

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

HONORS REPORT

FALL 2021





Ethel Young Scurlock (Photo by Logan Kirkland)

I am excited about the opportunity to serve as interim dean for the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. I am privileged to join a team that is fully committed to offering quality honors education in the state of Mississippi. I thank Chancellor Boyce and Provost Wilkin for my interim appointment. While we will all miss the leadership and vision of Dean Douglass Sullivan-González, we congratulate him as he returns to his mission as a professor and researcher in the history department.

This is a time of grand achievement for our honors students. While navigating a global pandemic, our students have continued to excel academically, thrive socially and prepare professionally. Our students conducted innovative research, identified new ways to engage in community service, assumed new roles in leadership, won national awards and found innovative ways to connect with this community. We are proud of their successes and look forward to celebrating some of their successes with you in person now that restrictions are being lifted.

We are also looking forward to increasing the philanthropic support of our Honors College. We have been incredibly fortunate to have the continued investment of the Barksdale family; their investment in our citizen scholars has helped us attract the best and the brightest students in the world to UM. In addition, the members of our Honors Leadership Council, and other alumni, have richly given their time and treasures to our students. We are confident that many others are ready to share their time and treasures with these incredible students. To that end, we are welcoming Brady Bramlett, our new associate director of development, who will soon hit the road to hear stories about the impact of honors education in your life.

Additionally, the Office of National Scholarship Advisement is thriving. Our students are garnering national attention and winning notable awards under the direction of Dr. Vivian Ibrahim and her assistant director, Dr. Whitney Woods. You'll read about ONSA's banner year and the staff's efforts to enlarge the footprint of this office on our campus.

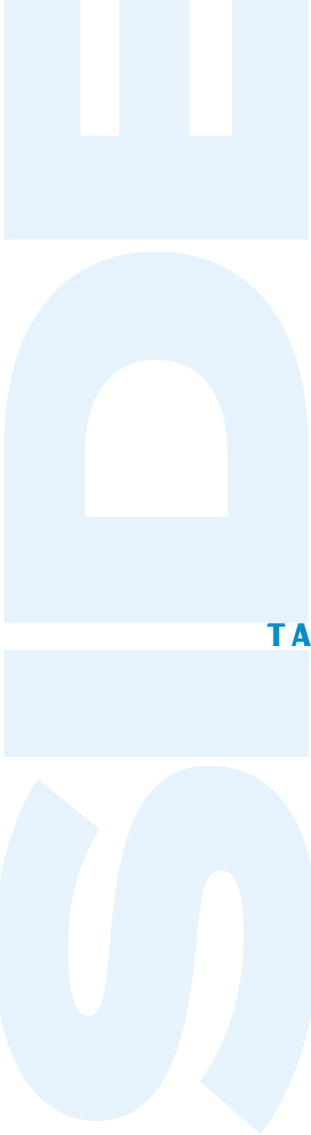
As interim dean, I am committed to making sure that we tell the story of how the SMBHC positively affects lives. In particular, I want all students in Mississippi to know that they can gain a world-class education as a student in the SMBHC at the University of Mississippi.

With your support, the SMBHC will continue to shine brightly and attain record successes. Together, we can build a space where students, faculty members, staff and alumni feel heard, embraced, valued and supported. Thank you so much for everything you have already done for the Honors College. I look forward to shaping the future of honors education at the University of Mississippi together.

Ethel Young Scurlock
Ethel Young Scurlock

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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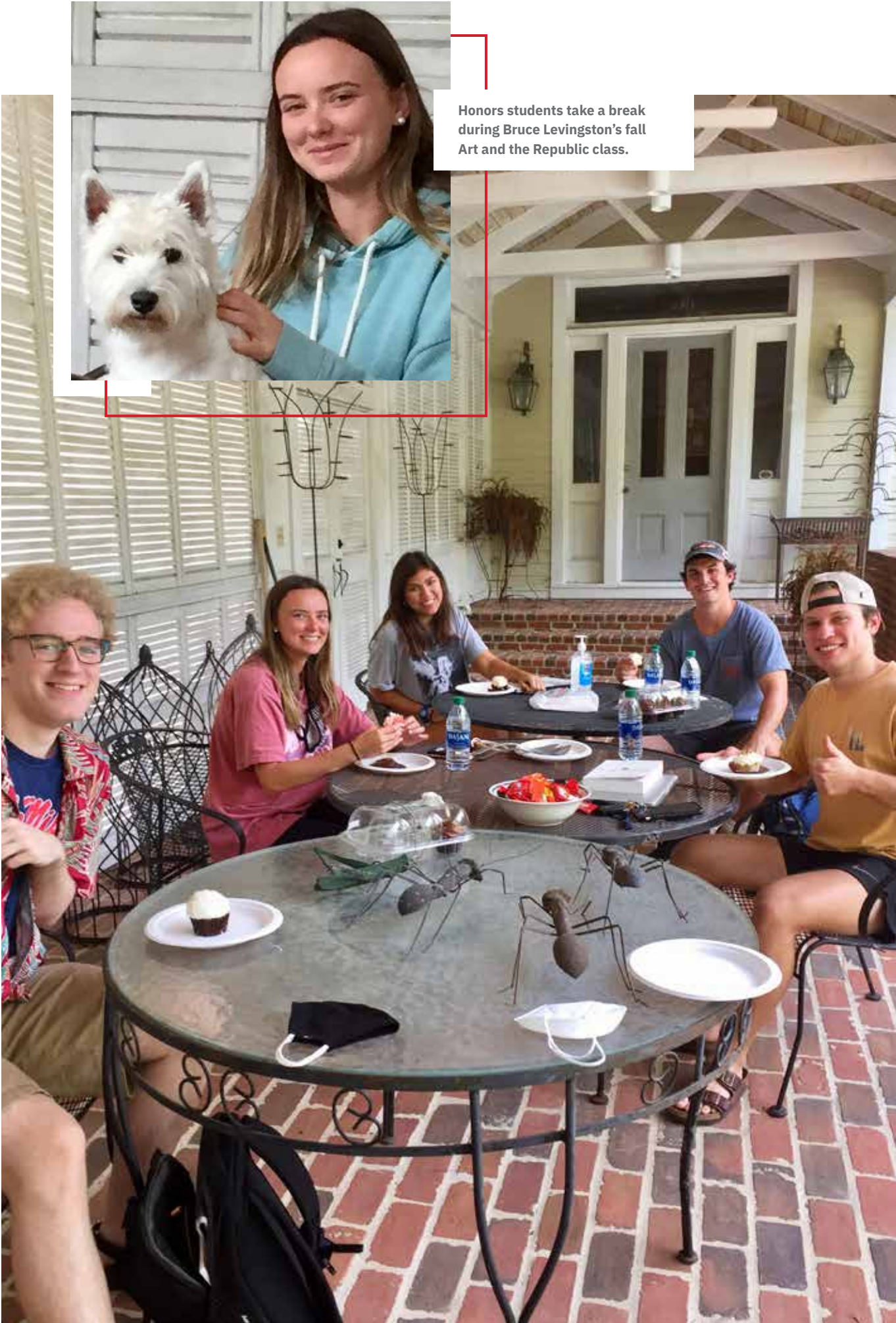
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Natalie Pruitt
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Megan Swartzfager
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Note: Some photos in this magazine were taken before UM’s current mask mandate took effect.

7	Featured Artists
10	Connecting through Highs, Lows and Buffaloes
14	Honors Scholars Program: 20th Anniversary by Ken Thomas
16	Professor Appreciation: Gregory Tschumper by Carly Rock
24	The HoCoMEC by Ajah Singleton
26	Faculty Summer Stipend Winners
32	DSG by Andrus G. Ashoo
38	Capstone Highlights
46	The Honors Senate by Kaylee Crafton
50	ONSA: Year in Review by Vivian Ibrahim
56	Citizen Scholars in the World
67	Thank You to Our Donors

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Honors students take a break during Bruce Levingston's fall Art and the Republic class.

(Photos by Bruce Levingston)

A Prelude to Our Return

BRUCE LEVINGSTON

The past year was certainly unique for the Honors College. While a singularly unwelcome pandemic changed our lives in countless ways, the challenges it brought were met with courage and resilience by faculty and students alike. Hoping to avoid the isolation and loneliness imposed by the evolving health crisis, my students sought a wonderful, creative solution. All agreed to meet in person for every class — but outdoors.

Respectful, safe distances were observed to protect one another. The normalcy we all felt interacting in person was palpable. Nuances often missed in Zoom meetings were immediately perceived by students, who often said they looked forward to a class where they could simply see and be with their fellow classmates. It was the time of the week I most looked forward to: spending a special, few hours exchanging thoughts and new ideas with these extraordinary people.

Our fall semester kicked off with a “streamed” concert for our incoming freshman class. I videotaped a number of works on my piano at home, and then hosted the filmed performance for our Class of 2024, who joined us via the internet. Throughout the event, students were able to type in live comments and questions about the pieces and performances. Students: Your keen insights and thoughtful observations spoke well for the future of the Honors College!

Later that week, when the rest of the SMBHC family arrived, students were greeted with a stunning art exhibition by our recent graduate Nakiyah Jordan, who is now studying in the prestigious graduate program of the Art Institute of Chicago. Each semester, the Honors College organizes a new show of art for the Great Room in our building, often focusing on the works of current and past students and faculty.

This last exhibition was one of the most moving we have ever presented. Titled “Of a Mustard Seed,” the solo show displayed an array of intimate, finely detailed paintings portraying figures and scenes from Nakiyah’s family and home in Soso. A powerful writer, Nakiyah also provided an example of her prose to accompany the exhibition, which included the following:

I am a Black, nonconforming, faith-driven artist from the rural parts of southern Mississippi.

Who I am greatly informs the work I make. I come from church fans and gas heaters, from winding backroads and yards full of ‘junk.’ I come from flattened ‘get well soon’ balloons as decor and piles of papers and things that will surely come in handy someday or another. This series of paintings is taken directly from snapshots of my family over the years. Some are images from 30 years ago, and others are from just a few months ago. The work is about grief, love, lack, laughter, conflict, tension, but mostly about faith — joyful faith, faith through doubt, faith in something. ...

My fall class, “Art and the Republic,” once more drew a remarkable group of students. Though the initial point of departure — how art reflects and influences society — consistently remains the same, I am always struck by how different the classes seem every year. This is due not only to students’ individual personalities, but also to their unique inner character and values that drive the conversations and determine which works of art we focus upon most closely.

The uncertain nature of this past fall prompted students to explore deeper levels of contemplation about our world. Each brought probing, empathetic insights into our rapidly evolving society. All views — and the range was wide — were met with respect and thoughtfulness by the class. I remain impressed, though not surprised, that, during this challenging period in our society, these gifted people carefully listened to each other’s opinions with such civility and open-mindedness. Art encourages — even requires — multiple points of views and interpretations.

The spring semester brought a completely new, though no less interesting, course and class. Philip Jackson, one of our region’s leading painters and professor of painting in the UM Department of Art,

joined me to teach a new class in the history of music and art. The course was inspired by Daniel Hall, one of my talented students from the fall semester who beseeched me to offer a course that focused even more exclusively on the visual arts. I immediately thought of Philip, who has appeared as a guest speaker in my fall classes, and has always been willing to share his deep knowledge and understanding of painting.

Once we agreed to join forces for the new class, we quickly discovered that our honors students were not just exceptional analysts of art and art history but extraordinary creators themselves. For their final project, a number of them painted beautiful works on canvases or combined pieces of painting, poetry and music in their presentations. Philip and I agreed that this class was one of the most fulfilling we had ever taught, in large part due to the immense dedication and passion of our wonderful students. Happily, we will be offering this course again in spring 2022!

While I was sadly unable to perform live during the year due to the pandemic, I was fortunate to record a new album released in early 2021. With the dark difficulties of COVID in mind, I titled it “Prelude to Dawn” in hopes that the works presented would recall the shadows and fragility of our world, but also the possibility for its regeneration — and a new dawn.

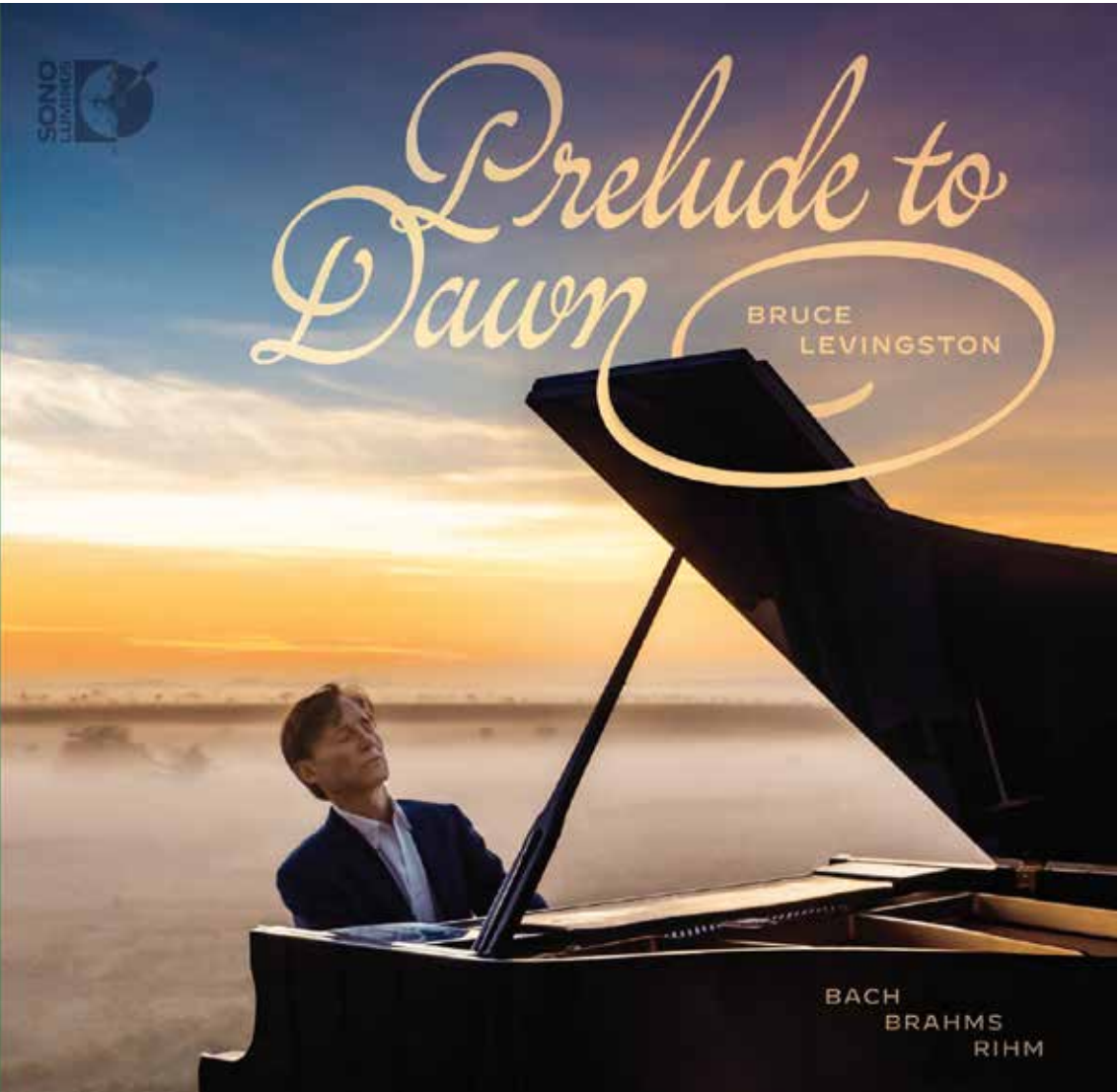
As we enter the prelude to this new academic year, I look forward to joining the Honors College family in embracing the great challenges and opportunities ahead.

Wishing everyone an inspired and fulfilling year!



Bruce Levingston

Chancellor’s Honors College Artist in Residence
Holder of the Lester Glenn Fant Chair





ABOUT THE COVER:

'Fragile Structure.' 2020
11" x 14"
Relief printing and letterpress
on tea bags
by Virginia Rougon Chavis

Meet our
SMBHC *Featured*
ARTISTS



Lauren Taylor (SMBHC 22) is a B.F.A. in graphic design candidate from Naples, Florida. She's lived in a handful of different places throughout her life, and the varying landscapes influence all forms of her artwork: "I always incorporate cheery colors and whimsical elements in my designs as a reminder to embrace the vibrancy of life." Taylor met twice with outgoing Dean Douglass Sullivan-González under the guise of completing a class project. Based on her conversations with the dean, she created a graphic design of DSG's most memorable moments with the SMBHC (see page 36). *(Photo by Meagan Harkins)*

Lauren

FEATURED ARTISTS

Virginia Rougon Chavis (Photo by Ashley Chavis)

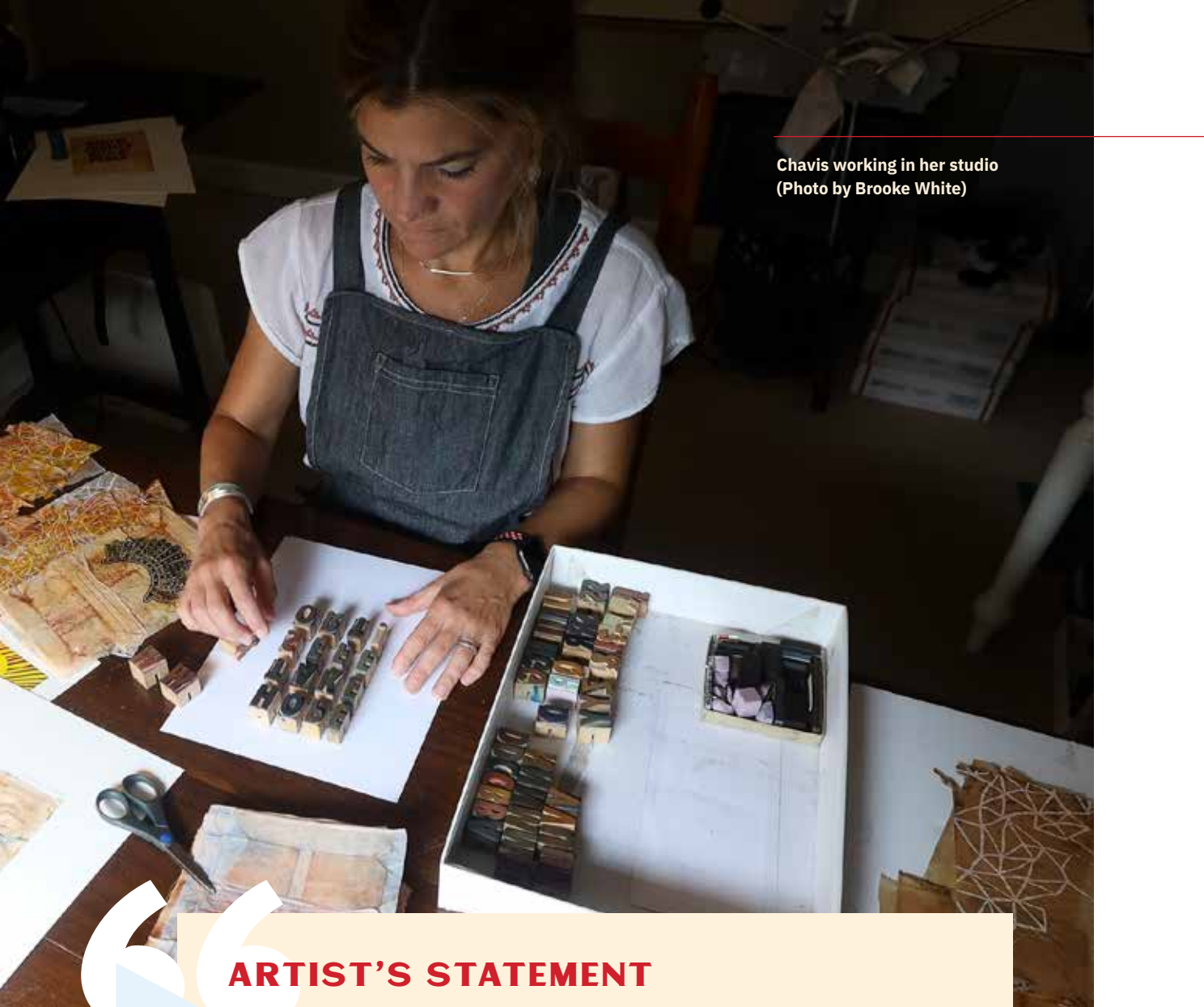


Virginia Rougon Chavis is an artist and educator. She is a professor of art at the University of Mississippi and has taught graphic design, letterpress and the creative process since 2002. Originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Chavis earned a B.A. in art from UM and an M.F.A. in graphic design from Savannah College of Art and Design.

