

TRIBUTES TO CHANCELLOR EMERITUS ROBERT C. KHAYAT

DEAN I. RICHARD GERSHON*

April 15, 2011, was a historic day for the law school, the university, and the State of Mississippi. Alumni, faculty, students, and friends of the law school from throughout the country gathered in Oxford, MS to celebrate the dedication of the law school's new building to one of our most distinguished graduates: Robert C. Khayat. Despite the threat of inclement weather, the day's events were a success. The ceremony was moved from the grounds of the new law center to the Gertrude C. Ford Performing Arts Center. There, a group of distinguished alumni, including John Grisham, honored Robert Khayat's service to the university and challenged current and future students to live up to the noble profession to which they have been called. Following the ceremony, guests attended a reception in the new law center, where student leaders led them on tours of the building. Visitors could not help but be impressed by its magnificence and beauty. Indeed, those of us who are fortunate to work and learn in this building appreciate the generous support of the donors who made this vision a reality. We are proud to call this new building home.

This state-of-the-art, LEED certified building will help us enhance the strong reputation of our law school. It has already hosted the United States Environmental Justice and the Law Symposium, sponsored by the American Bar Association, and we are confident that it will attract many programs of national and even global importance. The Robert C. Khayat Law Center will

* Dean and professor of law, University of Mississippi. Prior to joining the University of Mississippi School of Law, Dean Gershon served as the founding dean of the Charleston School of Law and the dean of Texas Wesleyan University School of Law in Fort Worth, Texas. Dean Gershon was also on the faculty at Stetson University School of Law from 1984 to 1998. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia (B.A. 1979), the University of Tennessee (J.D. 1982), and the University of Florida (LL.M. Taxation 1983). He is the author of several books and articles on taxation and legal education. Dean Gershon serves on the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission, The Mississippi Bar Professionalism Committee, and the Boys and Girls Clubs Advisory Board.

provide the law school with the technological capability to allow our students here in Oxford to connect with judges and lawyers everywhere in our state and region. It will also provide the law school the possibility to create advanced degree programs reaching students in all parts of the world through distance learning. In fact, in the short time that we have been in the new building, we have already taken substantial steps forward. The law school faculty has recently approved an innovative new skills program that will enhance the way our students are prepared for entry into the legal profession, and it has also voted to take the initial steps in creating a new LL.M. program.

We recognize, however, that as impressive as this building is, and as many opportunities as it will provide our students, it alone does not make this law school great. It is the people, and the programs they create, that define its character. This is one of the many lessons we can learn from Chancellor Emeritus Robert Khayat, who above all, invested in the University of Mississippi family. This new building, along with Chancellor Khayat's example, challenges each of us—alumni, faculty, staff, and students—to devote new energy to carry the law school to new heights. And we will rise to that challenge. We will continue to devote our time and resource to our students, providing them with an outstanding professional education and training them to be ethical lawyers who understand the importance of service to their local communities. We will continue to have an ever growing impact on the legal profession and legal education both in our state and beyond. If our efforts match the excellence of our new building and even approximate the devotion of the man whose name it bears, then there is no doubt we will accomplish that goal.

It is a great time to be a part of the University of Mississippi School of Law. Our future is very bright.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM F. WINTER*

On the historic and hauntingly beautiful campus of Ole Miss, we are reminded on every hand of a legion of extraordinary men and women who have played a visionary and defining role in the sustaining of the university over more than 160 years. Through good times and bad, through wars and depressions, through civil and political strife, they have provided the faith and stability to overcome the nay-sayers and the mindless critics of progress that seem to be a part of every generation.

We see the names of these heroes gracing many of the imposing buildings that give an aura of strength and permanence to this historic school. It is obviously impossible in this space to note all of the names that appear on those buildings—names like Barnard and Lamar,¹ Fulton and Bondurant,² Hume and

* William F. Winter is a shareholder at the Jackson-based firm, Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis, P.A. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Winter served the State of Mississippi as Governor (1980-1984), Lt. Governor (1972-1976), Mississippi State Treasurer (1964-1968), Mississippi State Tax Collector (1956-1964), and Representative in the Mississippi House of Representatives (1948-1956). Recognized by President Bill Clinton as “a great champion of civil rights,” William Winter’s gubernatorial tenure is most well-known for its leadership in encouraging equal opportunities in publicly-funded primary education regardless of race or class.

