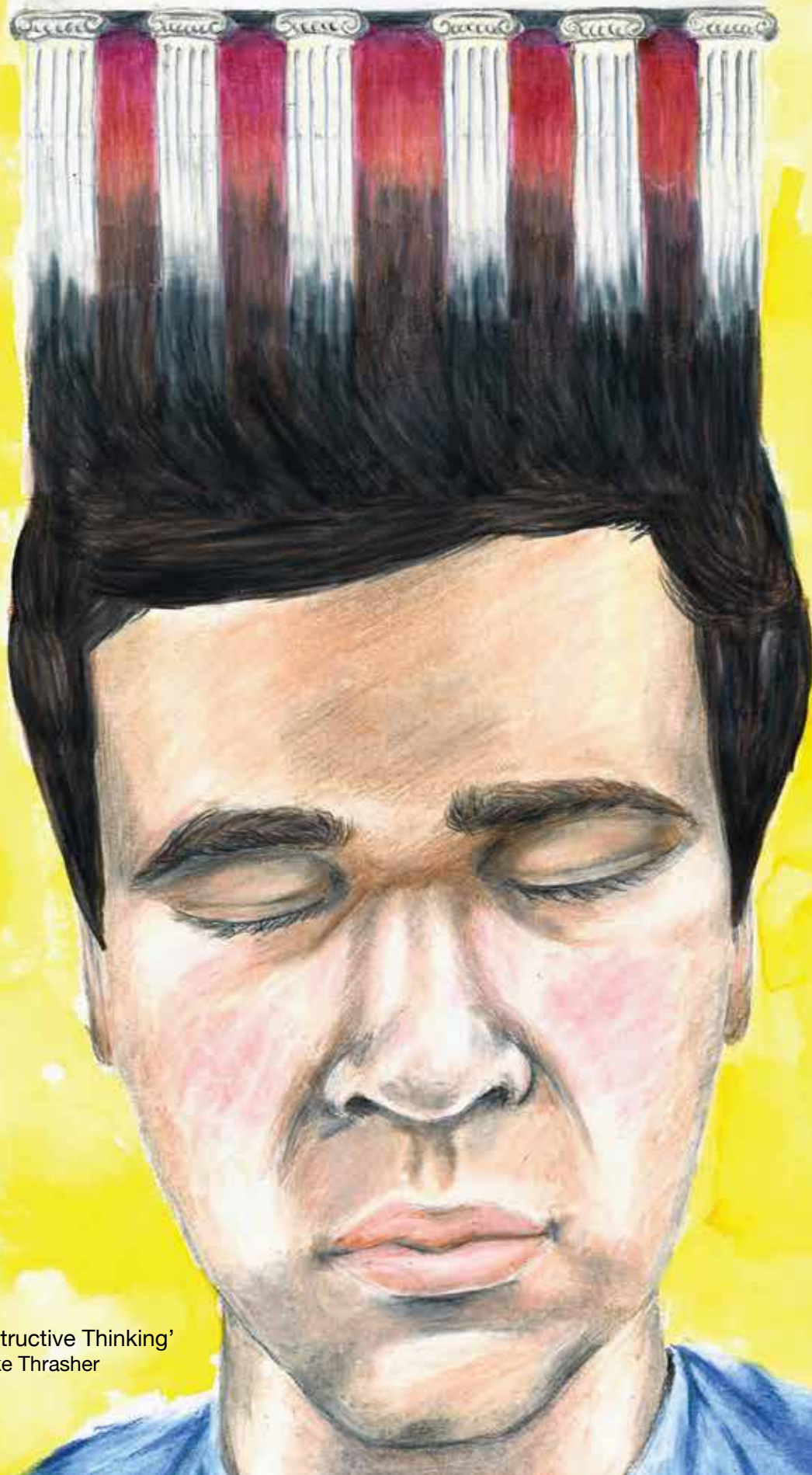


UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
HONORS REPORT

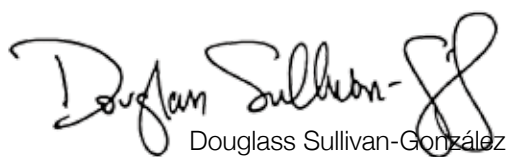
FALL 2015



'Constructive Thinking'
by Jake Thrasher



Douglass Sullivan-González



Douglass Sullivan-González

From the DEAN

Two great moments stand out from our past academic year (2014-15) that make me very proud to be dean of the SMBHC: our very successful fundraising campaign conducted in December and the spontaneous "I Stand with Dan" campaign led mostly by SMBHC students to support our outgoing Chancellor Dan Jones.

We contacted you by mail – our alumni and parents of current students – asking you to join our team by supporting financially the mission and vision of the SMBHC. Many of you generously responded with incredible support, and we raised more than \$12,000 in a brief period of time. Alums from the Scholars Program checked in on our projects; graduates of our honors program remembered their experiences fondly; and our recent graduates stood up to the challenge to sustain their incredible experience with their financial support. We are proud that you are a member of our team, and we look forward to your continued support in the coming months.

We received word during the spring semester that the governing board of the University of Mississippi decided not to renew Chancellor Jones' contract despite record giving and enrollment both at UM and in the SMBHC. Many of our SMBHC students organized quickly to create and sustain the "I Stand with Dan" campaign, which culminated in a peaceful rally in the Circle to support Chancellor Dan's bid to win a renewable contract. Our students organized a constant social media watch over the debate and provided fresh perspectives on the unfolding events. Some of our journalist honors students posed difficult and demanding questions of the board. Though we did not succeed with our top goal, these honors students stood up to the challenge of their day and demonstrated that UM has produced the quality and quantity of leadership that will help guide Mississippi's future.

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



'Pheasant'
by Ray Brown

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **SMBHC Open House** – Sat., Oct. 24
- **SMBHC Fall Convocation** – Tues., Oct. 27, Ford Center, 7 p.m.
Ken Burns, filmmaker
- Stop by the **SMBHC tent** at these **home football games**:
Sept. 12 — Fresno State Oct. 24 — Texas A&M
Sept. 26 — Vanderbilt Nov. 7 — Arkansas
- **SMBHC Spring Convocation** – Tues., Feb. 23, Ford Center, 7 p.m.
Bruce Levingston, pianist

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Check out the new
promotional video for
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Greetings from **BRUCE LEVINGSTON**

In July of 2014, I had the wonderful honor of being named the Chancellor's Honors College Artist in Residence. I had spent the past 30 years or so based in New York City and also traveling the world as a concert pianist. When **Dean Douglass Sullivan-González** offered me this position, it seemed both a wonderful opportunity to work with the many gifted students and faculty in the Honors College and university and a chance to spend time back in my beloved home state of Mississippi.

Little did I realize what an impact this move would have on my life! I not only have had the opportunity to work with many outstanding scholars and artists at the university, including acclaimed writers **Beth Ann Fennelly** and **Tom Franklin**, painter **Philip Jackson** and concert soprano **Nancy Maria Balach**, but also to teach some of the most talented and motivated students I have ever met. I was stunned and inspired by these extraordinary young people who eagerly shared their ideas, continually asked deep and meaningful questions and worked hard to prepare for an exciting and successful future.

During this past year, we studied together, performed and presented art and music together, and explored what it meant to truly become citizen scholars. For our Spring Convocation, I invited the acclaimed film director **Benh Zeitlin**, who created the Cannes Festival award-winning film "Beasts of the Southern Wild," and **Dan Nuxoll**, director of the distinguished New York City film festival Rooftop Films, to join me at the Ford Center. We presented various genres of music and films to the students followed by detailed analysis and discussion of the creative techniques and methods used to create these works of art. The students were riveted by what they heard and saw, and they asked intelligent, challenging questions long after the official program concluded. We were moved to hear many of them say they thought it was the "best convocation" they had ever attended. But it really could not have happened without them; their



Bruce Levingston (Photo by Tony Notarberardino)

sharp engagement, presence and keen attention to what was going on made the evening exciting, relevant and memorable.

This fall, the Honors College has the distinct pleasure to present at its Fall Convocation the great Emmy Award-winning film director and historian **Ken Burns**, whose groundbreaking films on the Civil War, baseball, American jazz, World War II and, most recently, the Roosevelts, have set a new standard for documentary film. I have known Ken for a number of years, and when I asked him if he wanted to come to Ole Miss and Oxford, he replied, "Yes! I've always wanted to go there!" I hope if you are in town this fall on Oct. 27, you'll come to the Ford Center and join us to see and hear this visionary artist speak about his films and discuss their connection to many of today's most important issues.

One other thing that you might want to include on your calendar: Our Honors College Spring Convocation is set for Feb. 23, 2016. The legendary **Alessandra Ferri**, *prima ballerina assoluta* of Italy, and **Herman Cornejo**, the virtuoso Argentine superstar of American Ballet Theatre, will join me at Ole Miss' Ford Center for a magical evening of dance, drama and music. The three of us, longtime friends, recently performed on tour in the opera houses of Italy and now will be performing for the Honors College before our premiere run in New York City. We hope that you will join us for this special program in February and on Oct. 27 for Ken Burns. Exciting things are happening at the Honors College! Come join us!

Chancellor's Honors College Artist in Residence



SMBHC graduate **Aynslee Moon** is originally from Amory, Mississippi. She has a B.F.A. in painting from the University of Mississippi and an M.F.A. in painting from the University of Alabama. Her work has been exhibited both locally and nationally, and her artwork and writing were published in *Ruminate Magazine*. Her studio, named Moonline Studio, is a part of Lowe Mill ARTS and Entertainment, located at 2211 Seminole Drive in Huntsville, Alabama.

Meet our SMBHC FEATURED ARTISTS



Kristen Vise lives in Seattle, Washington, and is a senior consultant for CGI in the information technology industry. She graduated from Ole Miss and the Honors College in 2012 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art.



Ray Brown is a second-year SMBHC student seeking degrees in accountancy and art. He is a 2014 graduate of the Kinkaid School in Houston, Texas. Brown recently spent a portion of his summer studying drawing at Florence University of the Arts in Italy.



Birmingham, Alabama, native **Jake Thrasher** is a second-year SMBHC student studying biochemistry, art and French. He is the 2014 valedictorian of Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School. Thrasher is an illustrator for *The Daily Mississippian* and spends some of his free time conducting experiments on the electrochemical properties of gold nanomolecules under the guidance of associate professor Amala Dass.



ECHOES

of the Civil War

KATHRYN JAMES

On the campus of the University of Mississippi, the weight of the Civil War is felt both literally and symbolically. In the spring of 2015, Dr. Kathryn McKee and Dr. John Neff began their History and Literature of the Civil War class by asking us to walk around campus, carefully recording the impressions left by the Civil War. Some, like the memorial to the University Greys, were clear and noted by everyone. Others, though, were less obvious but more poignant: the de facto segregation in the Union, the fresh flowers and Confederate flag at the Confederate gravesite behind Tad Smith Coliseum, and the telescope forever missing from Barnard Observatory, an emblem of futures destroyed during the war. In a place where we constantly examine our collective past, Dr. McKee and Dr. Neff challenged the class to not merely think and learn about the events, people and price of the Civil War but also about *how* we remember – or misremember – that past societally and individually.

We like to think of history as linear, as easily compartmentalized – a timeline of events, leading casually from one to another, which smoothly transitions into our modern experience. As our class, recent events and William Faulkner all recognized, “The past is never dead, it isn’t even past.” There are certainly aspects of the Civil War, and the way we collectively remember them, that have happened: 750,000 men died, the Lost Cause mythology was created at the turn of the 20th century, and reconciliation romances were created and rebirthed as the times desired. There are aspects of the Civil War, though, that live on – in streets named after Civil War generals, in the national cemetery system, in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

But many of the things that we define as “of the Civil War” are, in fact, legacies of the *aftermath* of the war, of the North’s and South’s changing attitudes and desire to misremember – Maurice Halbwachs’ “collective memory.” The continued propagation of Lost Cause mythology, the public disagreement over the cause of the war, our collective inability to agree on the meaning of the Confederate battle flag: we are mired not in an inability to know the facts of our collective past, but in an unwillingness to reconcile these facts with the collective memory the South has created for itself.

Drs. McKee and Neff helped us explore the history and literature surrounding the Civil War to uncover what was true; we then walked through the creative reconstructions of history, which gave us a present that is full of discordant,



Professor John Neff specializes in the U.S. Civil War era.

bellicose voices. While the class itself was unique, the immersive and interactive learning, thinking and discovery were not. This was my first class with Dr. Neff, but I'd been fortunate enough to have Dr. McKee before – she has a special way of confronting what students expect, of addressing our built-in suppositions head-on and helping us to grapple with them. I distinctly remember when, freshman year, the class was about to start an Appalachian novel in one of her Southern Studies classes; she asked us to call out works we associate with Appalachia, and most of the class said things like “rolling hills,” “flannel” and “log cabins.” When I called out “teen pregnancy, meth addiction, strip mining,” she seemed to laugh to herself and told the class members to be more honest with themselves. That challenge – to learn not only about history or literature or the society we exist in, but about what we fail to discover within ourselves and how society has imprinted on us – has been the trademark of my experience not only in Drs. McKee and Neff’s History and Literature of the Civil War but of the first half of my Honors College career. Whether we are discussing the Civil War, the American Revolution, 9/11, Eric Garner’s murder or the Magna Carta, we very infrequently have direct contact with the social events that shape us – but they mold us all the same. Like Rosa Coldfield of *Absalom, Absalom* recognized: “*I never saw him. I never even saw him dead. I heard an echo, but not the shot; I saw a closed door but did not enter it . . .*”

I’ve spent two years listening to the reverberating echoes of our collective past; I look forward to a lifetime more spent listening, even as the shot grows farther and farther away. ■ HR



Professor Kathryn McKee recently received the UM Liberal Arts Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.



SMBHC junior Kathryn James is from Mandeville, Louisiana, and majoring in public policy leadership, Southern studies and economics.

UM ALUMNUS IS FIRST MISSISSIPPIAN TO LAND GERMAN CHANCELLOR FELLOWSHIP

CHRISTINA STEUBE

Deeneaus Polk, a 2011 University of Mississippi graduate and Pascagoula native, has been selected for an exclusive German Chancellor Fellowship that will take him to Germany for a year of study and research on a project of his own creation.

Polk is the first Mississippian to receive a German Chancellor Fellowship.

The fellowship is a program created by the German chancellor and is managed by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The opportunity is available to individuals from Brazil, Russia, India, China and the United States interested in leadership in the areas of politics, economics, media, administration and

culture. Polk is among 50 fellows worldwide this year.

“To be the first to receive this fellowship from Mississippi is an honor and a pleasure I can’t quite put into words,” Polk said. “It’ll be my job to ensure that I’m not the last Mississippian to receive this fellowship.”

Polk earned a bachelor’s degree in international studies at UM and was a member of the Croft Institute for International Studies and the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. In 2011, he was awarded a yearlong Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Germany.

“I have always been very interested in bringing the world to Mississippi in ways that will change lives,” Polk said. “This opportunity represents a way for me to do that.”

He added that his previous experience in Germany changed his life and allowed him to experience a different culture.

Polk’s selection is a triumph for both the university and for the entire state, said Douglass Sullivan-González, dean of the Honors College.

“The Honors College takes a great deal of pride in nurturing the citizen scholars who will be changing Mississippi and the world for the better,” Sullivan-González said. “Deeneaus Polk has courage, intelligence



and a bone-deep commitment to that change. What a great coup for him and for all of us at the University of Mississippi!”