Chavis presents her work nationally and internationally, as well as works with clients who commission for design work. She has been awarded several grants and served as a design education consultant for surrounding programs. Her work typically incorporates text and imagery from nature through relief processes and thread on paper, using both traditional and digital processes. Her work has been shown in publications and exhibitions including *HOW Magazine*, *Type Rules! The Designer's Guide to Professional Typography* (textbook), *Uppercase Magazine*, *Creative Quarterly*, the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Southside Art Gallery (Oxford), Los Angeles Center for Digital Art (California), Tieton Arts

and Humanities Center (Washington), Lessedra Art Gallery (Bulgaria) and La Maison Verté (France) where she was a resident artist. Last November, she was a visiting artist at the River Oaks Square in Alexandria, Louisiana.

She was recognized for her leadership as an SEC-Academic Leadership Development Program fellow while serving as department chair, and awarded UM's Faculty Advisor of the Year and the National Academic Advising Association's Southeast Regional Faculty Advisor of the Year. She has served on the Honors Admissions Committee since 2014, and on the Honors Scholarship Committee. She is a member of the Honors Council, serves on several honors thesis committees each year and taught a section of HON 420. Beginning July 1, she became UM acting associate provost. She lives in Oxford with her family. Her husband, Ashley, is a potter and art instructor at Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia. They have two children, Bazil (14) and Ruby (12) and a beloved dog, Daisy.

A photograph of a woman, Chavis, working in her studio. She is wearing a white t-shirt and denim overalls, focused on her work. On the table in front of her are various materials, including a box of small, rectangular objects (possibly tea bags or paper scraps) and a pair of scissors. The background shows a cluttered studio space with various items and papers.

Chavis working in her studio
(Photo by Brooke White)

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

We have learned about ourselves, our nation and our world in the past many months. In some ways, we have been reminded of simpler times. In other ways, we have become frustrated. Some individuals have experienced terrible pain, others have learned how to love, and many continue to search for justice and some sense of inner peace. Boundaries have been formed for good and for not. We are learning again what it is to be human, what is important to us, and how to protect our thoughts and loved ones in the best ways we are able.

At the start of creating this work, it was simply to serve as documentation at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and could be considered a surface-level visual recording. Very quickly, the imagery began to incorporate historical occurrences happening simultaneously, and it was apparent the world and especially our nation were experiencing events that would change our future. A deeper level of humanness and contemplation came from those events and will continue to reveal themselves. Hand-drawn images and letterpress-printed text point to specific books read, searching for positivity, consideration for mental health and encouragement for activism.

We need to take the time to listen to one another and try to understand that the human mind is a complicated organ. In isolation, many thoughts pass through the mind. Sometimes those thoughts need to escape in order to feel whole again, searching for some feeling of validity. Many pieces in this group of works are created using tea bags, stitched together, to emphasize the fragility of the place we find ourselves. The red thread is a metaphor for those who come in and out of our lives. Not all of the works reveal themselves easily, as it takes work to solve problems. The layering of the mixed media and ink on the surface exemplifies the overlap of our commonalities.



Connecting THROUGH HIGHS, LOWS AND Buffaloes

BY WILLIAM TEER
UM Assistant Director of Community Engagement

How do you build community with 1,700 students? If you're like citizen scholars of the SMBHC, you build it from the ground up. Now in its second year of operation, the **Honors College Peer Mentor Group Program** has grown from 100 to 160 first-year students receiving advice, resources and friendship from some of the SMBHC's best and brightest student leaders.

Peer mentor groups meet each month. Some groups began to meet in person (masked up and 6 feet apart, of course) for fun activities such as Halloween pumpkin painting and Valentine's card swapping after our first few months of virtual engagement.

I'm thankful for the vision and leadership of 2021 SMBHC alumni Nakiyah Jordan, Joshua Mannery and Madison Thornton. Their efforts in developing the program are so appreciated. Check out the testimonies below from some peer mentors to learn about the experiences of peer support in a year filled with challenges, innovation and picnics in the Grove.

ZURI O. DIXON OMERE (SMBHC 22)

Hometown: Dallas, Texas

Major: allied health sciences

"When I first applied to be a peer mentor leader in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, I saw it as an opportunity to give back to the

community that has given so much to me. I wanted to be a person to help guide, enrich and motivate the incoming freshman students in hopes of broadening their horizons to achieve success. I assumed that in this position, I would primarily be the one to give advice, to teach and to take initiative in all

of our encounters; however, my mentees have stepped up and have taught me more about life and their experiences.

"Through this program, I have met some incredible individuals from near and far. I have learned the importance of communication and connection with others. One of my favorite memories



Photo by Natalie Pruitt

zuri

William Teer was formerly coordinator of enrollment and engagement in the SMBHC. He now works for UM's Center for Community Engagement.

with my mentees is our biweekly lunch meetings. We would choose different dining locations in Oxford or on campus to try new foods and talk about the things going on in our lives. I loved these meetings because we would dive into deep conversations and get caught up in the excitement of the various topics. These meetings were only supposed to be for an hour, but somehow, we always ended up talking for two to three hours each time. Through these meetings, we were able to bond and formulate a strong foundation for our mentoring relationship. Additionally, we have come to form a friendship through our interactions. It has

become a common habit to call or text each other on a regular basis to check in.

“In all, this experience has given me so much more than I would have ever expected. I have grown immensely as a person, a student, a leader and a citizen scholar. This experience has truly made a lasting impact on my life. I will forever cherish the memories I have made with my mentees and will forever be thankful to the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College for continuously providing opportunities for my personal evolution.”

Photo by Tyler Blaylock



RAEGAN GOURLEY (SMBHC 23)

Hometown: *Madison*

Major: *special education*

“The Peer Mentor Group has been one of the most meaningful programs that I have been a part of during my time at Ole Miss. I’ve had the opportunity to not only participate as a mentee but also as a mentor. Being able to serve our freshman students during a year where nothing is “normal” has been so rewarding, and we have to tip our hats to our fearless leader, William Teer. Throughout this entire process, William has always been ready to lend a helping hand, and there is no doubt in my mind that this program would not work without him. Whether we were meeting our groups via Zoom or social distancing, he was readily available with fun ideas to keep our mentees involved and excited about joining the Honors College.

“My amazing group of mentees has brought me so much joy this year. We’ve been able to bond in a way that I feel truly embodies the spirit of SMBHC, and I wouldn’t trade it for the world. We’ve gone through the first failed tests, the first round of midterms and finals, and even the first socially distanced football season. When the feelings of imposter syndrome have crept in, we’ve worked on turning them into feelings of empowerment. We’ve shared our “highs, lows and buffaloes” and laughed until we cried over some yummy food. I think my favorite memory would have to be our Valentine’s Day meeting when we all went to dinner together and planned our ‘Secret Cupid’ activity. Everyone drew a

name out of a hat and then had to make a homemade valentine for that person. It was so amazing to see how creative and thoughtful they could be for each other, and we even got a pretty great TikTok out of it!

“Even though I have been facilitating the meetings, these people have been teaching me so much about myself and about life. I know it goes without saying, but nothing about this year has been ‘normal.’ Navigating a global pandemic as a college student has been anything but easy, but hopefully, our work through the HoCo Peer Mentor Group Program has helped to ease the transition into college life for our participants because it certainly has for this mentor.”

MATTHEW KNERR (SMBHC 23)

Hometown: Paducah, Kentucky

Major: biochemistry

Minors: biology and environmental studies

“I first chose to come to Ole Miss because of the opportunity it gave me to see the world. In my two years here, I’ve traveled to seven new countries and all over the United States; I’ve seen the Northern Lights dance across the sky from a city 220 miles north of the Arctic Circle. I’ve hiked mountains and active volcanoes across continents; I’ve biked the streets of Amsterdam, enjoyed coffee overlooking the Eiffel Tower, eaten Belgian waffles in Brussels, bird watched in the Monteverde Cloud Forest, and listened to an MIT professor shred his guitar at Club Passim in Harvard Square. Despite all that I’ve experienced abroad, the people I’ve met through the HoCo are what have made my time in college meaningful. The Peer Mentor Group Program was one of the first ways that I made those connections.

“To me, the peer group program is about learning and laughing, with people I otherwise would not have met, over coffee in the Grove. Nature walks, ‘Highs, Lows, Buffaloes’ and fearing final exams brought me closer to four — and then eight — freshmen during a very strange year.

“At our very first meeting, I watched, from the Great Room, four strangers arriving separately, on their phones, sit down around the koi pond. When I walked out to greet my new mentees, no one was talking. They were probably as nervous as I was

(I had to think of a fun fact about myself for those dreaded icebreakers!). Nevertheless, we broke the ice, and I learned about Austin’s engineering aspirations, what Parker’s life in Houston is like, Abby’s (warranted) fear of her first BISC 160 exam and Taylor’s motivation for Early-Entry Pharmacy. I highlighted my research and my extracurricular passions, and learned about their experiences as first-semester freshmen in a pandemic. We laughed a lot and told stories, and, despite the masks and social distancing, things felt *normal*.

“At our next meeting, I watched two of my mentees walking together as they arrived. Cheerful small talk preceded our discussion, and I was delighted to ask them questions without being met with awkward silence. We ended the meeting, and the four of them walked off together toward the Union. Strangers a month prior were going off to eat — together! That is why I am a peer group mentor.

“As the year progressed, I watched new friends grow together. We talked about class registration and thought about theses while I shared my knowledge on how to make the most of the Honors College. (Guess what? We have free printing.) I also learned, from their stories, about the Jackson water crisis, life working and attending college full time, and the experiences of being a first-generation college student. My group doubled from four to eight students over the spring semester, and I watched the magic happen all over again as new relationships formed. This time, however, I led discussions more as a facilitator than as a mentor; questions raised by one mentee were answered by the others! I was there to give HoCo students an environment where they could speak and listen to their peers and grow from it.

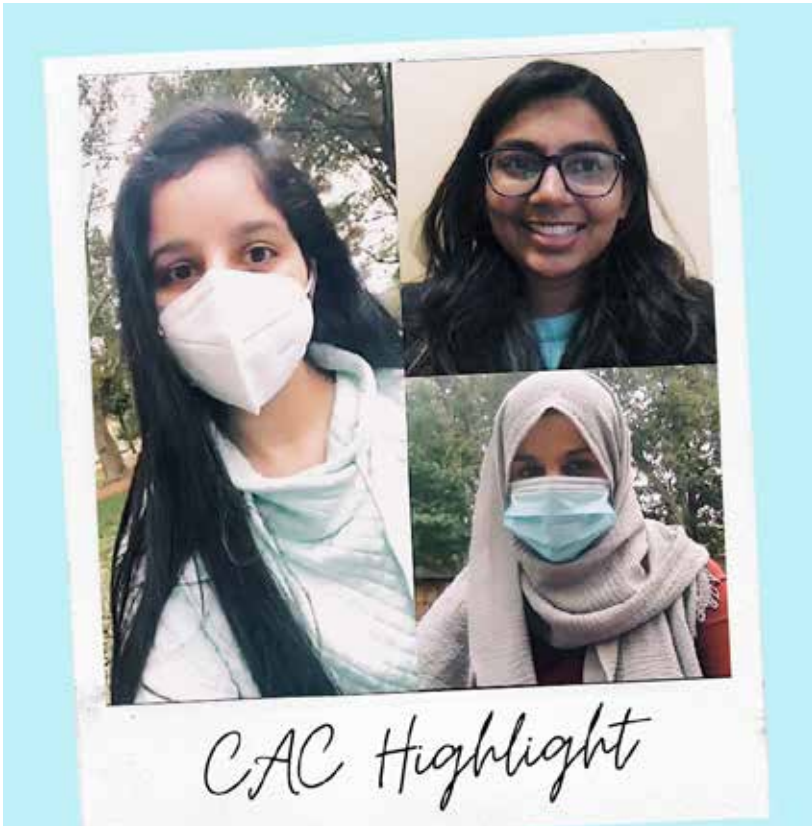
“William Teer, Madison Thornton and Nakiyah Jordan, with their work orchestrating this program, have given me new friends to greet as I walk around campus; their work has also given me new perspectives of the world I navigate. This program provided me the opportunity to watch strangers blossom into genuine friends despite a pandemic prohibiting most everything in person. This is what makes our Honors College special.” **HR**



Matt

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

On Sept. 22, the SMBHC welcomed **Dr. LouAnn Woodward** as keynote speaker for the first of three virtual honors fall convocations. Woodward serves as vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She is a tenured professor of emergency medicine. As vice chancellor, she functions as CEO of the integrated academic medical center with broad responsibility for the hospitals and health system, faculty practice plan, research mission and six health professional schools. As dean of the School of Medicine, she has responsibility and oversight for all aspects of the day-to-day operations of the school. (Photo by Joe Ellis)



Asma Obad (bottom right), **Zahra Jiwani** (top right) and **Ravneet Singh** founded **Tutoring ESL Alliance (T.E.S.L.A.)**, a free tutoring source for ESL K-12 students. They shared, “We grew up in homes where English was not the dominant language, and we all know the difficulties that come with that circumstance. When COVID-19 hit, we felt like we needed to start this organization to help kids in similar situations.” Last year, Obad, Jiwani, Singh and their team, composed of UM students, helped 20 children from an array of school districts with homework and any other school-related issues that arose. Though the SMBHC waived the CAC (community action challenge) expectation during the global pandemic, we are impressed and proud that doing good works is second nature for many of our citizen scholars. (Photo collage by Jennifer Parsons)

FROM JUNIOR-ENTRY TO
HONORS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

BY KEN THOMAS
Former Associate Dean for Capstone

20
years later

In fall 2001, the then-McDonnell-Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi enrolled the first student into the Junior-Entry Program. The program was designed to provide access to honors education for UM juniors and seniors, as well as students who transferred to the university with junior status. For 20 years, this program has brought equity to honors education on the university’s Oxford campus.

In brief, Junior-Entry students became involved in the capstone (typically through research in the major) and thesis writing, took honors courses, and contributed to the larger society through community action. These students graduated from the Honors College as Honors Scholars in their major, having met all the requirements including having a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5 at the time of graduation.

To further improve access to honors education over the years, the requirement of at least junior

DID YOU KNOW

THE SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE

HONORS COLLEGE

INVITES

CURRENT UMS STUDENTS TO APPLY?

3.5
GPA

45
EARNED HOURS
COLLEGE CREDIT

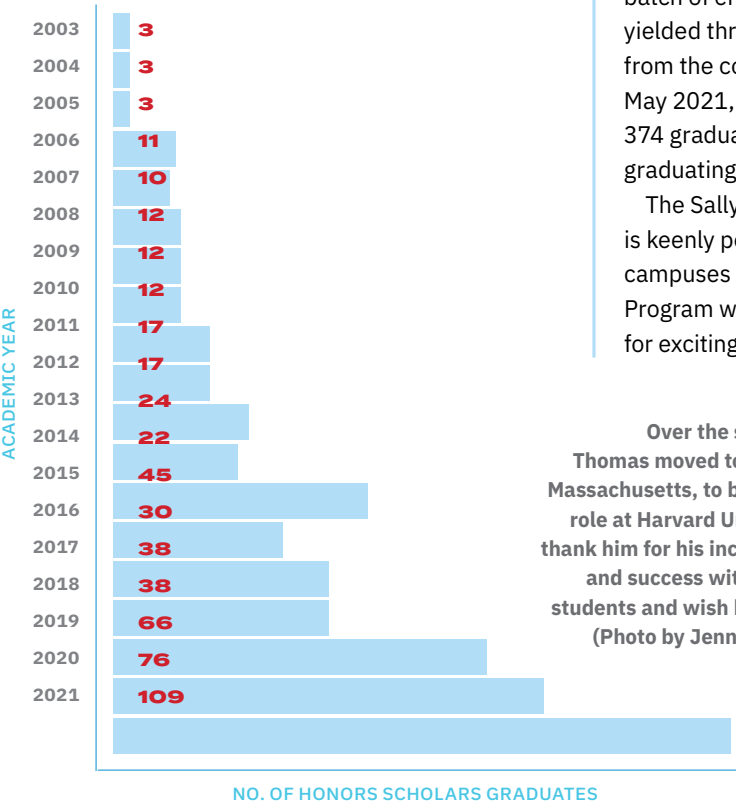
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class standing was replaced with any applicant who had completed at least 45 college credits. This past academic year brought the most recent change to the program with a rebranding through the name Honors Scholars Program.

The Honors Scholars Program has played a significant role in providing access to educational opportunities to UM students and producing more academically talented citizen scholars. The first batch of enrolled Junior-Entry students in 2003 yielded three graduates from 33 total graduates from the college (9.1% of the graduating class). In May 2021, 109 Honors Scholars graduated out of 374 graduates of the Honors College (29% of the graduating class).

The Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College is keenly positioned to expand to UM’s regional campuses in spring 2022, and the Honors Scholars Program will be the mechanism to do so. Stay tuned for exciting developments on that front! [HR](#)



Over the summer, Ken Thomas moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to begin his new role at Harvard University. We thank him for his incredible work and success with our honors students and wish him the best. (Photo by Jennifer Parsons)



Max Mauney graduated in May 2021 with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and is the son of Jennifer (BBA 94) and Michael 'Joey' Mauney. (Photo courtesy Max Mauney)



A NEW HOMETOWN FEEL

BY KATHRYN ALBRITTON (UM BS 21)

Max Mauney, of Oxford, grew up loving two things: tennis and the University of Mississippi. He always pictured himself as an Ole Miss student — watching football games, walking across the Grove and joining a fraternity — but when he was recruited to play tennis at Meridian Community College, Mauney decided to take that opportunity.

“I went to Meridian following an opportunity and a passion, but in the back of my mind, I always knew Ole Miss was where I belonged,” said Mauney, a biochemistry major. “I wanted to return to the place I loved.”

As a transfer student, he expected to come home to a familiar Oxford and just reenter his home community.

But his definition of community changed once he was on campus, where he was greeted by new faces, cultures and passions that challenged and widened his perspective.

“Ole Miss turned into its own little community that I never expected,” Mauney said. “Growing up here and going to school here is not what people would expect. It feels like two different towns.”

Mauney found his semester quickly filling with numerous activities, clubs, events and people. He could not get enough.

“From the start of my first semester here, I had a longing to get involved,” Mauney said. “I knew I would only be here two years, so I wanted to maximize my time and do as much as I could to gain different experiences and meet different people.”

Then came spring 2020, Mauney’s second semester at Ole Miss and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It was really hard for me when COVID hit and school was basically cancelled,” Mauney said. “I was sad that my Ole Miss experience was going to be cut even shorter than it already was. I knew I had to make it work, though.”

