

# foundations

SPRING 2010 | VOL. 10 NO. 1

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION



*Academics & Athletics  
unite for StatePride*

FOREVER

MAROON

AND

WHITE

Over the years, I have developed a deep appreciation for my alma mater and formed a lifelong connection with many fellow graduates. From my role as Mississippi State University's vice president for development and alumni, I'm able to see first-hand the impact that comes from forming lasting ties with other faithful alumni. Together, we make a conscious, unified effort to preserve and enhance the MSU experience for others.

The overwhelming emotion I have for MSU is fueled, in part, by the path blazed by early alumni of the institution. The first 13 graduates of then-Mississippi A&M received their degrees in 1883. Later, members of the inaugural class, along with graduates from the classes of 1884 and 1885, worked tirelessly to ensure the spirit they felt for the institution would live in perpetuity.

The incredible bond they forged became cemented in the summer of 1885 as the majority of those early A&M graduates gathered on campus to form an association to preserve the memories of college life. These men gave the gift of their time; others who followed would extend their financial support as well.

The coming years would bring structured fundraising efforts led by dedicated alumni of the institution. Then, in 1962, the Development Foundation was chartered by alumni who desired to be accountable as they worked to make a difference in the university with financial gifts. Today, alumni and philanthropy operations work hand-in-hand for the greater good of the institution.

From Mississippi A&M to Mississippi State College to Mississippi State University, generations of alumni have shaped the 132 year-old institution through their time, loyalty and financial contributions. The spirit conveyed by those early graduates yielded the vibrant MSU Alumni Association of today.

Mississippi State proudly boasts more than 116,000 living graduates. As the Alumni Association marks 125 years of service, it does so with 90 chapters across the U.S., and one international chapter in Seoul, Korea. The annual support of these enthusiastic alumni is the cornerstone for preserving the traditions, activities and programs that comprise the MSU experience.

I am proud to follow in the footsteps of those early alumni who had a passionate bulldog spirit and a strong devotion to the university. As vice president for development and alumni, I am privileged to help guard the traditions we share while ushering in growth for our university. Within the Division of Development and Alumni, it is our quest to ensure that today's graduates, just as their early counterparts, remain "forever maroon and white."

**John Rush**

VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI

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*The Mississippi State University Foundation is a nonprofit corporation organized to foster, encourage, and promote the educational purposes of the university. In providing its support and services through the pursuit of endowments and other gifts, as well as asset management, the foundation enriches and enhances the academic quality and reputation of Mississippi State University.*

*Discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran’s status is a violation of federal and state law and MSU policy and will not be tolerated. Discrimination based upon sexual orientation or group affiliation is a violation of MSU policy and will not be tolerated.*



Phyllis and Donald Ford

## Loyal Contributors: *Fords faithfully support academics, athletics*



Donald Ford during his days as a football player in the late 1950s.

A deep appreciation for agriculture and a love of athletics continue to draw Donald Ford to Mississippi State. He understands the importance of remaining loyal to his agricultural roots and his alma mater.

Mississippi State holds fond memories for Ford, who credits the university with providing him the education necessary for a successful career in the agriculture industry. Today, Ford is chairman of the board and president of American Plant Food Corp., a domestic and export fertilizer company that supplies nitrogen fertilizer in the form of ammonium sulfate in Texas, as well as the U.S. and North American markets.

“I feel that without my agriculture degree from MSU, my success in the industry might not have been possible,” shares the Kerrville, Texas, resident.

Following graduation from MSU in 1960, Ford began a career in the chemical fertilizer business. In 1967, he joined American Plant Food Corp. as a salesman. He later became sales manager, and then vice president. In all, Ford has enjoyed a 45-year career with the company.

Born and raised on a farm in Greenville, Ford fantasized as a adolescent about attending Mississippi State. Following high school graduation, he received a football scholarship and his dream became a reality.

“During those days, players held positions on offensive and defensive sides of the game. So, I played fullback on offense and cornerback on defense. It was a great, all-around experience,” he recalled.

It was during his days as a student that Ford met his wife, Phyllis, who was also attending MSU. After graduation, the two were married and moved to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. While Donald

was pursuing a career in the field of agriculture, Phyllis was busy as a homemaker and mother of their two sons, Don Jr. and Stan. The couple, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, has four grandchildren.

The Fords are among the latest contributors giving in support of a new university initiative. *StatePride*. An Initiative for Student and Faculty Support seeks gifts from alumni and friends of the university for scholarships and faculty support.

Through *StatePride*, the Fords have established ten \$1,000 annual scholarships for deserving students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The Donald and Phyllis Ford Loyalty Scholarships will benefit entering freshmen or community college transfer students with a minimum 3.0 grade-point average who demonstrate leadership potential. Their \$10,000 gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar through a special partnership with MSU Athletics, which will result in \$20,000 for scholarships. Loyalty Scholarships are one of several annual scholarships emphasized through the initiative.

The Fords also have established annual awards for exceptional faculty members in the college. A \$40,000 gift for faculty awards also will be matched by the MSU Athletic Department, resulting in \$80,000 for the college.