Polk said his motivation for applying for the program is to make a difference in Mississippi.

“The time I spent at Ole Miss really exposed me to a side of Mississippi I’d never seen before,” he said. “I came to realize that Mississippi, where magnolia trees sway gracefully to the silent whisper of gentle morning flurries, is also heavily defined by gaps. These gaps come in many shapes and sizes.

“There are racial gaps that continue to persist long after



Deeneaus Polk



Passengers move through the modern main railway station at Berlin Hauptbahnhof.

the end of slavery. There are wealth gaps within which the divide between the rich and poor continues to grow. An education gap also exists, which calcifies the cyclical nature of poverty. It was during my Fulbright year in Germany that I came to believe that Mississippi is capable of much more and decided to endeavor to make these hopes and dreams a reality as well.”

Polk will be researching the German workforce and vocational education systems, hoping to return with knowledge of concepts and principles to develop a similar system in Mississippi through the analysis of

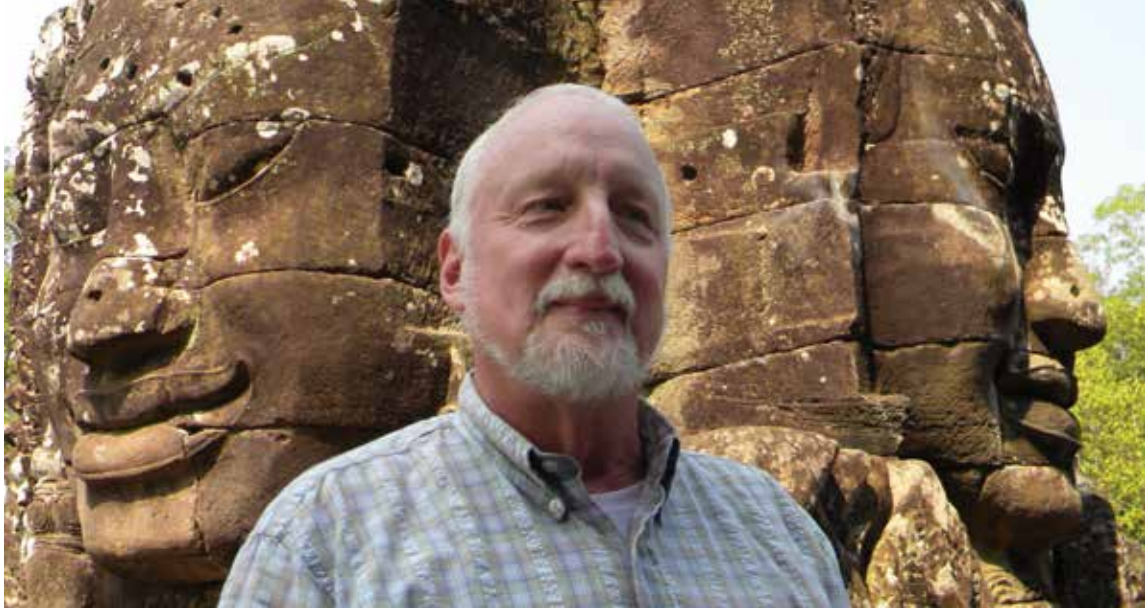
agriculture, manufacturing, logistics and transportation.

“I am absolutely delighted for our 2011 alumnus Deeneaus Polk and very proud of this fantastic award, one of the most prestigious and competitive fellowships in the world for young leaders,” said Kees Gispen, executive director of the Croft Institute. “It is a great honor for him – and also for us – that he was selected for the German Chancellor Fellowship. Deeneaus is an exceptional individual with superb leadership potential.”

Gispen said Polk has been recognized before for his potential. In 2008, he was the

recipient of a Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship and received a fellowship from the Institute for International Public Policy while studying at Croft.

“Anyone who really knows him won’t be too surprised by this latest recognition of his talents, for Deeneaus has not only a great deal of charisma but also the vision and determination to help move the state forward,” Gispen said. “This is great news for Deeneaus, for the university and, most importantly, for Mississippi as a whole.” ■ **HR**



Steve Bailey stands at Angkor Thom in Cambodia.

MY TIME

in the Scholars Program

STEVE BAILEY

Back when I was at Ole Miss, from September 1969 to December 1972, there was no Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. There was only the Scholars Program in the College of Liberal Arts. I didn't even know about it until I was asked to participate after barely clearing the required GPA during my freshman year.

The program was administered by associate professor Anita Hutcherson, who taught a course in the history of ideas that was open, I think, only to scholars. Participants in the program were also allowed to ask any professor to give them 1-credit-hour tutorials over the course of a semester on any subject the student chose. I was fortunate in having an hour each week with the erudite Jere Hoar of the journalism department to discuss H.L. Mencken, whom I still find an intriguing, if frustrating, figure in journalism. I also studied the Book of Job for a semester with Hal Furr of the philosophy department, which opened my eyes on how to read between the lines.

Another perk Scholars had was getting to meet many outside speakers at a private reception prior to their evening talks at Fulton Hall. I particularly remember talking with William Winter after he had lost a race for governor and before he became lieutenant governor and eventually governor. I was surprised by how intellectual he seemed compared to other politicians I had met.

I majored in journalism and philosophy with a minor in English. My last semester at Ole Miss

I worked a few weeks for Jesse Phillips at the *Oxford Eagle* when it switched from weekly to daily publication. I worked at *The Greenwood Commonwealth* for eight months between Ole Miss and Ohio State, where I earned a master's in journalism in 1974. I later worked as an editor at about a dozen newspapers in Florida, Chicago, Baltimore and Paris before ending up at *The New York Times*, where I spent the last 15 years of my career. At age 55 in 2007, I quit being an ink-stained wretch. My wife and I fled New York for the quieter surroundings of Maryland's Eastern Shore. I've taught journalism at a state university here and worked as a freelance editor and writer. I have a travel blog, TouristFirst.blogspot.com.

Over the course of my career, I've worked with many people who have degrees from Ivy League schools and even from Cambridge and Oxford in England. I've never felt less educated than them. I credit that to the enrichment provided by the Scholars Program and to having had department heads as classroom instructors my freshman year. To have Dr. Tom Flynn, the philosophy chair, teaching introduction to philosophy made a huge difference. At other schools it might have been a graduate student. And I especially was fortunate in having Dr. Sam Talbot, the journalism chair, giving me encouragement with every freshman newswriting assignment I turned in.

I hope that today's Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College students have as good an experience at Ole Miss as I had. ■ **HR**

Prestigious PORTZ Scholarship Winner



Amir Aziz will begin doctoral work in French this fall at the University of Texas at Austin.

JOHN SAMONDS, ASSOCIATE DEAN

Most students graduate from college when they are 21 or 22. For Amir Aziz, that's when he began college as a member of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and the Croft Institute for International Studies. Of course, not many Ole Miss students serve in the Singapore Armed Forces before beginning their college careers.

While fulfilling his duty to his country, Aziz saw the movie "The Blind Side," which is what led him to consider the University of Mississippi.

"I would have never heard of the university if I hadn't," Aziz said, "because in Singapore, people kept telling me to apply to Ivy League institutions. ... I hadn't really considered going to a public university until I looked up Ole Miss on the Internet. I was looking for a school that had a top-ranked honors program and that offered international studies and Arabic as majors, and I discovered Ole Miss had it all. I applied, received my acceptance at Croft along with the **Donald S. Pichitino Scholarship** (from the Honors College) and packed my bags for Mississippi, even though I knew little about the state. It has been four years since then, and I have not looked back! I have enjoyed every moment in Oxford and forged long-lasting connections with people there."

Aziz double majored in international studies and French with a minor in Arabic. In addition, he was installed as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and was chosen to receive a Taylor medal. His thesis, "Al-Arabiyyah, Le Français, and the

Soul of Algeria: The Language Tango between Arabic and French in Algerian Education Policy and Defining Post-Colonial Algerian National Identity," was selected as the best thesis in the Middle East region by the Croft Institute. Soon after, the Honors College nominated Aziz for the Portz Scholarship, an award given by the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) to only four honors students nationwide each year. In August, Aziz learned that he had won and will be presenting his thesis at the 2015 annual conference of NCHC, which will be held in Chicago, Illinois, in November.

Aziz has fond memories of his time at the University of Mississippi.

"I always looked forward to taking Honors College classes each semester. The highlights of my college career have taken place in honors classes with some of my most favorite professors: Dr. Ann Fisher-Wirth in the honors American literature survey, Dr. Robert Brown in Honors 101 and Dr. Donald Dyer in Honors Conversations. The Honors College is like a second home to me." ■ HR

ANOTHER RECORD FRESHMAN CLASS

Every year, it seems, we write about a record incoming freshman class, and this year is no different. For the first time, we received more than 1,300 applications; for the first time, we accepted more than 680 applicants; and for the first time, we have an entering class of more than 400 students. To put that in perspective, 10 years ago we had 429 applications and an entering class of 231 (and we thought that was big). Despite the growth, this class is one of the strongest ever. The average ACT 10 years ago was a 29.7; this year's class is one-tenth of a point from matching the record of 30.8. More impressive, the average high school GPA is the highest on record with a 3.96. The class is also the most geographically diverse, with students from 29 states and three foreign countries. Most of the class is still from Mississippi. Among this group are at least three varsity athletes, three members of the spirit squads and 13 members of the Pride of the South marching band.



Bruce Livingston and Eleanor Anthony
(Photo by Todd Shapera)

Traditions of MENTORSHIP

ELEANOR ANTHONY

Two years ago, I knew next to nothing about music. If asked my favorite composer, I would probably have said Debussy because I remembered liking *Clair de Lune*, with “remembered” being the key word. Music was just not a large part of my life.

It was also two years ago that I found myself sitting at a checkered diner table across from someone for whom music was a large part of life — **Bruce Levingston**. During the course of that lunch, I quickly realized just how remarkable this individual was and that to limit him to the single title of pianist is to do him an injustice. As the Chancellor’s Artist in Residence at the Honors College, the entire university has seen what incredible things he is capable of as a concert musician, engaged professor and advocate for our school.

Since that initial meeting, I have discovered that Debussy is indeed one of my favorite composers. I have heard Bruce play *Clair de Lune* to crowds of incoming freshman in Nutt Auditorium, at the Ford Center during his spring concert, and on a program with student artists in the SMBHC Arts Showcase. Perhaps the most incredible performance I have witnessed, however, was his recent concert at the Union Church of Pocantico Hills next to the Rockefeller estate.

One month ago, I found myself sitting in a vaulted sanctuary, looking up at the light pouring in through the chapel’s stained glass windows. Marc Chagall had been commissioned by the Rockefellers to design the stained glass for the church, and twelve masterpieces depicting the scenes from the bible were the result. That day, Bruce would perform two of a series of pieces commissioned that were inspired by the windows’ scenes—Elijah and Crucifixion—to commemorate two centennial celebrations: the hundredth anniversary

of the formation of the church, and the one hundredth birthday of Mr. **David Rockefeller**.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to spend some time with Mr. Rockefeller when I traveled with Bruce to the celebration. Sitting in his living room, sipping tea and enthralled by his reminiscences of

“
ARGUABLY, [DAVID ROCKEFELLER] HAS HELPED SHAPE HISTORY AS MUCH AS ANY AMERICAN ALIVE TODAY; THE WALLS AND TABLES OF HIS HOME TELL SOME OF HIS STORY: EXQUISITE ART, PHOTOS OF HIS BELOVED FAMILY, AND LEADERS OF NATIONS.”

– Eleanor Anthony

meetings with some of the most fascinating figures of last century, I was struck, as everyone who meets Mr. Rockefeller must be, by the incredible nature of his life. Arguably, he has helped shape history as much as any American alive today; the walls and tables of his home tell some of his story: exquisite art, photos of his beloved family, and leaders of nations. Indeed, his biography can be read on the streets of New York, Rockefeller Plaza,

Lincoln Center and the Modern Museum of Art, where his parents home once stood and in which he was born in 1915. Needless to say, I understood what a force in the world I was encountering that day. What I was unprepared to encounter was the degree to which Mr. Rockefeller clearly respected every person that he met. A rare combination of dignity and humility pervaded his home and, what I was most surprised to find, humor. Mr. Rockefeller



At Kykuit, the estate of John D. Rockefeller, Bruce Levingston plays 'Clair de Lune' while Eleanor Anthony reads a poem that inspired Debussy's piece. (Photo by Todd Shapera)

never failed to take an opportunity for a witty aside, though his humor always underscored the meaningful nature of his conversations.

Meeting Mr. Rockefeller was an unforgettable experience for a multitude of reasons, but what was perhaps most significant for me was the opportunity it presented to engage in a tradition of mentorship. Mr. Rockefeller had been both friend and mentor to Bruce for more than thirty years; they had met when Mr. Rockefeller heard

him play in California and they have remained close to this day. On our visit, I watched as they reminisced over shared experiences, told stories about one another, and explained the roles that each had played in the other's life. It was incredibly meaningful for me to meet an individual who influenced a mentor of my own who has played such an important role in my life.

At Bruce's final performance at Kykuit, the estate of David Rockefeller's grandfather, **John D. Rockefeller**, he had asked that I read the poem that inspired Debussy to write *Clair de Lune*. Standing in front of that beautiful landscape, the words took on new meaning, and I listened as Bruce captured the very air around us, the trees swelling in simultaneous crescendo. No higher tribute could be paid to a man who spent so much of his life preserving and cultivating beauty and nature, and it was clear to everyone how special the performance was to Mr. Rockefeller.

I am so grateful to Bruce for giving me the opportunity to meet David Rockefeller and many other incredible individuals; I am also grateful to the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College for introducing us. This wonderful place has presented me with countless opportunities for academic and personal growth, some that I would never have anticipated when I chose to join this university community. It attracts people like Bruce Levingston because it places such high value on the growth of individual expression and creative involvement in one's community, and the culture of this place reflects those values. In short, this is a place where a math major can learn to love music and a concert pianist can teach students the art of conversation, and I count myself as extremely fortunate to be one of its members. ■ HR



(Photo by Tony Notarberardino)



RAVE REVIEWS!

Read what critics are saying about Bruce Levingston's new CD "Heavy Sleep."

Visit honors.olemiss.edu for reviews from *The New York Times*, The Arts Desk (England), I Care If You Listen and Audiophile Audition.

Who owns THE PAST?

ZAC CREEL

Most of the time classes are pretty cut-and-dried affairs — the student arrives on time, takes notes, learns whatever material he or she needs in order to receive credit for the course, and leaves. It is exactly this approach to education that the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College refuses to accept as status quo. Classes are tailored so as to engage SMBHC students beyond simply educating them. One such class that I had the pleasure of taking this past semester was a class titled *Who Owns the Past?: Ethics in Archaeology*, taught by professor Hilary Becker. This class has given me insight into a whole new world, one full of incredible career opportunities for me to pursue.

For most of college, my career goal has been to be a lawyer. Beyond that, though, I had no idea what I wanted to do. I did not know what sort of law I wanted to practice or where I wanted to go to law school. I was rudderless in a lot of ways. In the meantime, I had always had a deep love for the ancient world and a decent background in dead languages; so I declared a classics major for the heck of it. In the interest of full disclosure, I must say that I took Dr. Becker's class out of desperation. I was a classics major looking for ways to fulfill the requirements of my degree as well as the required number of honors hours. This class covered both, which was an absolute godsend as far as I was concerned.