Mauney made up for lost time at the start of his senior year, diving deeper into opportunities to be involved. He became a member of the Student

Alumni Council, Who’s Who and Phi Beta Kappa honor society and volunteered with the Big Event.

He began working on his thesis for the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and felt as though he was back on track to making the most of his time at Ole Miss.

Having a hand in so many different groups and activities on campus exposed Mauney to a wide network of students and alumni who helped guide and encourage him.

“I have met a group of incredibly diverse people here,” Mauney said. “Every organization I am a part of has led me to meet some amazing students and alumni who have taken time to listen and helped me in my studies and my career path.”

Mauney said he believes the interconnection and people’s willingness to help is what makes the university so special. His transition into campus life could not have gone more smoothly.

One person with a particular influence in Mauney’s college career is Ken Thomas, former associate dean for capstone at the Honors College.

“Max is very well-rounded and very grounded,” said Thomas, who helped set up Mauney with a research group for his thesis, which looked at the opioid crisis through the lens of biochemistry.

“He is curious about all opportunities and has a strong work ethic to follow things through to completion. His love for Ole Miss and his involvement is obvious.”

Mauney’s time at Ole Miss is defined by the relationships and experience he gained through making the most of his two years.

“Do not take your time here for granted,” he said. “I want everyone at Ole Miss to have the encouragement to stay involved that I did. I would not be in the position I am in today — applying to medical school and graduating with honors — if it weren’t for my peers, professors and activities.” **HR**

This story originally appeared in the University of Mississippi’s 2021 Journey to Commencement series. Mauney conducted his thesis research under the direction of Yi Yang, chair and professor of pharmacy administration and research professor in the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

PROFESSOR APPRECIATION

All the Right

Photo by Bella Vie Photography



**CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR
BREWS PERFECT BLEND OF
DEDICATION, ENTHUSIASM**

BY CARLY ROCK
(SMBHC 19)

Greg Tschumper

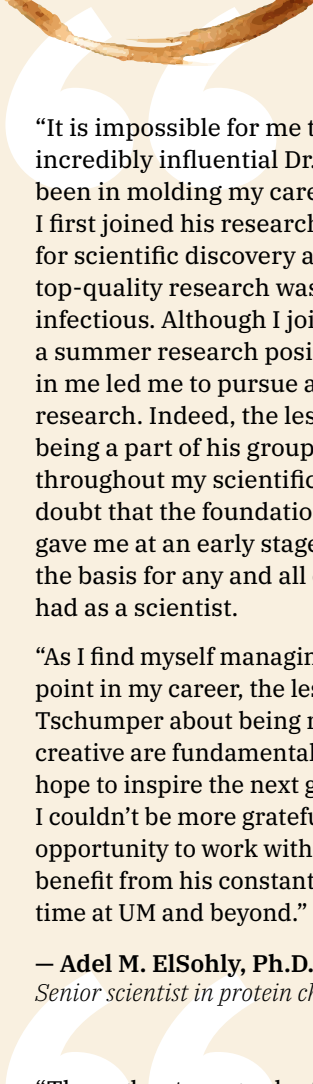


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Many people have played a critical role in shaping me into the student I am today and the future educator I hope to be, but Dr. Tschumper's contribution to that has been exceptionally significant. Six years ago, I sat down on the front row of my first college class, honors general chemistry, as a freshman math major with my heart set on medical school. Little did I know that Dr. Tschumper's passion for teaching chemistry would ultimately lead me down a path I never imagined I would take. Now I write this as I prepare to start my third year of graduate school, working toward completing my Ph.D. in chemistry within Dr. Tschumper's research group.

If I had to choose one word to describe Dr. Tschumper, it would be "dedicated." Over the years, I have had the opportunity to witness firsthand the exceptional level of dedication he has to teaching, research, student achievement and improving the chemistry department as a whole. As freshmen, were we a little intimidated by his 4 a.m. emails and dimly lit office? Sure, especially when intense music could be heard coming from behind the door. We never questioned his methods, though. I can only imagine how much time and effort (and what can only be classified as an unfathomable amount of caffeine) it takes to maintain that level of dedication across so many different areas. It's truly inspiring. I'm sure anyone who knows Dr. Tschumper shares the same question that I do, though: How many cups of coffee is too many cups of coffee?





"It is impossible for me to overstate how incredibly influential Dr. Tschumper has been in molding my career. From the time I first joined his research lab, his passion for scientific discovery and commitment to top-quality research was and continues to be infectious. Although I joined his lab initially for a summer research position, the joy he instilled in me led me to pursue a career in chemical research. Indeed, the lessons I learned from being a part of his group have guided me throughout my scientific career, and I have no doubt that the foundation that Dr. Tschumper gave me at an early stage of my career has been the basis for any and all of the success I have had as a scientist.

"As I find myself managing other scientists at this point in my career, the lessons I learned from Dr. Tschumper about being rigorous, thorough and creative are fundamental principles by which I hope to inspire the next generation of scientists. I couldn't be more grateful for having had the opportunity to work with Dr. Tschumper and benefit from his constant support throughout my time at UM and beyond."

— **Adel M. ElSohly, Ph.D.** (SMBHC 07)
Senior scientist in protein chemistry, Genentech Inc.

"Throughout my graduate career, Greg Tschumper created an equitable research community in which many young adults, including people of color, were able to find a home. Within this community, I was able to continue my education, create lasting relationships all while pursuing my research goals. The Tschumper Research Group is a respected research community while also cultivating a supportive network of individuals. While working in academia, I strive to continue this tradition myself."

— **Desiree Bates, Ph.D.**
Computational chemistry leader, Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Chemistry is not something that comes naturally to me, but Dr. Tschumper's enthusiasm for the subject is contagious. His high expectations and attitude toward teaching and learning promote a challenging yet highly rewarding learning environment. His lectures were always structured in a way that kept students engaged in the learning process throughout the entire class (with the help of the infamous "hit list"). There were days when I felt like I was struggling to keep up with some of my classmates, but Dr. Tschumper's passion for teaching always made me want to work even harder. Ironically, the class that challenged me the most became the one I enjoyed the most.

The qualities that make Dr. Tschumper an incredible professor don't disappear once he walks out of a classroom and into the research lab. He acts as a facilitator of learning, guiding students through the research process in ways that challenge them to make stronger connections and develop deeper conceptual understandings of the chemistry behind their research. I am so grateful he took a chance on me because that experience became so much more than simply fulfilling a thesis requirement.

He provides early-on networking opportunities and exposure to the scientific community by encouraging undergraduate students to attend and present their research at conferences. He also dedicates a lot of time to make sure students are developing skills that are valuable both inside and outside of the research lab (presentation skills, critical-thinking skills, scientific communication and writing skills, etc.).

When I first joined the group, I could barely get words out during presentations, and I would avoid eye contact at all costs during conferences so that no one would ask me to present my work. As much as I dreaded the many presentations I have given over the years, looking back, I am grateful that Dr. Tschumper pushed me outside of my comfort zone.



Jackie Mosley (left), Greg Tschumper, Thomas Sexton, Carly Rock, Kayleigh Barlow and Morgan Perkins dress as their favorite elements for a Halloween party. (Photo courtesy Carly Rock)

I never imagined it would have such a significant impact on my ability to confidently stand in front of a room of high school students and teach them chemistry (especially when one of his daughters was in my class).

Now, it's no surprise that I stuck around for graduate school after my experience as an undergraduate. His coffee is addictive. Did I mention he roasts his own coffee beans? For any coffee fanatics out there that think chemistry isn't important, think again. If you ever have a chance to try a cup of it, do so at your own risk. Once you taste it, no other cup of coffee will ever be as satisfying.

The desire to continue working with Dr. Tschumper also stemmed from knowing he would push me further than any other adviser because he knows my strengths and weaknesses. He fosters a lab environment in which we all work together and rely on each other to learn and to grow as

"I met Greg Tschumper in his first weeks at UM, when I was in the very awkward position of wanting to study chemistry at the graduate level while having no aptitude at all for handling chemicals or laboratory equipment. With his characteristic combination of patience and exactitude, he made me into a working scientist and professional. We wrote code; we built computers; we had spirited arguments over theory; we put papers through endless rounds of revision and re-revision; he once wrote an exam that made me actually quit from exhaustion. It was hard work, but everything Greg asked me to do, he was doing as well — early mornings, late nights and a truly legendary level of coffee consumption. He encouraged me to edit his manuscripts as ruthlessly as he edited mine. I have never known anyone who worked so much and so productively, or whose subsequent success was so clearly earned. I'm proud of my long friendship and professional association with Greg Tschumper, and I hope it continues for decades to come."

— **Brian Hopkins, Ph.D.**

Deputy chief information officer for academic technology, University of Mississippi

“Greg is the first in the office every single day and is often one of the last to leave. He doesn’t get to work at 3 a.m. just to be there; he does it because he wants to ensure that the students and faculty of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry are protected, guided and provided for in the best way he knows how. He diligently works to create the best recipe for success and genuinely fosters strong faculty-student interactions. He is guided by this mentality and points us as instructors in this direction, as well.

“Greg also provides an environment for students where they do not feel forgotten or neglected. Greg works and works and works tirelessly to guarantee that all of those in his sphere are reaching for excellence. Then, on top of all that, he still does world-class research and manages his own research group. His students have gone on to careers in industry and academia, taking with them the name of the University of Mississippi in ways that bring a spotlight to the high quality of education and mentorship that they received here. I have had some very excellent overseers in my relatively short career; Greg is among the very best. I consider myself immensely fortunate to work in the department he leads.”

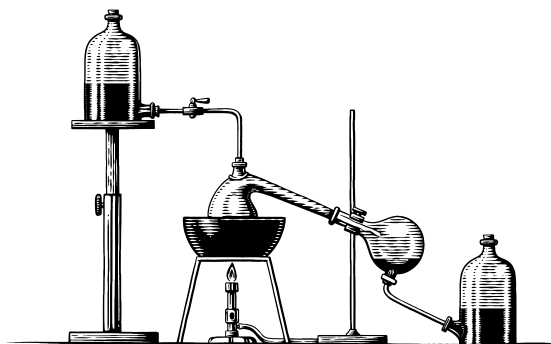
— **Ryan C. Fortenberry, Ph.D.**

*Associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry,
University of Mississippi*

“The input determines the output. This computational concept called ‘garbage in, garbage out’ was the first research philosophy I learned in Dr. Tschumper’s group. Yet, this concept only applied to computers and not Dr. Tschumper’s students because of his passion and dedication in training his students to become independent thinkers. If you take a class with Dr. Tschumper, you will know that his expectations of excellence are inspirational. If you conduct research with Dr. Tschumper, you will realize that his work ethics are admirable. Dr. Tschumper educates his students by setting good examples with hard work, expertise in his research field and unconditional support. Dr. Tschumper transforms his students into next-generation scientists, physicians, researchers and scholars.”

— **Paul Lee** (SMBHC 18)

*M.D.-Ph.D. candidate, University of Rochester
School of Medicine and Dentistry*



independent researchers. The most rewarding aspect of working in the lab has been the opportunity to mentor the undergraduate students. I believe the best way to learn is through teaching, so getting to use what I learned as an undergraduate (and continue to learn as a graduate student) and transfer that to new sets of students brings me a lot of fulfillment and satisfaction. It’s a constant challenge to improve my teaching and scientific communication skills, which will definitely be used in my future classroom one day.

Unless you work closely with Dr. Tschumper, you likely don’t see the full picture of just how much work he truly puts in for his students, the department and his research. From an outside perspective, you see the results of his hard work (the awards and achievements, publications, graduates, the success of the department, etc.). What you don’t see are the 12-plus hour workdays that start at 4 a.m. while everyone is still asleep, the challenge of balancing department chair and research adviser responsibilities, the effort put toward being available to his students no matter how busy he is, or the time he still manages to squeeze in to spend time together as a group outside of the lab. The thing that I have found most inspiring throughout my time working with Dr. Tschumper is perhaps what isn’t as apparent from the title of an award. His dedication to everything — student achievement, research, the success of the department — is unmatched.



As all previous professor appreciation stories in the *Honors Report*, this story has been kept a secret from Dr. Tschumper. Though he has many awards and recognitions, Dr. Tschumper is quick to applaud his colleagues, students, alumni and the University of Mississippi, particularly the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. In previous university publications, Dr. Tschumper has also praised his parents, Bob and Pat Tschumper, as well as his chemistry teachers at Aquinas High School in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Most importantly, he is utterly smitten with his wife, Emily, and his two daughters, Anne and Kate.

“The old proverb of ‘when the student is ready, the teacher will appear’ very much applies to my work with Dr. Tschumper. At the end of my freshman year, I was humbled by the leap in academic rigor between high school and college and had not performed at a level consistent with my aspirations. The previous year, I had taken freshman chemistry with Dr. Tschumper. I knew of his legendary work ethic and ambition, which was matched only by his taste in coffee and heavy metal. I thought that if I could just land a research position in his lab that maybe some of that excellence would passively diffuse to me. To my great fortune, he took me on.

“I had the pleasure of working in Dr. Tschumper’s lab for three years. It is not an understatement to say that my work with him has significantly impacted the trajectory of my career. He patiently taught me academic writing, how to apply computational concepts to research, and the difference between cheap and high-quality coffee/music/NFL teams/etc. In my work as a clinician researcher, every one of those teaching points impacts my daily life and those of my patients. Moreover, Dr. T believed in me, mentored me and took a chance on me when I needed it most. He represents the very best of academia, and I am endlessly grateful to him.”

— **Joshua Ryan Smith, M.D.** (SMBHC 11)
*Clinical fellow, Harvard Medical School/
Massachusetts General and McLean hospitals*

“Like the coffee that he iconically brews in the fume hoods of his lab, there is a complexity and richness to Dr. Tschumper’s teaching style. His most striking quality as an educator is his ability to motivate those around him to reach heights they never thought possible. He encouraged me to pursue a more befitting major, took me on as a student researcher in his lab, and coached me through a string of family hardships my senior year so I could complete my honors thesis. In his classroom and while working in his lab, many students have learned humility, dedication and to lighten up — you can’t help but laugh during a general chemistry exam when asked to calculate the mass (in grams) of Tim Tebow’s head as it hits the turf after a sack by an Ole Miss linebacker. While I somehow have gotten through medical school and residency without coffee, I would not be where I am without Dr. Tschumper’s help and guidance. Thanks, Dr. T!”

— **Cara Thorne, M.D.** (SMBHC 14)
Orthopedic surgery resident, University of Virginia

“Greg was one of the first people to reach out to me when we were moving to Mississippi and welcome me to the department. He involved me in collaborative research and funding opportunities even before I arrived on campus. I have always been astounded by this. I was certainly dead weight he was carrying to success at that time. Just a few years later, he’s the chair of our department and still helping in ways one would never expect, in setting up servers on equipment he doesn’t even use because I have no clue how to do such. That level of commitment to our team from a nationally recognized, award-winning scientist is incredible to me. I’ve always appreciated Greg stepping up when things need to be done and being committed to supporting our department. I’m fortunate to have known him as a tremendous scientist, caring leader and exceptional person.”

— **Jared Delcamp, Ph.D.**
*Associate professor of chemistry and
biochemistry, University of Mississippi*



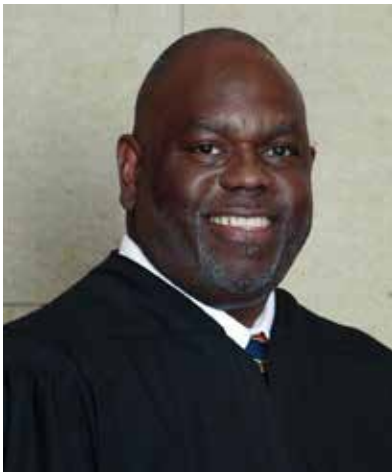
ABOUT GREG TSCHUMPER

Greg Tschumper, professor and chair of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Mississippi, joined the university in 2001 and became chair in 2017. During his tenure, Tschumper has received the UM Faculty Achievement Award, the Cora Lee Graham Award for Outstanding Teacher of Freshmen, Research Corporation Research Innovation Award and the 2021 SEC Faculty Achievement Award, to name a few. This past spring, Tschumper was named winner of the university's Distinguished Research and Creative Achievement Award, and in 2020, he was elected a full member of Sigma Xi, the scientific research honor society.

Most professionally impressive but unsurprising to those who know him, Tschumper is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest multidisciplinary scientific society that seeks to advance science, engineering and innovation around the world. A member since 2015, Tschumper was elected a fellow of AAAS in 2020 for his "distinguished contributions in the fields of physical chemistry and computational quantum chemistry, including seminal studies of water clusters, hydrogen bonding and noncovalent interactions."

Tschumper earned his bachelor's degree from Winona State University and his doctorate at the University of Georgia. He worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the public research university ETH Zürich in Switzerland and later as a postdoctoral fellow at Emory University before joining the UM faculty. For the Honors College, Tschumper has taught several honors sections of general chemistry, advised countless honors theses and serves on the Honors Council. **HR**

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS



Judge Carlton W. Reeves was keynote speaker for the second virtual honors fall convocation. Reeves, a Texas native, earned his bachelor's degree from Jackson State University and his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. In April 2010, President Barack Obama nominated Reeves to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, and Reeves was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Dec. 19 of that year. UM professor of law Matthew Hall introduced Reeves, who challenged present company to consider the power of perspective: "Elevate the discourse. You have power in voting. Know your history." (Photo by Christina Cannon Foto)



In October, *Journal of Physical Chemistry A*'s cover featured a peer-reviewed research article based on **Yasmeen Abdo's** honors thesis work, under the direction of and co-written by Gregory Tschumper, professor and chair of the UM Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Abdo is an M2 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. A 2019 SMBHC graduate, she won the Dean's Prize for earning 70 honors hours. (Photo by Devna Bose)



Photo by Thomas Graning



Photo courtesy Lilli Gordon



Photo courtesy Cade Slaughter

UM students voted for three honors seniors to be named homecoming queen, Miss Ole Miss and Mr. Ole Miss. Birmingham, Alabama, native **Lucy Williams**, who earned a degree in dietetics and nutrition, was crowned homecoming queen. **Lilli Gordon**, a biology major from Franklin, Tennessee, was voted Miss Ole Miss. Earning dual degrees in integrated marketing communications and public policy leadership and hailing from Hattiesburg, **Robert "Cade" Slaughter** was named Mr. Ole Miss.

Honors College Minority Engagement Council

Year in Review

BY AJAH SINGLETON (SMBHC 22)

This past year has been challenging, momentous and rewarding. After having to implement new techniques, skills and ideas due to COVID-19, I can say that the Honors College Minority Engagement Council is filled with resilient and ingenious students.

Traditions –

The members of HoCoMEC definitely helped to uphold the traditions that we have worked so hard to establish for the minority community here within the Honors College. We held our annual DiversiTree celebration where minority students come and decorate a traditional Christmas tree with items that represent their backgrounds and cultures. We

also held the Meme-O-Gram fundraiser to raise funds for Grove Grocery, the university’s on-campus food bank.

HoCoMEC also presented a panel at the fifth annual National Society for Minorities in Honors Conference, held virtually. The group presented a discussion centered around equity titled “The Holistic Honors Experience of Minority Students in

the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.” This panel featured HoCoMEC members Carson Schmitz, Karina Rodriguez, Hetal Shingrani and me, and included Dr. Ken Thomas, former SMBHC associate dean for capstone.

Adaption –

So many of us have had to adapt to the pandemic. Zoom meetings, Google Meets, being 6 feet apart and wearing masks became the new normal for all of us, and HoCoMEC was no exception. During such a crucial time for the organization, we were hit with the pandemic, and all grandiose plans for the organization’s third year of life had to either be scrapped, redone or adjusted.

