

DEPARTMENT OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Kirk Purdom, Executive Director

July 2018-June 2019

Uniting the Ole Miss family through quality services and programs that strengthen the University of Mississippi and promote a sense of belonging is the foundation on which all activities and programs are planned. Successful engagement is the result of strategic planning and cultivation of alumni, friends and students.

The Alumni Association ended the fiscal year with 25,458 active members. Our Life Membership gained 400 members, ending the year at 10,714. We added more than 500 graduates from the Class of 2019 and continued the personalized brick program in the Circle. In the 11th year of the Sustaining Life Membership Program, 600 Life Members donated \$74,200. Member Zone in Triplett Alumni Center on home football game days averaged 344 visitors per game for the 2018 season.

The Association continued expanding alumni communications. Mobile app users have grown to over 7,400, an increase of 2,000 since last year. The Association's social media platforms have experienced steady growth, surpassing 26,900 Facebook followers and over 16,800 Twitter followers. Its LinkedIn group passed 7,800 members, and its Instagram account grew to over 7,400 followers.

The *Ole Miss Alumni Review* continues to be successful in its mission to impress

readers with the stature of the university, including its programs, alumni, faculty, administrators and students. Some notable features included an alumna's great experience with a liver transplant at UMMC; the School of Journalism and New Media, which celebrated its 10th anniversary; along with successful and innovative alumni at Tesla, NASA, BP and a renowned immunologist credited with "altering the face of medicine."

The Alumni Association has 74 active clubs across the nation, including 25 clubs with scholarship endowments amounting to \$1,845,755, and 23 clubs having restricted accounts amounting to \$64,515. Club leaders attended the annual Leadership Ole Miss conference in February and received updates from campus leaders and alumni staff.

The Association, in conjunction with the Athletics Department, sponsored the BancorpSouth Rebel Road Trip this year in April, June and July. The 12 stops were attended by more than 2,000 Ole Miss alumni and friends. Road Trip stops included Atlanta; Chattanooga, Nashville, and Memphis, Tenn.; Booneville, Hattiesburg, Ocean Springs, Louisville, Tupelo, Clarksdale, Jackson and Oxford, Miss.; Houston, Texas; and Washington, DC.

In September the Association hosted a social for recipients of alumni scholarships. The Association's scholarship committee awarded \$256,200 to 385 Herb Dewees Alumni Association and Grove Society scholarship students. The Timothy L. Walsh scholarship again awarded \$2,000 to one student.

The Accountancy Alumni Chapter sponsored the annual Accountancy Awards Banquet and Accountancy Alumni Weekend in April with continuing education courses offered by alumni and faculty. The chapter also hosted luncheons and receptions for Dean Mark Wilder, the accountancy intern program and the Beta Alpha Psi Golf Tournament as well as a pregame tailgate. The Accountancy Alumni Chapter Board hosted five events for current and graduating students both at the school and at The Inn at Ole Miss.

The Applied Sciences Alumni Chapter sponsored a tailgate in the fall for alumni and friends with more than 100 in attendance. Elise Smith was honored as the 2019 Alumnus of the Year at the annual networking reception.

The Black Alumni Advisory Council participated in a variety of events including tailgates and receptions that brought alumni back to campus. The council released the Black Alumni Newsletter in the fall. The council met twice this year to discuss various issues.

The Business Alumni Chapter sponsored the annual Banking and Finance Symposium and Career Day in October along with the Insurance and Risk Management Symposium and Career Day in March. The chapter assisted the school by hosting luncheons and receptions around the country for Dean Ken Cyree and his staff.

The Education Alumni Chapter invited alumni, faculty, staff and students to the ninth annual Education Awards Reception in May.

The Engineering Alumni Chapter welcomed new Dean David Puleo and hosted several off-campus alumni events him and his staff, and assisted in bringing alumni back to campus to speak to students in the classroom. The annual Engineering Awards Banquet held in April honored students, alumni and faculty for their accomplishments.

The Honors College Alumni Chapter hosted alumni events in cities including Birmingham, Chicago, Jackson, Nashville and Washington, D.C.