It turned out to be so, so much more than a lucky scheduling opportunity. Dr. Becker is an incredible teacher who is both knowledgeable and passionate about her field. Recently, she has been honored for her zeal and awarded the Cora Lee Graham Award for Outstanding Teaching of Freshmen by the College of Liberal Arts. She brought every ounce of her passion to our class. She created a syllabus that was both challenging and engaging, full of research and presentations. Dr. Becker built a number of debates into our class time, encouraging us to think more deeply about the issues and forcing

us to round out our understandings of both sides of every argument. Best of all, the class culminated in a weeklong trip to New York City over spring break, which was paid for by the Honors College.

At this point I must stop and take a moment to explain what a class in Archaeological Ethics entails. For starters, there is much buried history in the world. This seems intuitive, but it is not the sort of thing we think about from day to day. All of the tombs, pyramids, battlefields, ruins, etc., of ancient and medieval times — collectively referred to as antiquity — are important to the people of our era. This is why we have archaeologists digging them up, historians explaining them and journalists disseminating the findings to the rest of the world via magazines such as *National Geographic*. Who owns antiquity, though? Does a vase discovered in a Mycenaean tomb on the island of Crete belong to the university that paid for it to be excavated



Zac Creel, SMBHC student



Professor Hilary Becker (third from left) and SMBHC students traveled to New York over spring break.

or to the people of Greece who see the vase as part of their heritage? It is an interesting question, which has been answered a number of different ways by a number of different people. What about the art trade? Do private individuals have the right to buy and sell items that might be considered cultural patrimony? Do museums? There is a veritable labyrinth of questions and issues layered across centuries and generations.

Dr. Becker led us through these topics, assigned us readings by experts who dealt with such issues on a daily basis, and encouraged us to delve into specific issues ourselves. One week I would be researching the impact of archaeology on Croatian nationalism. The next I would be reading various countries' patrimony legislation. Everyone in the class had his/her hands full trying to keep up with the whirlwind of readings and assignments. Come spring break we were all experts (or so we felt) on the various laws, conventions and bilateral agreements governing the world of archaeology and the trade of ancient art. Then we went to New York.

We dove headfirst into the "real world" of antiquity trade and spent two days at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which houses enormous collections of items from every

“

IT WAS AN EPIPHANY FOR ME. I HAD FOUND A PLACE WHERE I COULD PRACTICE LAW AND PUT MY LOVE OF THE ANCIENT WORLD TO USE AT THE SAME TIME.”

– Zac Creel

ancient civilization one could imagine. We spent a day at Christie's auction house, meeting with people whose jobs are to sell antiquities and artifacts, and a day with the Fordham Museum's curator who oversees a large collection of Roman artifacts. We experienced firsthand, from a number of perspectives, the issues that we had only read about up until that point. It was incredible.

It was an epiphany for me. I had found a place where I could practice law and put my love of the ancient world to use at the same time. I even met a number of practicing antiquities lawyers while we were in New York. These lawyers, who work for Christie's auction house, were more than happy to give me advice and guidance. Dr. Becker's class has directly influenced the course of my life. It has allowed me to set goals and given me new motivation and a dream to pursue. ■ **HR**



“

RECEIVING THE AWARD AND EXECUTING MY PLAN ACCORDINGLY GAVE ME CONFIDENCE AT A PIVOTAL AGE THAT STRATEGIC THINKING COUPLED WITH PURPOSE AND EXERTION COULD YIELD SURPRISINGLY SIGNIFICANT AND MEANINGFUL RESULTS.”

– Patrick Woodyard

Patrick Woodyard (left) with Henry, a Nisolo shoemaker

MAKE US Jealous

The Barksdale Award is a prized opportunity that supports creative and courageous projects proposed by highly talented students who are willing to take some risks with their time and efforts and who propose ambitious, independent programs of study, research or humanitarian effort. The \$5,000 award is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to prove and improve oneself. Recipients of the Barksdale Award do not dream and dismissively think “someday” but plan and “do.” Read about some of our winners who have made the rest of us jealous.

Patrick Woodyard

What are your degrees, current city of residence and current profession?

- B.A. in international studies in global economics, business and Latin American studies; second major in Spanish
- Nashville, Tennessee
- Co-founder & CEO of Nisolo

In what ways did the Barksdale Award give you an opportunity you wouldn't have had otherwise?

During my second year at Ole Miss, I helped start Hope for Africa (now EDUganda) with a vision to mobilize the student body toward action around economic development and educational challenges in East Africa. The Barksdale Award allowed me to return to Uganda and start a platform through which the Ole Miss community could directly support students who had been orphaned by AIDS. Apart from enabling multiple students to complete high school in Uganda, the Barksdale Award experience helped solidify education as one of the key pillars of EDUganda – which remains true today for the organization.

How did the Barksdale Award shape your academic and professional goals?

At such an impressionable point in my personal development, what I

experienced through the Barksdale Award played a major role in solidifying my commitment to a professional career centered around social impact and economic development. Receiving the award and executing my plan accordingly gave me confidence at a pivotal age that strategic thinking coupled with purpose and exertion could yield surprisingly significant and meaningful results.

How does your life today connect to your Barksdale Award experience?

Without a doubt, the Barksdale Award was a key stepping stone toward my decision to start Nisolo, the social enterprise fashion brand that I am the CEO of today. Deep within the DNA of the organization is a steadfast commitment to social impact. By manufacturing handmade leather footwear, accessories and jewelry, we currently employ over 60 people and are deeply impacting the lives of more than 200 individuals in Peru and Kenya.



Patrick Woodyard with students in Uganda

Additional Thoughts

“Encouraging students to dream big yet requiring them to be strategic in their approach, the Barksdale Award is one of the most compelling and influential awards offered at the University of Mississippi.” – PATRICK WOODYARD

“

THE BARKSDALE AWARD WAS THE SINGLE MOST INFLUENTIAL EXPERIENCE OF MY FOUR YEARS AT OLE MISS.” – *Vince Chamblee*



Vince Chamblee (right) and Saadat Sheikh stand in Dubai's desert.

Vince Chamblee

What are your degrees, current city of residence and current profession?

I am a 2010 SMBHC graduate and hold degrees in economics, accounting and public policy leadership. After graduating, I moved to New York City, where I was a senior associate for PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Since June 2013, I have been employed with Diversified Trust in Memphis as vice president.

In what ways did the Barksdale Award give you an opportunity you wouldn't have had otherwise?

My Barksdale Award experience gave me an opportunity to investigate the economics of human trafficking. I sought to understand the supply side of human trafficking in Tanzania while learning about

the demand side of human trafficking in Dubai. I believe my experience gave me an edge during interviews I had after my travels. I distinctly remember sitting in an office of PricewaterhouseCoopers during my interview and being asked question after question about my time in Tanzania and Dubai. Had I not been given the opportunity by the Honors College, I'm not sure I could have understood better how economics and policymaking decisions are not mutually exclusive.

How did the Barksdale Award shape your academic and professional goals?

I had two capstone experiences during my undergraduate career at Ole Miss: my Barksdale Award and my honors thesis. Up until winning the Barksdale trip, I had spent three years

of my academic career between two worlds, but the Barksdale Award – and the thesis – brought these two worlds together. Professionally speaking? I wouldn't have the perspective on policy and economics I do now without having had the Barksdale Award experience.

How does your life today connect to your Barksdale Award experience?

My time in Tanzania and Dubai still influences the way I approach social issues from a personal perspective. I'm interested in free will and how that will is driven by incentives. The Barksdale Award requires individuals to take a risk. The risk is the willingness to lay bare all preconceptions and be open to new ideas and a greater understanding of the world. My life today is better because I took that risk.

Martina Coteló

What are your degrees, current city of residence and current profession?

B.A. in international studies and German; B.Accy. (2014); I am an FSO staff accountant for Ernst & Young in New York City.

In what ways did the Barksdale Award give you an opportunity you wouldn't have had otherwise?

I remember attending the SMBHC convocations as a high school student and watching as DSG presented the Barksdale Award to students who, in my eyes, were smarter, more focused, more generous and more committed than I could ever be. I thought, "Where did they come from? How did they get there? Wow, \$5,000 to do whatever you want? But I don't even know what I want!"

Three or four years later, I found myself at the University of Mississippi, lost in the books, uninspired by my areas of study, Europe and German, and ready to quit and focus

my attention on my newfound interest for accounting. I remember reminding myself of why I chose the German language and European history; it's a part of my history, and after my grandmother passed away in 2008, I wanted to be educated and tell future generations about moments in her history that changed the course of our family forever. I needed more than books. I needed a trip to Germany. I needed to unpack boxes of letters in Uruguay. I decided to take a risk and apply for the Barksdale Award. Had I not won, I would have lost out on an incredible experience to walk in my grandmother's footsteps.

How did the Barksdale Award shape your academic and professional goals?

My Barksdale Award experience turned into my honors and Croft thesis. When I arrived in Montevideo and unearthed hundreds of letters from my grandmother's house, I was

convinced that nothing could come of it. How could I use clues from blurred, scribbled and faded pages to retrace a story about her family's escape from Germany and the atrocities they suffered at the hands of the Nazis? It seemed impossible, but after the support I received, giving up was not an option. I never saw myself as the researcher, the reader or the writer of the family, but that became my place. I embraced the roles, and I learned diligence and patience, which propelled my academic and career paths, as well.

How does your life today connect to your Barksdale Award experience?

About a month ago, I received an email from a second cousin in Uruguay. His dad had told him about my thesis, and he asked if I would share it with him. I did, and a week later, my mother received a chain of emails from her cousins, long-lost relatives and family friends. All were buzzing about my grandmother's story. The SMBHC trusted me and allowed me an opportunity of a lifetime. I was able to use my years of studying to work with local museums, traverse the Berlin neighborhood where my grandmother grew up, familiarize myself with her home, visit her favorite cultural centers and meet her childhood friend, who had returned to Berlin after several years in Israel. I accomplished my goal. More people know, more people will learn, and more people will remember.



Martina Coteló (right) with her sister Maia in Berlin. (Photo by Enrique Coteló)

Additional Thoughts

"My Barksdale Award experience stays with me daily. When the time is right, I'll return to my work and find more ways to educate others and share stories I have yet to uncover. Today, I am an accountant, but in my bedroom, under my desk, I have two boxes full of letters, inviting me to dive in again." – MARTINA COTELO

Robert Wicks

What are your degrees, current city of residence and current profession?

M.D. - Johns Hopkins School of Medicine; B.S. in biology, B.A. in psychology - University of Mississippi; I am a resident in neurosurgery at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

In what ways did the Barksdale Award give you an opportunity you wouldn't have had otherwise?

The Barksdale Award was the most unique opportunity I had during my time at the SMBHC. I focused my project on the burden of malaria in East Africa and strategies for control. The Barksdale Award allowed me the opportunity to study this topic in full by visiting Kenya and traveling to the headquarters of the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. There, I wrote a position paper on the interactions of HIV,

tuberculosis and helminth infections on malaria illness severity while completing an internship for the NGO, Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi).

How did the Barksdale Award shape your academic and professional goals?

In addition to convincing me to enter the field of medicine, the Barksdale Award opened a whole new perspective on the international governance structure and challenges of global health. I went on the following year to complete an internship in the U.S. Senate that partly dealt with health policy. In medical school, I helped organize a student-led medical mission program that assisted community health workers in vaccine delivery and data gathering. Through involvement in multiple student organizations, I helped host nationally recognized speakers on topics that ranged from national and global public

health policy to surgical care as it relates to global health.

How does your life today connect to your Barksdale Award experience?

Due to my clinical interest in neuroscience, I entered the field of neurosurgery. However, I continue to have an interest in global health and hope to pursue the challenges of global neurosurgical care once I complete my training. While neurosurgery may seem like a narrow sub-specialty, the global burden on public health of neurologic disease is high. An estimated 10 million traumatic brain injuries occur annually worldwide with one of the highest burdens in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa, largely due to road-traffic injuries. Improvements in both acute surgical and critical care in addition to advancements in rehabilitation in resource-limited settings may help lessen that burden, which largely impacts young adults.



Kenyans line up to receive medical attention.

Additional Thoughts

“The unrestricted nature of the Barksdale Award is one of the most valuable and unique opportunities offered to students at Ole Miss. It embodies the spirit of the Honors College to empower each student with the education and support necessary to become change agents in Mississippi and the world.” – ROBERT WICKS





Taylor McGraw (right) plays chess in New York's Washington Square Park.

Taylor McGraw

What are your degrees, current city of residence and current profession?

B.A. in public policy leadership, University of Mississippi, 2012; M.A. in teaching, Relay Graduate School of Education, 2014; M.F.A. in creative writing, The New School, 2014 – present.

I live in Brooklyn, New York. I teach part-time at Success Academy Harlem North West, a middle school in Harlem where I was placed for Teach for America in 2012. I'm also currently developing an education media venture that I hope to launch this fall. And I'm going to be a TA for a writing course at The New School, where I'm getting my M.F.A. in creative writing.

In what ways did the Barksdale Award give you an opportunity you wouldn't have had otherwise?

The Barksdale Award opened my eyes to the world

that existed beyond my comfortable, middle-class bubble in Oxford. For nearly three months in the summer of 2010, I took a break from ascending the proverbial ladder to experience how the other half lives. Every day that summer, I played speed chess alongside the “chess hustlers” in New York's Washington Square Park. Some of them slept on park benches and went hungry when business was slow. I expected to be greeted with hostility for encroaching on their territory, but instead they loaned me clocks, taught me tricks of the

trade and generally treated me as one of the guys. I learned a lot about chess that summer but even more about life.

How did the Barksdale Award shape your academic and professional goals?

I wrote my honors thesis about my experience with the chess players and about homelessness in New York City. In my public policy classes at Ole Miss, I studied a host of social issues, but the chess players taught me that public education was principal among them. These guys were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

Additional Thoughts

“The Barksdale Award gives students a chance to take the type of risks that, regardless of perceived success or failure, lead to key understandings about the world that no classroom can offer. This type of grand experiential learning is, in my opinion, the greatest education of all. I am so grateful for having received the award. It changed my life.” – TAYLOR MCGRAW



Douglas Ray

What are your degrees, current city of residence and current profession?

B.A. summa cum laude, classics and English – Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, University of Mississippi, May 2007

M.F.A. in creative writing – University of Mississippi, 2007

Fellowship, Klingenstein Center, Teachers College, Columbia University, 2012.

Ed.D. in curriculum, teaching, learning and leadership – Northeastern University (in progress and expected 2017)

I am Poet-in-Residence and teach courses in Latin and English at Indian Springs School – a coeducational

independent boarding and day school located 15 miles south of downtown Birmingham. This fall will mark my sixth year at the school.

In what ways did the Barksdale Award give you an opportunity you wouldn't have had otherwise?

The Barksdale Award allowed me to take what I loved – writing, especially poetry – to the next level. In December 2005-January 2006, I spent time living in Madrid, following in the footsteps of Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca. That experience, as well as attending the Squaw Valley Community of Writers Poetry Workshop and working individually with Ann Fisher-

Wirth, showed me that I had a lot of work to do in order to improve my writing and clarify my own way of seeing the world through language.

Without my Barksdale Award experiences, I'm not sure if I would have pursued an M.F.A. in creative writing after completing my undergraduate studies. The poems that I wrote as a result of the travel and learning through my Barksdale Award became the writing sample that got me into graduate school. While in the program, I revisited Lorca and Spain frequently in my writing.