Executive and general meetings were held over Zoom, and the beloved Spectrum game was adapted to fit Zoom by using the poll feature. In-person events now required RSVPs and time



HoCoMEC members gather for the annual DiversiTREE event. (Photo by Deterrian Jones)

slots to decrease chances of transmitting COVID-19 around the Honors College, and usual activities required a second thought. Although we had so many limitations, HoCoMEC and its members went above and beyond to be flexible and patient during this past year.

New Traditions –

While we aimed to maintain the traditions we already had, we also implemented new ideas and events for MEC to explore in a post-pandemic world. We began highlighting different minority heritage months and hosting guest speakers for each month over Zoom. We hosted Miguel Centellas for Latin Heritage Month, Anthony Heaven for Black History Month, and Lynn Woo for Asian American and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month. We are hoping to have a fully realized version of these events in the future, but I am proud of the steppingstone that we have created during this challenging year.

As president of HoCoMEC this past year, I am so proud and happy that this organization exists within the Honors College. Promoting equality and equity for minority students is such an important cause for me. The University of Mississippi has a long and tough history surrounding race and equality, and that history is still being confronted and addressed. This organization does a lot of work to better the lives and experiences of minority students here, and it is doing that while finding its way. This organization is still in its infancy, but I have full confidence that it will do great things here on the campus of the University of Mississippi, especially considering that so many special and hardworking people are a part of it. **HR**

*Follow the Honors College
Minority Engagement Council on
Instagram @umhoco_mec.*



Ajah Singleton is a health care management major from Edwards. She aims to make health care more equal and equitable for people who are considered low income and vulnerable. (Photo by Bill Dabney)



Nakiyah Jordan (left) and Carson Schmitz, inaugural leaders and members of HoCoMEC, embrace after the 2021 honors commissioning ceremony. (Photo by Kevin Bain)

FACULTY SUMMER STIPEND COMPETITION WINNERS

New

Below are the course titles and descriptions selected for the 2021 summer stipend course development awards of \$5,000 each. These courses will be offered to students at some point over the next four semesters. Congratulations to these five imaginative University of Mississippi faculty members.

Why Is Gender Diversity and Career Advancement in Science Stalling?

**Tamar Liberman Goulet,
professor of biology**

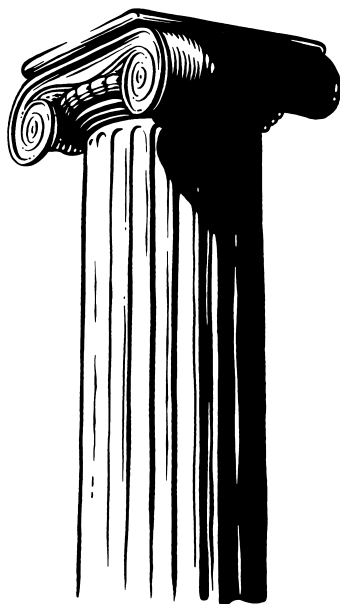
The University of Mississippi's five-year goal of increasing diversity, equity and inclusion is a very salient one. SMBHC students will confront the complex issues leading to the low representation and retention of women in science. This course is about big-picture problems, broad concepts, soul-searching reflection about who we are and how we perceive and treat other people, and brainstorming to chisel away and address the issues.

To achieve the goals of this course, two complementary paths will be taken. In one path, SMBHC students will challenge their personal thoughts and opinions, through discussions and reflective written assignments, about a myriad of topics, including implicit and explicit biases, the double bind, why are norms accepted, et cetera. These personal reflections and challenges to individual core thoughts will weave with the second path, the data on gender disparity and how we interpret that data.

Students will read and discuss primary, peer-reviewed literature, reviews, published personal perspectives and at least one movie. For example, students will reflect on Dr. Ben Barres' poignant commentary published in *Nature* (Barres, 2006). In late 2020, the film "Picture a Scientist" was released. I am hoping the class will watch this movie, and perhaps we can bring a speaker about the film to campus.

On top of the broad issue of why people are not treated equally, there is the huge concern of attrition also referred to as the "leaky pipeline," and the paucity of female representation and hence female role models at the higher ranks of science. In biology, from the undergraduate perspective, all appears well. Nationally, on average, 50% of undergraduates are female.

In UM's Department of Biology, 17 out of 34 graduate students are women, but then comes the drop: Four out of 21 (19%) of tenured/tenure-track faculty are women, with only one out of 21 (4.8%), myself, a full professor. The situation in the College of Liberal Arts is not much better. Out of 78 tenured/tenure-track faculty in five STEM departments, only three are females and full professors, myself included (2019). Students will discuss these topics, produce short written reflections and write a synthesis perspective paper as a culmination to the course.



Gender and Racial Diversity in Legislative Lawmaking

**Marvin King, associate
professor of political science
and African American
studies and senior fellow of
Residential College South**

Students will study institutional commitments to diversity at the congressional and legislative level. Importantly, the entire class will be designed as a semester-long active learning experience. We will use the Mississippi congressional delegation and the Mississippi Legislature as case studies, and students will focus on these institutional bodies throughout the semester. We will use class time for students to report on what they have learned and to brainstorm research tactics. In that sense, it will be one very large group project, with all students contributing their share. Students will use appropriate research methodology of survey design plus interviews.

Local communities will benefit from this course if the class can identify local, underrepresented communities and develop relevant and appropriate recommendations to increase presence from these communities on congressional and state legislative staff.

In *UC Regents v. Bakke*, the Supreme Court affirmed the right of universities to consider race in achieving diverse student bodies. Again, in *Grutter v. Bollinger*, the court reaffirmed "a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body." In an amicus brief to *Fisher v. Texas*, the U.S. military asked the Supreme Court to

Courses

affirm its commitment to diversity.

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies annually reports on staff diversity on Capitol Hill. To quote from its 2018 report on Mississippi:

“Economic and sociological studies demonstrate that diverse work teams lead to greater productivity, help organizations establish trust with their clients, and help organizations make more innovative decisions. Diversity among top staff would also facilitate diversity in other sectors in Mississippi and elsewhere, because top staff positions are pathways to other high-ranking positions in government, the private sector, and the nonprofit sector.”

In the private sector, there is evidence that workplace diversity leads to higher revenues. Another key benefit of a diverse workforce is cognitive diversity. Referencing different experiences, cultural backgrounds and gender identities helps create more paths by which teams can solve problems.

In this class, students would conduct flows from the descriptive representation literature. Descriptive representation is when the people in the legislature resemble their constituents. Research shows that citizens are more apt to respect policy decisions when made by people like them and the constituent-legislator relationship improves with descriptive representation. As a result, evidence suggests descriptive representation increases political efficacy for minorities, but the effect on women is somewhat mixed. Political efficacy is the sense that it is worth the individual effort to engage with the political process.

Students will analyze racial/ethnic and gender diversity of legislative staff at the Mississippi Capitol; analyze racial/ethnic and gender diversity of Capitol Hill, especially the Mississippi

delegations; uncover if there are intentional efforts to increase diversity, whether diversity efforts are ad hoc and/or discouraged; and make policy recommendations, where appropriate.



To Care and to Heal: Reimagining the Vocation of Medicine

Sarah Moses, associate professor of religion and co-director of the society and health program

As a society, we face two major problems in health care: professional burnout and persistent disparity in health outcomes. COVID-19 has aggravated and accentuated these problems, and presented an urgent demand for society, future health care professionals and academic institutions to respond. In this class, I want to give undergraduates considering a future career in health care the chance to explore, reflect and practically respond to these twin challenges through the theme of “reimagining vocation.”

This class grows out of my interaction with students in my bioethics and medical humanities

courses, where I have seen the need for and the student desire for a language and a vision within which they can think about their future careers and articulate their desire to be of service to others. For most of their lives, they’ve been taught to think about their future career in terms of a job title (doctor, nurse, speech therapist), and they’ve been given a very narrowly clinical view of what health care entails. They’ve never been given a chance to reflect on their passions, their gifts and the kinds of activity that bring them joy. They’ve also never been introduced to the reality that health, and the work of promoting health, involves more than clinical intervention and pharmaceuticals. Without such exploration of vocation and health, the problems of burnout and health disparity cannot be adequately addressed.

This will be an experiential, interdisciplinary class. The classroom learning and material will include a variety of sources. We will dive into the history of the concept of vocation in Western culture, particularly looking at the changes that happen from the Middle Ages to Luther’s Protestant reform of and expansion of vocation to include lay life. Jumping off an essay on vocation by physician and bioethicist Margaret Mohrmann, we will explore H. Richard Niebuhr’s concept of the moral life as responsibility/responsiveness.

Mohrmann’s essay will be the anchor for our concept of vocation as it introduces the idea of an “inner” and “outer” calling. The “inner” calling involves identifying one’s gifts, passions and aptitudes. The “outer” calling involves identifying voices and needs from the community to which one is responsible for acting. In addition to traditional forms of academic work such as written analysis of texts, students will be given the chance to reflect on their

inner calling through reflective writing and class conversation. By helping students to articulate their inner call, they are better equipped to find a career path in which they are less likely to experience burnout.

To help students identify the outer call, and respond to persistent health disparities, the class will have two components. First, students will be introduced to research and literature on the social determinants of health. As the Kaiser Foundation explains, SDH refers to the places where people are born, live, work and play; it is the now acknowledged truth that one's ZIP code significantly affects one's experience of illness and health.

For true health equity to be achieved, SDH must become part of our health care system's approach, and future health care professionals must understand the powerful impact of SDH in patients' lives. The concrete realities of the lives of patients constitute the outer call — the circumstances that demand responsiveness from society and from health care professionals. As part of broadening student understanding of professional responsibility and vocation, I will include nationally recognized experts via virtual guest visits to class.

The second component is experiential service learning. Students will have the opportunity to engage with and contribute to community partners who will enrich student understanding of the social determinants of health. Potential partners include Oxford Medical Ministries, the Oxford School District Primary Care Clinic, Oxford Community Market and Meals on Wheels. Students will spend time weekly at their community site, gaining a broader understanding of the variety of factors that affect health.

The summer course

development stipend will allow me to focus on developing both the traditional academic components of the course and meeting/ collaborating with community partners. This will be a dynamic class in which students bring together their distinctive gifts and interests, academic perspectives on vocation and health, and the realities of the community in which they live.



Green with Envy and Going Green? The Seven Deadly Sins and the Psychology of Sustainability

Carrie Veronica Smith,
professor of psychology

Envy. Greed. Gluttony. Lust. Pride. Sloth. Wrath. The seven deadly sins, most clearly associated with Christian beliefs, are thought to be abuses or excesses of natural human tendencies. This course will situate humans as the focus of our examination of sustainability. There is broad scientific consensus that humans are causing global warming and climate change and belief that these same humans will be necessary to stop and

maybe even reverse these effects.

We will first consider how the sins provide an explanation of various threats to the planet (e.g., gluttony and food waste, greed and overconsumption). We will then consider how both sides of our human nature (our virtues and our vices) can be utilized to encourage sustainability efforts (e.g., Can we take pride in being eco-friendly? Can charity help us think of the planet before we think of ourselves?).

This course will also have two additional components that provide a unique educational experience for SMBHC students:

- A spring break excursion to Las Vegas, conducted in a similar style to a Study USA or a study abroad course. Las Vegas is known both as “Sin City” and as a nationally recognized leader in sustainability and provides a classroom to study both. Possible excursions include visiting (a) the corporate offices of Caesars Entertainment to learn about how they run their casinos, shows and restaurants and their CodeGreen initiatives, (b) the Hoover Dam to learn about how Las Vegas is powered and how that came to be, (c) the Smithsonian-affiliated Atomic Testing Museum to learn about how the technology driven by war time (and wrath) also holds “clean” energy potential.
- The courses will also have a mini experiential learning component. At the end of the semester, the class will provide a report and presentation to the University of Mississippi Office of Sustainability that provides recommendations for programming and strategies that stem from consideration of human virtues and vices at UM and how students through understanding these can make a positive change (e.g., Can the Pride of the South help us take Pride in a Greener South?).

portunities

Race and Ethnicity in Modern East Asia

Peter Thilly, assistant professor of history

This course explores the history of race and ethnicity from the perspective of Asia (primarily East Asia — or the present-day nations of China, Japan and Korea). We begin with the premise that most people today understand “race” and “nation” as natural, “real” things. The first section of the course is therefore dedicated to breaking down many of the assumptions contemporary people have about race, ethnicity and the nation-state, and by thinking about how the experience of people living in Asia can challenge Eurocentric ideas of race and nation.

From here, we will establish a rough outline of how Asia transformed politically from a collection of territorial empires, independent kingdoms and European colonies to the modern nation-states that exist today. The remainder of the course is dedicated to case studies that

illustrate a range of experiences, practices and historical analyses of race and nation in East Asia. Examples will take us through imperial pageantry and processions, Pan-Asian idealism and social Darwinist race war; through census attempts, baseball and colonial anthropology, all the way up to the so-called “separatist” struggles of the Uyghur and Tibetan people in China today.

Weeks 1-3: Ideas and Theories of Race and Nation

- A collection of theoretical readings designed to introduce students to how historians have thought and written about the subjects of nation, race and ethnicity, with a priority to understand how East Asia has fit into these important global discussions: including selections from Maza, Renan, Stalin, Weber, Benedict Anderson, Partha Chatterjee, Sylvia Walby, Prasenjit Duara and others.

Weeks 4-6: Origins of the Nation in East Asia

- A collection of primary sources about how China, Japan and Korea

became “Chinese,” “Japanese” and “Korean” in the first place

- Sources are also selected that challenge some of those dominant narratives, to indicate to students that these have always been fraught and complicated questions.

Weeks 7-15: Case Studies from the Modern Era

- Ethnic Nationalism in Korea and the Post-Colonial Experience
- The “Manchu” Question in Chinese History
- The Influence of Social Darwinism across East Asia
- Baseball and Nation-Building in Colonial Taiwan
- The Meiji Emperor and State Shinto
- Yunnan, Colonial Ethnography and the Construction of China’s “Ethnic Minorities”
- Ryukyu and Hokkaido: Understanding Japan through the Prism of Race and Ethnicity; Tibet and Xinjiang: “Separatism” and Race in Contemporary East Asia

HR

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

Genevieve Verville (SMBHC 20) was selected as one of only four Portz scholars from around the nation by the National Collegiate Honors Council. Verville completed her degree in chemistry with minors in mathematics, biological sciences and psychology. She presented her honors thesis, “Raman Spectroscopic and Quantum Chemical Investigation of the Effects of Tri-Methylamine N-Oxide (TMAO) on Hydrated Urea, Hydrated Guanidinium, and Hydrogen Bonded Networks” during the NCHC virtual conference, as well as enjoyed a \$350 award. Verville began working with her thesis adviser, chemistry professor Nathan Hammer, as a freshman. She is published in top scholarly journals and is spending the next two years as a postbaccalaureate research fellow at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, before pursuing a doctoral program. (Photo courtesy Genevieve Verville)

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20



2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS



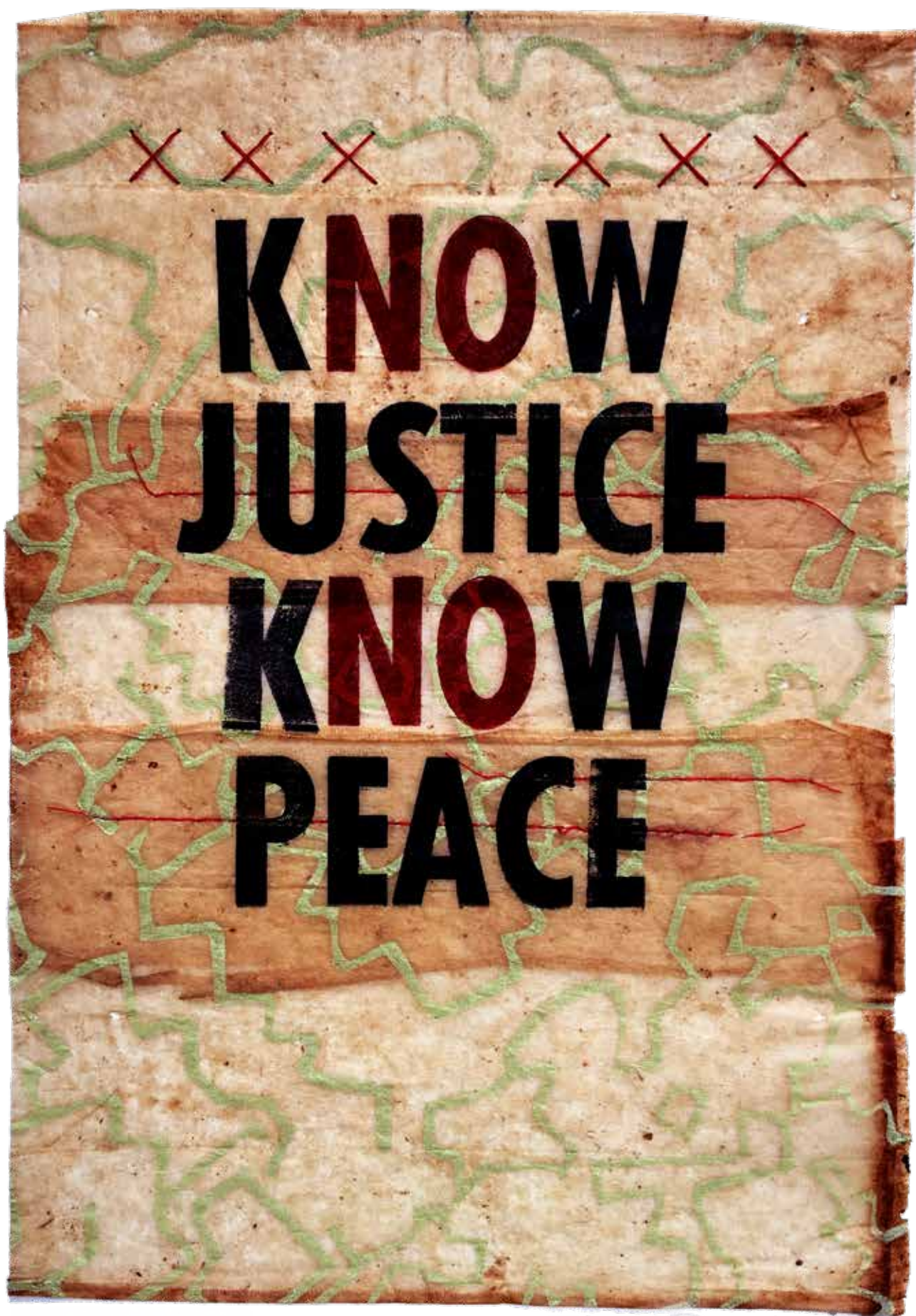
Conor Dowling, UM associate professor of political science, addressed SMBHC students, faculty, staff and guests for the third and final virtual honors fall convocation. Dowling walked the audience through data from the presidential election and discussed the results and shifts in voting patterns, as well as fielded almost 20 questions during the Q&A. (Photo by Thomas Graning)



Ainsley Ash, SMBHC First-Generation Student Network founder and 2020-21 director, organized a breakfast in the Grove for first-gen students. SMBHC student groups had to be innovative during the pandemic to find ways to connect with one another. (Photo by Logan Kirkland)



Members of the Honors College staff joined UM and honors students in Ecu for a day of service in partnership with the McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement. (Photo courtesy Ken Thomas)



'Awareness.' 2020, 11" x 14"
Relief printing and letterpress on tea bags
by Virginia Rougon Chavis

Dr. Sullivan-González, DSG, Boss, Doug, Brother. This is not a profile, for there is not enough space to do one justice. Rather, this is a series of glimpses into the story of the dean we all affectionately refer to as DSG.

I didn't know this at the time, but I met with Dr. Sullivan-González during his first semester as dean of the SMBHC. I was visiting the university and was encouraged to visit the Honors College as well. My father and I happened to catch him in his office when the building was otherwise empty. Knocking, I called out, "Dr. Sullivan-González?"