The School of Journalism Alumni Chapter: The School of Journalism and New Media (formerly the Meek School) was renamed in October 2018. Emily Wagster Pettus was selected as the Samuel S. Talbert Silver Em award recipient for 2018. The school also held tailgates for alumni, faculty, staff and students prior to each home game. The Journalism Alumni Board held board meetings in the fall and spring, as well as its inaugural Journalism Alumni Weekend in April 2019. The board also held its first informal networking event in Jackson in June.

The Law Alumni Chapter held fall and spring receptions in Jackson to celebrate those being sworn in as members of the Mississippi Bar. The Law Alumni Chapter started young law alumni happy hours and held multiple events in Jackson and in Gulfport. The Student Bar Association organized a tailgate for alumni and friends for the Ole Miss vs.

Alabama game. Law Weekend 2019 celebrated the reunions of the classes of 1960, 1969, 1979, 1994, 2009, 2014 and 2018. Twelve law alumni were sworn into the U.S. Supreme Court Bar. In conjunction with that event, a reception for Washington, D.C.-area law alumni was hosted by the BGR Group. A UM law alumni luncheon was held at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Bar in Destin, and the 2019 Law Alumnus of the Year award was presented to Arthur Johnston III.

The College of Liberal Arts hosted two alumni board meetings in the fall and spring with a student reception and tour. The English Department hosted a tailgate for alumni and friends on the front lawn of Triplett Alumni Center with 50 attendees.

The M-Club Alumni Chapter continues to build meaningful relationships with its members. The chapter hosted its 33rd annual Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony in September. The M-Club hosted more than 2,500 members and guests in the Starnes Center prior to home football games. More than 300 people attended the annual M-Club Summer Weekend in August.

The Pharmacy Alumni Chapter: CVS sponsored a football tailgate for pharmacy alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends in front of Faser Hall. The chapter hosted receptions for alumni, faculty, staff and students at various professional conferences. In April, Pharmacy Weekend celebrated reunions for the classes of 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999 and 2009. The 2019 Distinguished Alumna Award was presented to Dr. Alice M. Clark.

The Student Alumni Council's 100-plus members held the 16th annual Bridging the Gap program with more than 300 attendees. SAC members attended the CASE-ASAP Networking Convention in Baltimore in August and plan to host the CASE-ASAP District 3 conference in February 2020. The Future Alumni Network added more than 400 members during 2019 New Student Orientation. FAN serves more than 1,500 students.

The Young Alumni Council grew to over 50 members from across the United States. Council members hosted engagement events in Oxford; Atlanta; Memphis; Roswell, Georgia; Dallas; Houston; Birmingham; Shreveport, Louisiana; Jackson; and New York with an average of 25 attendees at each event.

The Inn at Ole Miss was granted qualified resort status in July and received its beer permit in August 2018. The Inn has been working to convert the McCormick Café into a bar and grill, in addition to serving breakfast daily.

Inductees into the 2018 Alumni Hall of Fame during Homecoming were Thad Cochran of Oxford, Howard L. Gerlach of Fairfax, Virginia, Mac Haik of Houston, Texas, Vernon R. "Randy" Kelley III of Tupelo, and James Meredith of Jackson. Warner Alford of Oxford received the Alumni Service Award, and Shaquinta Morgan of Madison, Alabama, received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Officers for the Alumni Association for 2018-2019 are President Leon Collins, President

Elect Matt Lusco, Vice President Lampkin Butts and Athletic Committee members Andy Kilpatrick and Candie Simmons. Immediate Past President is Bobby Bailess.

Sunny Brown was promoted to Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs in August. The position of Assistant General Manager of The Inn at Ole Miss, held by Nadia Thornton, was reclassified to Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs/Assistant General Manager of The Inn at Ole Miss. The position of Event Management Coordinator, held by Gwen Dwyer, was reclassified to Assistant Director Alumni Affairs for Food and Beverage. New employees hired by The Inn at Ole Miss in the past year included Kurt Autenreith, Morgan Beagle, Bruce Cannon, Luran Ellis, Shiloh Herron, Pamela Holmes, Hillory Howell, Isheta Ivy, Grantley Rushing, Josh Speyerer, Laura Leyva Longoria, Maria Servin Perez, Nancy Sullivan and James Wadley.