I've now published two books: *He Will Laugh*, a collection of poems originally published in 2012, and *The Queer South: LGBTQ*

Additional Thoughts

"There's a lot of talk in educational circles about what skills/competencies are necessary for students to be competitive in a world where the only guarantee is flux and continuous change. I think that encouraging students to think entrepreneurially is of the utmost importance – seeing the globe as their campus, engaging in product-based learning, and capitalizing on the uniqueness of their own interests and place. That's exactly what the Barksdale Award demands: thinking creatively, articulating the idea and following through no matter what." – DOUGLAS RAY

Writers on the American South, an anthology of essays and poems I edited, published in 2014.

How did the Barksdale Award shape your academic and professional goals?

I always had an inkling that words and teaching would be in my future, but I didn't know exactly how everything would work out. One doesn't really pursue poetry for the money or rock star status. Same with teaching. But I guess it all comes back to love. I knew from my Barksdale Award experience that there were people who were willing to invest in my nascent love for an ancient art and obsession with a particular poet. That perhaps risky investment has proven to shape my career in real and obvious ways as an academic, as an artist.

I'll never forget receiving the email announcing the

Barksdale Award (then called the Extraordinary Student Award) and its prompt to "Make us jealous," which I read as, "Make your passion so convincing that we want to fund you and your project." I saw it as an opportunity – an excellent one – to participate in the classical tradition of patronage culture. Here were people who wanted to fund something interesting, and I was confident that I could convey why I thought that poetry was worth it.

Now my convictions are even stronger. Clear, artful communication is still something I value and try to foster within my own students.

How does your life today connect to your Barksdale Award experience?

I continue to write and publish today.

TAYLOR MCGRAW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

clearly intelligent (they made a living playing the world's most intellectual game), but none had been successful in formal education settings. Just about all of them had dropped out or been kicked out of high school. With little exception, they fell into the drug trade and wound up in prison. Soon after my second summer in the park with the chess players (I went back on my own), I decided to apply for Teach for America. I landed in New York, as I'd hoped, and I've been teaching in Harlem ever since.

How does your life today connect to your Barksdale Award experience?

This past year, I needed a reduced teaching load in order to go back to grad school, so I taught chess. One Saturday

I took a few of our top players to Washington Square Park, where they had a chance to play against some of the hustlers. One of the students, Ethan, got absolutely demolished by Bear, a great friend of mine who passed away this spring. These days, I make it out to the park a couple of times a week to play with my old friends. Perhaps my closest chess companion, Richard, now lives in a Brooklyn nursing home, where I visit him. I'm currently polishing a book proposal about my five years with the chess hustlers (working title *Among Kings: An Education in Washington Square Park's Chess Corner*), which I'm hoping to sell to a publisher in the next few months. Be on the lookout. ■ **HR**

BARKSDALE AWARD Winners

2005

**Robert Wicks
Douglas Ray**

2007

**Patrick Woodyard
Tyler Craft
Mary Margaret Peterson
Mimi Abadie**

2008

**Mary Maher
Vince Chamblee**

2009

**Audrey Seal
Taylor McGraw**

2010

**Billy Forrest
Martina Coteló**

2011

**Cara Thorne
Ena Wei**

2012

**Neal McMillin
Hunter Nicholson**

2013

**Jillian Cowart
Megan Smith**

2014

**Joe Bell
Kate Lindsay**



Freshman Ventures Team Explores the

Like modern-day explorers out to discover the New World, four engineering students traveled to Washington, D.C., in search of the next big thing. For these freshmen in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, the answer is the resurgence of NASA's aerospace program.

Through the Honors College's annual Freshman Ventures program, the students were divided into several teams. Each team tackled the question by setting up interviews with a variety of individuals and groups that could help them find deeper answers. The students organized everything from travel and lodging to contacting individuals with whom they interviewed.

After seeing a presentation of previous Ventures trips, Dillon Hall of Saltillo became interested in using this opportunity to explore his interests in pursuing a career in the aerospace industry. The mechanical engineering major formed a group with Reid Barber of Tupelo, Ray Brown of Houston, Texas, and Seth Gray of Jonesboro, Arkansas.

The foursome met with both NASA representatives and individuals that held opposing views in an effort to have a more well-rounded research project.

"We had the opportunity to interview Bill Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate at NASA headquarters, and Phil McAlister, director of commercial spaceflight development," Hall said. "We realize that the opportunity to interact with people like this as first-year students is almost unheard of at other universities."

Before they were allowed to travel, the students were required to develop a plan for their time in Washington and what they hoped to achieve through their experience with the NASA representatives.

“The goal of our Ventures project was to learn about what NASA has planned for the immediate and long-term future in regards to technological development and space exploration,” said Barber, a computer science major. “We also wanted to learn more about NASA’s funding and special procedures, being part of the federal administration.”

Barber also expressed the group’s interest in learning about NASA’s relationship with other private companies, such as SpaceX, and how or if they collaborate. The experience

NEXT BIG THING

RYAN UPSHAW

allowed the students to gain skills that they believe will benefit them beyond graduation whether or not they choose a career in the aerospace field.

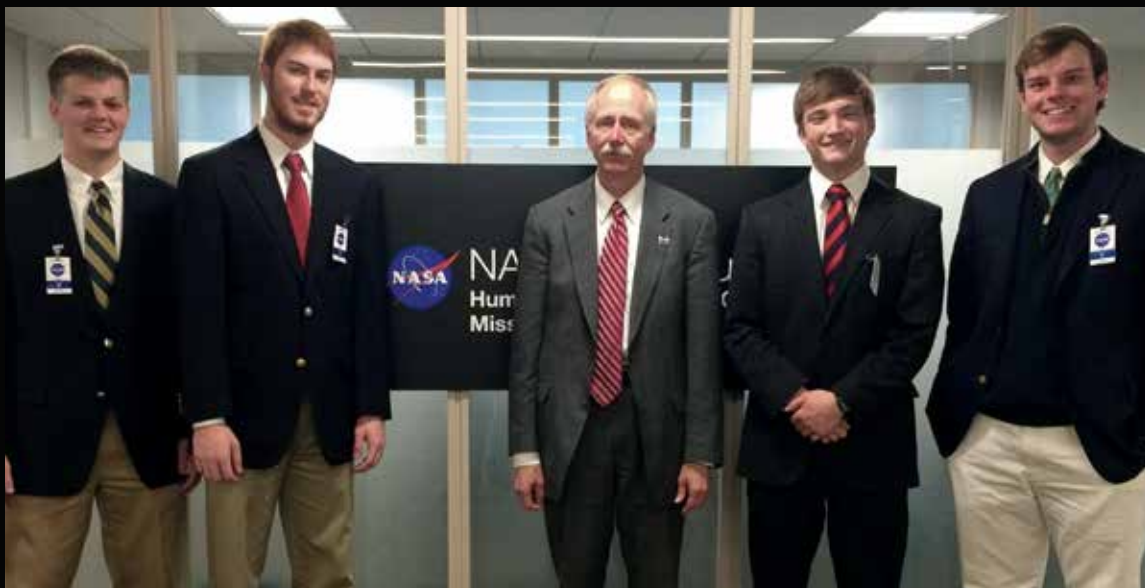
“I learned that the future of space exploration strongly depends on future engineers,” said Gray, a chemical engineering major. “Even though NASA has a stronghold on the space industry, it will be necessary for more companies to develop new ideas.”

Gray, who served as the group’s financial planner, said the opportunity to visit NASA allowed him to get a sense of potential career opportunities for engineers with the organization.

Brown, who was responsible for documenting the group’s activities in the nation’s capital, said the experience helped him better identify his future goals. He recently changed his major to art but appreciates the lessons while visiting NASA.

“While I am not planning to pursue a job in the space industry, I feel like the Ventures trip opened my eyes to the diversity of jobs in our economy,” Brown said. “My horizons are broadened about what entrepreneurs can do if they work hard enough. All in all, I was able to get a better sense of where private industry is headed in the next few decades.”

The Honors College strives to develop citizen scholars who are fired by the life of the mind. Giving students new to a university campus the chance to embark on a nontraditional learning experience allows them to do just that. ■ HR



NASA associate administrator Bill Gerstenmaier (center) spent time with SMBHC students Reid Barber (left), Seth Gray, Dillon Hall and Ray Brown.

Pottery
by Ray Brown



HONORS ALUMNI GATHER IN NYC AND D.C.

On June 13, Dean Douglass Sullivan-González, Chancellor's SMBHC Artist in Residence Bruce Levingston and Acting Chancellor Morris H. Stocks hosted current honors students and alumni at a brunch prior to Mississippi Picnic in the Park in New York City. On June 20, Dean Sullivan-González and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Brandi Hephner LaBanc talked with more honors alumni over brunch prior to Mississippi on the Mall in Washington, D.C.



Martina Cotelo, Adam Stanford, John Miles, Perry Brooks, Jay Miller, Renee Sullivan-González, Eleanor Anthony, Bruce Levingston, Katherine Levingston, Madison Portie, Sue Keiser, David Neyhart, Rod Bridges, Madeline Dean, Taylor McGraw, Jake McGraw, Lauren Freeman Milligan and Peter Milligan, Douglass Sullivan-González, and Morris and Cindy Stocks (Photo courtesy of Douglass Sullivan-González)



John and Beth Cleveland, Stephen Worley, Dan Rust, Christine Dickason, Davy Trewolla, Brianna Phillis, Mimi Abadie, Anthony Yuen, Alyssa Yuen, Kaitlyn Stovall, Emily Duke, Adam Blackwell, Anna Terry, Diana Price, Maddie Fumi, Daniel Roberts, Jessica Phillips Tyson, Amanda Boozer, Wynne Campbell, Mary Allen Langford, Cooper Reves, Joshua Holdenried, Chris and Sarah Tatum, Brandi Hephner LaBanc and Dave LaBanc (Photo by Dave LaBanc)

POPULI Magazine

LIZZY WICKS

The Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College continuously prides itself on engaging students in intellectual discussion and compelling conversations. Through the Honors 101 courses during our freshman year, we were given the opportunity to frequently engage in thought-provoking conversations that served to expand the mind and challenge the status quo. However, these opportunities become sparse as we delve more deeply into our paths of study. An organization that centered on this idea of group discussion spanning every discipline was needed. Thus came the birth in fall 2013 of the student publication *Koi Talk* – so named because of the meaningful conversations that took place around the beloved Koi Pond in front of the SMBHC. Featuring biweekly issues that highlighted students' thoughts on a range of topics as well as "Koi Chats" to discuss the topic of the week, *Koi Talk* became an outlet for student discussion and creative collaboration.



Lizzy Wicks, SMBHC student

Time has served to shape and mold the publication. With the onset of its fourth edition this past semester, *Koi Talk* was rebranded to take on the new title *Populi Magazine*. *Populi*, which means *people* in Latin, was a name that we felt better captured both the purpose of the publication – to give students the opportunity to share their stories and perspectives on topics they are passionate about – and our plans for its future trajectory. We are seeking to make the publication a showcase of the interests of the students at the University of Mississippi. From artwork, to poetry, to fictional short stories – *Populi Magazine* has become a mixed media publication that allows students to express their thoughts in a variety of fashions. Along with our set topics each semester, we welcome freelance

photographers, artists and journalists to submit work for publication.

Our topics this year have spanned from "Religious Fundamentalism: An Anchor on Progress or the Roots of Stability?" to "American Medical Practices: Providing the Quick-Fix or the Long-term Solution?". We have asked these questions: "What is the relationship between art and intention?" "Why write fiction?" "When does just war exist?" Our goal is to intentionally provide overarching, broad topics so that individuals from every discipline can have the opportunity to choose a topic that interests them. We featured our first collection of artwork by Jake Thrasher and photography by Taylor Byrd, and we were fortunate enough this past semester to have an exclusive interview with **Bruce Levingston**, which provided insight into his life as a concert pianist and his new role as Artist in Residence at the Honors College. Community engagement and inclusion of every individual have led *Populi Magazine* to become a means of sparking conversation, and we hope to continue this tradition into next semester as we move to an open submission format. We have decided that, rather than set the conversation topic before our peers, we are going to let them dictate the direction of the publication this semester, and we encourage all members of the university community to help stir deep discourse on our campus by submitting an article.

We are currently working on making a print edition highlighting our issues from the spring semester as well as planning for our fifth edition. Please contact us at **populi.um@gmail.com** and visit our website **populimagazine.honors.olemiss.edu** to read our current content. There is something for everyone, so enjoy! ■ HR



Robert Brown

Robert Brown is UM's **TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

EDWIN SMITH

During Robert D. Brown's 24 years of teaching at the University of Mississippi, the popular faculty member has earned many honors, but receiving the Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award ranks as his most rewarding.

The professor of political science was presented the coveted accolade this past April during the 72nd annual Honors Day Convocation. Brown, who has taught the full range of students at the university, was overjoyed and humbled by the recognition.

"I was completely stunned and dumbfounded," Brown said. "I know and admire several people who have won this award, so the whole thing is really quite humbling."

Brown joined the UM faculty as an assistant professor in 1991. Over the past two decades, he has been promoted to associate professor and professor, in addition to being co-founder and former director of the Social Science Research Laboratory. Brown is a senior research associate of the SSRL and graduate program coordinator.

One student noted that Brown "really made me want to learn." Another said, "He is by far the greatest instructor, friend, mentor and ally at the University of Mississippi."

Brown was presented the UM Faculty Achievement Award for 2005-06, but he said the Elsie Hood is special to him.

"My home department is full of wonderful, dedicated teachers, and it's nice to be able to represent them," Brown said. "I want to be a good teacher, to challenge students to address difficult issues and be challenged by my students in return."

"I want to help students see things from different perspectives and understand that they can have an impact, make a difference. To think that students thought enough of our experience together to nominate me really means more than I can possibly say."

Besides teaching undergraduate political science courses and graduate seminars and leading research projects, Brown has served on the University Strategic Planning Committee, Faculty Senate and the University Smoke-Free Campus Policy Implementation Committee.

A nomination letter from one student noted that "he not only changed my view of his course in politics, but of all my classes since then, giving me the desire to dig deeper and apply concepts I never would have been interested in doing so otherwise."

Another student, who has taken his classes for three consecutive semesters, said, “[He] gives careful attention to each member of the class and creates an environment where a group of strangers feels comfortable discussing controversial and intriguing questions about society.”

Brown earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Northern Illinois University and a doctorate at Indiana University. Co-author of 20 refereed articles and book chapters, he has been the principal or co-principal investigator on external grants totaling more than \$5 million.

Brown said he considers himself lucky to be teaching American politics at the university.

“When I walk into a classroom, I never quite know what I’m going to find,” he said. “Things can literally change from day to day, which helps keep the material, and hopefully me, fresh.”

Teaching in the Honors College the past several years has also been fulfilling for Brown.

“I’ve been in class with smart, accomplished kids who are going to make a real difference,” Brown said. “I’ve witnessed amazing bravery, empathy and community. These things have touched me deeply, and I will never forget them. My honors students have made me a better teacher and a better person.”

Brown acknowledged several UM faculty and staff members for their contributions to his success.

“I’ll begin with my old teacher and friend Bob Albritton, who got me into the profession to begin with,” he said. “He’s retired now, but there’s nobody on the planet who loved teaching political science more than Bob.