"Hey! Douglass Sullivan-González, but everyone calls me D-S-G," he introduced himself in his signature syncopated rhythm while offering his hand.

I never called him Dr. Sullivan-González again. That conversation, though, is the reason the rest of these stories can be told. As a senior in high school, I had this ambitious (see: absurd) plan to study abroad in multiple countries for almost half of my four-year college career. Where everyone else to whom I confessed my desire to spend a semester each in France, Spain and the Middle East responded with reticence or warning, he was curious. He asked for the plan and probably learned a



Doug Sullivan-González (Photo by Kevin Bain)

lot about me in the process. I learned a lot about him, and his energy was infectious.

About six months later, I was participating in the convoluted but exciting Freshman Ventures matching process during Honors Welcome Retreat.

BY ANDRUS G. ASHOO
(SMBHC 07)

I exited the room to find DSG walking toward us with bug-eyed excitement, hands wide open.

“So, what’d you get?”

“Linda Greenlaw – Maine,” I said.

“Ooooh ... I don’t know if you are going to make that happen,” he responded as if throwing down a gauntlet.

We did it because my teammates were excellent, and he paid up on his pushups bet — the first but not the last time I would have him doing pushups in a public setting.

I remember a phone call from a friend on his Ventures trip. They were headed to a meeting with leaders from the Navajo Nation, flying to Albuquerque, New Mexico, my hometown. I remember scattered details about the circumstances: that they were stuck in a city in Texas and going to have to spend the night and that it meant they would miss their bus and thus the meeting. What I remember so vividly, though, was him describing the phone call he just had with DSG, who essentially told them, “Sounds like y’all are fine. Make something work. I trust y’all.” DSG treated all of us as responsible adults with intelligence and resources that we could cultivate and steward.

Later in my college career, Dr. Dan O’Sullivan approached DSG with an idea for an honors

course in medieval manuscript cultures that would culminate in a trip to do research at la Bibliothèque nationale de France. The course was posted, few signed up, even fewer remained throughout the entire semester. Eventually three of us found ourselves accompanying Dr. O to the manuscripts reading room, where we learned to negotiate a fascinating bureaucracy of gaining access to some of the most important cultural artifacts in France not on display in a museum. I would later learn that DSG was always game for a good, creative plan supporting student development. Dr. O had a vision, and DSG said, “Yes!” I think it was his favorite thing to do.

After spending seven months traveling across most of the United States and leading groups of high school students abroad, I would say “Yes” to DSG and return to the SMBHC as one of its first academic counselors. From a payphone in the desert in Morocco, I hung up after concluding, “Alright, Boss! I’ll see you in a few months.”

The SMBHC was growing fast, and it was no longer small enough for every student to know and be known by the deans. This new role was to help be an extension of the relationships that many of my classmates enjoyed with DSG and the other deans. From day one, I got to see a different side of him.



He explained very clearly to us that we had a year to learn, figure it out, “burn the first waffle.” Then, he wanted two good years before we moved on to a new challenge.

Within the first months of being hired, he had placed two job descriptions on my desk because they seemed like they would be a good fit. The first time, I tucked it away as an idea for the future. The second time, I inquired about the signal. “Boss, you want me to leave?” I was relieved to have him respond, “Not at all.”

He saw it as his job to encourage anyone around him to grow, and he wasn’t going to hide a position just because he didn’t want to lose someone. He said something to the effect of, “Look. Applying for jobs is a good opportunity for reflection. You either realize that you belong here and probably work better, or you go on, and I have done my job to continue to provide opportunities for my employees.” Everyone who has worked with me since has heard those words.

Eventually I would start feeling comfortable calling him Doug like the rest of the SMBHC staff, but I still called him DSG in mixed company and Boss on a whim or when I felt the need to rib him about something. As a colleague, I learned a lot about his philosophy and about how he approached the work that had such a profound impact on me and my peers as students.

To Doug, an important part about the formation of citizen scholars was serving as an exemplar. I never felt pressured, but his service to others, his actions among the community and his commitment to his family weren’t lost on me. Everyone knows he is a firefighter, a Presbyterian minister and that he got into beekeeping — likely to do his part in curbing the declining bee population. They might not know that he also dutifully records the weather almost

every day, that he leads the cleaning of the koi pond in the front of the building, and that he actually says “No” a lot when the request would take him away from his family.

He is the reason that I got back into coaching youth soccer so quickly upon my return, the reason I agreed to take on leadership in my church, and even the reason I once served as a translator at the fire station for a lost tourist couple from New Caledonia. As the years have gone by, I have heard countless stories from students, friends and colleagues recounting how they committed to serve in particular ways in their communities because Doug inspired them.

Doug’s leadership by example was also something he saw as important for honors students overall. I remember talking to a colleague at the university on the eve of the opening of the first residential college. Apparently, the residential college was offered to the Honors College as a place to house all honors students, and Doug said, “No way!” I don’t recall ever confirming this with him, but it would fit with how he preached about the importance of honors students living and learning and serving and having fun with non-honors students. While we had honors floors within certain residence halls and honors students had access to the honors building, Doug never wanted a place where honors students might be able to isolate themselves in all domains of their lives.

I wish I could talk more about his interactions with faculty, his work on important university committees or representing the SMBHC nationally. Those stories would just reaffirm what has already been illustrated above.

The final thing that I will say about my time working at the SMBHC is that Doug took pride in what we were providing for students, and he expected us to, as well. If something wasn’t right



Photos by Ole Miss Digital Imaging Services

HE IS THE REASON

THAT I GOT BACK INTO COACHING YOUTH SOCCER SO QUICKLY UPON MY RETURN,
THE REASON I AGREED TO TAKE ON LEADERSHIP IN MY CHURCH,
AND EVEN THE REASON I ONCE SERVED
as a translator at the fire station
for a lost tourist couple from New Caledonia.”

— Andrus G. Ashoo

or there was an issue we could address, it was understood that we were to be solution driven. We started every year with the question, “How could we be the best honors college in the country?” Doug was never one to bad-mouth the university as a place unfit for his children. In fact, I am not sure I saw him more proud than when his eldest daughter decided that the SMBHC was where she was going to college.

I left the SMBHC almost seven years ago, and Doug and I still talk. No matter how long it has been between phone calls, we pick right back up in the way that only close friends do. Now, I won’t be betraying confidences here, but there is one important thing that I know Doug won’t like about the stories above: They might make you think he is perfect or invaluable to the SMBHC.

So, I will state for the record that Doug is a sinner like the rest of us. He has the capacity to get frustrated and lose his cool, and believe it or not, he does run out of energy every so often. He has not been a perfect dean, he has regrets,

and there was plenty that he was unable to do — like get honors students to show up to convocations and participate in other easy but valuable opportunities.

However, those stories don’t need to be told here because no one is harder on Doug than him. Trust me when I say that any critique of Doug was heard from a friend or realized by him first.

In closing, I remember once seeking counsel as I was — not for the first time — considering making a substantial career move, and Doug observed, eyebrows raised, “You are drawn to chaos!” My wife would reaffirm this years later. But today, I would be remiss if I did not make the friendly observation, “So are you, Doug.”

It makes sense why this is the time to return to the faculty. The SMBHC will forever bear your imprint as it has become the stable flag bearer of intellectual development and community action for the University of Mississippi, the rising tide that floats all boats. I think I speak for everyone when I say, “Thank you and well done.”

Don’t be a stranger, Brother. I look forward to a glass of Scotch and hearing more about Central America when I see you next. Blessings on you and your family! **HR**



Andrus G. Ashoo, Class of 2007, serves on the SMBHC’s Leadership Council. He and his wife, Christina, live in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he now coaches youth soccer for their daughter, Ruth (7), and son, Gareth (5). He also oversees the Office of Undergraduate Research and the Office of Citizen Scholar Development at the University of Virginia. (Photo courtesy University of Virginia)



MINISTER



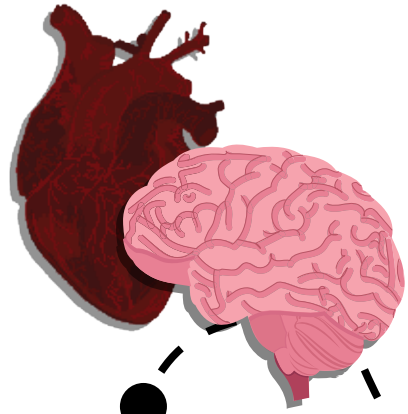
KOI CARETAKER



BEEKEEPER



FIREFIGHTER



Feb. 9, 2004 – SMBHC Spring Convocation with Dr. Oliver Sacks

2003 – DSG becomes SMBHC dean and establishes Freshman Ventures.

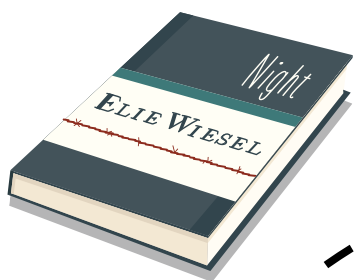
DSG'S MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Aug. 15, 2021 – DSG's last day as SMBHC dean; he will research and teach in the UM history department.



2016 – The 15,000-square-foot addition to the SMBHC building is completed; the new SMBHC website launches.

DSG,
THANK YOU
for 18 years of leadership

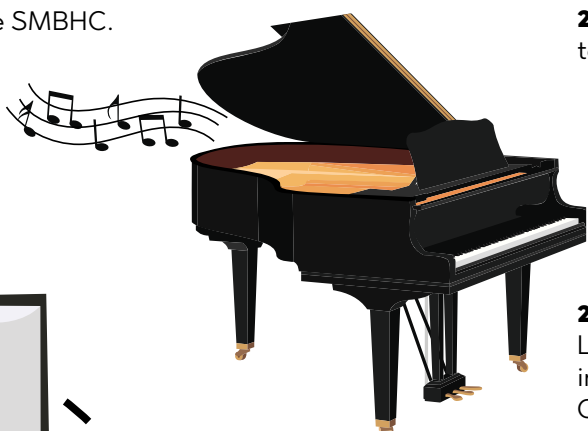


Feb. 8, 2010 – SMBHC Spring Convocation with Elie Wiesel

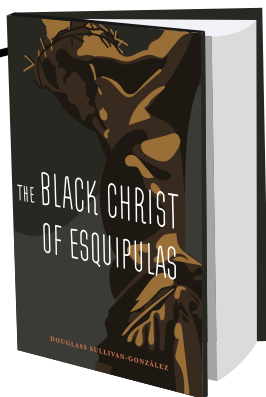


2007 – Then-Chancellor Robert Khayat and DSG visit Jim Barksdale, who generously agrees to another large gift in support of the SMBHC.

2014 – SMBHC sends six students to the FIFA World Cup in Brazil.



2014 – DSG welcomes Bruce Levingston as the university's inaugural Chancellor's Honors College Artist in Residence.



2016 – DSG publishes *The Black Christ of Esquipulas: Religion and Identity in Guatemala*.



2015 – DSG lauds SMBHC for creating and sustaining the “I Stand with Dan” campaign, which culminated in a peaceful rally in the Circle to support IHL-ousted Chancellor Dan Jones.



Graphic by Lauren Taylor (SMBHC 22)

Capstone

Highlights

The honors capstone is a structured, extended experience typically in an honors student's major field. The capstone experience culminates in a written honors thesis and benefits students as they apply for graduate/professional school or enter their chosen career. A student's thesis title is not simply a line on a résumé; it's a major talking point in a job interview or an interview for medical school. At the most basic level, a finished honors thesis demonstrates a strong work ethic, good time-management skills and the ability to see a long-term project through to the end. Over 500 students defended their honors theses during a global pandemic. Enjoy reading about a small sample from the SMBHC Class of 2021.

Photo by Megan Swartzfager



“Computational Investigation of Stellar Cooling, Noble Gas Nucleation and Organic Molecular Spectra” by Jax Dallas

Under the direction of Ryan Fortenberry,
associate professor of chemistry

ABSTRACT:

Since the advent and optimization of the Hartree-Fock method,

quantum chemistry has been used to investigate systems operating on time frames and environments traditionally unavailable to bench-top chemistry. As computational methods have grown more robust and less time-consuming, quantum chemistry has been used to investigate a range of fields, including the steadily growing discipline of computational astrochemistry. Through the lens of computational astrochemistry, chemistry that occurred billions of years ago can be explored with equal clarity to that which is currently happening in the cosmos. The work presented throughout this thesis is a series of investigations into different time frames of the universe: 1) a study on novel cooling mechanisms of the earliest stars to ever form following the calamity of the Big Bang; 2) a look into the solvation of a ubiquitous molecule in noble gas atoms; and 3) an investigation of the anharmonic vibrational frequencies of a molecule that has promise to be a fundamental building block of amino acids in the ISM.

ABOUT DALLAS:

“Hello, my name is Jax Dallas. I am a Mississippi native, having grown up in Caledonia, and a graduate of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science in Columbus. While at MSMS, I cultivated a love for chemistry that I expanded here at the University of Mississippi, where I obtained a B.S. in chemistry with an emphasis in chemical physics alongside a B.A. in mathematics.

“As an underclassman here on campus, I pursued experimental physical chemistry research where I tinkered with mass spectrometers and lasers in the Hammer Research Group. As an upperclassman, I transitioned to pursue quantum chemistry research of interstellar systems as a member of Dr. Ryan Fortenberry's research group. While pursuing this research, I was awarded the Goldwater Fellowship as well as the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Both of these experiences were critical for me to determine where I want to move forward in my scientific career and have led me to pursue a Ph.D. in chemical physics from the California Institute of Technology, which I will begin in the fall.”



“Connecting Charities with Creatives: Bridging the Gap Between Local Nonprofit Organizations and University of Mississippi Students” **by Natalie Pruitt**

Under the direction of Christina Sparks, instructional assistant professor of integrated marketing communication

ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this thesis is to explore the need for marketing resources among north Mississippi nonprofit organizations and apply the findings to develop and launch a website based on primary and secondary research. The website would connect local north Mississippi nonprofit organizations with University of Mississippi graphic design, marketing, fine arts and integrated marketing communications students seeking experience to complete various marketing and graphic design-related tasks and develop and implement an integrated marketing plan to promote and raise awareness for the website.

Application of the research was in three parts: 1) To understand and verify the needs of multiple local nonprofit organizations from a marketing perspective, 2) To measure and gauge UM student interest in participating with a platform that allows them to complete marketing and graphic design-related tasks for north Mississippi nonprofits, and 3) To develop and launch the website and then implement an awareness campaign based on industry principles. This investigation addressed the overarching research question: What is the current need for marketing materials for north Mississippi nonprofit organizations, and would UM students participate in a resource that allows them to donate their time and talents toward developing marketing and graphic design-related materials for these organizations?

ABOUT PRUITT:

“I was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee. I chose the University of Mississippi primarily because of the Honors College, and it is one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. During my time here, I became an active, involved member of campus, especially within my major, integrated marketing communications.

“When deciding the topic for my senior capstone project, I knew I wanted to create something tangible that would leave an impact on Oxford and the university, because both have left such an impact on me. In high school and throughout college, I enjoyed working with nonprofit organizations and noticed a widespread need for marketing materials within them. After talking with multiple north Mississippi nonprofit organizations and further investigating their needs in regards to marketing and design, UM Creative Connect was born!

“This website allows for UM students to use their abilities and education to support these local nonprofits from a marketing perspective and provide them with a much-needed service. My hope is that this platform grows over time and helps as many organizations as possible get connected with students. I am very grateful for the support I have received from the faculty and staff in the Honors College and the School of Journalism and New Media over the course of this project. Hotty Toddy!”

Natalie



“The Role of the Kurds in U.S. Foreign Policy” by Davis McCool III

Under the direction of Shaio Zerba, instructional assistant professor of intelligence studies and director of the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies

ABSTRACT:

The Kurdish people in the Middle East have played a valuable

role in furthering U.S. policy interests in the region. The U.S. has aligned itself with various Kurdish groups in a series of strategic partnerships dating back to the early 1970s, yet has never considered the Kurdish nation an ally. As such, the U.S. has reneged on multiple different pacts with the Kurds and opened the door for state-sponsored conflict against a supposed ally, despite mutual interests between both groups.

This thesis aimed to assign a formal role to the Kurds within U.S. foreign policy, and to analyze the function of the Kurdish minority in U.S. policy decisions in the Middle East. A historical process tracing model was used to sequence a history of numerous U.S.-Kurdish partnerships into careful description and analysis, namely to identify the relationship foundations and causal mechanisms driving the connection between both groups.

Despite numerous, different partnerships that proved beneficial to both groups, this thesis has found that the U.S. has in fact benefited from existing Kurdish vulnerability and the continuation of the Kurdish struggle in the Middle East. The ongoing Kurdish struggle has positioned the Kurds as valuable strategic partners in multiple different conflicts in the Middle East. Furthermore, this thesis finds that despite the U.S.-Kurdish connection, Kurdish policy goals aim to upset the greatest U.S. interest in the region, which is to secure state stability and ensure regional security. There exists an inverse relationship between Middle Eastern

state stability and Kurdish influence and control in the region. Because of this, the Kurds find themselves in opposition to long-term U.S. policy interests in the Middle East, even though they have contributed multiple times to the defense and security of short-term U.S. goals in the region.

ABOUT MCCOOL:

“I have called Oxford home for two decades and couldn’t resist adding to my tenure with yet another chapter here at the University of Mississippi. I came to Ole Miss sporting a love of writing and journalism and continued my young writing career through four more years in Oxford.

“Along the way, I picked up a fascination for the inner workings of public policy and spent most of my time in the Trent Lott Institute as a public policy leadership major with minors in journalism and intelligence and security studies. I also worked on campus for all four years as a communications assistant within Ole Miss Athletics with a specialization in the Rebel baseball team before graduating in May 2021.

“My first inquiries about international policy came to me by way of a study abroad trip through the university to Eastern Europe and the Middle East. I spent a summer halfway across the globe and came back with a deeper appreciation for America’s mostly forgotten friends on the other side of the world. I picked up a specialization in intelligence studies, found a few mentors along the way, and set out to craft (what I found to be) a new and intriguing piece of history detailing a tangled dynamic on the international stage.”

Davis

Photo by Carolina Bell



“Gemini Chaos Episode One: Transfusion” by Tharangi Dakshika Fernando

Under the direction of Chris Offutt, professor of English

ABSTRACT:

“Gemini Chaos Episode One: Transfusion” is the first of a series of episodes that en-

compass a supernatural world with Roman and Greek Titans, drug rings and sketchy politics. Twins, Jayden and Jasmine, who are separated at birth, suddenly end up in the same twisted community of Hawthorn High, which is full of peer pressure, drug addicts, inappropriate behavior from authority figures, oh, and don’t forget the secret cult lurking in the shadows.

ABOUT FERNANDO:

“I grew up in a first-generation American home in McComb. When I came to the University of Mississippi, I double majored in English and classics with an emphasis in creative writing and classical civilization. This fall I will be working toward my master’s in higher education student affairs

at Nova Southeastern University. While I work on my master’s degree, I plan on continuing my writing career as well.

“I have been working on turning ‘Gemini Chaos’ into a miniseries, as well as editing and finishing up a novel and a short poetry book that commemorates the four years of college and all the highs and lows that come with it. Two of my biggest supporters in my college writing career have been my thesis adviser, Chris Offutt, and second reader Beth Spencer. They have constantly shown me that no matter what I believe or the rejections I receive that only I have the power to continue following my dreams.

“One day I hope to be working within a university, helping students realize their potential and helping them along their journey while creating stories within screenwriting, fiction and poetry, which can also connect with people and help them through the good and bad times.”

