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Liberal Arts Awards

Liberal Arts

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4-27-2023

## Inaugural College of Liberal Arts Awards Ceremony, 2023

Lee M. Cohen

*University of Mississippi*

University of Mississippi College of Liberal Arts

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INAUGURAL  
COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS  
ANNUAL

*Awards*

CEREMONY

APRIL 27, 2023

JOHNSON COMMONS BALLROOM

## FROM THE DEAN



Lee M. Cohen, PhD

The College of Liberal Arts is a thriving group of outstanding faculty, staff, students, and alumni who play a pivotal role in advancing the University of Mississippi on its path of excellence. Today marks the first time we have come together across all areas in the College, to recognize some of the outstanding accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni. I am grateful for the opportunity to come together and celebrate.

Our dedicated faculty is a community of researchers, scholars, performers, and teachers whose work expands the boundaries of our knowledge and creativity. Their teaching encourages lifelong learning and prepares our students for the future. Our exceptional staff uphold the mission of the College in countless ways. They support and advise our students and work alongside faculty and administrators to provide the expertise necessary for the day-to-day functioning of a complex university, which is vital to our success. Our students are among the best in the country, winning competitive national awards for their academic achievements, and playing a vital part in leading efforts for positive change at the University and in our communities. And our inspiring alumni are engaged in original and transformative achievements in their personal and professional lives. They serve as brilliant mentors and role models, exemplars of the outstanding liberal arts education they received on our campus. Further, they are making their marks on just about every profession and walk of life imaginable—proof positive that a liberal arts education is of tremendous value in today's society.

Thank you for joining us today as we honor some of the best the College has to offer. I am proud to be part of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Mississippi and I hope you are as well!

01.

## ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Founded in 1848, the College of Liberal Arts is the oldest and largest division of the University of Mississippi. We began with the first four faculty members and now have 550.

The College consists of 21 departments, 14 multidisciplinary programs, and 20 institutes and centers within the discipline groupings of the fine & performing arts, humanities, natural sciences & mathematics, and social sciences. Our faculty offer four degrees (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Music, and Bachelor of Science), with 35 major and 52 minor fields of study.

# THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

## *Welcome and Introductory Remarks*

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*Dr. Lee M. Cohen, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Professor of Psychology*

## *Presentation of Awards*

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### **FACULTY AWARDS**

*Presented by Dr. Donald L. Dyer, Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs  
and Distinguished Professor of Modern Languages*

#### **TEACHING AWARDS**

**Cora Lee Graham Award for Outstanding Teaching of First Year Students**

**Howell Family Outstanding Teacher of the Year**

**University of Mississippi Humanities Teacher of the Year**

#### **RESEARCH AWARDS**

**Dr. Mike L. Edmonds New Scholar Award in the College of Liberal Arts**

**Melinda and Ben Yarbrough, M.D., Senior Professor Research Award for the Natural Sciences**

### **STAFF AWARDS**

*Presented by Dr. Kirsten A. Dellinger, Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion  
and Professor of Sociology, and Carmen Elizabeth Riggan, Assistant to the Dean*

**Student Support Award**

**Newcomer Award**

**Commitment to Administrative Excellence Award**

**Teamwork Award**

### **STUDENT AWARDS**

**Ventress Scholars Award**

*Presented by Dr. Holly T. Reynolds, Associate Dean and Assistant Professor of Political Science*

**College of Liberal Arts James Meredith Changemaker Award**

*Presented by Dr. Kirsten A. Dellinger, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
and Professor of Sociology and Valeria Beasley Ross, Program Manager for Diversity,  
Equity, and Inclusion*

### **ALUMNI AWARDS**

*Presented by Dean Lee Cohen, Sunny Brown, Assistant Director of the Ole Miss  
Alumni Association and Suzette L. Matthews, Managing Director of Development*

**Early Impact Award**

**Hall of Fame**

## *Recognitions, Acknowledgments, and Closing Remarks*

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*Dean Lee Cohen*

**A RECEPTION IN THE JOHNSON COMMONS GALLERY WILL FOLLOW THIS EVENT.**





### **CORA LEE GRAHAM AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING OF FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS**

Established and endowed in 1948 by Cora Lee Graham of Union City, Tennessee, this award aims “to help better retain professors who teach the freshman classes” in the College of Liberal Arts. Beginning in 2023, an award will be given to one member of the tenure-track faculty and one member of the instructional faculty.

