be your “selfish years,” a time to find yourself. But what about looking at yourself and discovering someone who cares about something passionately and spending your time making a difference serving that cause?

Two years after my rejection letter arrived, I reapplied to the Honors College through the Junior Entry program. This time, I was accepted. I have had many wonderful opportunities since, applying for the Udall Scholarship being one of them. My major, social work, is not where most expect to find environmental activists, but I think the Udall Foundation sees the value of change coming from every direction. The day I learned I won the scholarship was the most beautiful of my college career — my teachers, leaders, mentors from all aspects of my life were present, and I was overwhelmed when realizing the amount of support I have had to make me who I am. And I felt all the more grateful for the time I was given to learn for myself that I am a “citizen scholar” with or without a label. ■ HR



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Transformed through SELF-INQUIRY

SETH DICKINSON (SMBHC 19)

I wasn't born an Ole Miss Rebel. I spent most of my life being anything but that; however, the summer before my senior year of high school, my "anything but that" began transitioning into an "everything and some." It was the summer of 2013, and I was accepted into the Trent Lott Institute's summer program and brought onto a campus where I would end up finding a home away from home.

I am from Mantachie, Mississippi – a town of a little more than a thousand and nothing less than Southern, rural and friendly. In my hometown, everybody knows everybody, and we all care for each other. It was in this town that I went to a public high school with small classes

soon find myself jumping right into it all.

Over my summer at Ole Miss, I found that I was looking for more than a school. I soon realized that I was looking for myself. At Ole Miss, I was exposed to new mentalities, challenged by differing views and compelled to take a look in the mirror to determine who Seth Dickinson was to become. In that long look, I never found an answer, but I found a few of the questions to ask.

I was introduced to the Honors College at Ole Miss by my political science professor, Dr. Bob Brown, who served as the chief catalyst in my journey of self-inquiry. As it was presented to me, the Honors College offered the very same sense of community built

transition from a small school into a large university was made comfortable by the bridging effect of the SMBHC.

On one side of the canyon of the unknown of college was my past in a small school and an inquiring mind without direction, and on the other side was the wide open world and the answers my mind craved. The Honors College offered a bridge of smaller classes, a purpose-driven community of scholars and a continual challenge to seek more. Because of this bridge, I was able to make it to the fertile ground on the other side, take root and grow in ways I never imagined were possible. At Ole Miss, I found the Seth Dickinson I wanted to become. The kid from the small town was

“

THEN, IT HIT ME. I WASN'T TRAPPED. I WAS FREE. WITH MY MIND, I HAD FREEDOM. THE VERY FREEDOM I WAS GIVEN THROUGH THE HONORS COLLEGE HAD SET ME FREE ONCE AGAIN.”

– Seth Dickinson

but a big sense of a united purpose. As graduation drew nearer, I knew I had a decision to make regarding my next step, but frankly, going to college scared me. I couldn't bear the idea of leaving behind a familiar place of caring people. Fear led me to apply to Lott's summer program. Essentially, I was hoping that an experience over one summer would be a good way to wade into the waters of the unknown. Instead, I would

around a united purpose, and the fact that all of this was at Ole Miss captured not only my heart but also my eagerly inquiring mind. As I closed the summer program, I knew that I must soon open another chapter of my life as a student at the University of Mississippi and the Honors College.

As the new chapter opened, the blank pages of uncertainty filled with new life. Fortunately, I had been accepted into the Honors College, and the

able to get involved socially, academically and mentally, and find the big world.

It was not easy by any stretch of the imagination. I was challenged every single day to seek more than just a place. I was challenged to seek a purpose. Many times I fell down in the pursuit, and every time I was lifted up by my time in the Honors College. Over time, my way of thinking changed, and my apprehensions melted away.



Professor Brown (right) and Seth Dickinson (Photo by Kevin Bain)

In just one semester, I felt as though my mind and heart gained freedom, and the key to that freedom was found through the SMBHC.

How can I share my experience without mentioning my Honors 101 class and my professor, Dr. Robert Brown? Although I had Dr. Brown during the summer Lott program, the chance of having Dr. Brown in 101 was like no classroom experience I had ever had before and may very well never have again. In my fall 101 class, I found a home, and just like any home, the work started there was never complete and will never be complete, for it was in that class I learned not only who I was but also who I was not.

It was in the realization of who I was not that I found out who I wanted to be. My world changed the moment I looked into the mirror of self-inquiry. I did not see the person I wanted to see. My worldview shifted, and through the semester I found my self-pursuit and I took chase. Dr. Brown nurtured my growth not only by reassuring me

that the pursuit was worthy but by challenging me to seek even more. I cried on my last day of Honors 101 because I thought my journey had ended and my pursuit was over. But I was wrong.

As my spring semester of freshman year began, I remained transformed. I had broadened my horizons and achieved more than I ever thought was possible. Life for me was good, but then it ended. Yes, it ended.

On March 14, 2015, I suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm on an arteriovenous malformation that left me paralyzed, mute and without a chance for recovery. I believed my life was over. I remember lying on my back, thinking how cruel it was that I was trapped in my own body with only a mind that was free to remind me of just how isolated I was.

Then, it hit me. I wasn't trapped. I was free. With my mind, I had freedom. The very freedom I was given through the Honors College had set me free once again. I knew that with my mind I could fight. Just as Dr.

Brown had challenged me to seek more, I was able to apply his lesson from months ago to my present and find a new pursuit. Without this way of thinking, I would have given up long ago. I would have resolved to die without fighting. Instead, I fought like hell. From a .05 percent chance of surviving and even less of a chance to recover, I fight to this very day, continually finding a greater pursuit. Without any doubt, I can say that the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and Dr. Robert Brown saved my life by strengthening my mind in such a way that it had power even when my body had none.

As I recovered, Dr. Brown and DSG came to my house, welcoming me home. To them, it was their way of being present and encouraging me to fight. Little did they know that ever since the moment I awakened, they had been within my fight in every action I took.* ■ HR

**Seth Dickinson will continue in the Honors College and plans to graduate in 2019.*



Alexis Smith stands near the summit of the Bolivian mountain Huayna Potosí at over 17,000 feet last June. (Photo courtesy of Alexis Smith)

WHY NOT

the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College?

ALEXIS SMITH (SMBHC 18)

When I applied to the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, I was asked which question was more inspirational:

Why or why not? I chose to write about the power of “why not,” two words that had driven me, pushed me and given me the courage to go after impossible dreams. Now, two years into my journey as a student and with the monetary help of an Honors Fellowship, I write this from a Bolivian café, where I know more than ever the importance of the selflessness, courage and wonder “why not” requires.

My time spent as a student of the Honors College has been a tangible expression of “why not?” The students I have met are brave and innovative, taking chances and engaging in challenge. The experiences that have been offered to me have only been because of willingness to step out on a limb or taking the handshake and introducing myself. However, the most inspirational, life-altering components of the Honors College have been found inside the classroom with professors who have been mentors, visionaries and friends. While every professor I have had in the Honors College has been fundamental in my life, I would like to focus

my attention on two: Dr. Robert Brown and Dr. Vaughn Grisham.

I stumbled into the University of Mississippi two years ago, unsure of what was to come, what classes would be like or who I would befriend. Luckily, in my confusion, I ended up sitting in Dr. Robert Brown’s Honors 101 class, what quickly became the most formative experience of my life. It is rare and wonderful when you are put together with a class that is not just a class but, truly, a family of sorts. This is what I found in Dr. Brown’s class, a place where, three times a week, I knew I could come in with my honest beliefs, truthful experiences and questions, and be led toward empathy and curiosity.

It was not that my Honors 101 class was just a rare group of students who meshed well, but it was Dr. Brown. His ability to draw students with polar opinions into dialogue and then to teach is unlike any other professor I have known. For all of us, and especially for me, Dr. Brown quickly became a teacher, mentor and friend. He is courageous in his willingness to challenge, kind in his ability to comfort and inspirational in his continuous academic encouragement. Dr. Brown is the professor every student dreams of,

and for us at the University of Mississippi, we are so lucky to have him walk alongside with us. I mean this literally – if you walk from J.D. Williams Library toward the Grove, more often than not, you'll catch him, with the sun glistening behind, engaged in conversation with one of many students who admire him.

Dr. Vaughn Grisham, professor emeritus at the University of Mississippi, taught Urban Sociology this past spring semester. Truthfully, I enrolled, unsure of what to expect, but Dr. Grisham's class quickly became one of the best classes I have ever taken. Focused on what it means to be a citizen scholar, the class was composed of different speakers, including former chancellors Dan Jones (MD 75) and Robert Khayat (BAEd 61, JD 66) and former Gov. William Winter (BA 43, LLB 49). Each Wednesday we met, and all of us were exposed to brilliant tidbits of wisdom, coming straight from people who have labored and worked to make Mississippi, the United States and the world a better and more equal place.