Photo courtesy Kara Tate



“The Impact of Wine Nutrition and Ingredient Labeling on Consumers’ Attitudes and Purchase Intentions” by Kara Tate

Under the direction of Laurie Babin, instructional associate professor of marketing

ABSTRACT:

Current TTB (Alcohol and Tobacco Tax

and Trade Bureau) regulations do not require that U.S. wine producers display nutrition and ingredient labeling on their wine labels. However, recent attempts at passing legislation to mandate that such information be provided on labels in the EU suggests that U.S. policymakers will soon follow suit. Research on how this addition would affect consumers has been scarce and has been primarily conducted in Europe, but what is available suggests

that consumers are unaware of the nutritional values in a glass of wine, and many do not look at the back label when selecting a bottle to purchase. We conducted a study that examined consumers’ attitudes and purchase intentions toward ingredient and nutrition labeling on wine. Our findings indicated that the exposure to nutrition and ingredient labeling or the absence of it yielded no statistically significant difference between consumers’ attitudes toward the label, wine and intentions to purchase. This implies an apparent apathy toward whether wine labels display nutritional and ingredient

information. An analysis of participants' objective wine knowledge found that consumers with high wine knowledge were more positive about the label and were more likely to purchase the wine that provides ingredient information.

ABOUT TATE:

"Originally from East Tennessee, I made the decision to attend the University of Mississippi after a campus visit showed me unparalleled hospitality and academic opportunities that would further my dreams. I majored in marketing with an emphasis in sales. I also enrolled in additional honors courses that explored politics and law.

"I had the opportunity to serve as president of the CEOs (Chief Emissary Officers), an organization that promotes the School of Business Administration to prospective students. I spent the spring semester of my

junior year in Florence, Italy, taking courses that explored international business and wine culture — courses that inspired the subject of my thesis.

"Several faculty members at the university have made a profound impact on me. Dr. Laurie Babin spent two semesters as my thesis adviser, and provided guidance and encouragement every step of the way. Dr. Conor Dowling served as a professor for three of my honors courses, as well as the second reader of my thesis. He maintains a thought-provoking lecture style and prioritizes his students' success. Finally, Kim Phillips served as more than an academic adviser; she is a mentor and close friend, who always pushes me to be my best. Following graduation, I will begin my career in medical sales with GE Healthcare. I will forever be grateful for the friendships, experiences and education that Ole Miss brought me."

Photo by Logan Kirkland



“Prevalence of ADHD and the Nonmedical Use of Prescription Stimulants among College Students” by Leah (Potate) Franks

Under the direction of Sujith Ramachandran, assistant professor of pharmacy administration, research assistant professor in the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and assistant director of the Center for Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management

ABSTRACT:

Objective: The

principal objective in this study is to identify the contextual factors predicting the nonmedical use of prescription stimulants among college students who nonmedically use prescription stimulants (NMUPS) for academic reasons.

Participants: 470 college-aged students from varying undergraduate classes

Methods: This study used an observational design, which consisted of repeated surveys administered to a sample of undergraduate students at the University of Mississippi. Descriptive statistics were used to assess frequencies of contextual factors regarding the background and exam surveys. Logistic regression models assessed the correlations between the nonmedical use of prescription stimulants and various contextual factors.

Results: The percentage of survey re-

spondents that reported NMUPS in the past year was nearly one-third of the respondent population (31.28%); 36.13% of people with an ADHD diagnosis and 29.67% of people without ADHD reported NMUPS. Additionally, respondents were six times more likely to nonmedically use a prescription stimulant if they were given an opportunity to use it.

Conclusion: In this study, it was found that the opportunity to nonmedically use prescription stimulants in relation to exam periods was significant. Knowing this key factor can help college administrators develop different programs to decrease the nonmedical misuse of prescription stimulants on college campuses.

ABOUT FRANKS:

"In spring 2017, I graduated from Clarkdale High School in Meridian with aspirations of

Photo courtesy Courtney Hardy



Photo by William Meador



Photo by Lori Guy



attending the University of Mississippi and pursuing a degree in pharmacy. Without the support, both monetary and personal, of the Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy, along with numerous other individual scholarships, I would have been unable to see this dream come to fruition.

"I graduated from UM this past May with my Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree and will begin my second year of pharmacy school in the fall. This upcoming year, I plan to work with my thesis adviser, Dr. Sujith Ramachandran, and other professors within the pharmacy school to prepare my thesis for publication in an

academic journal and present my results at a professional conference.

"My thesis topic on the nonmedical use of prescription stimulants on college campuses is a major concern and should be addressed with urgency. Continuing research on this topic is pivotal in combating this issue on college campuses. Along with being enrolled in the pharmacy program, I am also working as a pharmacy intern at CVS Pharmacy here in Oxford. Upon completion of my Doctor of Pharmacy degree, I plan to apply for a residency with the goal of pursuing a career in transplant pharmacy or critical care pharmacy."

"An Investigation into Cognitive Radio System Performance" **by Courtney Hardy, Lucas Feather and William Guy**

Under the direction of John Daigle, distinguished professor of electrical engineering

ABSTRACT:

The objective of this thesis is to explore cognitive radio performance through an in-depth literature review and an implementation of a software-defined radio prototyping system. Specifically, this thesis investigates the spectrum-sensing aspect of cognitive radio by comparing two spectrum-sensing methods. It was found in the literature review that a system using matched filter detection would provide higher probability of detection in low signal-to-noise ratio environments when compared to a system using energy detection. These spectrum-sensing methods were thus implemented and compared in the cognitive radio systems presented in this thesis. Additionally, experiments were conducted to determine the most efficient intervals for the spectrum sensing and cycle interval

periods. Therefore, system performance was measured on the basis of probability of successful primary user signal detection and maximum throughput capabilities, quantified by bit error rate. It was found that a cognitive radio system based on matched filter detection was more robust, given that the transmitted signal of interest was previously known. However, compared to a system based on energy detection, the implementation of the matched filter required more complex algorithms and computational power. These results are consistent with the findings in the literature review.

ABOUT HARDY:

"I am from Jackson originally, and I have pursued my bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at the University of Mississippi. As of now, I have moved to Atlanta to start

William

my career with Burns & McDonnell, an engineering consulting company with which I interned in summer 2020. I believe that my experience at Ole Miss has thoroughly prepared me for this next chapter of life, and I am excited to see what the future holds!"

ABOUT FEATHER:

"I'm originally from Carbondale, Illinois, and I came to the University of Mississippi to obtain a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering with a computer engineering emphasis. Using the experience from the capstone project and my participation in undergraduate research, I have now started a full-time job at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab (APL) in Laurel, Maryland. For the time being, I am not pursuing a master's degree, but I plan to further my education in electrical engineering or computer science.

"I hope that my elementary knowledge in software design and RF concepts, as well as my constant desire to continue learning, will allow me to make contributions to APL's future research achievements, and I hope that I have started on a path, through APL, to help advance humanity's pursuit of technology and outer space, something which I have dreamed about since I was a kid. The University of Mississippi and its faculty

— especially our adviser, Dr. Daigle — have allowed me to pursue this career for which I am extremely grateful, and I am happy knowing that the university will continue to enable its students to strive for greatness."

ABOUT GUY:

"I grew up in Saltillo, and throughout my childhood I had a fascination with computers, airplanes and space. These interests eventually led me to the University of Mississippi to study electrical engineering with an emphasis in computer engineering.

"During my time as an undergraduate, I was fortunate to work as a Pathways intern at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. With this valuable experience, I am working toward a career within the aerospace field. My dream is to work on spacecraft that will take humanity to explore new, exciting places.

"I hope to obtain a master's degree in either electrical engineering or computer engineering once I begin my engineering career. The work that I was able to accomplish in my group's honors thesis allowed me to explore and learn about a branch of electrical engineering that I had little previous knowledge about. Through this, my education at UM was deeply enriched, and I gained a greater confidence in myself."

Photo by Joshua Mannery



"20 Things" by Reann Parker

Under the direction of Rosemary Oliphant-Ingram,
professor of teacher education

ABSTRACT:

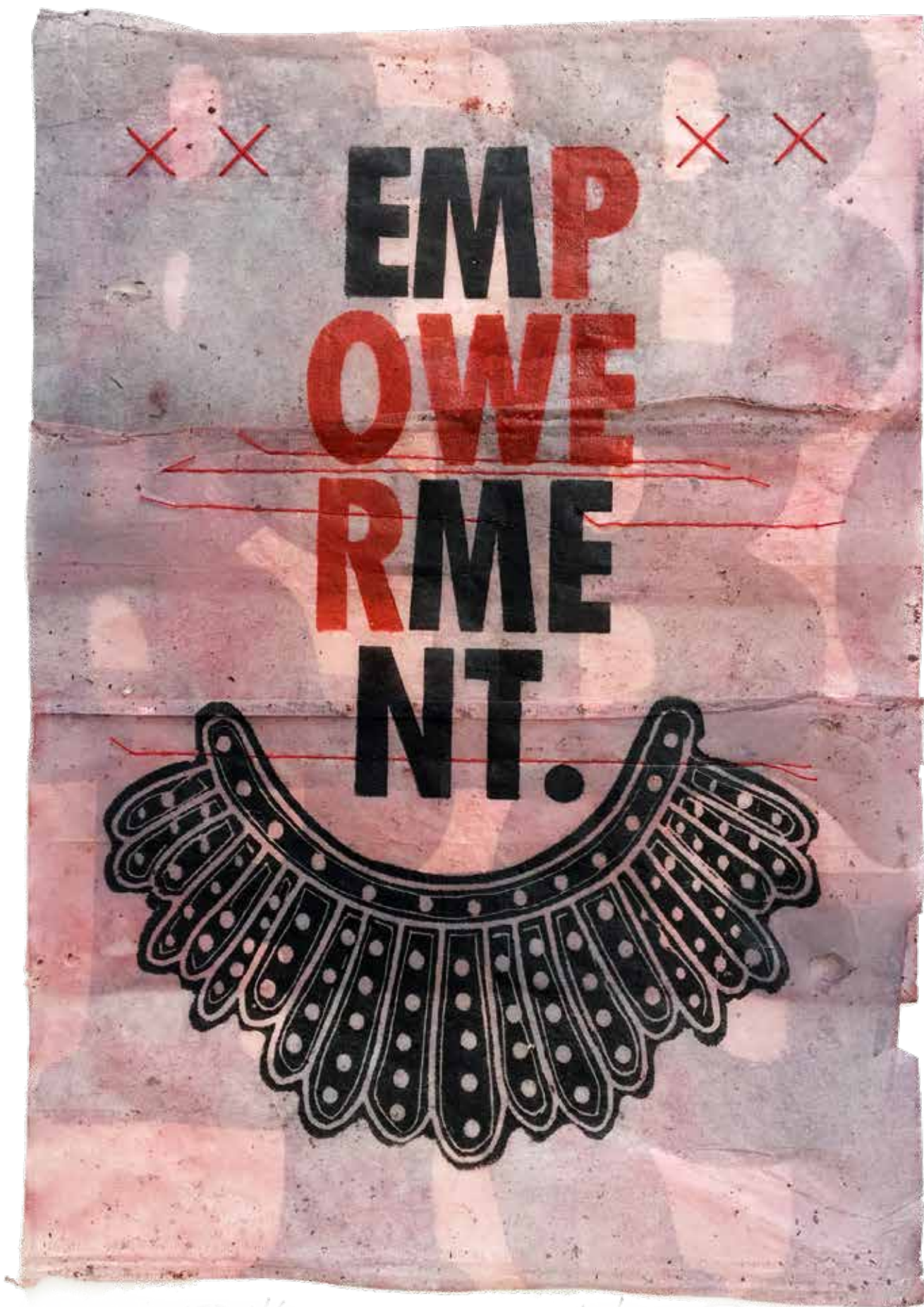
20 Things is a short, young adult novel that explores a variety of topics and themes, from mental health,

recovery and self-discovery to race, love and friendship. Beginning with a high school girl named Halle waking up in a hospital after a suicide attempt, the novel is a coming-of-age story about the help Halle receives and what she goes through in trying to find reasons to keep living. The novel is divided into 10 chapters: "Waking Up," "Going Home," "Arriving," "Being Honest,"

"Keeping the Faith," "Soul Searching," "Willingness," "Maintaining," "Checking In" and "Living." Each chapter represents the stage of life Halle is in and her experiences through that stage of her healing.

ABOUT PARKER:

Parker graduated in May with a B.A. in secondary English education. As part of fulfilling her love for education, she is passionate about protecting the mental health of young adults. This devotion is showcased in her commitment to teaching middle and high school students and aspiring to become a future administrator. **HR**



'Stay Strong.' 2020, 11" x 14"
Relief printing and letterpress on tea bags
by Virginia Rougon Chavis

Kaylee Crafton is from Kennett, Missouri, and graduated in May 2021 with degrees in broadcast journalism and Spanish and a specialization in public relations. She plans to graduate with a master's degree in integrated marketing communication in May 2023, and hopes to work in public relations for her favorite team: the Boston Celtics. (Photo by Anna Spears)



HOCO SENATE FINDS WAYS TO NURTURE COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19

Challenge Ac

KAYLEE CRAFTON (SMBHC 21)

From a global perspective, COVID-19 changed everything. Normalcy left us in March 2020, leaving chaos, fear and confusion in its wake.

The Honors College was not immune to these changes. Honors students packed their bags and headed off for spring break that March with plans of returning to share their adventures with their friends the following week; however, a global pandemic upset these plans. The HoCo printers grew idle, the kitchen stove remained untouched, the halls were free from foot traffic, and the study

dungeon became quieter than ever before.

As faculty and staff members prepared for the return of students in fall 2020, COVID-19 safety signs went up, rooms were given small-capacity limits, and strict health and safety protocols were enforced.

From an outside perspective, everything about the Honors College seemed to change; however, from inside, I felt that nothing intrinsically had.

When asked about why the Honors College means so much to me (or even when not asked), I have always been quick to share that it's the sense of

community that it provides. Upon returning to campus in August 2020, I saw that then more than ever, in a time when many people had experienced isolation and loneliness due to quarantining, students needed and craved community. Having spent five months adhering to a strict quarantine and experiencing a bit of social anxiety as a result, I needed community as well.

As I took on the role of student director — a position I sought since first serving on the Honors College Senate as a freshman — I was met with a question: How does one create



The Honors College Senate capped off a challenging and creative year with cookies in the Grove. (Photo by Virginia 'Lele' Goldsmith)



Margaret Baldwin (left) (SMBHC 21) and Kaylee Crafton (Photo by Shelby Phillips)



a sense of community during a global pandemic and still keep everyone safe?

As mentioned, although the Honors College looked from its exterior to be different in nearly every way, I quickly realized how nothing had truly changed at the heart of it.

Honors students are a number of things including innovative, resilient, forward-thinking and servant-minded. Living in a pandemic didn't quench their thirst for knowledge, their desire for progress, their willingness to serve or the genuine camaraderie that existed between them. As I

returned to the Honors College and began my term as student director, I realized that my fellow citizen scholars were just as "fired by the life of mind, committed to the public good and driven to find solutions" as our motto states and as they had always been.

Margaret Baldwin, the ever so fearless and innovative assistant student director, and I knew how difficult the year had been and would continue to be for students — especially those transitioning to the university amid a pandemic. With that in mind, we reached out to the HoCo student body

to let them know that we were there for them and ready to listen to any concern, idea or vexation. We also created a Senate Instagram account and email address to better connect with students.

Knowing that the normal activities and events hosted by the Honors College Senate couldn't be safely carried out, we adapted and fostered community in different ways. While our always anticipated tailgates in the Grove were canceled, we came up with "Grove To-Go" — an event where students picked up boxes of game-day goodies. These to-go boxes were stuffed

with drinks, snacks, candy, “Sally Says Mask-Up” koozies, masks and game-day stickers. Students were excited to have their own little tailgate in a box and a reason to come to the Honors College and safely socialize with other students when most of their classes had been moved online.

Another event the senate looks forward to hosting each year is Five Dollar Dinner. The event always occurs right before Thanksgiving break and is catered by Taylor Grocery. A delicious Thanksgiving feast is provided, and students can purchase tickets for a mere \$5. The senators always serve the plates, HoCo students fill the Honors College (and their plates), and all the money raised goes to Grove Grocery — the campus food pantry.

With the COVID-19 case count still too high, it didn’t look as if the dinner would happen this year, but we had an idea: Make it a drive-thru! Masked

up, gloves on and tickets sold in advance, the senate prepared to-go boxes, and students picked them up at a drive-thru outside the HoCo building. A little over \$500 was raised for Grove Grocery!

At the beginning of each spring semester, HoCo students usually look forward to the most anticipated event of the year — our beloved HoCo Formal. Hundreds of HoCo students and their friends dress up, pile into The Lyric, and spend the evening dancing away to a live band and DJ. Halfway through the night, the Sally Awards are announced, and about a dozen students claim their coveted Sally’s on stage.

While it hurt the most to part with this cherished event, the senate looked for ways, not to replace HoCo Formal (because simply nothing can) but to offer other events for students to anticipate. We still hosted our Sally Awards but virtually at Honors Convocation instead.

We also rented out the Oxford Film Festival’s Drive-In for a double feature in the spring semester.

Our year ended with our first in-person senate meeting — a picnic with Insomnia cookies and ice cream in the Grove! Through these events and others not mentioned, we were fortunate for every opportunity we had to foster community and bring excitement to honors students.