Over the next two years, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, along with other academic colleges, will receive matching grant funds from the MSU Athletic Department to fund a faculty awards program. Needs for each college are dependent on the number of faculty within the individual unit.

“We are proud to award 32 full-time faculty in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with a stipend of \$2,500 for their meritorious achievements this year,” said Melissa Mixon, interim college dean. “The gift from the Fords, coupled with the athletic match, will allow us to recognize these exceptional faculty at a time when our budgets do not allow for raises.”

Recipients will be selected based on an individual’s contributions to the university’s mission of teaching, research and service. Currently, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has a 156-member faculty.

“We are very pleased to be able to double the impact of our gift with matching funds from the MSU Athletic Department,” says Ford. “It’s a win-win situation for academics and athletics since strides in both areas will make the university the best it can be.”



## *Giving through StatePride*

Nearly \$34 million in support has been raised toward a goal of \$100 million since the *StatePride* initiative began in January 2009.

The four-year effort seeks private gifts to assist Mississippi State in reaching 22,000 students by 2015, a goal set forth by MSU President Mark E. Keenum. The initiative will allow MSU to award need-based scholarships for deserving students and academic scholarships to compete for the best and brightest students. *StatePride* also will create opportunities for top performing faculty.

In conjunction with *StatePride*, the MSU Foundation has partnered with the MSU Athletic Department for a matching gift program. The department will match up to an average of \$750,000 annually for scholarships and faculty support, as funds become available.

All contributions for scholarships and faculty support made before Dec. 31, 2012, will count toward *StatePride*. Over the course of *StatePride*, the MSU Foundation will continue to raise funds for other campus needs such as building renovations and expansions, but an emphasis will be placed on scholarships and faculty support.

Please visit the MSU Foundation online at [www.msufoundation.com](http://www.msufoundation.com) and request a copy of our brochure to learn more.



## *A Special Legacy*

BILL AND SARA FOSTER ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED

*Bill Foster can recite the names of many, and remember the stories of hundreds more Mississippi State University students. Over the course of a nearly 40-year career with MSU, Foster was a mainstay with student life before retiring in 1997 as associate vice president for Student Affairs.*

Now, through careful estate planning, a bequest from Foster and his wife, Sara, will benefit the university. Future proceeds from the bequest will act as an extension of his long association with MSU and be used for recruitment priorities within the Division of Student Affairs, where Foster spent the majority of his career.

“It was an easy choice to name MSU as a beneficiary in my will since the institution

provided me with an outstanding education and a wonderful career. It wasn’t out of a sense of duty, but rather out of the love Sara and I have for the university,” Foster said.

The enduring feelings the couple has for MSU haven’t changed since they first entered the-then Mississippi State College in 1952. Their love of the university is shared by daughter Kathy, who is also a proud MSU graduate.

*“Sara and I have been blessed in many ways and we are happy to repay an institution that has meant so much to us.”*

Bill Foster earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mathematics and science education from MSU. He holds a doctorate in higher education administration with an emphasis in student personnel services from the University of Alabama.

“Sara and I have been blessed in many ways and we are happy to repay an institution that has meant so much to us. By providing scholarships to worthy students, we are making an investment in the future of these students, our institution and society at large,” Foster explained.

Foster knows first-hand how scholarship dollars can make a difference in the lives of students. One of his primary responsibilities during his tenure as dean of student services was the recruitment of students. Following his retirement as associate vice president, he worked in a part-time role as a fundraiser for the division.

“Since students and their parents must shoulder the burden of rising costs of higher education, it is necessary that more scholarship dollars become available to help these students who might otherwise have to attend college elsewhere,” Foster said. “We want to ease this burden with our gift,” he added.

Foster, a Tremont native, joined MSU in 1960 as coordinator of student activities in the Division of Student Affairs. He served in numerous leadership positions within the division, including director of housing and residence life. Earlier in his career, he taught science at Starkville High School.

Sara Foster worked in the Division of Student Affairs with D.W. Aiken, then-vice president for the division, and later with the Starkville Public Schools. She is a native of Pontotoc.

The Fosters fondly recall the evolution of the



Bill and Sara Foster with daughter Kathy during formal dedication of the Foster Ballroom in the Colvard Student Union.

university. During their association, and in the years that followed, the institution has grown from a college with an enrollment of about 2,800 students to a thriving university with more than 18,000 students.

“Looking back, I can honestly say that if I could do it over, I would not change a thing,” Foster admitted. “Working with students, and particularly the kind of students we have at MSU, is most rewarding.”

In 2008, Foster was honored by the university as the ballroom in the renovated Colvard Student Union was named in his honor. The approximately 9,200-square-foot primary meeting and group assembly area is now known as the Bill R. Foster Ballroom.

It was a fitting tribute for Foster, who served as union director before being promoted to dean of student services in 1972. During his MSU career, he also held an adjunct appointment as an associate professor of counselor education.

The Fosters look forward to attending many campus events in the Foster Ballroom and are confident their estate plans will benefit student life at MSU in perpetuity.

“We fell in love with MSU from day one and our estate gift was a natural progression of what grew from out of that love,” Foster said.