Being able to connect with and learn from so many astute leaders was fascinating. Truly, it was an irreplaceable experience; however, out of all of the former politicians, peacemakers and leaders of the University of Mississippi, my favorite mentees by far were Dr. Vaughn and Mrs. Sandy Grisham. Week after week, the two

gifted us with fresh cookies from Bottletree Bakery and brought along their pup, Collette. The best gift of all wasn't the peanut butter cookies or the end-of-the-semester party, when the Grishams invited us into their home. Rather, the most valuable gift was the way the Grishams entered all of our lives with bravery and vulnerability. Their aim was not just to teach us but to know us, and surely, the latter was accomplished. I will carry the encouragement I received from the Grishams with me, unable to forget the excitement of Mrs. Sandy as she shared with me her Pakistani study abroad stories or Dr. Grisham's ability to speak necessary wisdom directly into my life.

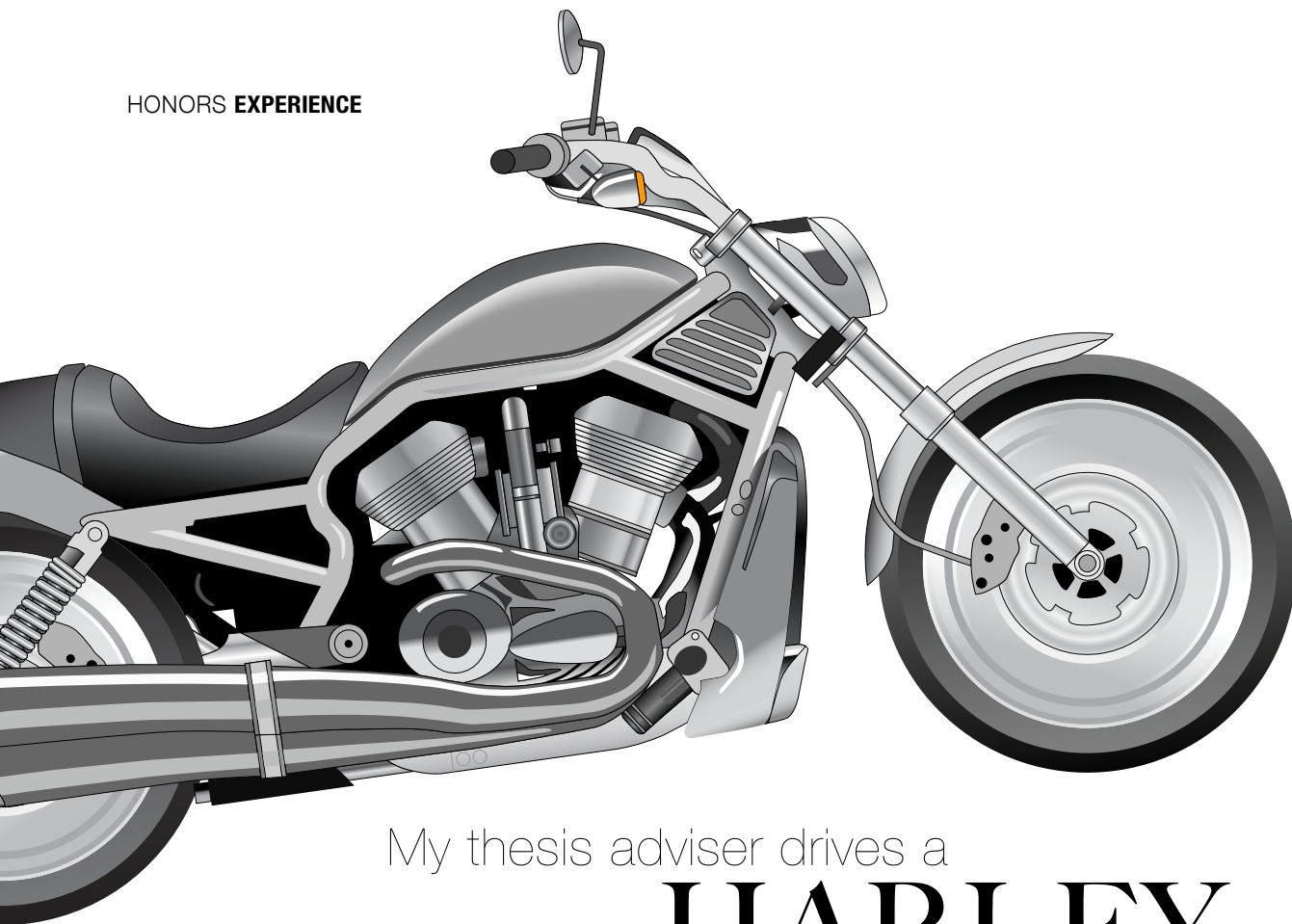
I have grown – intellectually, empathetically and emotionally – since my acceptance into the Honors College two years ago. I had always heard the ways in which the Honors College was so much more than an academic building, and it has absolutely been more than that. The Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College has been a place of friendship and challenge, learning the ways in which we are all indebted to be citizen scholars. My admissions essay was about the “why not,” and I am glad it was, because if the Honors College, and the likes of Dr. Brown and Dr. Grisham, have given me anything, it is the continued challenge to be better and to do better – “Why not, Alexis?” ■ HR



Professor Brown holds up a smallmouth bass, caught last June on the Little Vermillion Lake, Sioux Lookout, Ontario. (Photo by Doug Parks)



Vaughn and Sandy Grisham with their fur baby, Collette, this past May at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute in Petit Jean, Arkansas, where the Grishams are working with a pilot program for community development they hope to bring to Mississippi. (Photo by their daughter Terri Skrien Lesier)



My thesis adviser drives a **HARLEY**

BLAKE SOWERS (SMBHC 17)

The summer after my freshman year, I participated in a Computational Chemistry Research Experience for Undergraduates with Dr. Gregory Tschumper. For 10 weeks, I learned how

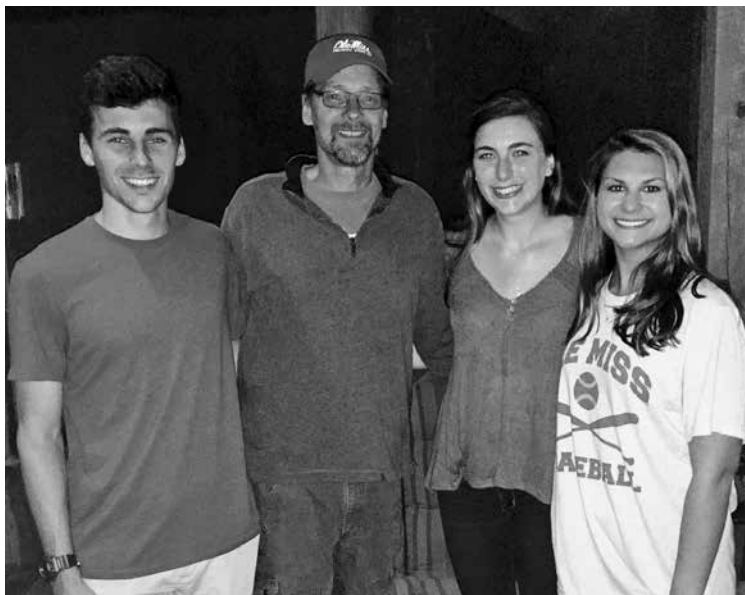
chemistry could be worked on a computer and how sophisticated mathematics and computer code could reveal truths about the world around us.

I also met an incredible group of students from around the country, and one

of them ended up becoming one of my closest friends (shout out to you, Spencer!). However, after those 10 weeks in the summer, as well as the entire following fall semester, I decided that this type of research just wasn't for me, and I wanted something a little more hands-on and tangible.

I nervously withdrew from the research group, though my anxiety was unfounded, as Dr. Tschumper and my peers were understanding and wished me well. In fact, Dr. Tschumper remains a part of my undergraduate career since he is my academic adviser. Supported by my former group, I set off in search of another research group with which to tackle the dreaded Honors College thesis.

Enter Dr. Kenneth Sufka. Though you may not immediately guess, standing at the front of the classroom



(L-R) Blake Sowers, Professor Sufka, Sydney Anchor (SMBHC 17) and Emily Fountain (SMBHC 17) (Photo courtesy of Blake Sowers)

teaching Psychology 319: Brain and Behavior, Dr. Sufka is a human being who possesses the most interesting combination of traits I've ever witnessed. For one, he's incredibly goofy. He's funny and constantly cracks jokes, and it doesn't matter if you laugh at them or not because he will be absolutely cracking up over his own quips and one-liners. But for such a jokester, he can almost instantaneously switch to being shockingly serious.

On a few occasions, when the subject matter of his class or the potential benefits of our research became overwhelming, I saw him shed tears, unabashed in his vulnerability. You wouldn't get this from looking at him, but he's a phenomenal bowler, drives a Harley and can build anything in his wood shop.

Brain and Behavior introduced me to the complexities of our bodies' control center, and, after the class, I approached him about joining his Psychopharmacology Research Lab. After interrogating me about how well I did in his class, he obliged, and I began my journey into animal studies that modeled some of the worst diseases that human beings have to endure: anxiety, depression, migraine, addiction and chronic pain.

As I write this, I am preparing my own project studying the effects of a novel drug compound on a rat migraine model, and this work will go on to form the crux of my Honors thesis.

