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Donors Help Music and Opportunities Play on for UM Students

Charles and Margaret Hubbert make lead gift in band scholarship initiative

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 BY **TINA HAHN**



Dr. Charles Hubbert of Memphis, Tennessee, left, and wife Margaret Hubbert have given a lead gift to support an initiative to build band scholarships at the University of Mississippi. Director of University Bands David Willson, center, recently hosted the couple to hear one of the ensembles practice and then perform a concert.

OXFORD, Miss. – When Dr. Charles Hubbert joined the band as a **University of Mississippi** student, a door swung open to exceptional cultural opportunities. Some 57 years later, the physician continues to reap the rewards, inspiring him and his wife, Margaret, to make a lead gift to an initiative for band scholarships.

The Mississippi native, who was born in Lambert and grew up in Grenada, had not traveled outside the state and when he enrolled at Ole Miss. Thanks to the **Ole Miss Band** program, the French horn player traveled to a music festival in Holland and the World's Fair in Belgium. In fact, Hubbert recently made his 30th

trip back to see the Dutch family that hosted him on that inaugural visit abroad.

"Suddenly, as a student band member, I was being exposed to cultural experiences I had never had before," said Hubbert, a neurologist and psychiatrist in Memphis, Tennessee, who also earned his medical degree at the **UM Medical Center** in Jackson.

"These band trips were financed by contributions from supporters of the band and the university. Without this assistance, most students of that era in Mississippi would not have been able to travel abroad, thus missing an invaluable part of their education. I thought there was a need to pay back the institution that afforded me opportunities to broaden my life experiences. It feels good to help others."

David Willson, the university's director of bands and professor of music, said the Hubberts' generous support will make an impact on students who give so much of themselves to the program. Ninety-five percent provide their own instruments, have spent years honing their skills and work many hours in all kinds of weather to perform on game day. Willson's goal is to build a \$2 million endowment to support band scholarships.

"We are so thankful for Charles and Margaret Hubbert's gift," Willson said. "Their generous donation will benefit band students for years to come. As tuition goes up, we must find a way to stay competitive to attract band students in a very aggressive market. The Hubberts were so kind and humble when offering this gift and are a great example to us all in giving back. We are very grateful.

"Fans' recognition of our students is the best feedback we get for the band program, and a good scholarship is key in recruiting and retaining band students for Ole Miss."

The UM Band has been giving outstanding performances in concert and in support of **Ole Miss athletics** events since it organized in 1928. In addition to performing at all home football games and many away games, the Pride of the South Marching Band has performed at numerous bowl games.

Several "pep bands" are formed out of the Pride of the South Marching Band and perform for numerous functions, such as pep rallies before home football games. Another extension of the band is the Ole Miss Basketball Band, which supports both Rebel and Lady Rebel basketball teams at home games, as well as during annual SEC and NCAA tournaments.

The band program also serves as a teaching lab for those preparing to become band directors. In the spring when the marching band is not together, three performing concert bands and one lab band are available for future teachers. The Wind Ensemble tours each spring semester and holds a "Pride of the South" fundraising concert each April, Willson said.

Ole Miss Band members represent a wide array of academic majors, including pre-med, criminal

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Campus Briefs

Donations Sought for 25th Annual Books and Bears Program

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi is asking the community to help spread a little joy this holiday season by donating to the 25th annual Books and Bears program. Donations such as toys, books, dolls, bicycles and other children's play items are being accepted through Dec. 14. All donations will be collected and sorted

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Thank You To Our Donors

Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship Aims to Build Leaders

OXFORD, Miss. – Twenty-five inaugural recipients of the Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship – a program hosted by the University of Mississippi School of Education in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Coaches and the Mississippi High School Activities Association – are expected to increase their impact on student-athletes and their communities. The coaching fellowship

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Ole Miss In the News

Clarion-Ledger: New Essay Collection Tells the Story of Meredith's Enrollment

Essays celebrate 60th anniversary of James Meredith's enrollment at University of Mississippi By Lauren Rhoades Oct. 1 marks the 60th anniversary of James Meredith's 1962 enrollment at the University of Mississippi as the school's first African-American student.

justice, engineering, business, political science and journalism. Each band member receives a scholarship.

Band programs and glee clubs in small-town public schools were, and continue to be, essentially the only “free” music instruction available to many students, and those programs enable students to go on to participate in collegiate groups, Charles Hubbert said.

“More philosophically, participating in music is character-building – it helps people develop discipline, and in so doing, we become better citizens,” he said. “Music is ethical; it’s one of those basic experiences that is an inherent part of our being. I think people have a better outlook on life with music in their lives. Music provides a center. It’s very therapeutic and peaceful.”

Margaret Hubbert’s mother, a pianist and organist, studied classical music at The Julliard School in New York, inspiring her daughter to become a supporter of the arts. The Hubberts enjoy all types of music, attend musical and theatrical performances and art exhibits, and support the Shakespeare Festival in Memphis.

“We’re very much lifelong students,” Margaret Hubbert said, adding that they have also participated in and organized medical mission trips to Africa, South America and the Philippines.

Charles Hubbert even returned to college, this time to the University of Memphis, to earn a second undergraduate degree in music.

“As a perennial student, I continue to appreciate and study music,” he said. “Hopefully, news of our support for the band’s scholarship initiative will lead others to consider the benefits of giving so that students, in this case band students, might have the opportunity to broaden their experiences whatever their goals might be. Margaret and I hope other alumni and friends will recall those experiences that helped prepare them for life and see if there are ways that they can help others enjoy similar experiences.”

Gifts of all sizes combine to provide band scholarships. Individuals and organizations can make gifts to the University Marching Band Scholarship Fund by sending a check with the fund noted in the memo line to the University of Mississippi Foundation, 406 University Ave., Oxford, MS 38655; or by going online at <http://www.umfoundation.com/makeagift>. For more information, contact Ron Wilson, development director, at jrwilso3@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1755.

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“James Meredith: Breaking the Barrier,” a collection of essays edited by UM professor of journalism Kathleen Wickham, honors this historic milestone with

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