## FOUNDATION NAMES

# Incoming officers and board members



GOLDING



HENRY



HULETT



JOHNSON

A host of alumni and friends of the university have held seats on the MSU Foundation board of directors and served as its voluntary leadership through the years. In January, the Foundation appointed three new officers to one-year terms.

Serving as president for 2010 is James J. “Jim” Rouse of Houston, Texas. He is a 1962 MSU management graduate and a retired ExxonMobil vice president. Fellow Texan Bobby Shackouls was appointed vice president of the board. He is a 1972 chemical engineering graduate who is the retired chairman, president and CEO of Burlington Resources Inc.

Assuming the duties of board treasurer is D. Hines Brannan Jr. of Atlanta, Ga. Brannan is a retired partner with Accenture and a 1970 industrial engineering graduate. He earned a master of business administration from Mississippi State the following year.



Rush



Easley



Hemphill

MSU staff members make up the remaining board officers. John P. Rush, vice president for development and alumni, is the Foundation board’s CEO; David Easley, executive director of finance, its chief financial officer; and Bo Hemphill, executive director of development, board secretary. They, too, are MSU graduates.

Four new members were appointed to board seats. Having begun three-year terms Jan. 1, the MSU alumni in their inaugural board appointments include Leo W. Seal III of Bay St. Louis; Herbert V. Johnson of Houston, Texas; James E. “Jim” Newsome of Mendham, N.J.; and Stephen D. Golding of Vicksburg.



BRANNAN



CARL



DEAVENPORT



GARRETT



NEWSOME



ROUSE



SEAL



SHACKOULS



THOMPSON

Seal is a 2000 geosciences graduate and president of the Leo Seal Family Foundation. Fellow new appointee, Johnson is president of HVJ Associates Inc. He is a 1978 civil engineering graduate who earned a master's degree in the same field in 1981.

Newsome is the retired president and CEO of the New York Mercantile Exchange. Newsome is a food and resource economics graduate of the University of Florida. He earned a master's degree in agriculture in 1985, followed by a Ph.D. in agricultural economics in 2001, both from MSU.

Golding is another new appointee. He is president of Golding Barge Line Inc. and a 1972 MSU transportation graduate.

Board members may be reappointed after vacating the board for at least a year after serving a three-year term. Newly reappointed members include Linda M. Garrett of Atlanta, Ga.; Fred E. Carl Jr. of Greenwood; Earnest W. "Earnie" Deavenport Jr. of Kiawah Island, S.C.; Hunter W. Henry Jr. of San Marcos, Texas; Dr. Karen D. Hulett of Madison; and J. F. "Bud" Thompson Jr. of Meridian.

Garrett is a retired principal of Garrett Associates Inc. She is a 1969 MSU accounting graduate who holds a master's degree in business

administration from Georgia College and University.

Carl attended Mississippi State University. He is president and CEO of Viking Range Corp.

Deavenport is a 1960 chemical engineering graduate who holds a master's degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the retired chairman and CEO of Eastman Chemical.

Henry is a 1950 chemical engineering graduate. He is the retired president of Dow Chemical USA.

Dr. Hulett is a medical consultant for the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services. She is a 1972 general science graduate who also holds a medical degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Also returning to the board is Thompson, who is a vice president of The Thompson Group. He is a 1962 mathematics education graduate.

Incorporated in 1962, the MSU Foundation works to solicit funding from private sources to supplement the university's legislative appropriations. The organization also administers academic fundraising activities and endowment funds.

# Honoring a Heritage

Johnson advances engineering education with scholarships



Since 1985, Johnson has owned HVJ Associates Inc., based in Houston, Texas. The company he founded has evolved into one of the major specialty civil engineering companies in the state. The firm has provided geotechnical services for many of the landmark projects in Texas, and is recognized for its vast knowledge of Texas subsurface conditions. The firm is also heavily involved in construction quality control and infrastructure asset management services.

The company was named by The Greater Houston Partnership as one of the 100 small companies having the greatest impact on Houston business. The trade publication *Inc.* magazine recently cited the firm, which has offices in Austin, San Antonio, Dallas and El Paso, as one of the 500 fastest growing private companies in the nation.

“Starting the firm was a way to take charge of my life, exercise personal creativity, and support my interests financially,” said the MSU civil engineering graduate.

Throughout his success, Johnson continues to hold the importance of family close to his heart. He resides in Houston with his son, Herbert II, who is following in his footsteps. The younger Johnson is

The core values of education, family and purpose are important to Herb Johnson. After structuring a career in the engineering industry, Johnson has reached a point in his life where he is taking conscious steps to ensure his legacy.

currently a civil engineering major at the University of Houston.

Johnson understands what it takes to be successful in the field of engineering and wants to do his part to encourage young professionals with similar aspirations. Bringing engineering education to the forefront for African-American students is of personal significance to Johnson.

Recently, Johnson created an endowment for scholarships in the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering at Mississippi State. The scholarship will assist students with their engineering studies.