In research lab groups, you get to see a different, more analytical side of your professors. Dr. Sufka invited

us to help solve problems that were encountered in the lab, and, from day one, I felt as though my input was not just endured but welcomed. Whenever a particularly interesting hang-up would present itself, Dr. Sufka would lean way back in his chair and look pensively into nothing, as though physically backing away from the situation would somehow give him a view of the bigger picture, and elucidate a solution to the problem at hand.

His research group has taught me to think analytically, to be meticulous in my methods and to value the advantages that collaboration has to offer. I'm honored for him to be my thesis adviser, and, when the thesis is all said and done (fingers crossed), I know I'll be grateful to have had these research experiences with a pair of great professors. ■ **HR**



'Skull and Flower'
by Arielle Wallace

Water Security Institute provides **DELUGE OF INFORMATION**

YASMEEN ABDO (SMBHC 19)

Think about water. No doubt many things come to mind: a soft pattern on a rainy day, a scratching pain in your throat, or an ice-cold drink on a hot day. The average person's thoughts would not jump to the groundwater pumps that cost millions of dollars, the surprisingly small and lax body of laws behind every drop of the seemingly infinite source, or the livelihoods of the rich and the poor, both of which depend on the availability of water.

Thanks to the Hearin Foundation's generosity in funding and the great leadership at the University of Mississippi's SMBHC, especially Dr. Debra Young and Dr. Cliff Ochs, 16 honors students from UM, Mississippi State University, University of Southern Mississippi and Jackson State University are now able to name some pressing issues and challenges behind the deceptively simple concept of "water."

As one of those 16 future economists, politicians, engineers and scientists, I can certainly say my time at the Water Security Institute was one of the most educating and engaging two weeks of my 19 water-drinking years. Who knew of all the technology, expense and legislation that go into providing the water we carelessly leave running while brushing our teeth? Or the amount of water needed to produce the food we grow or to manufacture that toothbrush or to support the business of business?

Though the program focused mostly on the Mississippi Delta region, the issues emphasized are not provincial. Aquifers do not adhere to boundaries, said Dr. Dean Pennington, executive

director of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Water Management District board. They do not cut off based on a farmer's acreage or on a state's political boundaries, and hence the responsibility of good water management rests on everyone's shoulders.

The fuzzy boundaries of our drinking water and irrigation sources can lead to an argument over who owns water, how it

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**THE CHALLENGE IS CLEAR.
WHILE WATER DEMAND IS INCREASING,
OUR WATER RESOURCES ARE NOT.”**

– Yasmeen Abdo



Yasmeen Abdo (Photo by Kevin Bain)





Students of the Mississippi Water Security Institute listen as Martin Locke, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Sedimentation Laboratory, points out some of the ecosystem remediation efforts being tested around Beasley Lake in the Delta. (Photo by Cliff Ochs)

should be used and how much we should be allowed to use. Recently, the argument reached the U.S. Supreme Court, where litigation is pending over water use from the Sparta aquifer shared by Mississippi and Tennessee.

What will happen when there is no more water left to fight over? For example, to support our agricultural industry, we are using our groundwater resources faster than they can be replenished in much of the Mississippi Delta. As Kay Whittington of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality warns, the status quo is not sustainable. The immense inefficient use and constant pollution of water resources will ultimately lead to trouble.

The challenge is clear. While water demand is increasing, our water resources are not. To deal with the coming issues, it is the opinion of many, including Chip Morgan, executive

vice president of the Delta Council, that locals will need to be the first responders. However, unfortunately, relying on a community-based response presents challenges. Difficulties such as low education levels, high crime rates, dropping educated populations, increasing violent conflict, decreasing economic resources, poor health conditions and, most importantly, lack of awareness will only serve to exaggerate the issues of water security, scarcity and quality, and minimize the importance of the actions that are taken to combat the looming water issue.

So with all these issues overwhelming you as a reader and me as a student, the future of water can seem hopeless. However, though we learned about many of the issues, we also learned that some places, especially Mississippi, still have time to turn the tide, and the people who realize this are taking action. Projects such as the Quiver-Tallahatchie



water pump by the YMD are working to preserve the integrity of underground aquifers. Scientists such as Jason Krutz are teaming up with Delta farmers such as Bowen Flowers and Delta businessmen such as Chip Morgan to use rapidly depleting irrigation water more efficiently.

In good “honors fashion,” the WSI raised more questions than it answered. It demonstrated to us that the real world doesn’t really have a lot of answers; we, as now educated citizens, must

go out and look for answers ourselves. Perhaps the most important lesson of the WSI is that the challenge of how we meet our future water needs in Mississippi is not one of science alone; it will require informed input from economists, legislators, business people, farmers and consumers. Through our diversified areas of study, we must strive to find solutions to an issue that, if left unsolved, will negatively affect generations to come. We need to think and work together. ■ HR

INSTITUTE INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO THE CHALLENGES OF WATER SECURITY

Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Ancient Greeks considered these the essentials to support life on Earth. And they had a point. From the earth, soils are derived. From air are provided the gases of respiration. From fire, our sun-star, Earth, is bathed in the energy of life. But only where there is also water can life, in the words of Mr. Spock, “live long and prosper.”

Recently, we completed the 2016 Mississippi Water Security Institute (MS WSI), funded by the Hearin Foundation of Jackson, hosted by the SMBHC, and which I had the pleasure to direct. Our purpose was to introduce honors students to the challenges and complexities of how we use and manage water resources, to meet our present needs and the needs of future generations, because without sustainable water use, neither long life nor prosperity is possible.

The focus in our first year was on the Mississippi Delta, a place of great importance to the state’s economy but also of striking contrasts – high agricultural production at the expense of enormous resource use; historic biological richness largely diminished; islands of economic

prosperity in a sea of poverty; where water is abundant but consumed faster than it is replenished.

Over our two-week institute, we investigated the means by which we might use water in this vast region to promote broad economic development and community health, and protect ecosystem health. With so many different demands on our water resources, it is clear that some tough decisions will need to be made to ensure a water-secure Mississippi. Through MS WSI, we are preparing to contribute wisely to this process — our “prime directive” if you will. MS WSI will repeat in May 2017 and May 2018 with planned regional foci being the Jackson metropolitan area and coastal Mississippi. I encourage interested students to contact me at byochs@olemiss.edu.

Clifford Ochs

Director, Mississippi Water Security Institute

RECENT HONORS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

SPRING 2016

- **Pontus Villehard Andersson**, management information systems, study abroad at Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria, in spring 2016.
- **Cayla Jane Cardamone**, international studies and French, study abroad at Université Catholique de l'Ouest in Angers, France, Spring 2016.
- **Savannah Winn Coleman**, international studies, study abroad at the University of Potsdam, Germany, in fall 2015 and spring 2016.
- **Grant Joseph DePoyster**, international studies and Chinese, study abroad at CET Intensive Language Program in Harbin, China, in spring 2016.
- **Darby Cates Hennessey**, journalism, study abroad in Granada, Spain, in spring 2016.
- **Conner Holeman**, international studies and French, study abroad at Université Catholique de l'Ouest in Angers, France, in spring 2016.
- **Jenny Elizabeth Kern**, international studies and Spanish, study abroad in Bilbao, Spain, in spring 2016.
- **Molly Therese Maher**, English, study abroad in Granada, Spain, in spring 2016.
- **Elizabeth Susan Newsom**, Chinese and international studies, study abroad at CET Intensive Language Program in Harbin, China, in spring 2016.
- **Edward Dean Ramsey**, accountancy, study abroad through the Fulbright-Hayes Program in Wi'an, China, in spring and summer 2016.
- **Adam Kaelin Schoenbachler**, international studies and philosophy, study abroad in Chambéry, France, in spring 2016.
- **Farrah Frances Sunn**, English, study abroad in Bilbao, Spain, in spring 2016.
- **Stephanie Claire Trippel**, communication sciences and disorders, study abroad at PUC-Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in spring 2016.
- **Emily Elizabeth Wasson**, psychology, study abroad at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in spring 2016.
- **Jon Luke Watts**, public policy leadership and philosophy, study abroad at St. Catherine's College, Oxford University in fall 2015 and spring 2016.
- **Matthew Morgan Wirt**, mechanical engineering, study abroad through CIEE in Madrid, Spain, in spring 2016.
- **Jacob William Gambrell**, international studies, study abroad in La Paz, Bolivia, in June 2016.
- **Alexandra Martha Gersdorf**, international studies and Spanish, study abroad at Bolivian Catholic University and research at the Social Science Field School in La Paz, Bolivia.
- **Amy Virginia Hall**, public policy leadership and economics, study abroad at the London School of Economics in summer 2016.
- **Lynley-Love Jones**, marketing, internship in the fashion industry in New York City.
- **Shamessia Lee**, marketing and corporate relations, study abroad in the CET Program in Harbin, China.
- **Jane Alexandra Martin**, international studies and Mathematics, internship with the Office of Economic Policy at the U.S. Treasury.
- **Holly Laurie McKenzie**, international studies, study abroad at the International University in Moscow, Russia, in June 2016.
- **Megan Elise McLeod**, economics, externship with Kaiser Edge Externship Program in San Francisco.
- **Elizabeth Anne Pitts**, liberal studies and Spanish, study abroad at Bolivian Catholic University and research at the Social Science Field School in La Paz, Bolivia.
- **Alexis Layne Smith**, international studies, study abroad at Bolivian Catholic University and research at the Social Science Field School in La Paz, Bolivia.
- **Shevenuja Theivendran**, chemical engineering, summer research internship at MIT.
- **Gabrielle Lynn Vogt**, English education, study abroad at the University of Cadiz, Spain, in June 2016.