“When I got here, I was lucky to walk into a department containing John Winkle, a former recipient of this award and a teaching legend at Ole Miss. His mentorship has been very important to me. The person I’ve spent more time talking with about classes and teaching is my great friend Tim Nordstrom. Being able to bounce ideas around with Tim is something I really enjoy, and he has no idea how many of his ideas I’ve stolen.”

Brown said he owes a huge debt of gratitude to Douglass Sullivan-González. “Doug continues to give me the chance to work with these incredible students and talented faculty and staff, and I am eternally grateful for the opportunities he’s given me.”

Brown is married to Laura Diven-Brown, UM director of financial aid. Their son, Sean, is a junior at Oxford High School. ■ **HR**

‘Seattle Blue’
by Kristen Vise
8 x 14, ink on paper &
digital illustration
2015



UPDATE ON BUILDING EXPANSION

Good things come to those who wait. The addition to the Honors College was scheduled for completion in July 2015, with renovations being finished by December. However, if you visit the construction cam on our website, you’ll see that we have a few more months to go. Most construction projects have delays, and our crew discovered unknown utilities and other surprises buried in the soil that led to engineering revisions and a slow start to construction. Much progress has been made in recent months. We hope to move into the addition over the holiday break so that renovations to the existing building can begin in the spring.

Those good things on which we wait include a much bigger lounge for student engagement and the occasional party or reception; more dedicated study rooms, including a much-larger Dungeon; and more classrooms, which will also function as study spaces as do our current classrooms. Some offices will move to the addition so that we can consolidate the staff and work more efficiently. We look forward to dedicating our building during the 2016-17 school year, and we hope you can join in the celebration!



CITIZEN SCHOLARS IN THE WORLD

1958 — After spending 55 years in the courtroom as a litigator for Butler Snow LLP, **Lee Davis Thames** has retired to his home in Vicksburg, where he has found time to catch up on his reading, is doing more work in his church, and, when forced by his lovely wife, Jane, works in the yard, between trips to Oxford.

1966 — **James A. Peden Jr.** (University Scholars, '66; J.D. '70) studied at the University of Bristol in England as a Fulbright Scholar in 1966-67. He will soon complete his 45th year as an attorney with the Jackson law firm of Stennett, Wilkinson & Peden. He is a former president of the Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Bar, a former president of the Millsaps Arts & Lecture Series, and a retired colonel and staff judge advocate in the Mississippi Air National Guard. In 2004, Peden addressed Honors College students on "The History of Military Commissions in the United States." Since 2009, he has served as an adjunct faculty member at the Mississippi College School of Law, where he teaches Land Use Controls. In honor of his law firm, Peden recently endowed the Stennett, Wilkinson & Peden Scholarship at the University of Mississippi School of Law. The scholarship will provide a stipend for second-year and third-year law students interested in local government law.

1972 — **Steve Bailey** (Scholars Program, 1972; B.A. in journalism and philosophy, UM; M.A. in journalism from Ohio State, 1974) has worked as an editor for a number of newspapers, including the , the , the in Paris (now the) and 15 years at itself in Times Square. Now Bailey works as a freelance editor and writer from his home on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He has taught journalism at Maryland State University. He enjoys traveling around the world with his wife, Jane. Read about Bailey's experience in the Scholars Program on page 10.

1990 — **Barrett Green** (BSCE) is leading the project to shut down and decommission the 620 MW Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, a project estimated to cost \$1.4 billion and is the first large-scale boiling water reactor decommissioning in the world.

1990 — **William Webb** lives in Memphis, Tennessee, where he is in his 18th year with International Paper's corporate headquarters. He works as a benefits analyst in the Global Compensation and Benefits Department. He and his wife have three children, two boys ages 7 and 5 and a baby girl born on Nov. 26, 2014. He recalls many fond memories of the University Honors Program: "One fun thing we did was around Halloween we would turn the Honors Program

house (which was next to the library) into a haunted house. (If you ever saw the old Honors Program house, you would know that this was not difficult to do!) One year I played Dr. Frankenstein, and another year I played Count Dracula. I am so grateful for the professors I had in the Honors Program, especially Dan Williams (who is now at TCU) and Sheila Skemp! Best wishes to all the Honors College students and staff!"

1995 — **Amy H. Herring** (B.S. in mathematics, B.A. English, 1995; Sc.D. in biostatistics from Harvard University, 2000) is professor and associate chair of biostatistics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she teaches and conducts research in statistics and public health. Herring is serving on the Institute of Medicine's Consensus Committee on Obesity Trends and was recently selected chair-elect of the American Statistical Association's Biometrics Section.

2001 — Recently named a Distinguished NASA performer, **Markeeva Morgan** serves as avionics hardware manager of Space Launch System's Core Stage and Exploration Upper Stage.

2002 — **Amelia Purser Bailey** is a reproductive endocrinologist and the director of Minimally Invasive Surgery at Fertility

Associates of Memphis, Tennessee. **Michael Nelson Bailey** is a vice president and analyst at NewSouth Capital Management in Memphis. Amelia and Michael have a daughter, Elizabeth Cambre Bailey, who was born in May 2014.

2004 — **Buddy Apple** has been an associate attorney with his firm in downtown Dallas, Texas, for five years, primarily practicing commercial litigation, real estate and probate. In June, he began his 2015-16 term as president of Preservation Dallas, a local nonprofit dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of Dallas' historic buildings, neighborhoods and places.

2004 — **Andy Canion** finished his Ph.D. in oceanography at Florida State in 2013 and is now working for the St. Johns River Water Management District (Florida) on projects related to restoration of springs ecosystems. He is married with two sons, a 3-year-old and an infant.

2005 — **Jordan Lancaster Estes** began working as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York last December.

2005 — **Dustin LeBlanc** is an assistant professor of emergency medicine at the University of Cincinnati, where he resides with his wife, Samantha, and daughter, Colette.

CITIZEN SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Alan Linn Murphree, M.D., FACS
(University Scholars, 1966; Fulbright Scholar in human genetics at the University of Copenhagen, 1967-68;



M.D. from Baylor College of Medicine, 1972), is a professor of ophthalmology and pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. Murphree is director emeritus of the Ocular Oncology Service at USC and the Retinoblastoma Service at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. He turned 70 on June 6, 2015 and is partially retired.

Murphree founded the largest retinoblastoma center west of the Mississippi in Los Angeles and has recently developed a Phase I clinical trial funded by the National Cancer Institute of the NIH, testing a new drug delivery system that allows local, sustained delivery of chemotherapy directly to the eye to eliminate the dreaded side effects of systemic chemotherapy. The Children's Oncology Group will administer the Phase I (dose-finding) clinical trial that will be a limited institution study at only four North American children's hospitals: Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis and the Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto, Canada. Phase II studies are planned for the Curie Institute in Paris, in French West Africa, in Brazil (Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro) and possibly in the People's Republic of China as well as multiple North American institutions. Murphree holds the U.S. patent on the drug delivery system and has worked for 15 years as a consultant with the Irvine, California, company 3T Ophthalmics Inc. on its development.

Murphree holds the U.S. patent on the RetCam®, a hand-held digital retinal camera he designed for documenting retinal pathology in infants and young children. The RetCam is used worldwide in pediatric ICUs to screen and document retinal changes associated with prematurity. It is used also in virtually all the world's retinoblastoma treatment centers to document the intraocular tumors at diagnosis and then the shrinkage of the tumors as treatment progresses. Many developing countries such as China and Russia use the RetCam in birth hospitals to screen the retinas of all normal newborns for treatable eye pathology.

Murphree delivered the Henry B. Stallard Memorial Lecture at the International Congress of Ocular Oncology in Paris, France, June 16, 2015. The title of his invited lecture was "The Evolution of Retinoblastoma Treatment in the 20th Century and a Look at the Future." The **A. Linn Murphree, M.D. Chair in Ocular Oncology** was recently announced by Children's Hospital Los Angeles with an endowment of \$5 million. The largest and lead gift to CHLA was from the Moh family of Shanghai, China. Murphree treated a granddaughter who had the malignant tumor retinoblastoma in both eyes. The child is now 15 years old, free of cancer, seeing normally in one eye and is an honor student in regular school.



'To the Pointe'
by Aynslee Moon
oil on canvas,
48 x 46 in., 2006

CITIZEN SCHOLARS CONTINUED

2006 — **Kate Taylor Battle** lives in Chicago, Illinois, where she has co-founded Women Working in Mixed Media, which had its one-year anniversary last April. WWIMM is an organization that hosts networking events and informative panels for women working in creative industries. Additionally, Battle is a practicing attorney and president of the Silent Theatre Co. board of directors as well as secretary of the executive committee for the Foundations of Music associate board. She is “mom” to a cute Harrier-mix dog named Alex, who was adopted from the Oxford-Lafayette Humane Society in 2013. Battle frequently travels to Oxford to visit her sisters and parents.

2006 — **Laura Godfrey Hendon** is a certified genetic counselor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and recently welcomed her first child, Caroline Ruth.

2008 — After graduating from Ole Miss, **Evans Heithaus** attended the University of South Florida for medical school. He is currently in his radiology residency in Dallas, Texas.

2008 — **Drew Taggart** is finishing up a one-year clerkship with Judge Leslie Southwick on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. In September, Taggart and his wife, Kata, will move to Houston, Texas, where he will join Bracewell & Giuliani LLP to work in the firm’s Trial Section.

2009 — **Meghan Milloy** is the director of financial services policy for a think tank in Washington, D.C., called the American Action Forum.

2009 — **Kaleb J. Page** attended UAB School of Dentistry and is now practicing in Memphis, Tennessee. He is married to Rebekah (Ole Miss, '09), and they have a son, James, who is nearly 2.

2010 — **Alyssa Ashmore** completed an internship in Dallas, Texas, and graduate school at Ole Miss and has returned home to the Mississippi Gulf Coast where she is the registered dietician nutritionist for the more than 11,000 families of Ingalls Shipbuilding. She enjoys seeing her sister-in-law thrive at the SMBHC.

2010 — **Davy Trewolla** is working in Washington, D.C., in the government affairs office of Alkermes, a biotech company.

2010 — **Haley West** completed law school at the University of Mississippi in 2013 and passed the bar exam in Tennessee and Colorado. She is employed by Antero Resources Corp. in Denver and enjoys numerous outdoor hobbies.

2011 — **Katie Watson Butts** lives with her husband, Will, in Alexandria, Virginia, where she

works in external relations at the Charles Koch Institute and spends many hours happily explaining the meaning of a Southern studies major to friends and acquaintances.

2011 — **Matthew DiGiusto** recently graduated from medical school at The Ohio State University and has begun a combined residency in pediatrics and anesthesia at Johns Hopkins.

2011 — **Tucker Gore** lives in Los Angeles, California, where he works for talent agency WME.

2011 — **Jonathan Hughes** and **Katie Case Hughes** have four children, 4-year-old triplet girls named Violet, Meredith and Felicity Anne and Benjamin, born last January. Jonathan graduated from pharmacy school at University of Kentucky in May and has started a PGY-1 pharmacy residency at VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System in Nashville. He will complete a second-year specialty residency in ambulatory care.

2012 — **Elizabeth Clippard** graduated magna cum laude from the University of Tennessee College of Law and will be joining Butler Snow's Nashville office this fall.

2012 — **Apral Foreman** attends West Virginia University, where she has successfully proposed a dissertation topic and become a board certified behavior analyst.

2012 — **Abby Olivier** graduated with a master's degree in public service from the Clinton School of Public Service in Little

Rock, Arkansas, and is now working there with the Clinton School Center on Community Philanthropy.

2013 — **Norman Seawright** finished his master's degree at Syracuse and is now the weekend sports anchor at KBJR-TV in Duluth, Minnesota.

2013 — **Kathy Trabue** is the international admissions manager at Columbia College in Missouri. She is traveling all over the world (most recently Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Dominican Republic), recruiting students to come study at CC and helping them with the admissions/student visa process.

2013 — **Jess Waltman** is serving as the Law School Student Body Association president at the University of Mississippi School of Law and will be graduating in May 2016.

2014 — **Stacy Wolff** is at UAB working on her Master of Science in forensic chemistry and a certificate in computer forensics. She's working on a research project with the Department of Homeland Security's ICE Unit at the Charleston, South Carolina, office.

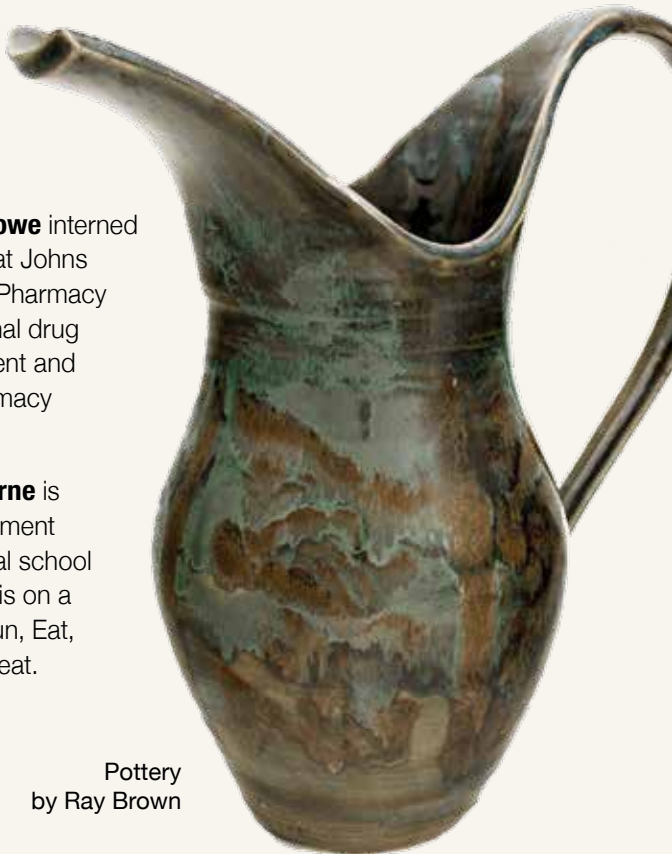
2015 — **Marcus Daniels** will be attending Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine for the next four years.

2015 — This fall, **Sarah Bracy Penn** will begin a Master of Arts program in the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute at New York University.

2015 — **Davis Rogers** has moved to Baltimore, Maryland, to attend the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

2014 — **Rachel Lowe** interned over the summer at Johns Hopkins Hospital Pharmacy in the investigational drug services department and will continue pharmacy school in the fall.

2014 — **Cara Thorne** is enjoying every moment (almost!) of medical school at Pitt, where she is on a strict schedule: Run, Eat, Study, Sleep, Repeat.



Pottery
by Ray Brown

UM ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING ALUMNUS NAMED GATES CAMBRIDGE SCHOLAR

EDWIN SMITH

An SMBHC and electrical engineering alumnus is among this year’s recipients of the prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship.

Chiedozie “Dozie” Ibekwe is the second UM graduate to win the full scholarship to the University of Cambridge. Sam Watson, a 2008 SMBHC graduate with bachelor’s degrees in mathematics, physics and classics, was the first UM recipient in 2009.

“I knew that I had just gotten a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Ibekwe said. “I’ll study for a Master of Philosophy in public policy. After Cambridge, I will utilize my manufacturing and supply chain management expertise to advise African policymakers on crafting and executing effective industrial policies to boost manufacturing and diversify African economies.”

Ibekwe enrolled in UM’s Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College through its Junior Entry program and was ranked as the university’s best graduating engineering student in December 2011. He is slated to earn his Master of Professional Studies in supply chain management

from Pennsylvania State University in August.