The Jessie and Sarah L. Johnson Endowed Scholarship will benefit students with demonstrated interests and abilities in advancing the interests of African-Americans. The scholarship memorializes Johnson's parents who died in 2004.

"I created the scholarship in honor of my parents out of respect for their memory," Johnson said. "They were in their 90s and were married nearly 70 years before they passed away, just eight weeks apart," he recalled.

Johnson grew up in Mississippi, where his dad was a farmer and his mom was a homemaker in Panola County. Coming from an agriculture background, Johnson was involved with the Future Farmers of America during high school.

"I was active with the FFA and would attend events at Mississippi State University. Since I was familiar with the campus and looked



HVJ Associates Inc. is headquartered in Houston, Texas.

forward to visiting Starkville, it was a natural progression for me to enroll as a student," Johnson explained.

Although agriculture was a large part of his background, Johnson decided to forge a different path and pursue engineering at Mississippi State. He earned a bachelor of science in civil engineering in 1978, followed by a master of science in the same field in 1981.

"The opportunity to attend Mississippi State University was the single greatest opportunity I've had in my life, and if I could lower everything I've done in life to a single common denominator it would be the difference that MSU and my education made," Johnson said.

After receiving his bachelor's degree, Johnson was employed by the federal government, primarily with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, where MSU offers a graduate program of study. Johnson worked full time as a research civil engineering and design engineer while pursuing a master's degree. He also briefly worked for the Environmental Protection Agency.

“The opportunity to attend Mississippi State University was the single greatest opportunity I’ve had in my life, and if I could lower everything I’ve done in life to a single common denominator it would be the difference that MSU and my education made.”

The government jobs provided him the foundation and the courage to later strike out on his own. From there, starting his own business, according to Johnson, was a fairly manageable process.

“A lot of resources are in existence and are readily available. The difficult and significant part was in mastering the know-how of management and leadership to make valuable offers to clients, employees and business associates, that as an organization, we could reliably fulfill,” he explained.

Johnson would definitely lend this advice to others who are considering following the same course. “I would say a commitment to learning is an excellent path—learning about yourself, who you are and your purpose in life. This is where the energy for accomplishment resides,” he shared.

HVJ Associates Inc. is widely known in Texas for providing quality engineering services. The firm has participated in many projects which received the Consulting Engineers Council of Texas Engineering Excellence Awards.

“Our company’s accomplishments can be directly attributed to the culture of HVJ Associates. Our ability to meaningfully address the cares and concerns of all our stakeholders has set us apart,” Johnson noted.

Johnson strives to maintain a connection with Mississippi State University, despite a busy career.

Through the years, Johnson has been a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council and the Civil and Environmental Engineering Advisory Board for the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering. He also is a newly appointed member of the MSU Foundation board of directors.

“I had many positive experiences at Mississippi State, going back to the days of high school visiting the campus for special programs,” he recalled. “While attending college several of the professors and staff there had a profound impact on me as well—Oswald Rendon, Victor Zitta and Walter Croft were among them,” he added.

Rendon, Zitta and Croft were longtime faculty members of the engineering college during Johnson’s days as an MSU student. The three men helped steer countless students, including Johnson, toward an engineering career.

“I’ve found that the benefit of learning cannot be overstated; it’s probably a purpose for living along with conscientiously contributing to others of course. Having the opportunity for a college education has positioned me for accessing my personal and unique contribution to the world. An education can do the same for others and it is my reason for supporting the scholarship in engineering,” he declared.

As Johnson looks to the future, his past will not be forgotten. In fact, his heritage and belief in education will be honored in perpetuity through the endowment he created at Mississippi State University.

“Mississippi State University has helped immeasurably in my development, and I am deeply appreciative of that,” Johnson said. “Years from now, I want people to remember me as someone who placed value on education and one who made the most of his academic background,” he concluded.



## *The Value of Giving*

In 2009, the MSU Foundation launched a special initiative to garner support for scholarships and faculty awards. *StatePride: An Initiative for Student and Faculty Support* is a strategic fundraising plan that seeks to raise \$100 million by December 31, 2012.

The major focus of *StatePride* will be to help MSU attract exceptional students from the state and the region, and create opportunities for top performing faculty members.

For more information on *StatePride*, contact the MSU Foundation at 662-325-7000 or visit our Web site at [www.msufoundation.com](http://www.msufoundation.com).

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**PROFILE:** *Halston Hales*

**CLASSIFICATION:** Senior

**HOMETOWN:** Clinton, Miss.

**AWARD:** Thomas C. and Shirley Dawkins Presidential Endowed Scholar

*"The Presidential Endowed Scholarship has allowed me to achieve more in college than I ever even thought about attempting. I fully intend to give back to MSU one day as a means of saying thanks for everything I've been blessed with while in school."*

**STATEPRIDE**  
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY  
*Initiative for Student and Faculty Support*

STATEPRIDE

## Riley Next Step program provides Meridian scholarships

A unique opportunity from the Riley Foundation has established a new scholarship program for MSU-Meridian. Titled the Riley Next Step Scholarship, the program intends to attract community college graduates and transfer students to MSU-Meridian.