FALL-SPRING 2016-2017

- **Gabriella Gezina Berlanti**, psychology, internship with the Public Defense Service in Washington, D.C., in fall 2016.
- **Abby Michelle Bruce**, international studies, study abroad at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru, in fall 2016.
- **Hannah Jane Corson**, marketing and management, study abroad at the KEDGE Business School in Marseille, France, in fall 2016.
- **Brianna Nicole Starnes**, international studies, study abroad at Université Jean Monnet in St. Etienne, France, in spring 2017.
- **Elizabeth Eustice Wicks**, international studies and French, study abroad at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, in fall 2016.

SUMMER 2016

- **Megan Marie Eubanks**, dietetics and nutrition, participation in the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical College.



Michèle Alexandre (Photo by Robert Jordan)



Christopher Feazell (Photo by Kevin Cozart)

Professor inspires student to **MOVE BEYOND** complacency

CHRISTOPHER FEAZELL (SMBHC 18)

Entering the University of Mississippi, I shouldered many apprehensions being hours away from home for the first time and studying at a school whose student population is approximately four times the population of my hometown of Mendenhall, Mississippi. While my mom constantly encouraged me, there were still small voices of doubt in my head about my potential to succeed academically and socially at Ole Miss. Ambivalent, I was afraid and elated about endeavoring on a new and more rigorous academic exploration. I had no idea that being accepted into the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College would be a highway to academic and social maturity — truly an experience unparalleled.

My anxiety doubled after researching and discovering that my Honors 101 professor, Michèle Alexandre, was a Harvard Law School graduate and nationally esteemed scholar. I experienced a miniature panic attack while reviewing her stellar résumé before the first week of class; however, inevitably, she would become my favorite professor, making the grandest impact on my life in the smallest of ways. Without her influence, I would not be successful as a student or SMBHC scholar.

Professor Alexandre is an astute and overall phenomenal instructor. I will never forget when she walked into class on the first day. She brightened the room with her vibrant spirit and signature bag of goodies. In the fall of 2014, on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Honors College, Professor Alexandre challenged and stimulated the minds of my classmates and me with controversial topics centered on the theme of the class: the “self” in society.

I recall her ability to kindle thoughtful debates and how

she would artistically make all thoughts and opinions relevant and coherent, regardless of how far our class’s conversations digressed from the main topic. I learned so much listening to my classmates, who were from all walks of life, as they each vocalized unique viewpoints about some of life’s most complex and persistent issues. I realized that defining justice wasn’t so simple or universal, and while I disagreed with Sigmund Freud’s extreme conclusions about civilization

“

YOU SHOULD WANT TO BE AT THE VERY TOP OF YOUR CLASS, NOT BECAUSE YOU ARE IN COMPETITION WITH ANYONE, BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE BEING YOUR VERY BEST SELF.”

– Michèle Alexandre

and its discontents, some parts of his contentions were logical to me. I learned that while isolation could potentially result in deteriorating mental health, it could also lead to self-examination, which is integral to achieving a better and improved “self.”

While better understanding my own self-identity was exciting and fulfilling to say the least, it was the toughest of challenges. In fact, I realized that who I am subjects me to a set of stereotypes that are rooted in ignorance and often result in the misconceptions and misperceptions of others. Nonetheless, the lessons that I learned from Professor Alexandre and my classmates allowed me to realize that the best and most powerful tool utilized during disagreements over local, regional, national or even global problems is an educated mind — to first and fully know who I am and to remain true to who I am.

I will never forget the excitement of visiting the law school for the first time to meet privately with Professor Alexandre in order to receive my grade on the first writing assignment. She quickly noted the countless, careless errors, such as poor word choice and failure to construct a clear and concise thesis. Tears filled my eyes as I saw that I had made a B. I vividly recall her saying,

“This is a ‘good’ paper, but there is room for progress. It is not excellent work. My job is to teach you excellence. As the semester moves forward, the class, as a whole, will progress and everyone will progress

individually. Where will you be? You have to decide whether or not you will be the one who is doing enough to get by or the one who is excelling and performing at your maximum. You should want to be at the very top of your class, not because you are in competition with anyone, but because you are being your very best self.”

I was inspired by her challenge to work diligently and to perform at my peak. The truth? I had not spent enough time working on the paper. Considering her advice, I realized that excellent writing requires time and great attention to clarity and detail. Well-written theses are not simply put together; they are crafted. When done properly,

a writing of any type is indeed an artistic expression.

More than simply encouraging me as a writer, Professor Alexandre’s words inspired me to never become complacent, to never accept only “good.” Rather, she inspired me to strive for excellence in all that I endeavor. Even still, as a junior, I am reminded of Professor Alexandre’s charge of excellence. Whether it is a new class or new life endeavor, I always pause at the beginning of each experience and ask myself, “Where will I be? Will I put forth enough effort to satisfy requirements or will the effort I put forth exceed expectations?” ■ HR



Untitled
by Hunter Rose Johnson



SMBHC
plays key part in history of

RebelTHON

MAIA COTELO (SMBHC 16)

Miracle Network Dance Marathon is a nationwide movement involving college and high school students at more than 350 schools across the country that are all raising funds and awareness for the Children's Miracle Network Hospital in their community. Each school year culminates in an entertainment-filled 12- to 40-hour dance marathon during which students stay on their feet in symbolic support of the children, family and staff of their local CMN hospital. Since its founding in 1991, Miracle Network Dance Marathon has raised more than \$135 million for CMN hospitals; the annual total has grown from year to year (up to \$27 million in 2015!).

RebelTHON is the University of Mississippi's branch of Miracle Network Dance

Marathon. Ole Miss' branch was founded in 2012 by Martina Coteló (SMBHC 14) and Adam Stanford (SMBHC 13), who at the time were Honors College seniors. Mia Bautista (née Gutierrez; SMBHC 07) approached Martina about starting a dance marathon in Oxford in summer 2012 at the Washington, D.C., SMBHC Alumni Brunch, and Martina agreed to give it a shot. She reached out to Adam for help, and together they founded RebelTHON.

If you go around campus today and ask about RebelTHON, most students will point to the at-capacity bar nights that we hold on the Square, the out-the-door lines at our Insomnia Cookie fundraisers, or our Pie-a-Rebel fundraiser that allows students to throw pies at their peers. Perhaps they'll tell you about the tent in the Grove

where we host the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children patient families or, most likely, about our last 12-hour dance marathon that ended with the reveal of the over \$112,600 we raised for Blair E. Batson in 2015-16.

Whatever aspect of RebelTHON they decide to mention, two things are clear: They know what RebelTHON is, and they respect it. RebelTHON is one of the largest student organizations on campus — our organizational structure includes more than 80 students, and our dance marathon participation numbers have grown to over 1,200 students. Most importantly, in the last four years, we have raised awareness for our children's hospital and raised over \$200,000 for the children of Mississippi.



Participation continues to grow in RebelTHON's dance marathon. (Photo by Thomas Graning)

I was a freshman during RebelTHON's first year, and I am adamant that one cannot understand the true extent of RebelTHON's current success without knowing the struggles of its inception. During the first two years of RebelTHON, we had to beg students to be on the board, restaurants to donate anything at all, the university to lend us a chair or a table, and the administration to even acknowledge our existence.

There was one group on campus, however, that we did not have to beg for

“

THERE WAS ONE GROUP ON CAMPUS, HOWEVER, THAT WE DID NOT HAVE TO BEG FOR SUPPORT — THE SMBHC. THE HONORS COLLEGE OFFERED SPACE, RESOURCES AND SUPPORT TO REBELTHON WHEN NO ONE ELSE WOULD.” — *Maia Cotelo*

support — the SMBHC. The Honors College offered space, resources and support to RebelTHON when no one else would. We held our board interviews and meetings in the Honors College rooms when we were too low on the ladder to get Union rooms, we stashed our cupcakes and cookies in the kitchen when we had bake sales and lacked storage, we found dedicated citizen scholars when we were desperate for increased student support, and we relished the leadership, support and guidance offered by the Honors College staff. The Honors College allowed RebelTHON to survive, grow and, eventually, thrive.

As executive director, I was constantly recognized for the work we accomplished this year. While I appreciate the praise that RebelTHON 2016 has received, I know it is due to the effort that the founders of RebelTHON

and the first three boards (mostly Honors College students) put in when RebelTHON was not the cool thing to do, when there was no recognition and when the only support we got came from the wonderful SMBHC.