### **HOWELL FAMILY OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

In 1985, the College of Liberal Arts began recognizing the Liberal Arts Outstanding Teacher of the Year. This award recognizes a College of Liberal Arts teacher for class instruction, intellectual stimulation of students, and concern for students’ welfare.

### **UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

The College of Liberal Arts and the Mississippi Humanities cosponsor the Humanities Teacher of the Year Award, recognizing outstanding contributions of humanities faculty at the University of Mississippi through public lectures in Oxford and at the Mississippi Humanities Council Annual Awards Ceremony in Jackson, Mississippi.



## **ABOUT THE RECIPIENTS**

### **DR. REBECCA KATHERINE MARCHIEL**

Associate Professor of History  
*Cora Lee Graham Award Recipient  
(Tenured/Tenure-track)*

Rebecca Marchiel is a historian of urban history, political history, and the history of American capitalism. She taught U.S. history at Franklin and Marshall College for one year before joining the UM faculty in 2015. She was awarded a fellowship from Harvard University’s Charles Warren Center, 2015-2016.

### **DR. REBECCA SYMULA**

Instructional Associate Professor of Biology  
*Cora Lee Graham Award Recipient (Instructional)*

Rebecca Symula, Instructional Associate Professor, received her Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior from the University of Texas in 2009 and was a postdoctoral associate in Epidemiology & Public Health/Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at Yale University through 2011. Her research interests are evolutionary biology, phylogenetics, color pattern evolution, frogs, mimicry, & speciation.



**Dr. Rebecca  
Katherine  
Marchiel**

Associate  
Professor of  
History

*Cora Lee Graham  
Award Recipient  
(Tenured/  
Tenure-track)*



**Dr. Rebecca  
Symula**

Instructional  
Associate  
Professor  
of Biology

*Cora Lee Graham  
Award Recipient  
(Instructional)*



**Dr. Maria José  
García Otero**

Croft Instructional  
Associate  
Professor of  
Spanish

*Howell Family  
Outstanding  
Teacher of the Year*



**Beth Spencer**  
Senior Lecturer  
of English

*University  
of Mississippi  
Humanities  
Teacher of the Year*

**DR. MARIA JOSÉ  
GARCÍA OTERO**

Croft Instructional Associate Professor  
of Spanish

*Howell Family Outstanding Teacher of the Year*

María José García Otero is a Croft Instructional Assistant Professor of Spanish. She obtained her B.A. in English Philology from the Universidade de Santiago de Compostela in 2004, her M.A. in Hispanic Literatures and Cultures in 2006, and her Ph.D. in Medieval and Early Modern Spanish Literature and Cultures in 2012 from the University of Kansas.

**BETH SPENCER**

Senior Lecturer of English

*University of Mississippi  
Humanities Teacher of the Year*

Beth Spencer is a senior lecturer in the Department of English. She obtained her M.F.A. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her teaching interests include creative writing (especially poetry), environmental studies, nature writing, Southern literature, intersections of social justice and service learning, international learning communities, multicultural literature and composition .

# FACULTY AWARDS

RESEARCH

## **DR. MIKE L. EDMONDS NEW SCHOLAR AWARD**

This award, endowed by Dr. Mike L. Edmonds, recognizes tenure-track faculty members for exemplary performance in research, scholarship or creative achievement, and who have significantly enhanced the scholarly reputation of the College and University through exceptional contributions to their disciplines and demonstrated a positive impact on the success of their department.

## **MELINDA AND BEN YARBROUGH, M.D., SENIOR PROFESSOR RESEARCH AWARD FOR THE NATURAL SCIENCES**

Recognizes an outstanding tenured faculty member in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The award is given in recognition of sustained exemplary performance in research, scholarship, and/or creative achievement at the national or international level while serving as a faculty member at the University of Mississippi.



## **ABOUT THE RECIPIENTS**

### **DR. SARAH BAECHLE**

Department of English

*Dr. Mike L. Edmonds New Scholar Award  
in the Humanities*

Sarah Baechle joined the university in the Fall of 2017 and is an Assistant Professor of English, specializing in Medieval Literatures. She's been recognized as a "prominent feminist scholar" by the *New York Times*. Baechle specializes in Middle English language and literature and history of the medieval book.

### **DR. JOSEPH WELLMAN**

Department of Psychology

*Dr. Mike L. Edmonds New Scholar Award  
in the Social Sciences*

Joseph Wellman is an Assistant Professor of Psychology. He has been at the University of Mississippi since August 2019. His areas of expertise include racism and racial inequality, social psychology statistics, and experimental design. He has published 23 peer-reviewed articles.