He has been employed by General Electric since graduating from UM, beginning as a lean manufacturing engineer in GE Energy’s aeroderivatives division in 2011. Since then, he has been a process improvement leader in GE Power and Water, a sourcing project manager on the Chevron Big Foot Project of GE Oil and Gas, a manufacturing operations leader for blowout preventers and a supplier quality engineer for GE Nigeria.

“My career goal is to use manufacturing, with localized supply chains, to drive development in Africa,” said

Ibekwe, now lead buyer in the pressure control division of GE Oil and Gas in Houston, Texas.

Ibekwe is “a superb example of a citizen scholar,” said Douglass Sullivan-González, UM Honors College dean.

“Dozie studies, he analyzes, and then he acts,” Sullivan-González said. “As an engineer or as a policy analyst, he has a gift for seeing how things can be better, and he consistently turns his own talents toward those efforts. We are immensely proud of what he has accomplished already and of what he plans to accomplish.”

At Ole Miss, Ibekwe was a summer research intern at both the Jamie L. Whitten National Center for Physical



SMBHC alumnus Dozie Ibekwe (left) of Nigeria is a 2015 Gates Cambridge Scholarship recipient.



Chiedozie 'Dozie' Ibekwe

Acoustics and the University of Southern Mississippi. He won an award for best undergraduate research presentation at a state conference for the former and researched the development of a new technique in facial recognition at the latter.

"Professor Paul Goggans has been the most influential teacher in my life," Ibekwe said. "He challenged me to be curious about the world. He always thought that I was capable of a lot more if I really applied myself."

Ibekwe said William Shughart's engineering economics class was the most important course in his undergraduate career.

"It got me thinking about the economics and sustainability of engineering and infrastructure projects," he said. "Professor Shughart has been an excellent mentor, especially as I try to figure out possible solutions to Africa's problems."

"Eventually, I hope to become a Nigerian policymaker," Ibekwe said. "In addition to addressing infrastructure challenges that hinder manufacturing, I am interested in engaging the Nigerian private sector to

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MY CAREER GOAL IS TO USE MANUFACTURING, WITH LOCALIZED SUPPLY CHAINS, TO DRIVE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA.” – Chiedozie Ibekwe

develop the manufacturing capabilities and human capital in Nigeria.”

His leadership experiences include the UM International Student Organization, serving as treasurer; Toastmasters International; GE Houston Club, in which he served as treasurer; Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, where he served as director of education; GE African American Forum, serving as professional development committee co-chair; GE recruiter at the National Association of Black Accountants annual

conference; and GE/Alpha Phi Alpha College-to-Corporate Program. Ibekwe has volunteered at Second Baptist Church in Oxford, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial dedication, Thompson Elementary School in Houston, Engineers Without Borders and the Rotary Club of West Houston.

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship, open to citizens of any country outside the United Kingdom, provides a full-cost scholarship to Cambridge for a post-graduate degree. ■ **HR**



'At the Edge of the Rain'

by Aynslee Moon

approx. 23 x 18 in., watercolor, colored pencil, soft pastel and acrylic on cut paper, 2013

UM Students Land **FULBRIGHT** and **BOREN** Scholarships

KELLEY NORRIS

Three University of Mississippi students, members of both the Sally McDonnell Barksdale College and the Croft Institute for International Studies, have been awarded prestigious scholarships to teach and study abroad.

Jordan Nicholas Troisi of Wasilla, Alaska, and **Colby Woods** of Olive Branch were awarded Fulbright U.S. Student Awards to teach English as a second language, and **Steven James Mockler** of Ocean Springs received a Boren Scholarship to fund his capstone year in the Chinese Language Flagship Program.

"The awards are not surprising because the University of Mississippi prepares students to pursue their ambitions outside the United States," said Douglass Sullivan-González, dean of the Honors College.

"These successes are evidence that the University of Mississippi nurtures students who are not afraid to test themselves at a global level, and that, here at UM, they will learn skills they'll need in order to succeed in meeting those challenges," Sullivan-González said.

Troisi has spent the last two years as the coordinator of recruitment and admissions for the Honors College while pursuing a second master's degree in modern languages. He plans to spend a year, and possibly more, in Kahramanmaraş, Turkey, teaching English and conducting research on Turkish higher education. During his time at UM, he was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

and an honorary inductee into Order of Omega. He plans to pursue a doctorate in international education upon his return from Turkey.

Troisi said he would have not applied or been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship had it not been for the faculty, staff and students of the Honors College.

"Receiving the Fulbright is not an end but a beginning, an unwritten book in which all of the Fulbright Scholars will write chapters," Troisi said. "Ultimately, one year from now, as I am boarding a plane back to the United States, I want to be able to say that I made a difference in Turkey and that Turkey made a difference in me."

Woods, a 2014 UM graduate in international studies and German who studied abroad as an undergraduate, plans to return to Germany to teach English and take classes at a local university. As an undergraduate, he was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, the Chancellor's Leadership Class and Freshman Focus, and received a Taylor Medal. Woods developed a passion for teaching while working with the Sunflower County Freedom Project, a nonprofit organization that uses education to empower middle and high school students in the Mississippi Delta.

The Fulbright Scholarship presents an opportunity to continue what he has already started, Woods said.

"When I left Germany, there was still so much I wanted to see and accomplish," he said. "Every day in Germany will present new challenges, especially with my high

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THESE SUCCESSSES ARE EVIDENCE THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI NURTURES STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT AFRAID TO TEST THEMSELVES AT A GLOBAL LEVEL, AND THAT, HERE AT UM, THEY WILL LEARN SKILLS THEY'LL NEED IN ORDER TO SUCCEED IN MEETING THOSE CHALLENGES.” – Douglass Sullivan-González

expectations for the year, but I'm really looking forward to it. I hope to use this opportunity to its fullest potential."

Mockler, a 2015 graduate in Chinese and international studies, will use the scholarship to complete his capstone year in China. A member of Phi Kappa Phi and Order of Omega, he spent the fall of 2014 studying at Middlebury C.V. Starr School in Kunming, China. Upon his return from China, Mockler plans to fulfill his commitment to government service and give back to his community by volunteering with AmeriCorps VISTA.

The goals of the Boren Scholarship complement the work Mockler has done at UM and his career goals, he said.

"For a group that's never met me, that doesn't know me like my family, friends and professors do, to say they believe in me and trust me to be cultural ambassador for the United States and a future federal servant, well, it's a huge vote of confidence and immensely satisfying, to say the least," Mockler said.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between Americans and people of other countries. The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Boren Scholarship recipients receive up to \$20,000 to study abroad in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America and the Middle East. In exchange for funding, Boren award recipients agree to work in the national security arena of the federal government for at least one year. ■ **HR**



Colby Woods



Jordan Troisi



Steve Mockler



'Accumulation'
by Aynslee Moon
Oil on panel, 12 x 12, 2015



Zachary Boynton



Lydia Makepeace



Megan Smith



Nikki Reinemann

DEAN'S PRIZE WINNERS

The Dean's Prize is awarded at May commissioning to the student who earns the most honors hours. This year, Zachary Boynton, B.A. in biochemistry, and Lydia Makepeace, B.E. in engineering, tied with 53 honors hours. Boynton begins study at Temple University School of Medicine this fall, and Makepeace will teach physics to high school students in Dallas, Texas, through Teach for America before attending medical school. The record-holder is Hardy DeLaughter (B.A. in political science, '13) with 82 honors hours.

NSF FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

Congratulations to Megan Smith (2015; B.S. biology, B.A. English) on winning a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship. Smith, who has done research under Brice Noonan and Rich Buchholz, will use the fellowship to fund her graduate studies at the Ohio State University. Congratulations also to another NSF Graduate Fellowship winner, Nikki Reinemann, SMBHC alumna (2012; B.S. chemistry, B.S. chemical engineering). Reinemann is studying at Vanderbilt University; while an undergrad, she conducted research under Nathan Hammer.

WHY^{or} why NOT?

KENDRICK WALLACE

Before I stepped foot on the UM campus as an official first-year student, the Honors College challenged me with a question: “Which question invigorates you the most: Why or why not?” In the past, I would ask myself “Why?” when faced with a new opportunity, and because I lacked a sense of direction and passion, taking risks did not appeal to me. However, going into my freshman year of college, I realized that life is not about being safe; it is about taking chances and being an individual. Instead of sticking with what I knew, I wrote about the good in asking “Why not?” when faced with a decision. With that simple question, the Honors College inspired me to be an individual and to blaze my own trail.

Although I enjoyed all of my honors classes freshman year, the classes that really pushed me to live in the moment and tackle my dreams head-on were my Honors 101 and 102 classes. These classes were meant to spark conversation and introspection, and my professor, Stefan Schulenberg, made it his goal to learn about his students and what they wanted from life. It was this kind of proactive teaching that gave me the push I needed to achieve one of my personal goals as a student at Ole Miss.

My dream is to one day own a dance studio and teach dance to kids and young adults in order to not only give them a safe space to have fun while dancing but also to, in turn, give them the kind of confidence that I longed for as a child. Because I noticed that Ole Miss lacked a hip hop dance club with this same goal in mind, I decided that it was my responsibility to start one of my own. After a lot of thought and support from Professor Schulenberg, I started Hip Hop Rebs along with three of my friends. This club is dedicated to shining a fun and positive light on the genre of hip hop dance through weekly



Stefan Schulenberg, associate professor of clinical psychology and director of the Clinical Disaster Research Center



Kendrick Wallace, SMBHC student

dance classes that are open to all UM students. Even if this club does not thrive the way that I want it to, I am still ecstatic that I gained enough courage to build up something that I can truly call my own.

My first year at Ole Miss was a year full of new experiences, new friends, last minute plans and the beginning of Hip Hop Rebs. None of those experiences would have been possible without the Honors College challenging me with the question: “Why not?” ■ **HR**

THESIS TESTIMONIES



Christin Gates Calloway

CHRISTIN GATES CALLOWAY

As an undergraduate student, I majored in psychology. My honors thesis was an opportunity to bridge my interest and passion of social psychology and the educational disparities within the state of Mississippi to psychology. My thesis was situated in high-stakes accountability literature. The significance of the study provided insight into the impact of No Child Left Behind upon the ability of African-American students to gain access to higher education. The study investigated how the high-stakes testing under NCLB may or may not affect African-American students' chances to enter into colleges and universities. My work looked into how the demands of accountability influence the response patterns of administrators in both public high schools and higher education, specifically as it relates to how students in particular selected school systems navigate the educational pipeline. I paid special attention to graduation rates, and college admission and retention rates in a selected K-16 pipeline.

My thesis was monumental in helping me solidify postgraduate plans to attend Harvard Graduate School of Education to not only further my knowledge within the field but also leave with a network of fellow educators, scholars and activists. Once I arrived at Harvard, I realized that an undergrad thesis was the standard for all Harvard undergraduates. Without the thesis, I would have struggled to meet the academic expectations in graduate school. Once I earned my master's degree, I matriculated into the Educational Policy Studies Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I particularly chose the institution based upon one professor who I cited often within my thesis. I submitted a portion of my thesis as a writing sample. Based upon my thesis, the professor accepted me as an advisee. I continue to pinch myself when I think back on how a citation became a reality.

Christin Gates Calloway is a 2011 graduate of the SMBHC and is pursuing her Ph.D. in education policy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Elizabeth Vowell

ELIZABETH VOWELL

I asked Tom Brokaw to read my thesis, and he said yes. It was a shock to my professors that I would give one of the most legendary journalists of our time homework while he was visiting the SMBHC for a guest lecture. However, as a broadcast journalism major with a thesis analyzing new media's impact on an obscure World War II story, I saw it as my one chance to get input from a respected expert on both topics. Nevertheless, as soon as I handed it to Mr. Brokaw – who read one page, smiled and corrected a misspelling – I realized that I may have gotten in over my head. When he told me he was a family friend of a documentarian I referenced in my research, I mentally prepared an apology for wasting his time. But, I survived that meeting and, fortunately, made a good impression on one of my professional heroes. He even went as far as recommending me for a prestigious internship. Looking back, it was probably more my unbridled enthusiasm to share a story, along with an unabashed arrogance only held when one is young and naïve, that impressed Mr. Brokaw and my advisers.

To be honest, I didn't get my first reporting job because I researched and composed some brilliant thesis. I got my first job because while presenting

Elizabeth Vowell is a 2010 graduate of the SMBHC with a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism. She is a reporter and anchor with WAFB-TV in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

my thesis, I learned a valuable lesson of humility. I learned that anything I do must be solid enough to pass inspection from the highest judges. I learned that research makes the difference between a good story and a powerful, lasting impact on your audience. I learned that nothing can replace dedication and passion for what you do. It's a lesson I could only learn from experience, from participating in my education and from the extraordinary programs and resources that are unique to the Honors College. Those are lessons that guide me every day in the field as a journalist. That, and always spell check before handing over your work to Tom Brokaw.



Jake Dickerson

JAKE DICKERSON

My honors thesis had a profound and lasting impact on both my academic career and my professional career. In undergrad, I was a history and political science double major. As a result, it's probably not that surprising that I was heading to law school after graduating from the Honors College. However, while law school was the hypothetical (if not default) goal, until I started working on my honors thesis, I really didn't appreciate that objective, and I had no idea what legal studies involved or even what a career in the law looked like.

I remember sitting in professor John Winkle's Constitutional Law class during my junior year, trying to figure out the topic and direction of my honors thesis. Many of my honors classmates were already well into the research, if not the writing, of their honors thesis projects, and I was starting to worry. But then, Professor Winkle began his lecture series on the First Amendment to the Constitution, and specifically the Establishment Clause: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." Through his lectures, Professor Winkle taught us that this rather short and concise clause is anything but simple. Because religious freedom (and specifically the freedom from religion) is such a fundamental component of our rights as citizens, and because the clause that guarantees that right is so short on details, the Supreme Court has developed a number of tests to determine when government action violates or comports with the Establishment Clause. As Professor Winkle lectured on these interpretive tests and how they have evolved over the decades, I realized that he had given me the perfect honors thesis topic: The Evolution of Interpretive Standards for the Establishment Clause.

As luck would have it, I settled on my honors thesis topic at just about the same time as the Supreme Court was hearing arguments in the *Zelman vs. Simmons-Harris* case, which would be one of the Court's most important rulings on the Establishment Clause. The *Zelman* case involved the school voucher program created by the city of Cleveland in an effort to improve the city's school system. Low-income families could use the vouchers to attend magnet schools, to pay for private tutoring or to attend private schools, among other options. As it turned out, the vast majority of qualifying families used the vouchers to pay for parochial schools. So the issue in *Zelman* was whether the vouchers impermissibly "endorsed" the religious institutions that operated the schools, since most of the government funds from the program ultimately went to pay for parochial school tuition.

In a 5-to-4 ruling, the Court held that the voucher program did not violate the Establishment Clause. With help from the Honors College, I was fortunate enough to be at the Supreme Court when the *Zelman* decision was issued on June 27, 2002. Being present when Chief Justice Rehnquist

Jake Dickerson is a senior litigation associate in the Memphis office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz. Before joining Baker Donelson, Dickerson was a federal law clerk for Chief Judge Jon Phipps McCalla of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee.

announced the majority opinion upholding Cleveland’s voucher program was an amazing experience. Not only did I get to see the Supreme Court issue a significant and far-reaching decision on the Establishment Clause, but I was also able to witness history in the making, on a topic that I had spent considerable time researching and analyzing.