Next year, RebelTHON will be moving under the Dean of Students, getting its own little corner in the Union and a graduate assistant all to itself. Thanks to SMBHC alumni like Mia who still cared about Ole Miss enough to give Martina the tip, thanks to Martina and Adam who took the time their senior year to add a new organization to their to-do list, thanks to the Honors College staff who supported RebelTHON when no one else would, and thanks to the dozens of Honors College students who have dedicated hundreds of hours FTK (For the Kids), RebelTHON has become one of the most fulfilling organizations on this campus. ■ **HR**

Alison Turbeville:

A CELEBRATION



Emily (left) and Alison Turbeville

LIZZY PITTS (SMBHC 18)

I met her through our Honors 101 class during a tantalizing game of “give your name, hometown and something interesting about yourself.” I had already played several rounds of this icebreaker during SMBHC Welcome Week and thought I had heard it all, but I was mistaken.

“My name is Alison Turbeville, and I have a brain tumor. I’m taking oral chemotherapy so I could come to college. I just wanted to tell y’all this so that you didn’t hear it from someone else later, since that might make things awkward.” Time stopped, and you could have heard a pin drop. After a few moments of this deafening silence, Alison sliced the air by turning to the next person and saying, “I think it’s your turn now.”

We both became involved with RebelTHON during freshman year, and I saw a whole new side of her through this. She sparked a flame



L-R: Katie Wright (SMBHC 16), Ashley Maiolatesi (SMBHC 16), Maia Cotelro (SMBHC 16) and Maggie Hall (SMBHC 16). (Photo courtesy of Maggie Hall)

in me for RebelTHON through her fervor and fanned that spark into a wildfire. Alison had a passion for Blair E. Batson Children’s Hospital, the recipient of RebelTHON’s efforts, and shamelessly asked for donations on social media for her fundraising campaign.

I viewed the fundraising aspect of RebelTHON as a somewhat dreadful ordeal that made me very uncomfortable, but Alison saw it as an opportunity and did not let anything get in the way of raising awareness and money for the kids. Her posts and efforts throughout the year inspired me, but she amazed me again the night of the dance marathon.

Our sorority pledge class used GroupMe for our pledge class and fraternities. These group

“

I REALIZED THAT SHE COULD SO EASILY SPARK A LIGHT IN OTHERS BECAUSE SHE WAS AN UNRELENTING, ROARING FIRE HERSELF.” – *Lizzy Pitts*



Alison in one of her elements, playing soccer

messages were typically used to spread the word about parties, but Alison used them as another platform to spread the word about RebelTHON. Unabashedly, she sent a message in every single GroupMe with her fundraising link, asking hundreds of boys that she didn’t know for donations toward her RebelTHON page.

When I saw her at the event later, I told her that I saw all of her messages, and I was impressed by the way she put herself out there. She only replied that she could not believe none of them had donated yet. It may seem like a small gesture, but for a freshman girl trying to seem “cool” – it was a big deal. I looked at her page, and she had already far surpassed the \$60 minimum fundraising goal, yet she continued to ask for donations. Why would she keep running down the uncomfortable road of asking people for money, even as she exceeded \$300? Whatever love I had for RebelTHON and philanthropy was multiplied tenfold by witnessing Alison’s love for the hospital that cared for her.

I realized that she could so easily spark a light in others because she was an unrelenting, roaring fire herself. I think that Shakespeare was referring to Alison when he wrote, “And though she be but little, she is fierce.” She carried herself with poise and so much grace, and sometimes people mistook that for meekness or weakness, but Alison Turbeville was fierce for certain. Oftentimes people refer to fierce and feisty people like Alison as firecrackers, but I would describe her more as a firework: as powerful and impactful as a firecracker, but with beauty, grace and statement as colorful and dazzling as the explosions on celebratory nights.

The world certainly lost a light to be celebrated when Alison Turbeville passed away at the age of 19 on Sept. 12, 2015. Like everyone else who knew Alison, I just wish I had more time with her. I am so thankful for the year that I did know her, for now I love deeper, care so much more for the causes that she held dear and see the world from a much different perspective. I hope that I can be a light to others like you were for me, Alison. ■ HR

Alison Turbeville is survived by many, including her parents, Karlen (BBA 81) and Ben (BBA 83) Turbeville and her sister, Emily Turbeville (BA 16). Memorial contributions to the Blair E. Batson Children’s Hospital are welcome.

Freshman takes calculated risk and **THRIVES** in Depth Reporting class

JOSIE SLAUGHTER (SMBHC 19)

“I really love you guys,” said Willard “Bill” Rose (BA 65) – who likes to be called Bill because he says it keeps him young – as he ended our last Thursday class of the semester. I was on the verge of tears as I sat on the stage in the Grove, reminiscing on the past semester.

It was one of those days that Ole Miss is known for: the sun warming our backs and reflecting off the trees, turning the Grove into a wonderland of color, students strolling along the paths that zigzag around campus, and children running around while on a field trip from one of the local elementary schools.

Bill is an outstanding professor. He was a reporter for the *Miami Herald* and was promoted to editor of *Tropic*, the *Herald*’s Sunday magazine. He received the Samuel S. Talbert Silver Em award in 2015 and the Paul Hansell Award for best work by a Florida journalist (just to name a very few of his numerous accomplishments). He truly embodies the ambitions of the SMBHC: to encourage the love of learning, to form personal relationships and to provide the guidance that leads to students reaching their full potential.

During the first few weeks of my freshman year, Dean Will Norton of the Meek School of Journalism and New Media suggested that I meet Bill Rose and take his Journalism 577 class. When the dean introduced me to Bill, I instantly liked him, but I was terrified meeting such an accomplished journalist, and taking a 500-level course as a freshman seemed way too risky. After he assured me that I would come out alive, I decided to jump right into the class.

It was one of the best decisions I ever made.

Journalism 577: Depth Reporting is a class in which students compose a magazine about topics that are chosen for the class each year. Along with this, the students spend spring break visiting the location of their topic to conduct interviews and investigate the subject. This year, my class had the privilege of reporting about the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes.

To prepare for spring break, Bill taught us the art of being a successful journalist and writer.



Bill Rose

“**BUT DESPITE THE CHAOS, BILL WAS OUR ROCK. HIS CONSTANT ENCOURAGEMENT, ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE ENCOURAGED OUR CLASS TO PERSEVERE IN OUR WRITING AND RESEARCHING AS WELL AS MEETING ALL OF OUR DEADLINES.**” – Josie Slaughter





Top (L-R): Professor Bill Rose, Mitchell Dowden (SMBHC 17), Kate Hayes (SMBHC 16), Slade Rand (SMBHC 19), Will Crockett (BAJ 17). Middle row: Emily Shoemake of Conehatta, Josie Slaughter (SMBHC 19), Lana Ferguson (BAJ 18), Tori Hosey (BAJ 18), Tori Olker (BAJ 18), Mrudvi Bakshi (MA 18), Taylor Bennett (BAJ 16). Bottom: Chi Kalu (MA 18), Ariel Cobbett (BAJ 19). Not photographed: Anna McCollum (SMBHC 16) and Zoe McDonald (BAJ 17). (Photo by Choctaw spokeswoman Misty Dreifuss)

We read countless articles and discussed their positive and negative attributes. He walked us through the intricacies of interviewing and finding information.

The weekend before spring break, a group of four class members, a photographer and Bill chose to visit the Chickasaw tribe reservation in Oklahoma. There, students wrote about subjects such as the replica Chickasaw village, the tribe's drive to preserve its culture and the tribe's economic progress.

For spring break, the entire class of 12, along with two photographers, Bill and assistant professor of journalism Mikki Harris went to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw's reservation in Philadelphia, where we spent the week interviewing members of the tribe.

I was assigned two stories: the history of the Choctaw tribe and their religion. To write these stories, I interviewed Jay Wesley, director of Chahta Immi (the tribe's cultural preservation

agency), and several ministers of churches on and around the reservation.

It was a time of significant growth for me as a journalist. I gained invaluable experience by interviewing tribal members as well as witnessing my fellow classmates evolve into sturdy journalists.

When we returned to Ole Miss, the whirlwind of deadlines began. Each of the 12 members of the class had two or more stories that all needed to be outlined, written and edited within seven weeks. But despite the chaos, Bill was our rock. His constant encouragement, advice and assistance encouraged our class to persevere in our writing and researching as well as meeting all of our deadlines.

Due to Journalism 577 and the influence and life of Bill Rose, each of my class members and I grew significantly in our writing and interviewing capabilities — skills that will help us thrive throughout our professional lives. ■ HR



CITIZEN SCHOLARS IN THE WORLD

1958 — Will Lewis Jr. (BA; LLB 62) celebrated his 80th birthday earlier this year on the Oxford Square at his desk at Neilson's Department Store.

1960 — Herbert Fischer (BA) worked his way through school as a Forest Service smokejumper in Montana and an Air Force ROTC cadet. Upon graduation, he became an Air Force pilot and resigned his commission five years later to work for Pan American. Twenty years later, Pan Am transferred Capt. Fischer to United Airlines as part of its Pacific Route sale. United morphed into an international airline, and Fischer was forced into retirement at age 60 in 1997 as a Boeing 777 captain. For the following 11 years, he flew Falcons for NetJets. Overall, he's logged 30,000 hours, rated as a captain on Boeing 707, 720, 727, 747, 757, 767, 777, Lockheed 382 and 1011, and Dassault Falcon 20 and 2000. He has flown into 94 countries and jumped 49 times! Fischer said he is thankful we live in a country where we can choose what we want to do.