**Dr. Sarah Baechle**  
Department of English  
*Dr. Mike L. Edmonds  
New Scholar Award  
in the Humanities*



**Dr. Joseph Wellman**  
Department  
of Psychology  
*Dr. Mike L. Edmonds  
New Scholar Award  
in the Social Sciences*



**Dr. Elizabeth  
(Libby) R. Hearn**  
Department of Music  
*Dr. Mike L. Edmonds  
New Scholar Award  
in the Fine and  
Performing Arts*



**Dr. Eden Tanner**  
Department  
of Chemistry  
and Biochemistry  
*Dr. Mike L. Edmonds  
New Scholar Award  
in the Natural Sciences  
and Mathematics*



**Dr. Jason Hoeksema**  
Department of Biology  
*Melinda and Ben  
Yarbrough, M.D.,  
Senior Professor  
Research Award for  
the Natural Sciences*

## **DR. ELIZABETH (LIBBY) R. HEARN**

Department of Music  
*Dr. Mike L. Edmonds New Scholar  
Award in the Fine and Performing Arts*

Elizabeth (Libby) Hearn is an Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at the University of Mississippi, where she conducts the Women's Glee ensemble and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in choral music education and conducting. In addition to her responsibilities at UM, Hearn also serves as the conductor of CoroArroyo, a treble choir comprised of young singers that is one of six ensembles in the CoroRio choral organization. Hearn received a Ph.D. in music education from the University of Alabama.

## **DR. EDEN TANNER**

Department of Chemistry  
and Biochemistry  
*Dr. Mike L. Edmonds New Scholar  
Award in the Natural Sciences  
and Mathematics*

Eden Tanner is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry. She achieved a Bachelor of Advanced Science in 2012 from the University of New South Wales and her Doctorate of Philosophy in 2016 from the University of Oxford, United Kingdom. Tanner's research interests include solving biomedical and bioengineering problems using physical chemistry and particularly ionic liquids and nanomaterials.

## **DR. JASON HOEKSEMA**

Department of Biology  
*Melinda and Ben Yarbrough, M.D.,  
Senior Professor Research Award  
for the Natural Sciences*

Jason D. Hoeksema is an Associate Professor of Biology. He received his Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California, Davis in 2002. Dr. Hoeksema's research focuses on the ecological and evolutionary consequences of interactions among species, especially mutualism, competition, and parasitism between pine trees and their symbiotic soil fungi. He held positions as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of California, Santa Cruz from 2002-2006, and as a postdoctoral fellow at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center from 2006-2007, before joining the University of Mississippi Department of Biology.



# STAFF AWARDS

**TEAMWORK AWARD**  
For a group that showed outstanding teamwork in the College.

## DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

*Teamwork Award Recipient*

**Tyler Flynn**  
(top left)  
Coordinator of Advising, Recruitment and Retention  
*Teamwork Award Recipient*



**Candece Stewart**  
Operations Assistant  
*Teamwork Award Recipient*

**Gwen Rogers**  
(middle)  
Operations Coordinator II  
*Teamwork Award Recipient*



**Lance Sullivan**  
Senior Laboratory Technician  
*Teamwork Award Recipient*



**Adam Thebeau**  
Laboratory Technician  
*Teamwork Award Recipient*

**STUDENT  
SUPPORT AWARD**

For those that provide  
advising support or  
outstanding assistance  
to students.

**NEWCOMER AWARD**

For administrative  
professionals in their  
positions for 3 or less years.

**COMMITMENT TO  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
EXCELLENCE AWARD**

For the outstanding staff  
member of the year  
in the College.



**Victoria Barnes Hughes**  
Project Coordinator,  
Department of Mathematics  
*Student Support Award  
Recipient*



**Kim Dunnivant**  
Operations Coordinator,  
Department of Psychology  
*Newcomer Award Recipient*



**Matt Ward**  
Operations Manager,  
Department of Psychology  
*Commitment to Administrative  
Excellence Award Recipient*

# Ventress SCHOLARS

Ventress Scholars are graduating seniors  
in the College of Liberal Arts  
with a 4.0 GPA.



