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McCormick's Complete with Installation of Bar Top

Alumnus Ben Napier delivers handcrafted piece to Inn at Ole Miss restaurant

AUGUST 11, 2021 BY JIM URBANEK

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UM alumnus Ben Napier helps install a bar top he created at McCormick's, the new full-service restaurant and bar at The Inn at Ole Miss. Photo by Bill Dabney/UM Foundation

OXFORD, Miss. – McCormick's bar and grill in [The Inn at Ole Miss](#) received the finishing touch recently with the installation of a bar top handcrafted by Ben Napier, [University of Mississippi](#) alumnus and star of HGTV's "[Home Town](#)."

Napier, a 2007 UM graduate from Laurel, delivered the bar top Friday (Aug. 6) and helped with its installation.

"Kirk Purdom (executive director of the [Ole Miss Alumni Association](#)) reached out to me directly (about designing the bar top)," Napier said. "He knew that the University of Mississippi is a special place to (wife) Erin and me. We got engaged at Square Books, got married at Paris-Yates Chapel and spent our wedding night at the inn.

"With me being a woodworker who actually learned my craft in the art department of Ole Miss, Kirk knew I'd jump at this opportunity."

The Inn at Ole Miss was granted resort status in 2018, and the Alumni Association, which operates the hotel, announced plans in December 2019 to convert the existing cafe into McCormick's, a full-service bar, restaurant and lounge. McCormick's opened in September 2020, allowing the inn to provide long-requested services and be a gathering space for guests and the general public to enjoy.



Ben Napier (standing) oversees the fitting of a bar top he created for McCormick's. Photo by Bill Dabney/UM Foundation

For his part in crafting something particularly special suitable for such a unique place, Napier said he wanted to draw from the beauty and atmosphere of the Ole Miss campus.

"After contemplating a beveled piece, I ultimately decided that it would feel too rustic for Mississippi's flagship university and decided that a nice shaped edge would be best," Napier said. "Something that feels good resting forearms against after beating an SEC West team."

The finished piece perfectly matches the atmosphere at McCormick's, Purdom said.

"We couldn't be happier with the finished project that serves as a cornerstone of the Alumni

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Students Learn 'Real Politics' in Washington, D.C., Winter Session

OXFORD, Miss. – Eleven University of Mississippi students spent their winter break learning about the people who work behind the scenes of the American government in Washington, D.C. Lead by Jonathan Klingler, assistant professor of political science, the students of Pol 391: Applied Politics met not with candidates, but with the people who make candidates'

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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 abate. The Federal Reserve's

Association's mission to foster community, communication and connections for current and future Ole Miss alumni and friends," he said.

"It also serves as an excellent entertaining space for event planners and groups that utilize our meeting spaces in The Inn at Ole Miss. We hope that it will become part of everyone's trip to campus on home football weekends this fall."

For more information on the project, including naming opportunities and membership in the Rebel Mug Club, click [here](#), or contact Clay Cavett at 662-915-1869 or clay@olemissalumni.com.

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