"Great universities like Ole Miss don't prepare us to contribute 'our best' to society; they prepare us to achieve our own goals, and when we do this, the benefit to society is immeasurably greater!" Fischer and his wife, Betty, live in Texas.

1963 — Gaylen Roberts (BA) is a retired U.S. Air

Force colonel living in Canton, Georgia. He was recently elected chairman of the Cherokee County Board of Ethics.

1991 — Wade Cox (BA) is serving as senior pastor at First United Methodist Church in Covington, Tennessee.

2001 — Jeannie (Mood) Campbell, (BA), LMFT, achieved certification as an infant family and early childhood mental health specialist in California as well as a reflective practice mentor. She is also certified by the Denver Center for Solution-Focused Brief Therapy, in conjunction with the International Alliance of Solution-Focused Training Institutes. This certification required 50 hours of direct training and 100 hours of professional practice.

2003 — Tamika Montgomery-Reeves (BA) has been appointed vice chancellor to Delaware's Court of Chancery. This court is widely recognized as the nation's pre-eminent forum for the determination of disputes involving the internal affairs of the thousands upon thousands of Delaware corporations and other business entities through which a vast amount of the world's commercial affairs is conducted. Its unique competence in and exposure to issues in business law are unmatched. Montgomery-

Reeves completed her law degree at the University of Georgia. She lives with her husband, Jeffrey A. Reeves, and their toddler son, Jackson.

2006 — Aaron Piletz (BA) recently completed the Executive MBA Program through the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University.

2008 — Vaughan (Leatherman) Stewart (BA) has been elected board chair for New Memphis Institute's Embark Alumni Board. New Memphis Institute is an organization devoted to attracting and retaining talent in the city of Memphis.

2012 — Sumner Abraham (BA) has completed medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson and is moving to Charlottesville, Virginia, to train at the University of Virginia in internal medicine. Afterwards, he plans on pursuing a hematology/oncology fellowship. Earlier this year, he was awarded the Medical Scholars Travel Award, which is given to one person each year at UMMC. The award challenges students or residents to reach their highest academic potential and to improve international relations and awareness through medicine. Abraham traveled to Lilongwe, Malawi, to work in a health clinic at the African Bible College and do outreach in surrounding villages.

Katie Smith Grabau (BA) graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law in May 2015 and is now clerking for Gregory F. Van Tatenhove, U.S. District Court judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, until fall 2017. She misses Mississippi but is enjoying her time in the Bluegrass state and would love to host any SMBHC alums who find their way to Lexington!

Troy Jackson (BA) received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson this past May and has started his family medicine residency program at Mountain Area Health Education Center in Asheville, North Carolina. His wife and fellow SMBHC alum, Mary Lindsey (Simpkins) (BS), is a registered dietitian and recently received her Plant-Based Professional certificate from the Rouxbe Cooking School. She is working as an RD in the weight management center at Mission Hospital in Asheville.

Mariel Parman (BA) graduated from the University of Alabama School of Public Health in December 2015 with a Master of Public Health in health behavior. In January 2016, Parman began working at the newly created Institute for Cancer Outcomes and Survivorship at UAB's School of Medicine as a clinical research assistant, where she works on two longitudinal studies that are analyzing the health outcomes of adult and childhood cancer survivors.

2013 — Sabrina Bradford (BA) spent the last two years as a guide in Yellowstone

**CITIZEN SCHOLAR
SPOTLIGHT**

BY DOUGLASS
SULLIVAN-GONZÁLEZ*

Audrey Hart Nora, M.D.

The two bright blue stars on the windshield sticker of the car provided all the evidence: I stood before a two-star admiral, retired, the former assistant surgeon general of the United States of America.



Drs. Jim and Audrey Nora

Dr. Audrey Hart Nora (BS 58, MD 61) had risen in the field through her interest in pediatrics to become a key player in the U.S. Public Health Service, which uses naval officer rankings. Her story inspires and challenges all to learn and absorb as much of life as you can!

In June 2013, I traveled to Denver, Colorado, to attend a board meeting of the National Collegiate Honors Council and decided to look up a handful of Ole Miss graduates who had participated in our historic honors curriculum.** I found Dr. Nora's name listed in the 1958 roll of graduates, placing her in the third cohort of students to enter the University Scholars program under the famed leadership of Dr. Doris Raymond. She was "small boned" and "smoked like a chimney," recalled Dr. Nora as she reminisced with me about Dr. Raymond and her impact upon a decade of honors students.

"The university required freshmen to take an entrance test," Dr. Nora said. "My scores resulted in being selected to participate in the Scholars program and a university scholarship that paid my tuition. Dr. Raymond arranged seminars for scholars with key professors such as Dr. Wolfe in psychology and Dr. Noyes in English. We met individually and discussed our class material in greater depth, and later we met with other honors students for discussions in the library with Dr. Raymond."

Dr. Nora took advantage of a unique program at Ole Miss to enter into medical school after her third year. Her first year of medical school counted towards her fourth year of undergraduate study, and she graduated from medical school one year earlier than her peer group.

"My dorm friends dressed me for the interview since I didn't have the proper clothes," she confessed. "My friends lent me a suit and a hat as everyone cheered me on!"

The interview in 1957 was a grueling all-day experience, as Dr. Nora recalled. During the last interview, the doctor put the former Audrey Hart to the test: "If we give you a spot in the medical school, some man who could have enjoyed that spot will end up as a used car salesman in Biloxi. What do you think about that prospect?"

Nora took a deep breath and let him have it: "I think admissions should be based on merit and if my grades and recommendations are better than his, I should be admitted!"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

CITIZEN SCHOLARS CONTINUED

National Park and spent this past summer leading trips all over Europe. She recently accepted a full-time position training horses and working cattle at a ranch in Montana.

Taylor and Shelby (Brinkley)

Cook married in Oxford on a scorching Mississippi day in August 2013. Taylor (BBA) began pursuing a banking career by entering into Trustmark Bank's management development program in Jackson, followed by managing a brand new retail branch in Memphis. He has since switched to First Tennessee Bank to serve as commercial credit analyst in the Mid-South Commercial Banking Division, where he proudly displays his SMBHC diploma at his desk. Shelby (BA) began pursuing her career in social work by assisting in the development of the Mississippi Day Treatment Program for Youth Villages in Jackson, followed by acting as psychiatrist liaison for YV's north Mississippi region. She is matriculating in the Master of Social Work program at the University of Memphis, working as a graduate assistant for the Tennessee Behavior Supports Project, interning at the Exchange Club Family Center and running her own in-home bakery business called 901Cakes.

Ted Eader (BS) received his J.D. from the University of Georgia in May 2016, and at the time of this submission, he hoped to be practicing intellectual property law in Atlanta upon graduation.

Jessica Sewell (BA) graduated with honors from the University of Texas

School of Law in May 2016. After sitting for the Texas Bar Exam in July and taking a much-needed trip through Southeast Asia, Sewell will join the Houston offices of Mayer Brown LLP as a Corporate & Securities associate this fall.

Jess Waltman (BAccy) graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Law in May 2016 after serving as president of the Law School Student Body Association, and in August 2016, he joined the law firm of Davis & Crump P.C. in Gulfport, as a civil litigation associate.

2014 — Over the last two years, we have been working hard to broaden our medical knowledge and practice our physical exam skills. We are so excited to be working in the UMMC hospital this year as M3 students. Hotty Toddy from Jackson! Pictured below are (L-R) **Daniel Duddleston** (BA), **Mary Ball Markow** (BA), **Andrew Palmer** (BS), **Hadley Pearson** (BA), **Ann Marie Mercier** (BAccy), **Meagan Henry** (BA), **Kristen Wilson** (BA) and **Alix Robbins** (BA; SMBHC 13).

Gabe LaBonia (BS) is attending the University of Notre Dame in pursuit of his doctorate in analytical chemistry. His research on imaging mass spectrometry was recently published in the

journal *Proteomics*. LaBonia misses Mississippi winters and Saturdays in the Grove.

Neal McMillin (BA) recently earned a master's degree in marine and environmental affairs from the University of Washington. He is a recipient of the 2017 John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship and will move to D.C. at the start of 2017.

Samra Ward (BA) presented at the international American College Personnel Association conference in Montréal, Québec in March 2016. Shortly before completing her master's in higher education at Ole Miss, she received the Franklin Moak Award and accepted a job as a disability resource counselor at the University of Georgia, where she is advocating for students with disabilities both inside and outside the classroom.

David Wilbanks (BA) is a second-year medical student at UMMC. He keeps happily busy with intramurals, Bible studies and volunteering at the Jackson Free Clinic as well as assisting flood victims in Louisiana. He looks forward to spending time with friends and family this fall in the Grove.

Stacy Wolff (BS) graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with her Master of Science in forensic science this past



April. She will complete a certificate in computer forensics in December 2016. She is a brand intelligence investigator at PhishMe Inc., a phishing and malware intelligence company.