Eden Elizabeth Bayer  
*Biological Science*



Thomas Blake Berry  
*Biological Science*



Rachel Berry  
*Public Policy Leadership*



Katherine Broten  
*Public Policy Leadership*



Sarah Grace Brownlee  
*Biological Science*



Andrea Baileigh Cleveland  
*Biological Science*



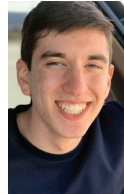
Anna Reese Couhig  
*English, Public Policy Leadership*



Braxton Hayes Crumpler  
*Biochemistry*



Zuura Adylbekovna Dzhuzumkulova  
*Economics*



Daniel James Ferro  
*Chinese*



Jorge Andres Flores  
*Philosophy, Public Policy Leadership*



Sarah Ryann Morgan Fortner  
*Psychology*



Jacob William Holifield  
*Economics, Mathematics*



Elizabeth Ann Howard  
*Mathematics*



Elizabeth Helen Hubbuch  
*Economics*



Robert Birk Hughes  
*Mathematics*



Chloe Isabelle King  
*Music*



Carson Elizabeth Kuhr  
*Psychology*



Samantha Nicole Leon  
*Biochemistry*

**T** DENOTES TAYLOR MEDALISTS



Rylie Shel Mangold  
*Biological Science*  
**T**



Alayna Karina Poston  
*English*



Ember Yeji Suh  
*Forensic Chemistry*  
**T**



Abigail Howell Martin  
*English*  
**T**



Anna Grace Robertson  
*Biochemistry, Biological Science*  
**T**

Renee Kathleen Summers  
*(photo unavailable)*  
*Arabic*



Sydney Pearl Wheeler  
*Economics*



Rabria Marie Moore  
*Political Science, Journalism*  
**T**

Cooper Jarod Ruwe  
*(photo unavailable)*  
*Biological Science*



Jayanti Shukla  
*Biochemistry*  
**T**



Morgan Bradford Whited  
*Biochemistry*  
**T**



Katherine Reese Overstreet  
*Theatre*  
**T**



Catherine Colette Smith  
*Psychology*

COLLEGE OF  
**TAYLOR MEDALISTS**  
LIBERAL ARTS

Zynub Ahmad Al-Sherri  
*Arabic, Biological Science, Public Health*

Edith Marie Green  
*International Studies*

Feagin Hardy  
*Linguistics, Southern Studies*

Ashlyn Paige Hinton  
*Public Policy Leadership*

Madelyn Jarjoura  
*Arabic, Political Science*

Reinhard Matthew Knerr  
*Biochemistry*

Ethan Chase Lambert  
*Chemistry*

Alyssa Leighann Stoner  
*Biological Science*

Margaret Lynn Walker  
*Public Policy Leadership, Integrated Marketing Communications*



THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
**JAMES MEREDITH**  
**CHANGE MAKER**  
*Award*



Faith Deering



Jorge Flores



Bobby Hudson III



Reinhard Knerr



John Meadows



Logan Thomas



Arquvas Williams



Morgan Yhap

“I truly believe Mississippi is the center of the black white universe. And that if there is an answer, and I know a need for a new policy governing the black white race thing, if a work of a policy is going to come, it’s going to come from Mississippi. And I believe that the University of Mississippi is the place that it will likely develop from.”

– JAMES MEREDITH

## 2023 FINALISTS

**FAITH DEERING**, a major in **International studies** with a focus on Korean studies, is a UM global Ambassador and study abroad mentor, who has focused on welcoming international students to UM and creating more opportunities for African American students to study abroad.

**JORGE “ANDY” FLORES**, a major in **Public Policy Leadership** and **Philosophy**, serves as the President of the University’s “First-Generation Student Network” and has dedicated himself to creating a space where first-generation students can feel seen, heard, and empowered.

**BOBBY HUDSON III**, a major in **Public Policy Leadership**, has founded BIPS the UM Society for “Blacks in Political Studies” to give Black students and students from underrepresented groups access to opportunities that ensure that they are able to effectively lead in whatever area of government, law, policy, or public service they wish to pursue.

**REINHARD “MATT” KNERR**, a major in **Biochemistry**, joined Hill Country Roots, and created the first student-run tree farm in the state of Mississippi and has worked to expand access to environmental education for people of color.

**JOHN “JACK” MEADOWS**, a major in **Political Science**, is the acting president of both existing pre-legal organizations on campus. He founded the UM PreLaw Student Ambassadors program to bridge the gap faced by prospective lawyers of disadvantaged or resource constrained backgrounds, and those coming from underrepresented groups, including individuals who identify as LGBTQ+

**LOGAN “BOBBY” THOMAS**, a major in **Biological Science**, is the creator of the student organization called, “The Epilepsy Connection.” He built a space where students with (and without disabilities) could educate one another, and build dynamic relationships with their university and with their peers.

