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## Philanthropist's Service to UM Honored

Foundation names Louis Brandt inaugural emeritus board member

JULY 5, 2020 BY TINA H. HAHN

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Louis Brandt (center) is the inaugural emeritus board member of the University of Mississippi Foundation, an honor that reflects his longtime service to and support of his alma mater and the foundation. With him are (left) Wendell Weakley, UMF president and CEO, and Suzan Thames, UMF board chair. Photo by Kirsten Faulkner/UM Office of Development

OXFORD, Miss. – Business leader and philanthropist Louis Brandt, of Houston, Texas, has been named the inaugural emeritus board member of the **University of Mississippi Foundation**, reflecting his longtime contributions to the organization and his alma mater.

Brandt was elected to the honorary position by other board members to recognize his 30 years of involvement and alumni leadership with the foundation and the major impact he has made through his support of university programs.

“Louis Brandt is deeply invested in the **University of Mississippi**,” said Suzan B. Thames, of Jackson, chair of the foundation’s board of directors. “He has demonstrated extraordinary commitment from playing a pivotal role in providing the UM Foundation’s physical home to supporting academics and athletics.

“Louis is a stellar ambassador of our university, and as a UM Foundation board member, he provided knowledgeable, wise and thoughtful guidance as the foundation grew to support a major university. Honoring him with emeritus status is one way of thanking him for the significant contributions he has made.”

Brandt provided the funds in 1992 to purchase Memory House from the John Falkner family of Oxford. After the home underwent extensive renovations, it was renamed Brandt Memory House in his honor in 1995.

The building and grounds are used daily for UM Foundation business, university meetings, donor events and universitywide activities, becoming an indispensable part of the life of the university.

“My association with the University of Mississippi Foundation and its staff over the years has been the highlight of being an Ole Miss alumnus, and this emeritus honor is the capstone,” he said. “This, in addition to having my name associated with the Memory House, the foundation’s home, has made me very proud.”

Among Brandt’s service commitments to the foundation, he was chairman of the board, as well as a member of the Joint Committee on University Investments and the foundation’s executive committee. Wendell Weakley, foundation president and CEO, said Brandt’s integrity, vision and leadership has made a lasting impact on both the university and foundation, which has an endowment of more than \$700 million.

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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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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

"It continues to be an outstanding experience to work with such a deeply committed board member as Louis Brandt," Weakley said. "Louis has always possessed an incredible understanding of higher education – perhaps from growing up in our college town and listening to his father, who was an Ole Miss economics professor – and offered his astute business perspective.

"Capable and accomplished women and men in the fields of finance, investment, law, education, health care, business and more serve on our board, bringing a collective of talents, strategy, guidance and financial support to the table. Louis is our first emeritus board member because he has been engaged in the mission of the foundation for years, not only supporting our work but also challenging us to always build a university for generations to come."

A former Ole Miss tennis team member and **mathematics** alumnus, Brandt grew up practically on campus with his dad on the faculty. Because he has enjoyed playing tennis for more than seven decades, he and Lucia, his wife, provided a gift that helped jump-start construction on the \$11 million, 52,000-square-foot Galtney Indoor Tennis Complex, dedicated in 2019.

"Athletics has always been part of my life," Brandt said. "Through college athletics, people are brought back to campus and are able to stay connected. That's extremely important to a university."

The Brandts' commitment to his alma mater has permeated many areas, including the schools of Engineering and Business Administration, Chancellor's Trust, Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Triplett Alumni Center, Paris-Yates Chapel, Residential College, Pride of the South Band, Concert Singers, Friends of the Library, University Museum and Historic Houses, Carrier House and special university events.

The Brandts also have committed a \$1 million planned gift directed to a faculty support endowment and an unrestricted endowment for Ole Miss athletics. The third portion of the planned gift will expand the existing Louis K. Brandt Memory House Endowment, created in 1998 for preservation of Brandt Memory House.

"Lucia, who is a University of Texas alumna, is very supportive of the love I have for Ole Miss," Brandt said. "The University of Mississippi is my No. 1 charity. I've watched others make major commitments to Ole Miss, and I've reached a point in my life to likewise dedicate these funds."

Brandt's business career has been centered in Texas, where he is active with three companies, BMA Ltd., Brandt Interest Ltd. and Timberwilde Inc., and has served on an array of boards. He also has invested in three Oxford-based companies; he and his wife enjoy a second home in Oxford.

Besides an undergraduate degree from Ole Miss, he holds an electrical engineering degree from the University of Texas. He invented a machine to separate solids from liquids during drilling, which was the basis for The Brandt Co., one of his enterprises that he later sold to TRW Inc.

Brandt was inducted into the Ole Miss Alumni Hall of Fame in 1993 and is the father to three sons.

To learn more about the UM Foundation and ways of supporting the university, visit <https://umfoundation.com>.

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