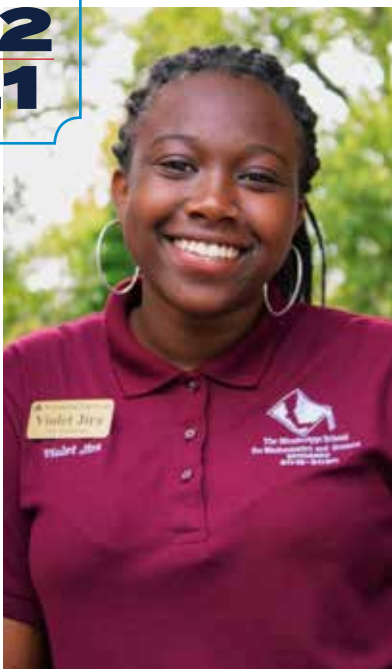
Although it wasn’t the year any of us could have expected or wished for at the inception of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a year never to be forgotten. We adapted, we persevered, we sacrificed, we connected, we studied, we discovered, we felt, we listened, we spoke, we grew, and we savored each and every moment of this unconventional year. COVID-19 could certainly change a lot, but it couldn’t dull the spirit of the Honors College or the community that exists within it. **HR**

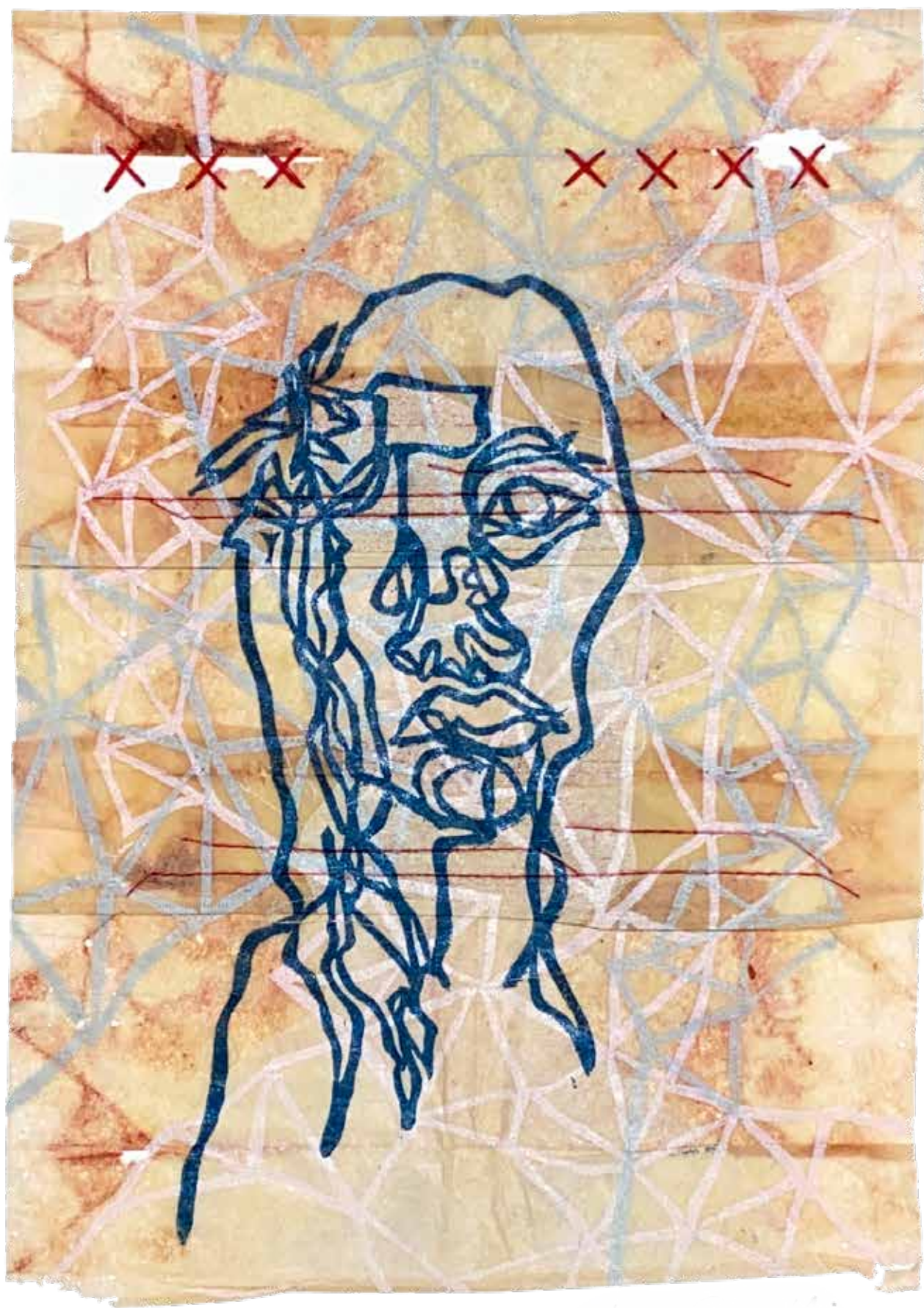
2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

Stamps scholar **Violet Jira** (SMBHC 24) has secured a 2021 Aspen Young Leaders Fellowship in the Delta cohort. The fellowship “accelerates leadership development as well as fellows’ understandings of how to effectuate change individually and collectively both in and outside of systems,” according to [aspeninstitute.org](https://www.aspeninstitute.org). “Each year, 30 fellows ages 18-22 are selected from each locality based on talent and potential with particular attention paid to recruiting low- and moderate-income youth. The program lasts one year and includes 150 seminar hours, a paid internship, launch of a community impact project, and access to an opportunity ecosystem supporting their development. Upon completion, fellows enter a lifelong network designed to support their success.”

Jira is majoring in journalism and English. She has volunteered at the Bolivar County Public Library and Boys and Girls Club of Lowndes County. She hopes to use her degrees to work as a freelance journalist, shedding light on the issues her community faces, and eventually become a lawyer. (Photo courtesy Violet Jira)

02
21





'Fractured Cognition.' 2020, 11" x 14"
Relief printing and letterpress on tea bags
by Virginia Rougon Chavis

OFFICE OF NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ADVISEMENT

Year in Review

VIVIAN IBRAHIM, ONSA DIRECTOR | PHOTOS COURTESY OF STUDENTS PICTURED

What a year. Pandemic, Zoom and social distancing all became part of our everyday vocabulary. Amid all of the chaos, many of you “knuckled down” and applied for national scholarships. An uncertain future may have driven the immediate motivation to apply, but hopefully the gains were worth it. Whether ultimately successful, applicants emerge from the fellowship application experience with a stronger sense of who they are and what their vision is. This past year, ONSA guided its largest number of applications ever. Students competed globally and won prestigious awards never before gained by UM. Hat tip to those who put the time and effort into completing applications. You are imagining your future and the path to getting there.

FULBRIGHT



We had our largest-ever cohort of Fulbright applicants. Twenty-five students put in time and effort and committed to the application process. We had nine semifinalists. Well done! A special shoutout to **Katelyn Frazier** who was awarded an English teaching assistantship in Spain in 2019. Her experience was cut short due to COVID. We spoke several times after her return to the U.S., and she told me that “my experience was so impactful that I now want to pursue a career in bilingual education. I didn’t see myself as being ‘accomplished’ enough for Fulbright, but the program really values personal statements in the application process. If you have any interest, I encourage you to apply!” Well, Katelyn took her own advice and reapplied to Fulbright. We worked together on her application, and I am delighted to share that she was awarded the Fulbright yet again. She is a 2021 Fulbright Spain ETA recipient. Congratulations.

BOREN

At No. 3 in the nation, UM was named a top-producing Boren Scholarship institution. In 2021, UM was awarded seven Boren scholarships. We are so proud of our scholars.

The Boren scholarships provide up to \$25,000 to U.S. undergraduate students to study abroad in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests.

William Bradford is a senior international studies and Spanish student from Tupelo. He enjoys reading, playing violin, rock climbing and running. He is excited to go to Tanzania next year to learn Swahili, experience Tanzanian culture and climb Mount Kilimanjaro.



Brantley Damon is an Arabic major, with minors in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and education, from Madison. She will be studying in Morocco.

Jordan Evans is a dual English and Chinese major from Geneva, Illinois. He will be studying Chinese.

Ivy Gerrell is a Chinese and international studies major with a minor in aerospace studies. She is from Gainesville, Georgia, and will be attending Chinese Flagship’s National Yang-Ming University next academic year. After graduation, she will commission as a second lieutenant through Ole Miss’ Air Force ROTC program.

Miller Greene is a joint major in international studies and Arabic from Columbus. He will be studying in Meknes, Morocco.

Ella Lawson is a senior in Croft and the Honors College. From Dearborn, Michigan, she studies Arabic, international studies and classics. She is UM’s first Indonesian Flagship Language Initiative recipient.

Isabel Spafford is a senior from Albuquerque, New Mexico, studying Arabic, Swahili and international studies. She will use the Boren Scholarship to study for a year in Meknes, Morocco, through the Arabic Flagship Capstone program.



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION'S GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



DALLAS



MEADOR



STOKES

Three UM students were awarded fellowships from the prestigious National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program for the first time since 2015. **Jax Dallas**, **William Meador** and **Larry Stokes** are all SMBHC graduates and plan to pursue doctoral degrees.

The GRFP provides three years of support (\$34,000 living stipend plus a \$12,000 educational allowance) for the graduate education of individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant research achievements in STEM or STEM education.



IBRAHIM

After a nationwide search and from a competitive applicant pool, Vivian Ibrahim was selected as director of the Office of National Scholarship Advisement at the start of 2021. Ibrahim is a historian of the Modern Middle East and joined the University of Mississippi in 2011. She specializes in the history and politics of Egypt in the 19th and 20th centuries. A Croft associate professor of history and international studies, Ibrahim began serving as ONSA interim director in January 2020. Among her many accolades, Ibrahim was most recently awarded the College of Liberal Arts' Howell Family Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award for 2019-20.



WOODS

In June 2021, Whitney Woods joined ONSA as assistant director. Woods joined the University of Mississippi in 2015 and is a native of Brandon. She holds a bachelor's degree in secondary English education and a master's in counselor education: student affairs from Mississippi State University. She earned her doctorate in higher education from the University of Mississippi in 2020. Woods presented "Intersections of Law and Campus Policy Related to Emotional Support Animals" based on her dissertation research at the annual Education Law Association Conference. She has also presented "Out and Accessible, Self-Efficacy in Career Decisions for LGBTQ+ Populations and for Students with Disabilities" with colleagues at a regional conference. She is working on an article based on her dissertation research, which is expected to be published in the coming months.

To learn more about national scholarships, check out the updated website onsa.olemiss.edu. Interested in applying? Email ONSA@olemiss.edu.

GOLDWATER

For the second year in a row, we have two Goldwater recipients: juniors Ivy Li and Austin Wallace.

The Goldwater is one of the oldest and most prestigious national scholarships in STEM. It supports exceptional sophomores and juniors who show promise in becoming the next generation of research leaders in these fields. This year, 410 scholarships were awarded from a pool of 1,256 outstanding undergraduates nominated by 438 institutions. Li and Wallace follow in the footsteps of UM Goldwater scholars William Meador and Jax Dallas (2020) and Addison Roush (2019).



LI

Ivy Li is a junior from Oxford and is a chemistry major. She has been working with the Delcamp Research Group on the synthesis and applications of organic, strong photooxidants in solar-to-fuel conversion. She plans to continue to graduate school for a Ph.D. in chemistry. “In the future, I want to lead my own research group at a national laboratory that focuses on designing, synthesizing and applying novel, organic molecules for renewable energy purposes,” she said.



WALLACE

Austin Wallace is a junior who grew up in a military family that moved frequently around the United States. He is pursuing a B.S. in chemistry at the University of Mississippi. “Throughout my life, I have been fascinated by the natural world, and working in a computational research group has turned that spark of curiosity into a potential career path,” he said. “I plan to continue my research in graduate school as I work toward a Ph.D. in computational chemistry.”



ARMISTEAD

RANGEL

UM’s first-ever Rangel fellow was announced: **Charlotte Armistead**. Rangel fellows are selected annually in a highly competitive nationwide process that supports them through two years of graduate study (\$84,000), internships, mentoring and professional development activities.

The Rangel aims to attract and prepare outstanding young people for careers in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Department of State. Armistead will learn to help formulate, represent and implement U.S. foreign policy. She is a joint major in international studies and Arabic with a minor in intelligence and security studies. She is from Mooreville.



BARLOW



TRAVERS

YENCHING

This is the first time UM students have been awarded the Yenching Scholarship. Lennis Barlow and Matthew Travers are both seniors in international studies and Chinese. They are two of the 100 outstanding young scholars who will enroll in the interdisciplinary master's in China studies program this September. The scholars hail from 30 countries and regions; 69 international students will come together with 25 Chinese students.

Lennis Barlow plans to pursue a master's degree in China studies with a focus on environmental policies. Barlow is president of the Real Food Rebels student organization. She has worked closely with ASB and the Office of Sustainability to coordinate campus efforts to create a more energy-efficient, recycling friendly and inclusive campus environment. She is particularly excited about incorporating her existing research into her experience in China. "Through the Yenching Academy, I will be able to further my current thesis research on Chinese water policy and environmental discourses while also continuing to develop my language skills," she said. "I am beyond excited for the opportunity to work alongside Yenching's community of global scholars."

Matt Travers is a Stamps Scholar and the recipient of the Boren, Critical Languages and National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarships. As a Yenching fellow, Travers plans to study politics and international relations, focusing on China-Tanzania relations. "I plan to research China's language policies and soft power in Swahili-speaking East African countries," he said. "I hope to use my proficiency in Chinese and Swahili to learn more about China's influence in East Africa through the Belt and Road Initiative and Confucius Institute." **HR**



Professor Ibrahim and SMBHC 2021 graduates Ainsley Ash, Matt Travers and John Michael Walker drum up enthusiasm for Marshall and Mitchell applications.
(Photo courtesy Vivian Ibrahim)

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS



Morgan Atkins (SMBHC 22) was elected Associated Student Body president for 2021-22. From Olive Branch, Atkins is a public policy leadership major with minors in international studies and political science. (Photo by Ashley Mills)



The SMBHC deans released the following statement on social media on March 17: “The SMBHC deans condemn the increasing attacks and hate crimes committed against Asian Americans. Hostile and brutal attacks have been carried out against Asians with the intent to scapegoat and to divide our country, especially during the ongoing pandemic. We must commit ourselves daily to live by the core values of ‘justice and liberty for all’ as we combat discrimination and racism in any form.”



On March 25, the SMBHC virtually welcomed the 75th U.S. Secretary of the Navy, **Ray Mabus**, as keynote speaker for the SMBHC spring convocation. Mabus graduated from the University of Mississippi summa cum laude with a B.A. in English and political science, and completed his M.A. in political science from Johns Hopkins and his J.D. from Harvard Law School. He entered Mississippi politics with the election of Gov. William Winters, competed successfully to be state auditor and became the 60th governor of Mississippi, serving from 1988 to 1992. He then became the U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia from 1994 to 1996. President Obama nominated Mabus as Secretary of the Navy, and he was confirmed in 2009. Mabus offered the following advice to honors students: “Mississippi needs your hands and your heart. Be involved. Be concerned about your city, your state, your country, your world. Don’t try to make the facts fit your beliefs. Make sure you’re being honest with yourself.” (Photo courtesy Ray Mabus)



CITIZEN SCHOLARS IN THE WORLD

1960

Linda Anne Scott graduated from the Honors Program in 1960 with her Bachelor of Arts in English. She went on to pursue four other degrees: M.A. in English (1965), Ph.D. in English (1975), M.L.S. (1976) and J.D. (1986). As a lifelong learner, Scott enjoys spending her retirement doing lots of reading. She also enjoys regularly attending Zumba classes and getting together with many of her lifelong friends from her hometown of Gulfport.

1963

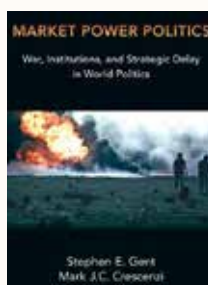
With his service in the military and career as a lawyer, state trial judge, federal judge and landscape painter, **Alfred Nicols** has been successful (and busy) since he graduated from the University of Mississippi law school in 1965. Now, he has published a novel called *Lost Love's Return*, a historical romance taking place between 1918 and 1945. The story takes place in both England and in southern Mississippi. The novel was written "as an effort to leave his children and grandchildren, perhaps others, insight into issues in life and the value of family ties, even to imperfect people." For details, check out his website: southernlandscapeart.com.

1992

In February, **Amy Vincent** published *Star Wars: The High Republic — Into the Dark*, which became her first book to debut at No. 1 on the *New York Times* bestsellers list. Writing under the pseudonym Claudia Gray, Vincent has published 21 novels, a graphic novel and several short stories in various anthologies during the past 15 years. In August of last year, she married Paul Christian, and they live in New Orleans with their dogs.

1999

This year, **Stephen Gent** was promoted to professor of political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also published a book, *Market Power Politics: War, Institutions, and Strategic Delay in World Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2021).



2001

Jeannie Mood Campbell opened a private counseling practice, Hope Mountain Counseling LLC, in Bend, Oregon. In June, Campbell moved her business to La Grande, Oregon. Hope Mountain Counseling offers telehealth, clinical supervision and consultation services. To learn more about Campbell and her business, visit hopemountaincounseling.com.



2005



Ryan J. Williams, who received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, was recently promoted to structures lead for Aguirre & Fields, a leading transportation engineering company in Texas and Oklahoma. He brings over 15 years of engineering and research experience to his new role, specializing in bridge

design and rehabilitation. Williams joined Aguirre & Fields in 2017 as a project manager and became an associate partner at the firm in 2020. He lives in Austin, Texas, with his wife, Stephanie Rice Williams (SMBHC 05), and their daughter, Linden.

2007

Robert Wicks, M.D. (SMBHC 06, UM 07), who graduated with a B.S. in biology and B.A. in physics and psychology, is completing his fellowship at Johns Hopkins in endovascular neurosurgery. He will be starting a position in cerebrovascular neurosurgery at Miami Neuroscience Institute and as an assistant professor at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Florida International University.

2011



Chartered financial analyst **Emilie Dayan Hill** graduated with degrees in economics, French and international studies. In January, she became a principal member and shareholder of ZWJ Investment Counsel, based in Atlanta.

Virginia (Drago) Kinnier graduated with degrees in English and journalism along with a minor in Spanish. In April, her poem “my mother’s sister” was published in the literary magazine *Months to Years*, and you can read it on page 60.

2013



Jess Waltman (BAccy 13, JD 16) is an attorney with Davis & Crump P.C. in Gulfport. He is licensed to practice law in Alabama, Arizona, Louisiana and Mississippi. Waltman serves on the board of directors for the Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Bar, on the steering committee for Mississippi Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership and on the board of directors for the Ole Miss Alumni Association. He also serves as chair of the New Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Association for Justice and was recently elected to serve as president-elect of the Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Bar.

2010

While working as an anchor and reporter for WAFB-TV, the CBS affiliate in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, **Elizabeth Vowell Blades** earned a prestigious 2021 Regional Edward R. Murrow Award for feature reporting on the sacrifices of health care workers during the pandemic. The winning story featured an ICU nurse who missed the birth of his own son because he was caring for the city’s most critical COVID-19 patients. Blades wrote, “While I’m proud the RTDNA (Radio Television Digital News Association) honored this story, it is all the more special because it also honors the tremendous work and challenges health care workers have undertaken during this time.”



2014

Samra Ward Smith (BA 14, MA 16) has been working in disability services since her graduation in 2016. Throughout the pandemic, she has led efforts to make remote learning an option for college students with chronic illnesses, and has hosted multiple national webinars about making online spaces accessible for virtual students. After a year of rescheduling due to the pandemic, she married Christopher Smith (University of Georgia, Ph.D., 2019) in Kapolei, Hawaii, this past May. The Smiths are excited about their next

chapter in Texas, where she will continue working in disability advocacy and he will serve as a geology faculty member.



Stephen Wittmann graduated with a Bachelor of Accountancy. In June, he graduated with an MBA from Dartmouth’s Tuck School of Business and began working at Graham Partners, a private equity firm in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2015

Neal McMillin wrote the Honors College back in March to give a shoutout to fellow honors classmate **Phillip Waller**, who earned a big promotion in the Senate. Last December, Waller became the communications director at the Office of Sen. Roger F. Wicker. Waller earned degrees in journalism and public policy leadership at UM and earned a master’s degree in media and strategic communications from George Washington University.

2017



Rachel E. Anderson graduated with degrees in journalism and Spanish. In March, she entered public service, joining the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a member of the strategic communications team for the Office of Regulatory Affairs.

After graduating with a B.S. in geology and working as a park ranger at Wind Cave National Park in 2019, **Taylor Moore** now works as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service.



Elizabeth E. Wicks, who graduated with a B.A. in international studies and French, was selected as a 2020-22 Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Fellow and is conducting research in the lab of Dr. Gregg Semenza at Johns Hopkins’ School of Medicine.

2018



Myriam E. Coker (née Sanders) graduated from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in May with her doctorate in physical therapy. She will begin her practice specializing in pelvic health physical therapy in Memphis, Tennessee. Additionally, her thesis work with the Ashpole Lab in collaboration with other researchers from the University of Mississippi’s National Center for Natural Products Research and Department of BioMolecular Sciences has been published in the *South African Journal of Botany*. She is grateful for the opportunity to have contributed as an author for the article “In vitro cytotoxicity and neurotoxicity assessment of the alkaloidal constituents derived from *Asimina triloba* twigs.”



Page Lagarde (Kuenestle) graduated with a double major in English and French. In June, she married Andrew Kuenestle.



Julia Swafford recently graduated from the George Washington University Law School. She is clerking with the Hon. Zachary Somers of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and plans to pursue a career as a litigator or prosecutor.

2019

Jarvis Benson graduated with a double major in international studies and Spanish. This fall, he will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to start in the Ph.D. in sociology program.