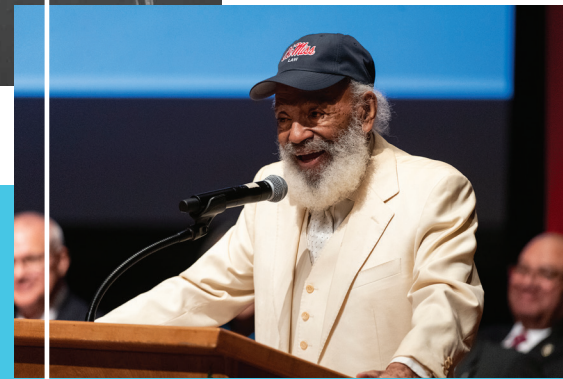
**ARQUVAS “QUAY” WILLIAMS**, a major in **Art**, led Students Against Social Injustice, organizing protests and education around the removal of the confederate monument and helped to increase social awareness of racial issues, generated majority student body support for the removal of the confederate monument, and made the university a more inclusive space for future and current minority students.

**MORGAN YHAP**, a major in **Theatre Arts**, and the Executive Director of Ghostlight Repertory Theatre, the student-run theatre on campus, has worked to make the processes in creating, casting, and producing shows more equitable for people of color and the LGBTQIA+ community.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

# JAMES MEREDITH CHANGEMAKER *Award*

The College of Liberal Arts James Meredith Changemaker Award honors an extraordinary graduating undergraduate senior in the College of Liberal Arts who has made significant positive change in broadening access, participation, and opportunities in higher education for individuals from minoritized or underrepresented groups. This award highlights the work for change that is often not recognized at the time it is being done. It is an award that also recognizes the personal courage and resilience required to do such work while also pursuing a college degree. Given the varied nature of the many academic disciplines contained within the College, this award will reflect the multitude of ways that students in these disciplines—the fine and performing arts, the natural sciences and mathematics, the humanities, and the social sciences—can use the knowledge they gain to change the world for the better. Mr. Meredith has dedicated a lifetime of work to ensuring that all Mississippians—and all people—have full access to the power of education. Awardees of the College of Liberal Arts James Meredith Changemaker Award will be students who walk in his footsteps, continuing the difficult and critical work of change and transformation.



James Meredith, who in 1962 became the first African American student to enroll at the University of Mississippi, graduated in August 1963 with a bachelor's degree in political science. Following graduation, he continued to study political science at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria before earning a law degree at Columbia University.



## **ChangeMaker Medal**

*All Finalists will  
receive the College  
of Liberal Arts  
James Meredith  
Changemaker  
Award Medal.*

# ALUMNI AWARDS

01.

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS EARLY IMPACT AWARD

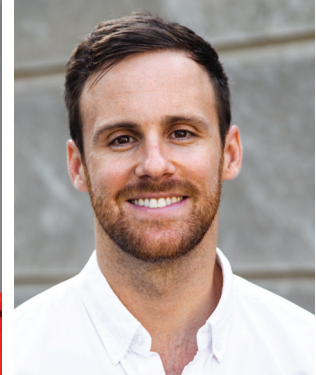
The Early Impact Award is given to a College of Liberal Arts graduate for exceptional accomplishments and service to community within 20 years of graduation from the University of Mississippi. The award distinguishes performance in early career through advancement in one's profession, community engagement, and/or civic participation.



**Adrian Cartier**  
*BA Mathematics '02, PhD Mathematics '06*  
Early Impact Award Recipient



**Christin Gates-Calloway**  
*BA Psychology '11*  
Early Impact Award Recipient



**Patrick Woodyard**  
*BA International Studies and Spanish '10*  
Early Impact Award Recipient

## ABOUT THE RECIPIENTS

### ADRIAN CARTIER

*BA Mathematics '02, PhD Mathematics '06*  
Early Impact Award Recipient

Adrian Cartier is a data scientist, co-founder, and Chief Data Officer for Freight Science, Inc., a data and analytics SaaS product for use by the transportation industry, and has been awarded patents for his innovations in data science.

### CHRISTIN GATES-CALLOWAY

*BA Psychology '11*  
Early Impact Award Recipient

Christin Gates-Calloway currently serves as a remote Policy Analyst with One Voice Mississippi in Jackson, MS. In this role, she supports a team of advocates to promote a data-driven approach to political and civic advocacy through policy research and analysis.