The Riley Next Step program will award scholarships for junior level students who have proven academic achievements. Priority for these scholarships will go to transfer students from East Central Community College, East Mississippi Community College, Jones Junior College and Meridian Community College.

The program was created from a challenge grant that the Meridian-based foundation awarded to the university last fall. The Riley Foundation issued a challenge to match up to \$300,000 in funds raised for the Riley Next Step program.

“We are very fortunate to have strong support of this challenge grant from the Meridian community,” said Dr. Jack Tucci, dean and executive director of MSU-Meridian. “The Riley Next Step program will significantly increase scholarship opportunities for talented and deserving students.”

Since the challenge was issued in September, over \$200,000 in supporting funds has been raised. Initial gifts for the Riley Next Step program have come from: Dr. and Mrs. Paul W. Allen; Bank of America; Joel and Toni Clements; Bob Deen; First State Bank; Hardy P. Graham;

David and Isa Hall; Bob and Kathy Luke; Mississippi Power; Bud and Sue Thompson; and Van Zyverden Inc.

In addition to the \$300,000 challenge grant, the Riley Foundation committed an additional \$150,000 to the Riley Next Step program. When the goal is reached, MSU-Meridian will have \$750,000 in new scholarship support. All of the funds donated will count toward the *StatePride* fundraising initiative.

Students awarded the Riley Next Step Scholarship will receive a two-year award. Eligibility requires at least 48 transferable college credit hours and a competitive grade-point average. Students interested in the scholarship must apply to the university and complete the online scholarship resume by the June 1 priority date.

The Riley Foundation was formed in 1998 with proceeds from the sale of Riley Memorial Hospital, which was founded in Meridian in 1930 by Dr. Franklin Gail Riley. The Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for the people of Meridian and Lauderdale County. Dr. William G. Riley, son of the late Dr. Franklin G. Riley, currently serves as chairman for the foundation’s board of directors.

For information on the Riley Next Step Scholarship or to make a contribution to this program, please contact Josh Thompson, development officer for MSU-Meridian at [jthompson@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:jthompson@foundation.msstate.edu) or 601.484.0493.

## Spouse remembers “Rockie” Smith with special scholarship

As a tribute to his late wife, Lorena J. “Rockie” Smith, A. B. Smith Jr. has established a scholarship for students in the College of Arts and Sciences.

“Rockie was an unforgettable partner in life and she would be very pleased to know I am providing a scholarship for deserving students majoring in the arts at Mississippi State,” said Smith.

The couple met while they were attending then-Mississippi State College. Rockie Johnson was a cheerleader and a business student from Starkville; Smith was an agronomy major from Marks. He was also vice president of the college student body and chairman of the dance committee. The opportunity allowed the pair to spend many evenings dancing together on campus.

The couple married following A.B.’s graduation in 1948 and moved to Blytheville, Ark. It was there that Rockie began sharing her love of dance and gift of teaching with others. She taught dance for more than 50 years, and was a supporter of community theatre. She died in 2002.

Mississippi State College alumni of the mid-to-late 1940s may remember A.B. Smith for his association with *The Mis-A-Sip*, a widely read college humor magazine, which he owned. The magazine was published nine times a year, and was “as good as sold” as it came off the presses, he proudly recalled.

Smith is a retired investment officer for Connecticut General Life Insurance Co. He owns and operates A.B. Smith Real Estate in West