My honors thesis provided me with an in-depth and practical perspective on legal research and writing. This was a tremendous benefit to me as I entered law school. I now had real experience with the study of the law, even before I walked into my first law school class. The legal research and writing skills I learned through my honors thesis continue to influence my legal career on a daily basis, whether I’m drafting appellate briefs, or dispositive motions, or legal analysis memoranda. All of these tasks are easier by virtue of the lessons I learned through my honors thesis.

I recently re-read my honors thesis, and it really surprises me how little my analysis and writing style has changed over the past dozen years. Some might argue this just shows that I haven’t improved much in 12 years, but I’d like to think instead that Professor Winkle’s guidance and the process of researching and writing my thesis gave me a strong foundation for my legal career. I am thankful that the Honors College has a thesis requirement, because, otherwise, I may not have chosen a career in the law. And I am grateful for the support of the faculty and the staff at the Honors College, who gave me the tools and resources I needed to complete the task.



Rachel Yi

RACHEL YI

Inervously waited for the elevator to reach the fifth floor. With a room number displayed on my phone screen, I walked out the opening doors and glanced left and right to get my bearings. I headed down the winding hallway until I stood before my destination. Taking a deep breath and gathering my courage, I knocked lightly on the door. A voice told me to come in.

I timidly stepped into Dr. Robinson’s office, and he looked at me in confusion for a moment before an expression of realization crossed his face. I confirmed his suspicions by introducing myself: Rachel Yi, an Ole Miss graduate and currently a medical student at the University of Mississippi Medical Center who was here to talk about the Medical Student Research Program (MSRP) with not much but a biology degree under her belt.

I was there to ask if Dr. Robinson was willing to be my mentor for MSRP. It was a program dedicated to encouraging medical students to explore research topics and embrace the idea of being a physician-scientist. To my relief, Dr. Robinson seemed willing to have me on board. But during the next hour, he proceeded to explain to me his lab’s research in greater detail than I was prepared for, and by the end, my strained nerves were screaming for a dose of caffeine.

But not everything went in one ear and out the other. Words like “PCR” and “genome analysis” and “phylogenetic trees” caught my attention, and I held fast to these terms, which had become familiar to me during my undergraduate years. My mind inevitably wandered back to memories of my SMBHC thesis.

I remembered being in an office much like my present situation. A friend and I sat across from Dr. Garrick, a genetics professor at Ole Miss, whose research looked at the population genetics of invertebrates in the Appalachian region, an area known for its incredible biodiversity. After

Rachel Yi is a 2014
SMBHC graduate
and is in her second
year of medical
school at UMMC.

showing us his collection of cockroaches that were literally chilling in a Tupperware box in his fridge, he gave us a quick look at the lab that we would be working in for the next two years in order to finish our thesis.

I had always been interested in genetics so I wanted to know what it would be like to do research in this field. Needless to say, the amount of work needed to complete the thesis required incredible perseverance, patience and productivity. I could still recall many days of PCR troubleshooting that would not yield any usable data, long hours of endless pipetting and crushing insect legs, and hours of staring contests with a computer screen displaying a blank word document. I must admit that the idea of flinging the thesis altogether and concentrating on graduating ran laps through my head more than once.

But in time, I realized that the thesis was not just a ridiculously long paper. It represented more than just an obligation or a check mark off of an SMBHC check box. It prepared our budding talents into valuable skills for the future, it stirred our interests into real passion, and it refined our personal traits into true character. Whether we realized it or not, the honors thesis was not just a test of knowledge but also a trial of integrity. Our battle was not with a deadline; in a sense, we were at war with our own immaturity, failures and weaknesses.

So, when I finally retrieved my final copy of my thesis from Office Depot, what surged through me was a mixture of emotions too powerful to describe. It hit me again in the aftermath of a thesis presentation and during the walk across a stage to receive a medal. I struggled to find words for it because it was more than just relief or satisfaction or pride. It was the feeling of reaching a mountain peak and looking out at the view. And the view was incredible.

So, as I struggled to follow the explanations of Dr. Robinson in a lab at UMMC, I could not help but feel as though my experiences had come to a full circle. The experiences garnered at Ole Miss and the values of scholarship impressed upon me by the SMBHC brought me to where I am today. What the past has taught me has been invaluable and has shaped who I am. The journey, however, is far from over. The thesis was not another wall I had to climb, but a stepping stone I could cross to climb even higher.



Jesse Xie

Jesse Xie is a 2013
SMBHC graduate.

JESSE XIE

My name is Jesse Xie, and I am a third-year medical student at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. I majored in pharmaceutical sciences and selected my thesis topic based upon my field of research, which was medicinal chemistry. Originally, I planned on attending pharmacy school but changed my mind at the end of my sophomore year. Listing my research experience, presentations and thesis on my CV made me a more competitive candidate for med school, but personally, the best part of completing my undergraduate thesis was having the opportunity to talk about my findings with others at conferences in interesting cities. I can talk all day about what the thesis is and what it has done for me, but I think it's important to know what it isn't and what it cannot do. It's not a golden ticket to any professional school. It's not a guarantee for graduate school scholarships. It's not an impossible project that only geniuses can complete, either. Ultimately, those who complete the undergraduate thesis are standing on top of a rock, holding up – Simba style – that hard-covered, heavy document while all of the thesis-less peers sing “Circle of Life” down below. Figuratively, of course. ■ **HR**

RECENT HONORS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

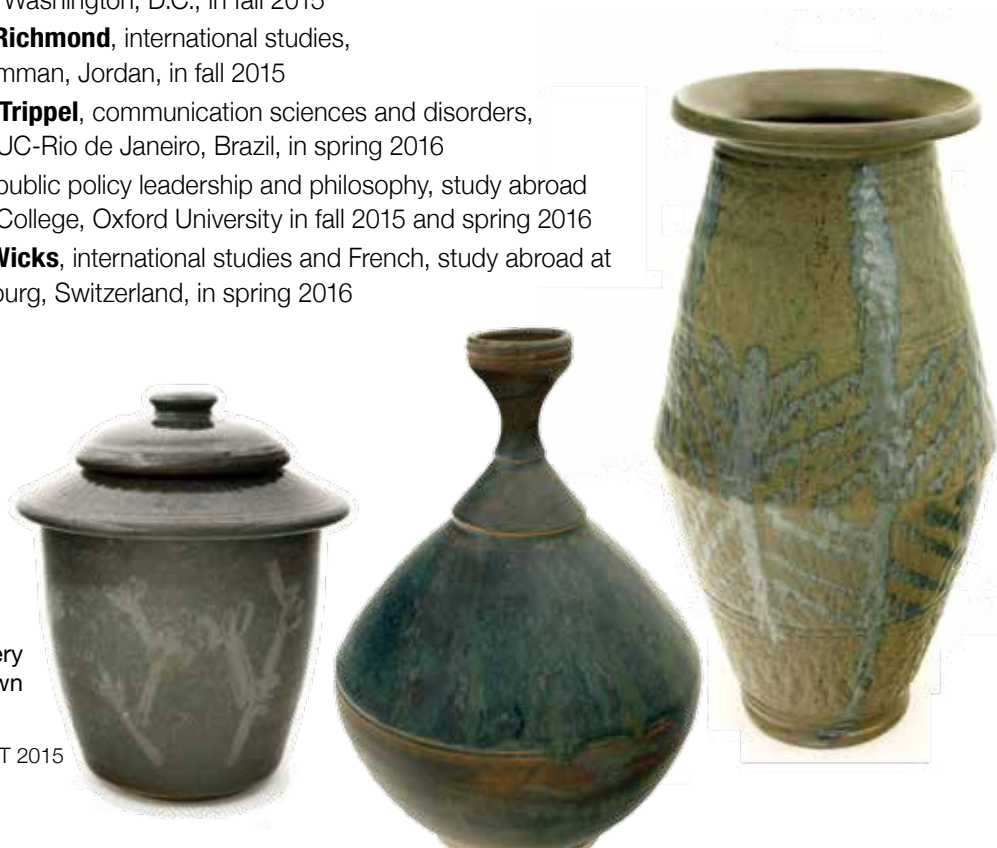
SUMMER 2015

- **Holly Victoria Baer**, religious studies, internship at Patheos in Denver, Colorado
- **Robert Hollis Burrow**, business management, internship in Indonesian hospital system
- **Michael Charles Gratzner**, geological engineering, geological engineering field camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico
- **Dillon Colt Hall**, mechanical engineering, study abroad at Maynooth University, Ireland
- **Mary Moses Hitt**, biochemistry and classics, study abroad at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England
- **Lynley-Love Jones**, marketing, internship in the New York fashion industry
- **Sara Kiparizoska**, biochemistry, the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine Summer School at the University of Pittsburgh Medical College
- **Shelby Reed Knighten**, secondary English education, study abroad at Université Catholique de l'Ouest in Angers, France
- **Anna Elizabeth McCollum**, journalism, study abroad at the University of Westminster
- **Sailer Elizabeth Perkins**, political science and Arabic, study abroad in Amman, Jordan
- **Adam Kaelin Schoenbachler**, international studies and French, study abroad at Université Catholique de l'Ouest in Angers, France
- **Stephanie Claire Trippel**, communication sciences and disorders, audiology research internship at Northwestern University
- **Lemuel Shui-Lin Tsang**, Chinese and biochemistry, study abroad through the Princeton in Beijing program
- **Arielle Domineque Wallace**, art, UCLA Film and Television Summer Institute in Los Angeles
- **Tanner West**, accountancy, study abroad at the Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso

FALL 2015-SPRING 2016

- **Cayla Jane Cardamone**, international studies and French, study abroad at Université Catholique de l'Ouest in Angers, France, spring 2016
- **Savannah Winn Coleman**, international studies, study abroad at the University of Potsdam, Germany, in fall 2015 and spring 2016
- **Audrey Nichole Mooney**, public policy leadership, internship with INTERPOL in Washington, D.C., in fall 2015
- **Miller Anderson Richmond**, international studies, study abroad in Amman, Jordan, in fall 2015
- **Stephanie Claire Trippel**, communication sciences and disorders, study abroad at PUC-Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in spring 2016
- **Jon Luke Watts**, public policy leadership and philosophy, study abroad at St. Catherine's College, Oxford University in fall 2015 and spring 2016
- **Elizabeth Marie Wicks**, international studies and French, study abroad at Université de Fribourg, Switzerland, in spring 2016

Pottery
by Ray Brown





Dylan Ritter stands with his younger brother, Travis. (Photo courtesy of Dylan Ritter)

Ritter Recognized for BROTHERLY Inspired Autism Research LOVE

KELLEY NORRIS

Dylan Ritter, a junior majoring in biochemistry at the University of Mississippi, has been recognized by the Autism Science Foundation as one of the top five undergraduates in the nation working on groundbreaking projects in the field of autism.

Ritter, a Stamps Scholar and member of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, spent two months at Texas A&M University this summer working on an independent project to study brain development in mice with chromosome 15q11.2-13.1 duplication syndrome, a type of autism commonly known as Dup15q. It's a condition that hits close to home for Ritter.

When Ritter was just 4, his youngest brother, Travis, was diagnosed with Dup15q. While Ritter had an interest in learning more about the condition, he never really considered the possibility of pursuing autism research. Coming to Ole Miss with his eyes set on medical school, Ritter read an article on research being done to analyze Dup15q syndrome in mice being conducted by Scott Dindot at Texas A&M.

Inspired by what he read, Ritter contacted Dindot and was offered a summer job in Dindot's lab after his freshman year. After working with Dindot, Ritter consulted with

his UM mentors, Nathan Hammer, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, and Douglass Sullivan-González, dean of the Honors College, who gave him the assistance and encouragement needed to change his major.

"Dr. Hammer has helped me figure out where I wanted to go, leading me towards the biochemical track of the chemistry degree and offering any help I needed," Ritter said. "DSG helped me become interested in UM since my first visit on campus and has helped me explore the world outside Ole Miss by encouraging me to pursue opportunities I might usually be hesitant to."

"Dylan Ritter breaks the mold," Sullivan-González said. "An incredible problem has gripped his soul, and he is pouring his life into its solution. Dylan demonstrates how we should live as citizen scholars in our world today."

Ritter completes his summer at Texas A&M as one of the top undergraduate researchers in his field. The prestigious honor from the Autism Science Foundation is accompanied by a grant to help fund his research. He received grants from the Honors College to fund his first trip and said it played an important role in his return this summer. ■ **HR**

Outstanding Students Receive Four COVETED AWARDS

KELLEY NORRIS

Fourteen standout incoming freshmen accepted into the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi have been awarded four of the university's most prestigious scholarships.

Of the 14, four were awarded the **McDonnell-Barksdale Scholarship**, six were awarded the **Doris Raymond Scholarship**, two were awarded the **Harold Parker Memorial Scholarship**, and two were awarded **Annexstad Family Foundation Leaders for Tomorrow Scholarships**.

Barksdale Scholarship recipients are Dylan Devenny of Pass Christian, John Ross Graham of Hernando, Galina Ostrovsky of Madison and Jessica Tran of Hattiesburg.

Raymond Scholarship recipients are Anna

Beavers of Gainesville, Florida; Taylor Bentley of Amarillo, Texas; Kaci Crawford of Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Raven Francomano of Bay, Arkansas; Thomas McFann of Arlington, Tennessee; and Mikaela Sarkar of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Parker Scholarship recipients are Devna Bose of Philadelphia, Mississippi, and James Long of Olive Branch.

Leaders for Tomorrow Scholarship recipients are Tan Le of Gulfport and Francisco Santos of Southaven.

"We are proud of our honors scholarship winners! They will teach us by their example of what it means to be both citizen and scholar in today's challenging world," said Douglass Sullivan-González, Honors College dean. "I look forward to four great years with each of them."



Devenny

Dylan Devenny graduated from St. Stanislaus College Preparatory School, where he received the Star Student award and the Character Cup. A member of the band, he received the John Philip Sousa Award, the Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award and the Excellence in Music Award. An Eagle Scout, he has worked on numerous service activities through his Boy Scout troop. He is majoring in computer science.



Graham

John Ross Graham is a graduate of Hernando High School. The valedictorian of his class, he was voted "Most Likely to Succeed" and inducted into the Hernando High School Hall of Fame. He received the Commercial Appeal Academic All Star in English Award and the Mississippi Economic Council Star Student Award, and served as a National Society of High School Scholars Ambassador. A member of the tennis team, he won the 2013 men's singles district championship and received the Lindy Callahan Scholar Athlete Award. He co-chaired the program Backpack Angels, providing food relief to local elementary schools. He plans to major in English.



Ostrovsky

Galina Ostrovsky is a graduate of St. Andrew's Episcopal School. The winner of the AP Spanish Language and Culture Class Award, she is the co-founder and president of the National Spanish Honor Society and served as the president of the Spanish Club. Her service activities include working as a tutor in various programs and working with adults with disabilities at both the Mustard Seed and St. Catherine's nursing home. She is a Guillot Global Studies fellow and received a grant to participate in an exchange program to Hyderabad, India. She plans to major in chemical engineering with a minor in Spanish and anticipates attending medical school.



Tran

Jessica Tran, a graduate of Oak Grove High School, was the salutatorian of her class. Voted “Most Intellectual,” she is the Pride of Oak Grove recipient and in the Oak Grove Hall of Fame. In 2013, she was named the 6A state champion in archery. Her service activities include volunteering at the Hub City Animal Shelter and All Animal Clinic, serving as a tutor and working with nursing homes and Operation Christmas Child. She is majoring in chemistry.