2015 — Since graduating, **Joshua Horton** (BA) has completed his first year of law school at UM, worked for business attorney Ken Coghlan, completed an internship with the U.S. Attorney's office in Oxford, and was guest speaker at UM's Collegiate Recovery Community's convocation. Horton continues working on the material laid out in his thesis: rehabilitation versus incarceration for nonviolent substance abuse offenders. Horton has partnered with legislators, justices and prison officials to effectuate change in Mississippi. He is working alongside others to start YPR (Young People in Recovery) chapters in Mississippi and Tennessee and is coordinating the beginning of a Phoenix program, which focuses on re-entry for formerly incarcerated individuals with substance abuse from youth to adulthood as well as education, an imperative component.

Murray Miller (BA) is living in Madrid, where she has been interning for a nonprofit called t-oigo. Beginning this fall, Miller will be teaching at the American School of Madrid.

Colin Wattigney (BSME) finished his MBA from the University of Mississippi, and this September, he'll be joining International Paper as a REACH engineer in Texarkana, Texas.

SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

Her convincing answer landed her in a class of men, except for three other women. She was the only woman to graduate with her class.

"Whom do you credit with academic success?" I queried.

Her parents, first and foremost, whose educational path was cut short by the Great Depression. A ninth-grade schoolteacher, Ms. Lucy Scott, in her hometown of Picayune, gave her a great list of the classics that she devoured: Shakespeare, Jane Austen and Jonathan Swift, to name a few. She built on that love of reading at Ole Miss with her liberal arts program of study. Ole Miss prepared her to take risks, and her parents never second-guessed her.

"I decided to become a doctor in the fifth grade, and no one questioned me at home," she said.

Only one young lad she dated at Ole Miss tried to deter her from seeking that high calling, and "that relationship didn't last," she said with a coy smile!

Dr. Nora pursued her residency in pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin and met and married her husband of 50-plus years, Dr. James J. Nora, a published cardiologist and geneticist. Both doctors taught and worked at Baylor University College of Medicine in Houston and the University of Colorado School of Medicine before they jointly pursued a Master of Public Health at Berkeley. That degree opened the door for Dr. Nora to enter the USPHS, where she worked from 1978 until she retired in 1999. She assisted some of the renowned 20th-century surgeon generals: Dr. C. Everett Koop and Dr. Joycelyn Elders.

Drs. Audrey and Jim Nora enjoy today the retired life in Aurora, Colorado, proud of the success of their children, Drs. James J. Nora Jr. and Elizabeth Nora Gerrits. Both Jim and Audrey are active in the local community and have served as elders of Denver's Montview Presbyterian Church.

"What message do you have for today's honor students at Ole Miss?" I asked.

"Learn as much as you can about all subjects!" Nora answered quickly.

Indeed, her life is a testimony to one who has engaged our world of knowledge and taken advantage of great opportunities. She is a citizen scholar, and we are proud of this model honors student from the UM Class of 1958.

**Dean Sullivan-González interviewed Dr. Nora in Aurora, Colorado, at the Dozens Café, Havana/Warren crossroads.*

***UM officials created University Scholars in 1952, and two decades later, it became the Honors Program. With the Barksdale gift, the McDonnell Barksdale College transformed the program into an honors college and worked with its first cohort of freshmen in 1997. When Jim Barksdale's first wife, Sally, passed away in 2003, the program was renamed the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.*



Maggie Hall and Hunter Gabbard (Photo by Thomas Graning)

FULBRIGHT WINNERS

guided by
mentors

This September, Hunter Gabbard (SMBHC 16) will be traveling to Hanover, Germany, after winning a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to further study gravitational-wave astronomy at the Albert Einstein Institute. The Austin, Texas, native is a member of the LIGO scientific collaboration, which made world news last February, when the international team of scientists reported the first direct detection of gravitational waves. Gabbard's parents are Lisa and Kurt Gabbard.

Also soon-to-be calling Germany home is Greenwood native Maggie Hall (SMBHC 16), who won a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. This will be Hall's third trip to Germany after studying there twice during her undergraduate career as a member of the Croft Institute for International Studies. Her parents are Dr. Todd and Stacey Hall.

Read on as they reflect on their big wins.

HUNTER GABBARD: I recall just a few short years ago, freshman year, walking into the University of Mississippi's Department of Physics and Astronomy for the first time and experiencing an incredible wave of excitement roll over me. I knew immediately that I wanted to get involved in research, but I wasn't at all sure how or where to start.

Fortunately, through a bit of searching, I happened upon the office of Dr. Marco Cavaglia, who first introduced me to the world of gravitational physics. Although an aspiring physicist, I didn't know much about how to conduct research. I didn't know how to program

or how to speak the "language" nor was I familiar with the scientific way of thinking. Despite my ignorance, Dr. Cavaglia told me during our first conversation that we would start from square one and work our way up from there.

Through his guidance and expertise over the past four years, I've learned more about physics and research than through any course I could have ever taken. His patience and willingness to answer just about any question I could possibly think of (many at odd hours of the night!) is beyond admirable. Not only has he proved to be an incredible mentor, but he's also been a good friend. Dr. Cavaglia was one of the first people

to encourage me to apply for various graduate fellowships and scholarships despite the fact that I didn't think the odds were in my favor.

In hindsight, I'm incredibly grateful that he pushed me to apply. The Fulbright is unique in that it allows me the opportunity that not many people have, which is to doggedly pursue whatever I'm passionate about. It is that opportunity with which I am thrilled and excited to see play out come September.

MAGGIE HALL: After I was accepted into the Croft Institute for International Studies, I decided that I would focus on the German language. The Croft staff told me about a program known as the German Language Initiative, which I could begin the summer before my freshman year. Of course I capitalized on this chance to get a step ahead! I walked into the classroom with confidence and eagerness to begin, but then Dr. Sapp spoke: "Ich heie Herr Sapp." I knew I was in for a long journey.

With zero German language experience under my belt, I knew I needed to stay alert and catch on quickly. I resolved to learn the language by the end of my undergraduate career. With the guidance of the Ole Miss German professors, especially Dr. Sapp, I have studied abroad in Germany twice and achieved the Intermediate High level on my OPI exam, a score that is tough to reach in German after such a short time period learning the language.

After my year abroad, I arrived in the States knowing I wanted to return to Germany sooner than later. This is where the Fulbright comes in. I



Chris Sapp

was encouraged to apply and knew it would be an amazing recognition and opportunity should I be selected. The application process ended in October 2015, and after six long months, I received the congratulatory email.

Excited is an understatement! Now I look forward to working with the youth at Gymnasium Alfeld in Alfeld, Niedersachsen, next year. Looking back, I'm proud of my resolve to learn the German language. With it comes a deeper appreciation of the German people and culture, and I especially thank Dr. Sapp for believing in my potential and cheering me on through these past four years. ■ HR



Hunter Gabbard (far right) stands with the LIGO team including Marco Cavaglia (third from left). (Photo by Robert Jordan)

Curtsy

Fashion app
entrepreneur
headed to med school

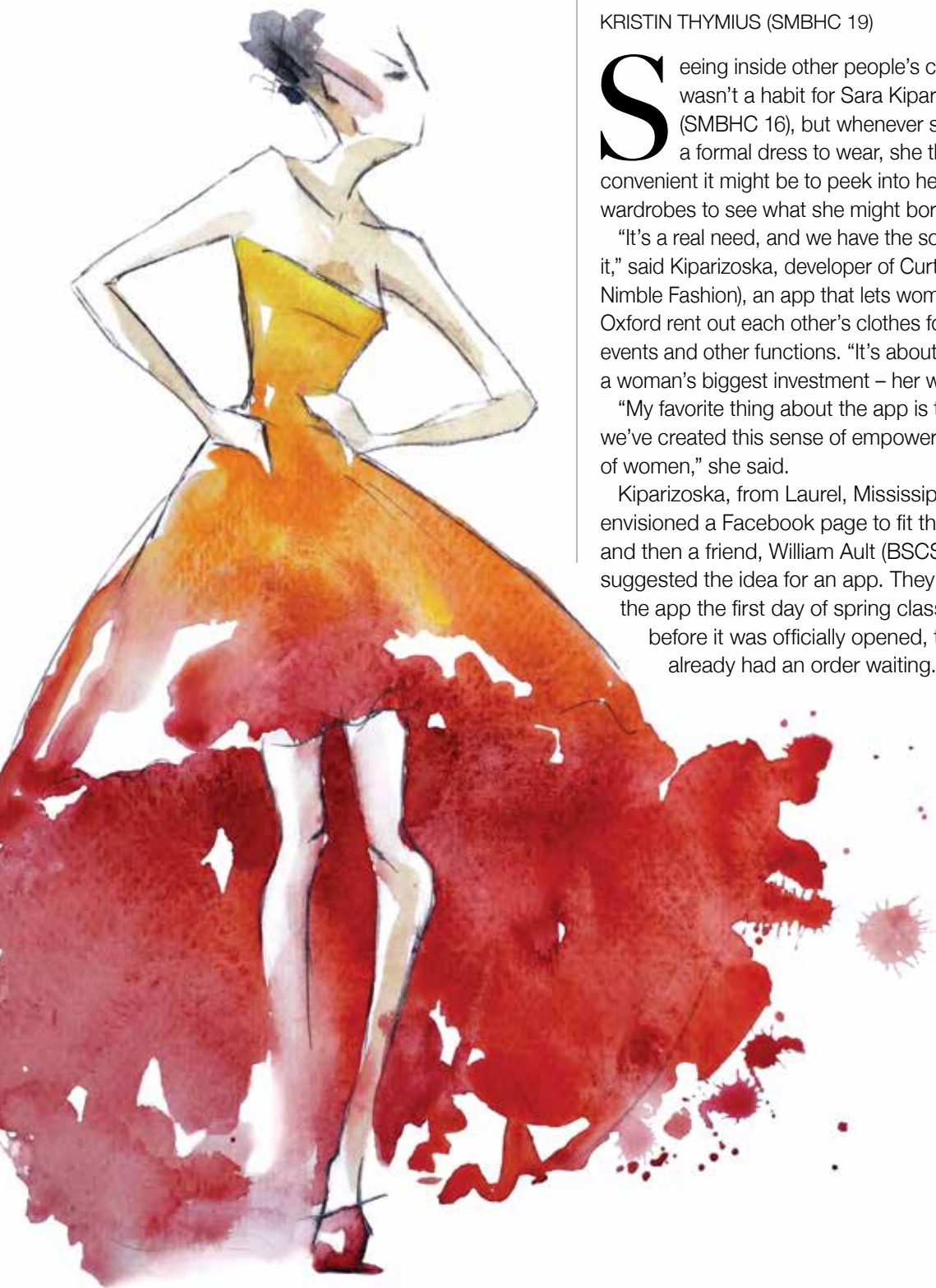
KRISTIN THYMIUS (SMBHC 19)