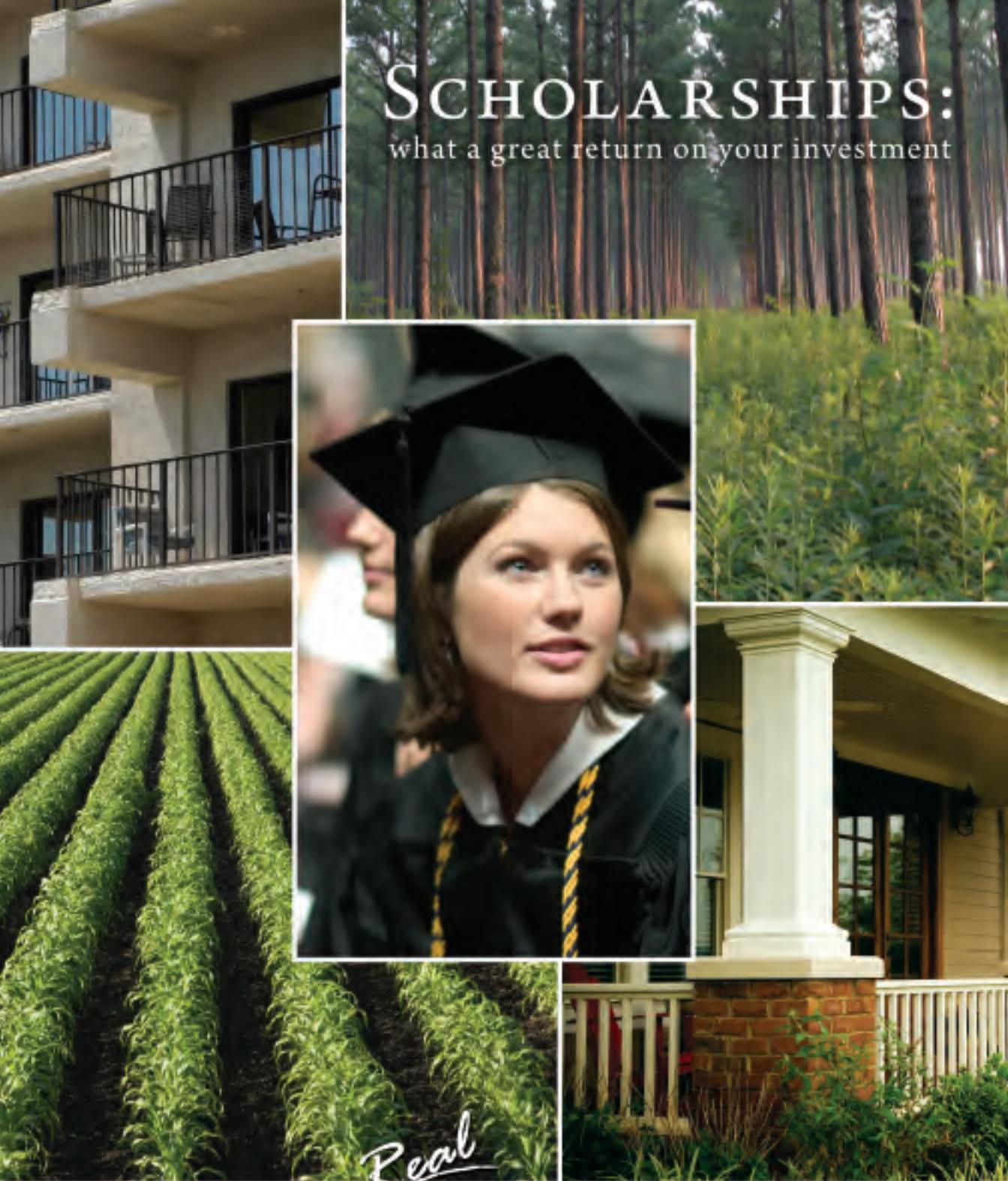


Rockie and A.B. Smith during their college days.

Memphis, Ark., and presently manages his own farm land in Arkansas and Mississippi. He is an Air Force veteran of World War II.

“The areas of Mississippi State we support with our gifts reflect mother’s many interests. She loved young people and would have loved to have presented deserving and talented students with scholarships,” said daughter Llana Smith, who is an MSU graduate and a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Executive Advisory Board.

Candidates for the recently created Lorena J. “Rockie” Smith Loyalty Scholarship should be entering freshmen with a minimum 3.0 grade-point average, or entering community college transfer students who meet certain criteria. Applicants must have demonstrated leadership ability or potential.



# SCHOLARSHIPS:

what a great return on your investment

## CREATE A *Real* LEGACY AT MSU

Did you know that your real estate assets could also be used to create a meaningful investment at Mississippi State University? Whether it's agricultural property, timberland, a personal residence, vacation home or mineral interests, our real estate team is interested in working with you. For more information about the options of making a real estate gift, please contact us or visit our Web site at [www.msufoundation.com/ways/estate](http://www.msufoundation.com/ways/estate).

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**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
UNIVERSITY  
**FOUNDATION**

## Bulldog physician supports MSU athletics in generous new way

Dr. Rusty Linton is a huge supporter of Mississippi State University athletics on and off the field. Since 1990, he has been caring for MSU athletes as a team physician. The well-known orthopedic surgeon and his wife, Danielle, have taken their bulldog enthusiasm and loyalty a step further by establishing an athletic support fund at the university.



Dr. Rusty Linton and Danielle Linton

The earnings from the couple's endowment will be used to purchase new equipment and upgrade existing equipment for the training room in the MSU Athletic Department.

The endowment will enhance the health and welfare of athletes on a daily basis by assisting with the medical care and rehabilitation services provided to these students.

"Every athlete we treat, whether surgically or non-operatively, needs to have the appropriate rehabilitation to return to the field. The reason behind the fund is to provide our training room with equipment to allow us to keep up with our SEC counterparts in this area," Linton explained.

Linton is one of the country's foremost orthopedic surgeons. He is a Columbus resident who is head of orthopedics at Baptist Memorial

Hospital—Golden Triangle, and an orthopedic surgeon with Columbus Orthopaedic Clinic P.A.

His work with bulldog athletics dates back to 1983, while he was completing medical school and his residency. For his current role, Linton was honored as the Southeastern Conference Team Physician of the Year for 2009.

Linton is among hundreds of physicians around Mississippi whose careers began as an undergraduate at Mississippi State. He received his undergraduate degree in biochemistry from MSU in 1980.

A high school shop class actually led Linton to the practice of medicine. "I took the class, and we worked with saws and drills—the same instruments orthopedic surgeons use," Linton said. "So by the time I was a junior in high school, I knew what I wanted to do," he added.

Linton earned his medical degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1984, and served his orthopedic residency at the University of Tennessee Medical School/Campbell Clinic. He then completed one year of sports medicine fellowship at the University of Florida. Danielle Linton is a nursing graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi.