### PATRICK WOODYARD

*BA International Studies and Spanish '10*  
Early Impact Award Recipient

Patrick graduated summa cum laude from Croft and the SMBHC and was part of the UM Student Hall of Fame before founding Nisolo after a year of microfinance in Peru. Patrick founded Nisolo as one of the first fashion brands to exist with a holistic commitment to the Planet and People within supply chains. Among other accolades, Patrick is a Top 30 Impact CEO in the U.S. and Forbes 30 Under 30 recipient.



## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS HALL OF FAME AWARD

The College of Liberal Arts Hall of Fame Award is the highest honor the College bestows upon a graduate or friend of the College of Liberal Arts. The award is given in recognition of the individuals' achievements in their respective professional career and their commitment to the College through service, leadership, and giving across a broad spectrum. Recipients have managed or directed organizations that have made noteworthy national or international contributions to their field and have meritorious service and leadership in a professional capacity, in the broader community, and to the College of Liberal Arts.



**Mike L. Edmonds**

*BA Speech and Theatre '84; MEd Education '85; PhD Education '90*  
College of Liberal Arts Hall of Fame Award Recipient



**James Meredith**

*BA Political Science '63*  
College of Liberal Arts Hall of Fame Award Recipient



**Frances Permenter Smith**

*BA Sociology '74*  
College of Liberal Arts Hall of Fame Award Recipient

## MIKE L. EDMONDS

*BA Speech and Theatre '84;  
MEd Education '85;  
PhD Education '90*

*College of Liberal Arts  
Hall of Fame Award  
Recipient*

Mike Edmonds serves as the Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff at Colorado College, where he has been since 1991. He served as Acting Co-President for the 2020-2021 academic year, and as the Dean of Students/Vice President for Student Life from 1991-2020.

## JAMES MEREDITH

*BA Political Science '63*

*College of Liberal Arts Hall of Fame Award Recipient*

James Meredith has many notable accomplishments. James Howard Meredith was born on June 25, 1933, in Kosciusko, Miss., and raised on his family's 84-acre farm in Attala County. After graduation from Gibbs High in St. Petersburg, Fla., in June 1951, he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1951 to 1960, including a three-year tour of duty at Tachikawa Air Base in Japan.. He attended Jackson State College from 1960 to 1961 and applied for admission to the University of Mississippi in January 1961. However, the state took several measures to prevent his admission. Meredith, after a series of historically noted events, some violent and life ending, was finally allowed to register for courses on Oct. 1, 1962. James Meredith is the first Black student to attend the University of Mississippi. He is the author of numerous publications, including *Three Years in Mississippi*, which describes his experience integrating the University of Mississippi, and *A Mission from God: A Memoir and Challenge for America*.

## FRANCES PERMENTER SMITH

*BA Sociology '74*

*College of Liberal Arts Hall of Fame Award Recipient*

Frances Permenter Smith grew up in Greenville and Gulfport, Mississippi. She received a BA in sociology in 1974 and her first job after college was an admissions counselor at UM. Mrs. Smith has had a varied career, from public information positions at the Central MS Planning District and Pearl River Basin Development District to the Lt. Governor's office. She retired in 2013 after 31 years in the telecommunications industry.



The College of Liberal Arts Annual Awards Ceremony recognizes recipients of the College-level teaching and research faculty awards, staff awards, Ventress Scholars (undergraduate students graduating with a major in the College with a 4.0 GPA), the James Meredith Changemaker Award, and the Early Impact and Hall of Fame Alumni Awards. The award event is also an occasion for members of the College community and family and friends of award recipients to join and celebrate their outstanding accomplishments.

Thank you to everyone who attended our inaugural Awards Ceremony, and congratulations to all of our award recipients.

*Individuals interested in more information about how to support this event or support awards presented during today's event may do so by contacting the College of Liberal Arts at [cla@olemiss.edu](mailto:cla@olemiss.edu) or 662.915.7178.*

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2023 COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE

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SUNNY BROWN

AMY EVANS

LYDIA LAGARDE  
*Co-chair*

LELE GILLESPIE

TAJUANA REDMOND JACKSON

SUZETTE L. MATTHEWS

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*Co-chair*

STACEY SMITH



THE UNIVERSITY of  
MISSISSIPPI

College of Liberal Arts