Seeing inside other people's closets wasn't a habit for Sara Kiparizoska (SMBHC 16), but whenever she needed a formal dress to wear, she thought how convenient it might be to peek into her friends' wardrobes to see what she might borrow.

"It's a real need, and we have the solution for it," said Kiparizoska, developer of Curtsy (formerly Nimble Fashion), an app that lets women in Oxford rent out each other's clothes for formal events and other functions. "It's about monetizing a woman's biggest investment – her wardrobe.

"My favorite thing about the app is that we've created this sense of empowerment of women," she said.

Kiparizoska, from Laurel, Mississippi, first envisioned a Facebook page to fit the need, and then a friend, William Ault (BSCS 15), suggested the idea for an app. They launched the app the first day of spring classes, and before it was officially opened, they already had an order waiting.



Now, Curtsy has expanded to other SEC schools such as Mississippi State, University of Alabama, Louisiana State University and University of Georgia — just to name a few. Eventually, Kiparizoska hopes Curtsy will expand nationwide to such cities as Charleston, Dallas and Nashville.

She faced a number of challenges along the way. The hardest part was the computer software development, but “William really stepped up,” she said.

Currently, the Curtsy team includes Kiparizoska along with four others: co-founder Ault, Eli Allen (BSCS 15), marketing director Clara Agnes Ault (BS 16) and David Oates from Charlotte, North Carolina, who is in charge of product development.

Here's how the app works.

Say, for example, there's a sorority formal on Saturday night. It's Tuesday, and you still don't have an outfit picked out. The only potential items you have in your closet are the same three dresses you've been rotating. Wouldn't it be nice to see what your friends had in their closets that you could borrow for a night?

Well, there's an app for that. Open Curtsy from your smartphone. The latest outfits will pop up. You can select the most popular outfits under \$20 and filter the results based on size, color and style.

If you find a dress you like, click the borrow button, and you'll have three days to try on the dress, and then five days to return the dress. You can also go to your closet and post pictures of clothes that you'd like to rent out.

“I really liked that there was a tab where you could look at dresses that were under \$20. If you're looking for something inexpensive, it is a really easy way to narrow it down,” said Elizabeth Blackstock (SMBHC 19), one of Curtsy's customers.

Another customer, who owns 20 dresses, according to Kiparizoska, rented them out every weekend and said, “This \$200 dress has made me over \$600. This is my only income in college, and I love it. I love Curtsy for it.”

Kiparizoska graduated in May with a biochemistry degree and gave the charge at the Honors commissioning ceremony. With her acceptance into the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, she has big plans for her future. With an interest in women's health, she will continue to bring her female perspective into both her medical and business careers.



Sara Kiparizoska (Photo by Thomas Graning)



Kristin Thymius (Photo by Cindy B. Thymius Photography)

She has been able to organize mission trips to Bolivia during her summers with the help of the Honors College, which, she said, has given her the independence and intellectual elbow room to follow her ideas.

“The Honors College shapes you into a citizen scholar, gives you connections with all of the professors. ... It's very self-guided. You get to decide what you make of it.”

Rather than only taking courses that pertained to science, she took classes such as Logistics, as well as War and Science. She gobbled up honors courses in her field and beyond, and in May, she received the Dean's Prize for earning the most honors hours — 60 total! — among her graduating class. ■ **HR**

Around the nation with DSG



Above: DSG stands with Meredith Blackwell (SMBHC 16) and John Yi (SMBHC 16) at the inaugural Honors College Formal, which took place at The Lyric on the Square and was made possible by the fundraising ingenuity of the Honors Senate. (Photo courtesy of John Yi)



Above: DSG stands with (L-R) Michael Holman (SMBHC 17), Georgia Norfleet (SMBHC 17), Amir Aziz (SMBHC 15) and Mary Moses Hitt (SMBHC 16) at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference in Chicago. Aziz was one of four honors students nationwide who won the prestigious Portz Scholarship. He presented his thesis, "Al-Arabiyyah, Le Français, and the Soul of Algeria: The Language Tango between Arabic and French in Algerian Education Policy and Defining Post-Colonial Algerian National Identity," which was directed by Vivian Ibrahim, Croft associate professor of history and international studies. (Photo by Jennifer Parsons)



DSG (back left) brunching with honors students and alumni this past June in New York City. Front row L-R: Sue Keiser (BA 83), Greg Rubenstein, Anna Hailey (SMBHC 11), Martina Coteló (SMBHC 14), Alyssa Yuen (SMBHC 11), Erin Callahan (SMBHC 10), Jordan Estes (SMBHC 05). Back row L-R: Kent Ford (SMBHC 10), Channing Lansdell (SMBHC 15), Caroline Walker (SMBHC 06), Marc Walker (SMBHC 06), Michael Howell (SMBHC 17), Barrett Lingle (SMBHC 11), Austin Powell (SMBHC 17), Andrew Wilkes (SMBHC 16), Andrew Estes, Lynley-Love Jones (SMBHC 17), Jay Miller (University Scholars 93), Perry Brooks (University Scholars 74). (Photo courtesy of Douglass Sullivan-González)

The Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College

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SCHOLARS**



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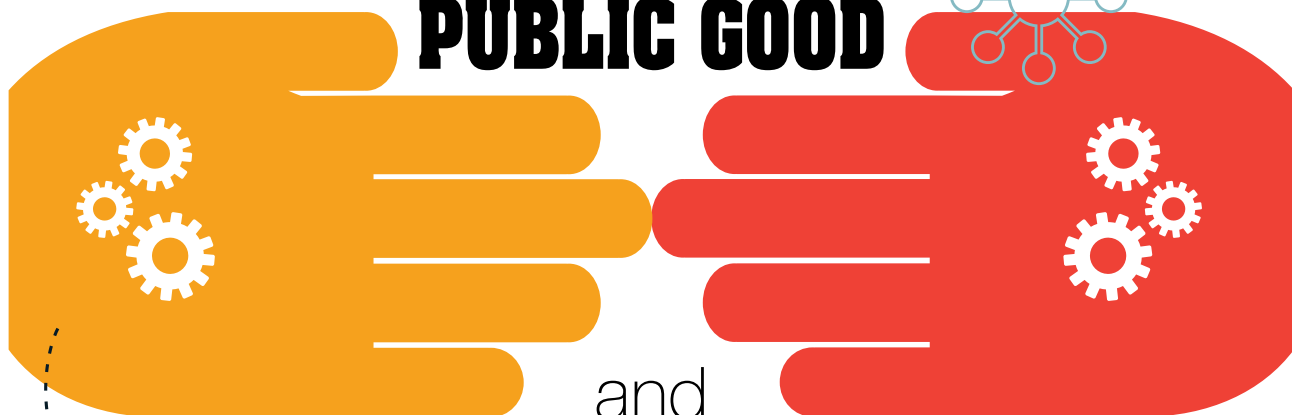
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committed to the

PUBLIC GOOD



and
driven
TO FIND



SOLUTIONS

LOOKING **BACK**



GOOD TIDINGS, GOOD CHEER: Members of the University Honors Program gather for a holiday party in 1984. (Photo courtesy of Nancy Horton Burke, University Honors Program 87)

LOOKING **AHEAD**



WISE ADVICE: Kicking off the SMBHC Welcome Week with hindsight and humor, Shadrack White (SMBHC 08) addresses the SMBHC Class of 2020 on Aug. 14, 2016. (Photo by Thomas Graning)

'Walk of Champions'
by Arielle Wallace





Join the

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