Beavers

Anna Beavers graduated from Lakeview Academy, where she served as senior class president. A recipient of the University of Georgia Certificate of Merit, she also received the Piedmont College Junior Fellows Award, Wesleyan College Award and the Golden Lion Award. She is a member of Key Club and also volunteers with the Helping Hands Foreign Missions Uganda. She plans to major in criminal justice.



Bentley

Taylor Bentley is a graduate of Amarillo High School, where she was the 2015 salutatorian. A National Merit Commended Scholar, she received the calculus departmental award and the hospitality and tourism departmental award. As a member of the varsity track and field team, she was a regional qualifier in 100-meter hurdles and the pole vault. She served as Wesley Community Center and VA Hospital volunteer. Bentley plans to major in mechanical engineering.



Crawford

Kaci Crawford graduated from Hillcrest High School. Recognized as HHS Top Senior and Academic All-Star, she received the Tuscaloosa County Star Senior and Champion of Character awards. She served as the National Honor Society president, student government vice president and student government historian. Having worked at Center Ridge Outpost as an autism camp counselor, she organized an autism awareness week wristband fundraiser, raising \$1,200. She plans to major in chemical engineering.



Francomano

Raven Francomano graduated from Bay High School. An Arkansas Scholar, she received the highest academic honors, graduating as Class of 2015 valedictorian. A member of student council, she also served as a member of student government, Family Career and Community Leaders of America, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Her community service includes Bay After School Program tutor, Bay United Methodist Community Outreach Committee and March of Dimes Prom Fashion Show model. She is majoring in public policy leadership.



McFann

Thomas McFann is a graduate from Arlington High School. The valedictorian of his class, he was named Science Olympiad Winner and the AP Scholar with Distinction and received Performing Arts Excellence awards in piano and drums. He served as a student ambassador, class leader and mentor for Bellevue Middle School Youth. The president of National Honors Society, he was a member of Mu Alpha Theta, Key Club and the Science Olympiad Team. He is majoring in computer science.



Sarkar

Mikaela Sarkar, a homeschooled student, has lived in seven states and two foreign countries. For the past decade, she received her education travelling across the country and abroad with her mother and sister “globeschooling.” She is a National Merit Scholar and the Tennessee 4-H Essay Contest Winner on county, regional and state levels. Founder of the environmental blog planetgreen.org, she has volunteered with the Boys and Girls Club of Blount County and Millar Park Afterschool Program. Sarkar is majoring in public policy leadership.



Bose

Devna Bose is a graduate of Philadelphia High School. The valedictorian of her class, she received numerous awards in math, Spanish and world history and was named the 2015 STAR student of Philadelphia High School. A member of the PHS band, she received the Band Leadership award. She served as vice president of Leadership Neshoba and Crown Club and was a member of the National Spanish Honor Society and Beta Club. A co-founder of Students Against Destructive Decisions, she also founded the annual PHS Book Drive. Bose is majoring in journalism.



Long

James Long, a graduate of Olive Branch High School, received awards in math, debate, chess and computer programming competitions. He served as vice president of Mu Alpha Theta and lettered in soccer and tennis. He is majoring in mathematics and plans to attend medical school to become a surgeon.



Le

Tan Le is a graduate of Harrison Central High School. He led the HCCHS marching band as head drum major. Le is a first-generation Asian-American and is the son of Ba Le and Duyen Ngo. He has an older sister who also attends Ole Miss.

Francisco Santos (not pictured) graduated from Southaven High School, where he participated in band and drama. He is majoring in computer science and has an interest in studying music. He is the son of military veterans Francisco and Paula Santos.

THE HEARIN FOUNDATION FUNDS THE MISSISSIPPI WATER SECURITY INSTITUTE

The SMBHC received word in June that its \$258,000 proposal to the Hearin Foundation to create the Mississippi Water Security Institute (MS WSI) was accepted and fully funded! Dean Douglass Sullivan-González will serve as the principal investigator and Associate Dean Debra Young will serve as the coordinator of the MS WSI as the institute trains high-performing students to ask and answer a tough question: “How can Mississippi ensure that our water resources bolster our economy while remaining self-sufficient and safe?” The SMBHC will hire a director who will draw on honor students throughout the state of Mississippi to study at UM for two weeks in the month of May over a three-year period. Using a case-based design, the MS WSI will be a “laboratory” in water security and will confront the participants with the problems of ensuring water quality and quantity to meet the needs of attracting business and industry while supporting community development and environmental stewardship.

Mississippi’s economic growth, to a significant extent, will reflect our response to a challenge: Where we are water-rich, let’s also be water-wise. To prepare for the challenges of a “water-wise” economy, the MS WSI will equip participants to recognize, evaluate and reconcile the overlapping, sometimes conflicting claims on our water, while using that resource to build our state economy. Experts in water-related business, science, engineering and law will be invited to join the institute for a morning or afternoon, to share their experience with these complex issues, join the students’ discussion of the institute’s topic and challenges, and share meals and informal discussion.

The SMBHC is once again proud to set the terms of debate not only for UM but also for the state of Mississippi with its MS WSI!

PREPARES **CITIZEN SCHOLARS**



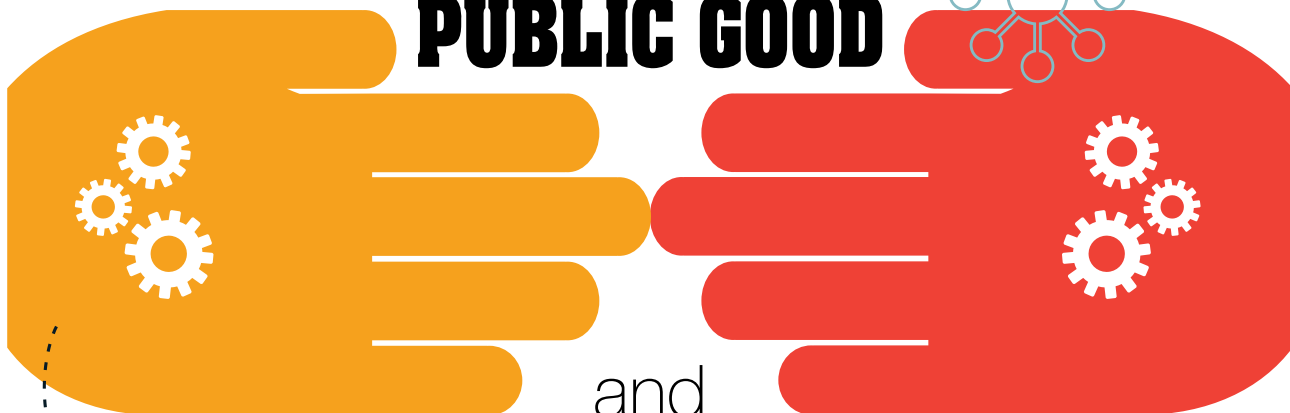
who are

by the life of the

MIND

committed to the

PUBLIC GOOD



and

driven

TO FIND

SOLUTIONS

News from the SMBHC STAFF



Mimi Rankin

NEW COORDINATOR OF RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS

Missouri native Mimi Rankin has been named the new coordinator of recruitment and admissions for the Honors College. Rankin graduated from the SMBHC in May 2015 with a B.A. in liberal studies with emphases in history, political science, English and theatre.

"The Honors College gave me many opportunities including studying abroad and taking classes at the law school, but what I gained most by being in the SMBHC was the confidence that my ideas mattered and were worthy of argument," Rankin said. "I am so excited to begin recruiting the next generation of citizen scholars who will change our state, nation and world for the better!"
Welcome Mimi!

NEW DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ADVISEMENT

Tim Dolan joins the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at Ole Miss as director of the Office of National Scholarship Advisement. He previously mentored fellowship candidates and was director of the Westminster Scholars program and undergraduate research at Westminster College in Salt Lake City from 2007 until 2015. He earned his M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Utah in 1993. Before that he was an English teacher at Judge Memorial Catholic High School in Salt Lake. His interests include fiction, playwriting, contemporary art, photography, design, curriculum, pedagogy and assessment, folklore and critical theories of language. Over the years he has played guitar and sung in numerous bands, and he has a passion for cooking, gardening and home brewing. He served on the Salt Lake City Design board and the Salt Lake City Arts Council board from 2005 to 2014.

He, his wife, Amanda, and their 8-year-old son, Hank, are looking forward to living in Oxford. As a longtime advocate for student success, Dolan is excited to continue the longstanding tradition of successful fellowship advising at Ole Miss. He has spent years teaching writing, editing student work and advising

students who have gone on to successful careers. He believes there is great value in the process of creating a competitive fellowship application and is looking forward to meeting and working with the students at Ole Miss. Welcome, Tim!



Tim Dolan

ESTHER SPRAGUE SPARKS

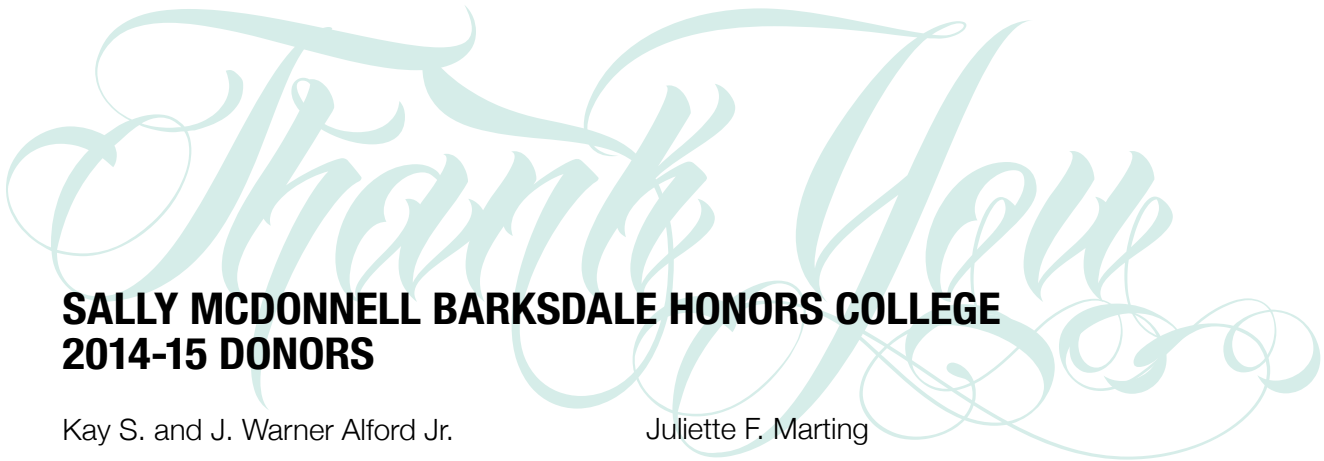
We mourn the passing of Esther Sparks, our renowned art instructor who amazed students with her deep understanding of American art. A graduate of the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, Sparks engaged an incredible number of venues

in her productive life. She worked as a curator for the Art Institute of Chicago and had taught at various universities while publishing a number of books on her specialty. We shall miss her! Her family has generously decided to establish an account with

the UM Foundation so that friends and family can make a donation in her honor. Feel free to send your donation to the Department of Art or call the UM Foundation directly (umf@olemiss.edu or 662-915-5944 or umfoundation.com/home).



'Wanderer'
by Aynslee Moon
Oil on canvas, 58 x 71, 2010



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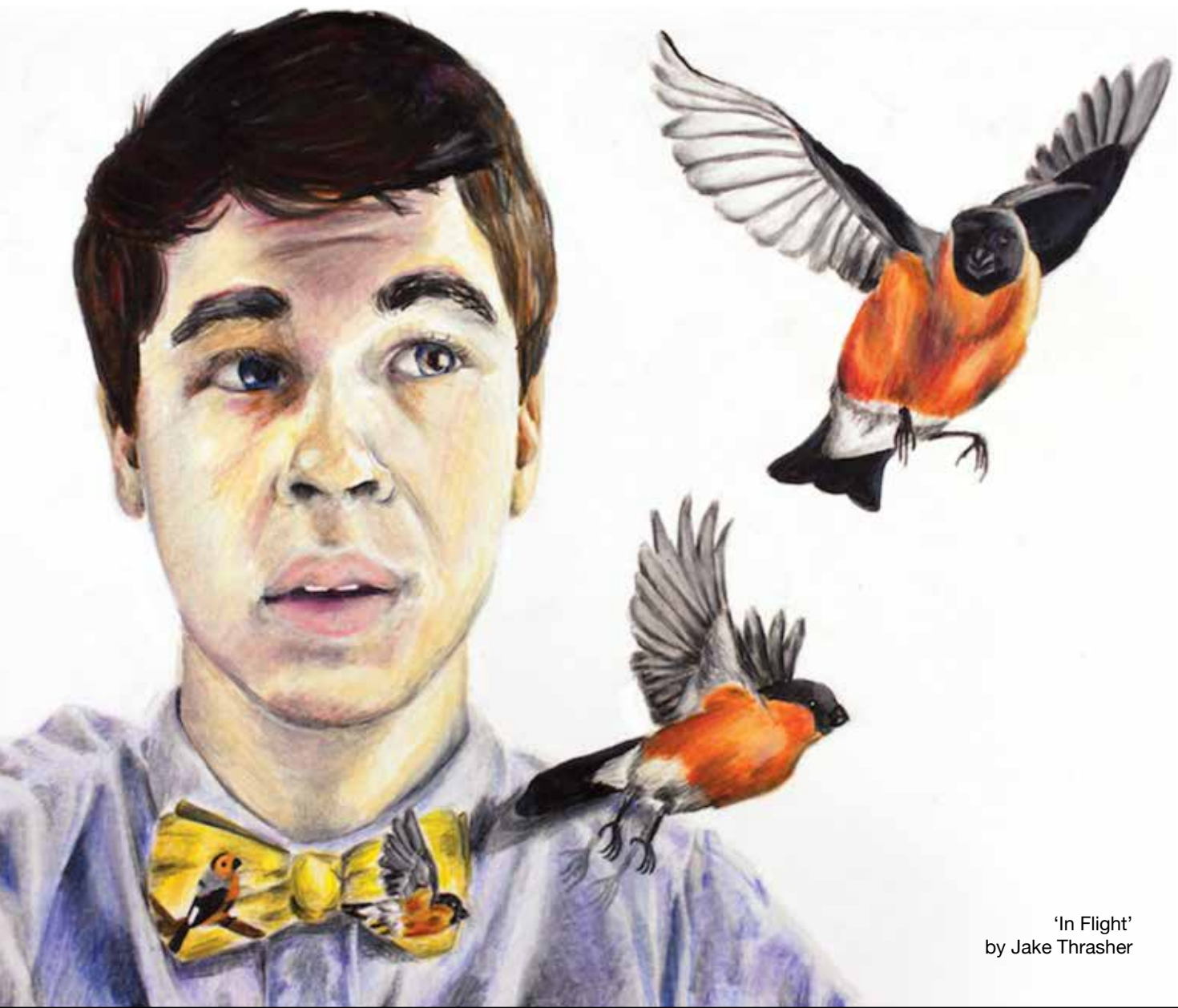
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'Yin and Yang' by Kristen Vise
9 x 14, ink on paper & digital illustration, 2015



'In Flight'
by Jake Thrasher



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