After graduating with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, **Naim Daghmash** went on to receive his master's degree in civil engineering at the University of Florida. Recently, he began working in Nashville with the Tennessee Department of Transportation in the Asset Management Division. Daghmash said his six years as an international student

were not easy. While adjusting to life in the United States, his home country of Syria was going through a civil war. He shared that Ole Miss became a harbor that gave him a place of belonging during that hardship. The Honors College, in particular, provided him with many friendships and unconditional support. He wrote, "The Honors College allowed me to start a career in the United States, build a life for myself and pursue my passions."



Tia Floyd graduated with a degree in political science and a minor in Spanish. She now works in Córdoba, Spain, as a conversation auxiliary, teaching English. She will be teaching for another year with the Ministry of Education.



Jessica Jill Flynn, who graduated with a B.A. in economics and Spanish, will attend Georgetown University Law Center this fall to pursue a J.D.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in dietetics and nutrition, **Elizabeth Quirk** went on to pursue her master's degree in nutritional science from the University of Georgia. After graduating from UGA in 2020, Quirk began working at Piedmont Hospital's Heart Institute in the General Cardiology and Lipid Specialist Clinic in Atlanta. She is excited to share that she has been admitted into Mercer University's Physician Assistant program and will start in January 2022.

2020



Katrina Gately graduated with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and will be attending Yale University this fall as a student in its Physician Associate program.

After receiving her bachelor's in accountancy in 2020, **Dorothy Meachum** went on to receive her master's in accountancy in May. This fall, she will be starting as an audit associate with Deloitte in McLean, Virginia. She wrote, "I'm excited for this opportunity and to be able to connect with the numerous SMBHC alumni that are in the DMV area."

my mother's sister

by Virginia Kinnier (SMBHC 11)

my mother's sister
her Irish twin
is dying

they shared everything
which is to say
they shared
a beginning
August 26th
and a place
smack dab in the middle
two sisters ahead
two brothers behind

they shared
a father
who loved to dance
and a driveway
where he sometimes parked crooked at night
they shared
a little blue house
swaying on stilts
and the strongest woman in the world
their mother

my mother's sister
her Irish twin
is dying

but what will it mean when she is gone
will the things they shared disappear
because I am of my mother
will part of me disappear too
I am scared to see her
to look death in the face
I don't want
to recognize it
in the faces
of people
I love

or maybe
I don't want
to recognize it
in me

my mother's sister
her Irish twin
is dying

they shared everything
which is to say
they shared
the silence
when their father died
and secrets so sharp
they drew blood if you got too close
they shared
handwritten letters
from places that hurt
and a quiet dark-haired girl
named Missy

they shared
the cold solitude
of hospital rooms
and the warm embrace of
borrowed blue sweaters
they shared
memories of memories
sweetened by time
and finally the bitter end
one last hug on a Thursday night in March

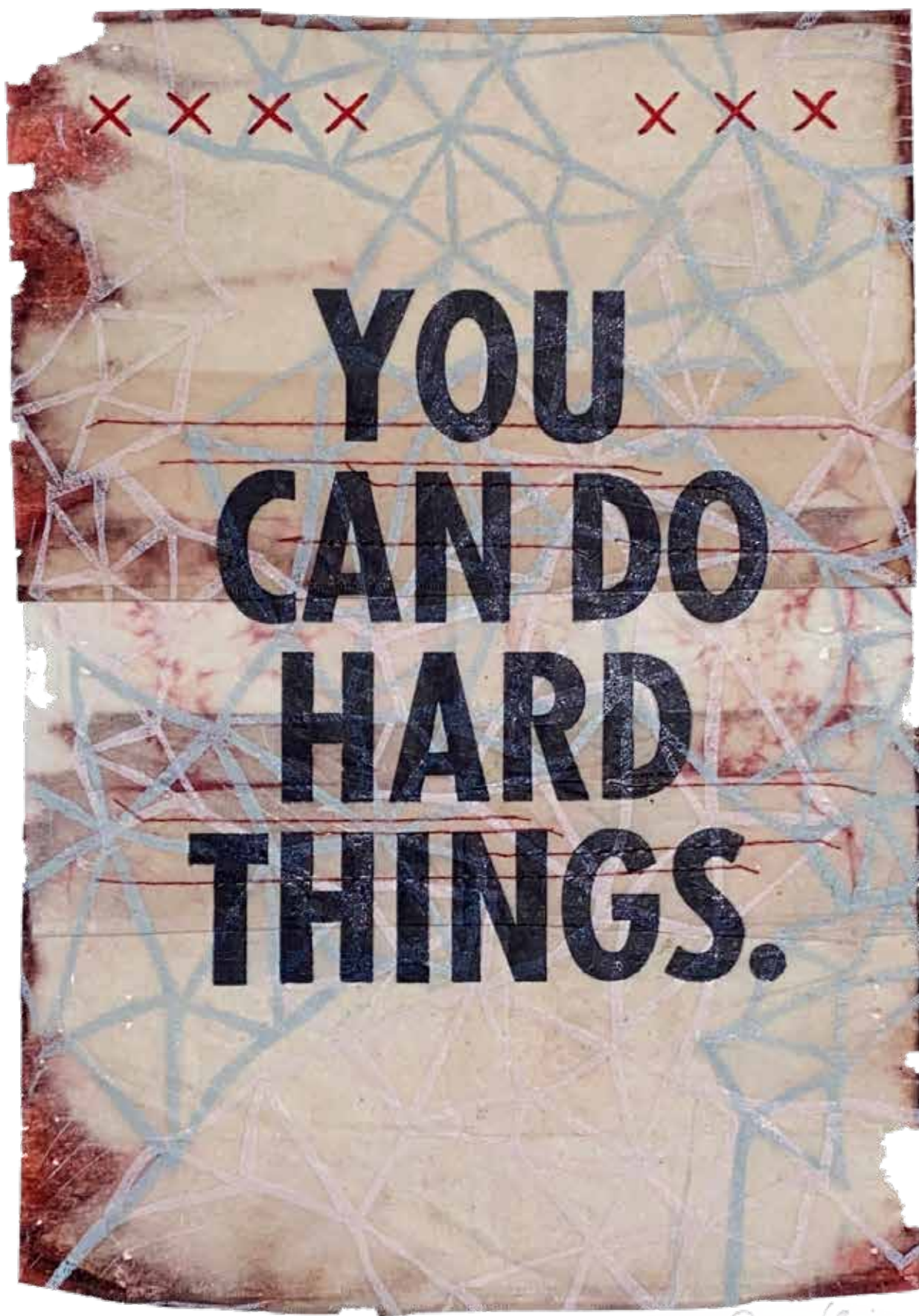
my mother's sister
her Irish twin
is dying

but what does it mean that she lived
will the things they shared live on
because I am of my mother
will part of me live on too

I was scared to see her
to look death in the face
but I didn't know
I was going to see Heaven
I didn't know
I was going
to recognize it
in the face
of someone
I love

now
I just hope
I recognize it
in me

*This poem originally appeared in the literary magazine Months to Years
and has been reprinted with permission of the author.*



'Untamed.' 2020, 11" x 14"
Relief printing and letterpress on tea bags
by Virginia Rougon Chavis

**FUNDRAISING AND
DEVELOPMENT***Highlights***SMBHC Endowment Honors Retired Faculty**

BY BILL DABNEY

A \$100,000 gift to the SMBHC pays tribute to two former University of Mississippi faculty members — one for his innovative approach to instruction and the other for his impact on the donor's education and career path.

The gift, made by an Honors Program graduate who preferred to remain anonymous, establishes the Dr. Vaughn Grisham Experiential Learning Endowment while also naming an Honors College study room in honor of John Winkle, professor emeritus of political science and affiliate faculty in the School of Law.

The endowment will support experiential learning courses — classes in which a complicated problem confronting the community is placed on the academic table, where professors, students and community stakeholders come together to hash out questions, research similar dilemmas confronting communities throughout the nation and world, and pose possible solutions.

“Professor Grisham's classes are the basis for experiential-style learning, which I feel is important for the students,” the donor said. “And Professor Winkle was pivotal in my



Honorees Vaughn Grisham (left) and John Winkle stand with Douglass Sullivan-González. (Photo by Anthony Heaven)

academic career and the direction I took in my professional life.”

Winkle, who officially retired in 2013, but continues to teach at least one course per semester, said he is honored and humbled by the designation.

“Never had I considered that a space on campus would bear my name. I often list that I have been teaching in the Barksdale Honors College each year since it opened in 1998, so this honor is particularly special for me,” he said.

“Naming a room in honor of a faculty member is unique,” Winkle continued. “I hope students will notice this distinction and someday make a significant contribution to the Honors College to honor a professor who made a difference in their lives.”

While the room that bears his name is designed as a space for students to study, read and discuss material, it also will house the bound volumes of honors theses that serve as the research capstone to the Honors Program experience.

It’s that student experience that the donor credits for much of his success.

“It provided me with lifelong memories and academics that both engaged me and challenged me as never before.”

Grisham is professor emeritus of sociology and founding director of the McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement, housed on the university’s Oxford campus. He taught more than 30,000 students in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and in the Barksdale Honors College before retiring in 2016.

The McLean Institute collaborates with students, faculty and staff around volunteerism, service learning, community-based research, community development and social entrepreneurship. It then works to apply its collective knowledge to solve problems related to poverty in communities across the state. Under Grisham’s direction, it became a national leader in the field of community development.

“It is very, very gratifying to be recognized for my work in developing the experiential learning method at Ole Miss, and it’s especially heartening that this honor came from a graduate who felt that the Honors Program helped shape his future,” Grisham said. “The success of this approach is also due to all the fine, dedicated students who participated.”

Welcome

SMBHC Welcomes Brady Bramlett

Brady Bramlett joined the SMBHC team in June 2021 as associate director of development, where he oversees fundraising efforts for the college. Bramlett also serves as executive managing director of Living Music Resource™.

Before joining the SMBHC, he served as a development officer for the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation, and most recently was an annual giving officer for the University of Mississippi, managing the Flagship Society.

From 2014 to 2018, Bramlett served as chair of the NCAA Division I National

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and was a member of the NCAA Division I board of directors. He also served on the NCAA Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee as well as the NCAA association-wide Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee.

During his undergraduate years, Bramlett was a pitcher for the Ole Miss Rebels baseball team. A three-year letter winner, he was drafted by the Oakland Athletics in 2015, and again by the Boston Red Sox in 2016. During his time at Ole Miss, Bramlett was one of a

few Rebel pitchers to record 20 career wins. He now stays connected to the game of baseball by coaching local kids.

Bramlett graduated from UM in 2016 with his bachelor’s degree in biology with a minor in music and earned his master’s in integrated marketing communication in 2018. As a student, he was very involved with the Ole Miss choirs and Ole Miss Theatre, performing solos and roles. As a classically trained singer, he is frequently sought after as both a counter-tenor and tenor soloist.

Clash of the Classes

Thanks to the generosity of 95 donors, the SMBHC raised \$14,285 during the Clash of the Classes campaign. The Class of 2007 raised the most money, and the Class of 2011 participated the most. These funds, along with a \$5,000 gift prior to the campaign, provided \$19,285 for the SMBHC Emergency Fund, which financially supported honors students with an array of resources needed during the global pandemic.

Honors Alumna Supports Women in STEM

Janet Pilko (University Scholars 75) has established the Excellence in STEM Scholarship Endowment, which will support honors students by advancing women in STEM fields. Pilko also serves on the SMBHC Leadership Council, and we are grateful for her investment in and commitment to the Honors College.

Thank You to Leadership Council

Despite the pandemic, the SMBHC Leadership Council has continued supporting the Honors College with its time, talent and treasure. At 20 active members, the council represents a variety of voices that take our development efforts to the next level. We appreciate you. We are also thankful for Anthony Heaven, former associate director of development, for his leadership and positive energy and for creating the council. We wish him the best at Arizona State University.



UM Alumnus Donates Handcrafted Table

John King (UM 64) stands between his son-in-law and professor of political science Timothy Nordstrom (left) and Sean Brown (SMBHC 22). King masterfully crafted this table and generously donated it to the SMBHC. Thank you, Mr. King! (Photo by Douglass Sullivan-González)

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS



D'AMICO



GREEN



HARDEN



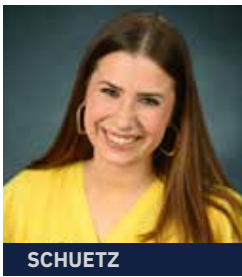
MANIVANNAN



MANNERY



MCKINNIS



SCHUETZ



SLAUGHTER

All 10 students inducted into the 2021 University of Mississippi's Student Hall of Fame are members of the SMBHC. Congratulations to **Shelby D'Amico, Victoria Green, Asia Harden, Swetha Manivannan, Joshua Mannery, Harrison McKinnis, Gianna Schuetz, Robert "Cade" Slaughter, Madison Thornton** and **Robert Wasson**. (Photos courtesy of students pictured)



THORNTON



WASSON



The 2021 honors commissioning speakers delivered their remarks virtually. (From left) **Kaylee Crafton** welcomed everyone, **Swetha Manivannan** delivered the keynote, and **Johnny Yang** provided the charge. **Madison Thornton** served as the 2021 SMBHC class marshal. (Photo by Jennifer Parsons)

Brady Bramlett (Photo by Bill Dabney)



Dear SMBHC Alumni and Friends,

I am honored to join the SMBHC team as your new associate director of development! As a former student-athlete and two-time graduate, Ole Miss is my home. I’ve seen firsthand how our beloved university empowers all students to find their path in this world. At the SMBHC, we are fortunate to work with a diverse body of high-performing students. It’s our duty and our privilege to prepare them for life as citizen scholars committed to the public good.

You have a huge role to play in that mission. You directly affect the SMBHC student experience with your gifts, wisdom and expertise. The power and privilege of an Honors College scholarship motivates students to be better. It galvanizes them to transform and pursue something bigger than themselves.

With our gifts to the SMBHC, we can also pursue something bigger than ourselves: the hope for a better future. Our students are the best of the best, capable of becoming business innovators, doctors, political leaders, writers, scientists and roles that haven’t been dreamed of yet. Frankly, the only limit to their success is their imagination! We are called to be servant leaders for our students to provide unlimited opportunities for them to thrive.

Leadership is not the conception of followers, but rather the genesis of new leaders to steer the ship and propel us forward into tomorrow. Invest today in our future citizen scholars. Help me continue to make the University of Mississippi and the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College an unforgettable experience and international hub for the best and brightest.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brady Bramlett'.

Brady Bramlett
Associate Director of Development

Thank You

SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE DONORS

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2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS



05
21

Many SMBHC Class of 2020 graduates traveled back to Oxford for the 2020 honors commissioning, which featured (from left) SMBHC class marshal **Hannah McCowan**, **Savannah Day's** charge, **Leah Davis's** keynote and **Trip Johnson's** welcome. (Photo by Jennifer Parsons)

Ms. Mariel Aubra Kittredge Parman
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Mr. Aaron Mitchell Piletz
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Mr. Matthew R. Porter
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Mr. Jason Alexander Ray
Ms. Leslie Johns Ray
Dr. and Mrs. Vernon A. Rayford
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Rester Jr.
Ms. Emily Nicole Richmond
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Roan
Dr. John P. Samonds
Ms. Sydney Marie Shamblin
Ms. Jessie Marye Smith
Mr. Ryan Thomas Snow
Ms. Ysabella Carmen St. Amant
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall St. Amant

Dr. Yujing Zhang and Mr. Timothy C. Steenwyk
Mr. Matthew Judson Stephenson
Mr. Matthew Eric Stine
Ms. Andrea Dunn Stine
Mr. and Mrs. Micajah P. Sturdivant IV
Ms. Dora Frances Sullivan-González
Dr. and Mrs. Douglass Sullivan-González
Mr. Thomas Tobin
Mr. Ryan Lowery Upshaw
Ms. Kayla Paulette VonBurg
Drs. Marc E. and Caroline A. Walker
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Mr. Forrest R. Weaver
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Mr. Mike D. Wiethorn
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Mr. and Mrs. Ryan J. Williams
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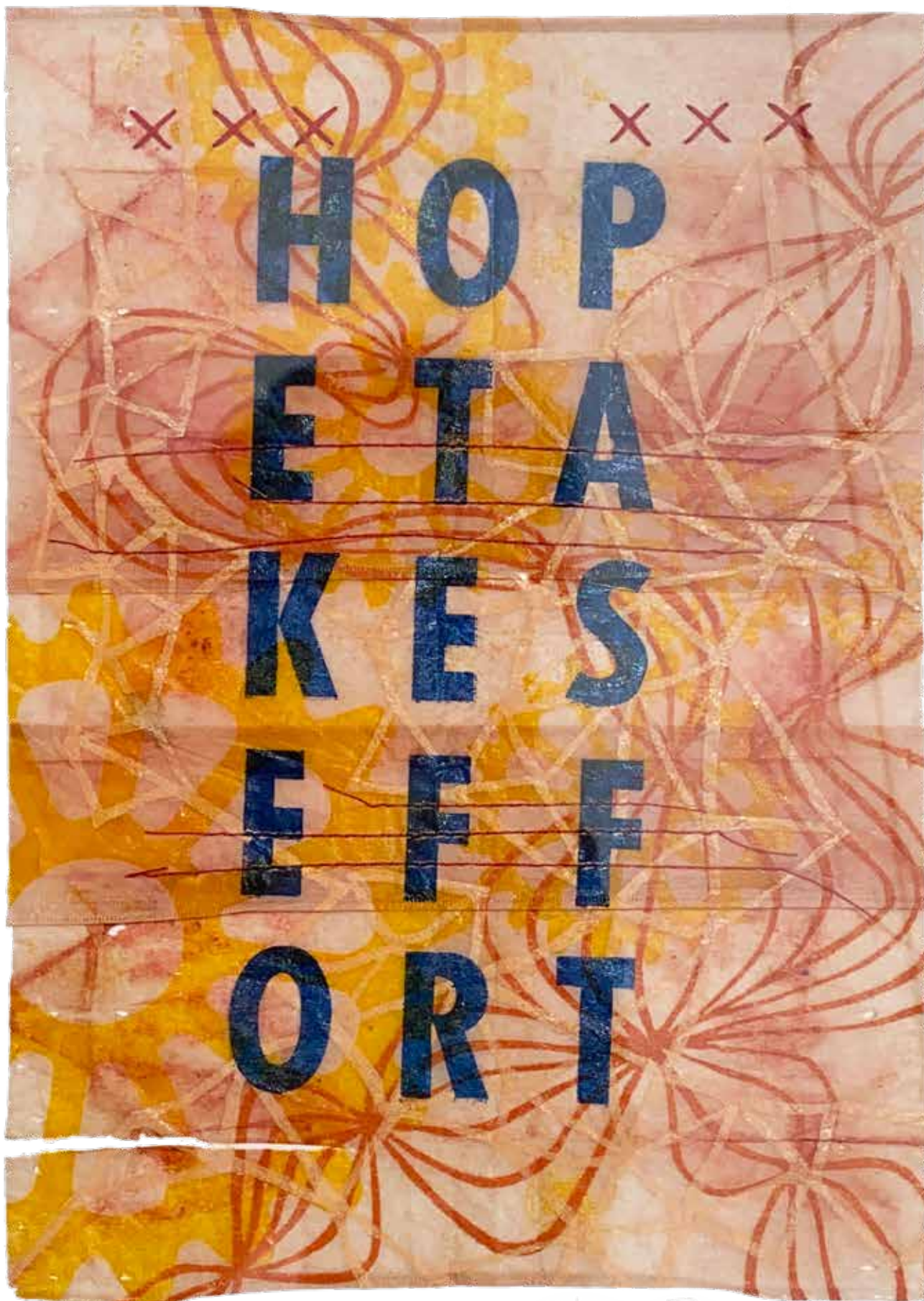
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