The Dr. Rusty and Danielle Linton Athletic Support Fund may be increased through additional contributions. Alumni and friends may contact Bo Hemphill, executive director of development for the MSU Foundation, by e-mail at [bhemphill@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:bhemphill@foundation.msstate.edu) or 662.325.8852 for more information.

## Business college gets stock ticker, seeks funds for lab

Students and faculty in Mississippi State University's College of Business are now able to access the latest financial information throughout the day.

A 34-foot stock ticker has been installed in the McCool Hall lobby of the Leo W. Seal Family Business Complex. The ticker is a running report of the prices and volume of securities traded on the various stock exchanges integrated with financial news and college announcements.

The stock ticker is just one phase of a larger project planned by the college's Department of Finance and Economics. The end result will be a new financial lab for business students. Efforts are currently under way to make the project a reality, and gifts are needed.

"The college needs an estimated \$250,000 to fully fund a financial experiment lab or 'trading room,' as it will be known," said Michael Highfield, department head. "The benefits would be numerous for the college and would allow us to give students a competitive

edge as they seek jobs in the investment industry or sit for professional certification exams," he added.

A "trading room" is an advanced learning laboratory that provides students with experience in using industry-standard information sources. The concept replicates a real-world trading experience and functions as a classroom and a laboratory—successfully bridging the gap between the learning experience and financial markets. Currently, the only similar facility in the state is housed at Mississippi College in Clinton, but "trading rooms" are part of a growing trend for finance programs nationwide.

Once funding is complete, the next step, Highfield said, is to form partnerships with faculty of other universities who can assist MSU with integration of these practices into the business college curriculum.

"The 'trading room' will allow professors to teach hands-on applications for investments, engage students in finding relevant information, and assist them as they evaluate and act on the information observed," Highfield explained.

Contributors thus far include: Morgan Keegan & Co., a regional investment firm, and Jan L. Gwin, a banking and finance graduate who is a managing director with the corporation's Memphis, Tenn., headquarters.



## Hoover's appreciation of MSU culminates in a lasting legacy

Each year, Dr. Jack Hoover is moved beyond words while reading letters from recipients of the C. Dale Hoover Endowed Scholarship in Agronomy, named in honor of his father.



Dr. Jack Hoover

“The letters I get are so outstanding and that kind of a reward you can't put a price on,” Hoover explained.

The most recent letter Hoover received was from Alicia

Ann Evans, a senior at MSU majoring in agronomy, with an emphasis in integrated crop management. She wrote, “As an agronomy major, I hope to use my appreciation and passion for land and food to contribute to agriculture, if only a fraction of the amount your father contributed during his lifetime.”

It felt natural for Hoover and his two brothers to fund a scholarship in honor of their father, who was chair of the agronomy department at Mississippi State University for many years.

“We all three loved our dad so much,” he explained. “And he was very influential in our going to college.”

Of course, there was no question which college they would attend—the brothers grew up on campus and didn't want to go anywhere else.

“It was just understood that I would go to Mississippi State,” Hoover said. “The courses were so fine, and the professors outstanding and stimulating.”

After receiving his bachelor's degree from MSU in 1955, Hoover earned a medical degree from Tulane University. Then, he entered the Navy, where he became a flight surgeon.

Hoover later completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology, and set up practice in Pascagoula. He remains successful there, as a senior partner at Gulf Coast OB/GYN, practicing gynecology.

Along with a busy career, Hoover found time to raise a family. He and his wife, Peggy, have three children: Jack Hoover Jr., Catherine Williford and Dr. Myrtle Hoover Delgado.

Over the course of his career, Hoover has always longed to pay back Mississippi State for the education he received, and help future students.

In 1975, Hoover took advantage of the ease of giving a life insurance policy and donated \$25,000. More recently, he included the university in his will. Part of his gift will be added to his father's scholarship, and the rest will establish the Jack C. Hoover Endowed Scholarship in Pre-medicine.

“I want a student who is serious about medicine to get the scholarship. I hope it will encourage and help young people to go into medicine,” Hoover said.

He continued, “The university gave me a beautiful education and a chance to really do something with my life. It makes me feel fantastic that I can give back to Mississippi State.”

## McBride bridges relations between fundraising, athletics



Michelle McBride

Since joining Mississippi State in late 2009, Michelle McBride has been busy as the associate athletic director for development.

In her new role at MSU, McBride solicits gifts in support of the university's major athletic projects. Her position serves as a liaison between the MSU Foundation and MSU Athletic Department.

McBride is already fond of the South and has settled into life in the Starkville-MSU community.

"There is an amazing tradition and history here, coupled with a major focus on growth and achievement," McBride said. "You don't find that everywhere. From athletics to academics, it's university wide and I'm glad to be a part of it as I share the enthusiasm with alumni and friends."

A native of Centerville, Ohio, McBride holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Cincinnati. Before joining MSU, she was assistant athletic director for the Aztec Athletic Foundation at San Diego State University. Her previous experience also includes work with her alma mater, the University of Cincinnati. There, she served as the assistant athletic director for development and later as the director of development for the Barrett Cancer Center.

