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6-25-2022

## Helping Build the Accountancy School of Tomorrow

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### Recommended Citation

Belt, Andy, "Helping Build the Accountancy School of Tomorrow" (2022). *University of Mississippi News*. 2283.

<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews/2283>

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## Helping Build the Accountancy School of Tomorrow

Hardy gift honors educational foundation donor received at UM

JUNE 25, 2022 BY ANDY BELT

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Thanks to private gifts from donors such as Larry Hardy, the Patterson School of Accountancy will move from its longtime location in Conner Hall on Business Row to new construction at the corner of Grove Loop and University Avenue. Photo by Logan Kirkland/Ole Miss Digital Imaging Services

OXFORD, Miss. – When Larry Hardy graduated from the **University of Mississippi** in 1969 with a master’s degree in accountancy, he knew he wanted to provide a similarly excellent education for others by making a positive impact on his alma mater.

With \$50,000 to the **Patterson School of Accountancy** Building Fund, his most recent of many gifts to the program will help shape the school’s new home.

“The new building will be in a prime location on campus and will provide our school an opportunity to pursue our aspirational goal of having the top accounting program in the nation,” Dean Mark Wilder said. “Over a long period of time, Larry has been one of our most faithful and loyal donors, and we appreciate his support of this truly transformational opportunity for the Patterson School.”

Hardy, a Memphis resident, attributes his successful career in tax accounting to the education he had at Ole Miss.

“The teachers I had, Gene Peery and Jimmy Davis, were some of the best teachers I think anybody could have,” he said. “I’ve always felt obligated to give back to the university in some way, giving tribute to the faculty the school had at the time, all of whom did a tremendous job.”

Born and raised in Columbus, Hardy originally planned to major in electrical engineering. Realizing he felt lost there, he ultimately found his way to the business school, where he was spotted by Davis and Peery as having the potential to succeed in accountancy.

“It was solely because of them that I became an accountant,” Hardy said. “I wasn’t the only one they encouraged into the field. Their enthusiasm for the profession made a lot of people go into accounting.

“They just knew how to spot potential.”

After graduation, Hardy worked at Ernst & Young for 31 years, becoming a partner at the company. He later became vice president of tax for AutoZone before retiring in 2006.

Hardy was inducted into the Patterson School of Accountancy Hall of Fame and has served on the UM Accountancy School Advisory Board, as president of the university’s Accountancy Chapter Board of Directors and as ex-officio of the Ole Miss Alumni Association board of directors.

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### Campus Briefs

#### Civil Engineering Professor Receives Most-Cited Paper Award

OXFORD, Miss. – Peer recognition is a rewarding experience for anyone, but University of Mississippi researcher Amir Mehrara Molan was elated when an article he co-authored recently received the Most Cited Paper Award at the 102nd Transportation Research Board meeting in the nation’s capital. The International Journal of Transportation Science and Technology presented the civil engineering

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### Thank You To Our Donors

#### Young Alumna Gives Back to School of Accountancy

OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy’s new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying “thank you.” “It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

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#### Reuters: Keep an Eye on the Money Supply

U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to



Larry Hardy

In recognition of Hardy's gift, the school will honor the alumnus with the Larry Hardy Dean's Suite Conference Room to be located in the new building at the corner of University Avenue and Grove Loop.

"The new home for the Patterson School will be one of the finest buildings on our campus," said Jason McCormick, director of development. "It's a big undertaking, and we could not do it without support from our alumni like Larry.

"We are extremely grateful for not only this gift but also for his support of the Patterson School of Accountancy throughout the years."

The school's programs have been ranked in the Top 20 in the nation by the Public Accounting Report each year since 2008. Earlier this year, Big4AccountingFirms.org released a list of the "50 Best Accounting Schools in the USA," and the school ranked No. 8 nationally and No. 1 in

the SEC.

During the 2020-21 school year, the school granted a record 588 degrees, with 253 of those being master's degrees.

To learn more about supporting the Patterson School of Accountancy, contact Jason McCormick, director of development, at [jason@olemiss.edu](mailto:jason@olemiss.edu) or 662-915-1757. To make a gift, visit <https://give.olemiss.edu>.

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