McBride's office is located in the Bryan Athletic Administration Building. She can be reached at [mmcbride@athletics.msstate.edu](mailto:mmcbride@athletics.msstate.edu) or 662.325.6312.

## Daughter's gift establishes Jenkins education scholarship

A new scholarship in the College of Education honors a former high school basketball coach. The Bert Jenkins Scholarship in Coaching was established by Ann Campbell of Flora in tribute to her father.

Jenkins, now of Hattiesburg, spent his basketball coaching career at Gulfport High School. At one time, he held the Mississippi high school boys' team all-time winning record that included seven state championships. Born in 1924, Jenkins is one of the oldest living members of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. He also is a member of the Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame.

Jenkins is a Starkville High School graduate who attended Mississippi State for his freshman year before enlisting in the military. Jenkins claims first loyalty to the land-grant university, though he holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's from the University of Alabama.

"I'm very supportive of Mississippi State, and Ann knew that," Jenkins said recently.

"The College of Education is deeply appreciative of friends like Ann Campbell who, like our many loyal alumni, assist us in carrying out our mission," said Richard Blackburn, dean. "The Bert Jenkins Scholarship is an example of such generosity that will enable students to further their education and fulfill their dreams and goals."

The Bert Jenkins Scholarship is offered through the college's kinesiology department, in which the teaching and coaching concentration is offered. Gulfport High graduates will be given preference in the selection process.

TAKE PRIDE

IN OUR

UNIVERSITY

It is often said in academia, an institution is only as good as its faculty, and students are the lifeblood of our campus. Since gifted students need exceptional teachers and mentors, Mississippi State University is taking great strides to ensure our students have the opportunity to learn and research with strong faculty members across the university.

Through *StatePride*, An Initiative for Student and Faculty Support, the MSU Foundation is raising funds to assist with recognizing meritorious faculty for a job well done. A gift from you can establish one or several awards for top performing faculty members in a specific college or area of the university. These financial awards will be given annually to recognize selected faculty for their accomplishments and offer encouragement. Mississippi State's eight academic colleges have established criteria for the objective selection of award winners, based on the person's contributions to the mission of teaching, research and service.

In an unprecedented partnership between academics and athletics at Mississippi State, gifts for faculty awards through *StatePride* are eligible for a matching opportunity provided by the MSU Athletic Department, as long as funds are available. The benefits of the initiative will impact faculty immediately as these annual awards will initially be distributed for the 2010-11 academic year.

MSU Foundation staff are available to help you maximize your giving to the university and help find opportunities that are tailored to fit your interests. *StatePride* will continue to focus on supporting our students through annual and endowed scholarships. These gifts may also qualify for the matching opportunity from the MSU Athletic Department, as funds are available.

In addition to *StatePride*, the Athletic Department will donate \$50,000 in matching funds annually to the MSU library system. The University Libraries stand at the academic heart of Mississippi State, and improvements made in this area will allow continued progress as they look to become the first member of the Association of Research Libraries in Mississippi.

We hope you will get involved with *StatePride* soon and take advantage of matching funds from athletics. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our students and faculty at Mississippi State University. The initiative continues through Dec. 31, 2012.

As always, thank you for your support of Mississippi State through your time and financial resources. Each year, our university continues to reap the benefits of valuable ties we share with generous alumni and friends, like you, who understand the importance of people helping others.



**Bo Hemphill**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

## Mary and Cary Childs



**THEIR STORY:** Mary Childs grew up knowing she would attend college at Mississippi State University because it was such an integral part of her life from a young age. The loyalty, pride and passion she expresses for the university are ideals she shares with her parents, Bobby and Barbara Martin, who are longtime supporters of the university.

A 1980 MSU banking and finance graduate, Mary serves as vice chairman of the board and COO of The Peoples Bank in Ripley. In June, she will mark 20 years with the establishment.

Mary makes her home in Ripley with her

husband Cary. He is a cattle farmer who raises registered Angus and Polled Hereford, as well as commercial cattle. Although not an alumnus, Cary shares Mary's passion for bulldog sports. Their son, Bob, and his wife, Amberly, are both MSU graduates.

**THEIR GIVING:** The couple recently established the Mary Martin Childs Legacy Scholarship Fund at Mississippi State through the *StatePride* initiative. They also contribute to the Tippah County Endowed Scholarship Fund.

*Loyalty. Pride. Passion.*

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## MSU foundations

Volume 10 | Number 1

**foundations** is published two times per year by the Mississippi State University Foundation, P.O. Box 6149, Mississippi State, MS 39762-6149. We invite your comments and questions. Please send them to the above address or telephone 662.325.7000.

The MSU Foundation also can be found on the Internet at [www.msufoundation.com](http://www.msufoundation.com).

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**HUNTER HENRY CENTER** MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

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 Built with gifts from alumni and friends, the Hunter Henry Center houses the Division of Government and Administration for the State of Mississippi and the MSU Foundation. The Building Gating Center, named in honor of students making gifts for MSU, houses the Foundation.

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