Born in Grenada, Mississippi, in 1923, William Winter served in the armed forces in both World War II and the Korean War. He received a B.A. from the University of Mississippi in 1943 and an LL.B. in 1949. While in law school, Mr. Winter served as the Editor-In-Chief of the *Mississippi Law Journal*.

In addition to a distinguished political career, Mr. Winter has received numerous professional honors, distinctions, and honorary degrees. President Clinton appointed Mr. Winter to the National Advisory Board on Race Relations in June 1997. He is also the recipient of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award and a fellow of the Mississippi Bar Association.

In 1999, Mr. Winter helped found the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, whose mission is to build more inclusive communities by promoting diversity and citizenship, and by supporting projects that help communities solve local challenges.

¹ Frederick A.P. Barnard was the university’s first chancellor from 1856 to 1861. The Center for the Study of Southern Culture is housed in Barnard Observatory.

L.Q.C. Lamar was a university faculty member and director of the Law Department until 1870, the year Mississippi was readmitted into the Union. In 1888, Lamar was appointed to the United States Supreme Court, the only Mississippian to date to hold that distinction. The law school resided in Lamar Hall prior to its new home in the Robert C. Khayat Law Center.

² Robert B. Fulton served as chancellor from 1892 to 1906 and is credited with establishing the school of engineering, school of education, and school of medicine.

Farley³—to reference only a few. They laid the foundation for the university's present-day eminence.

Now we add another name to that pantheon of heroes, as we dedicate the magnificent building, which bears the name of one of its most illustrious graduates—Robert C. Khayat.

It is fitting that this building should be named for him. Distinguished alumnus, outstanding teacher and administrator for many years, nationally heralded chancellor, Robert Khayat lends stature and prestige to the University of Mississippi. No one in its long history has been more meaningfully involved in the affairs of the university in so many transforming ways.

From his school years at Moss Point High School, where he was a student-leader and stellar athlete, Robert showed the special qualities that foreshadowed his later achievements. It was not just by random chance that he had those successes. He owes much to his wise and loving parents, Eddie and Eva Khayat, who infused him with the values and sense of purpose that set him apart. Their entire family, including a brother and two sisters, reinforced and encouraged each other.

Robert learned what it was to compete academically and athletically not just in high school but at Ole Miss where he starred in both football and baseball and earned Hall of Fame honors as a student. He was a standout member of the fabled 1959 football team, arguably the best in school history. He was selected to the National Football League Pro-Bowl Team during his tenure there.

Not content with his achievements as a premier professional athlete and all of the public acclaim that accompanies such a career, he began to respond to the calling of the profession that

During Fulton's tenure, football was introduced to the school as was the school's first printed annual, *The Ole Miss*.

Alexander Lee Bondurant was the first dean of the graduate school from 1927 to 1936 as well as acting chancellor in 1921. Bondurant also established and coached the first football team in 1893.

³ Alfred Hume served two terms as chancellor from 1924 to 1930, and then from 1932 to 1935. Hume is credited with preventing Governor Theodore G. Bilbo from moving the university to Jackson.

Robert J. Farley served as dean of the law school from 1947 to 1963 and president of the Mississippi Bar from 1954 to 1955. Before moving to Lamar Hall, the law school resided in Farley Hall.

was his first love and his life-long passion. While still playing pro football with the Washington Redskins, he enrolled in the Ole Miss School of Law. Upon graduation he began a thriving career as a lawyer in his home county for several years, but then Ole Miss beckoned to him again—this time as a member of its faculty. It was a fortuitous coming together—the confluence of a proud alumnus with his beloved alma mater and a successful lawyer with the dedicated teacher of the law.

Here he became an exemplary model for his students, teaching them far more than the complex intricacies of the law, as he shared with them the practical wisdom that came from his own fascinating life experiences. At a time when Mississippi was emerging from its self-imposed social and cultural isolation, Robert Khayat, with a vision of a more open and less insular society, played a major role in the enlightenment of an entire generation of young law students. He helped develop in them an enhanced appreciation for the majesty of the law and their duty as lawyers to defend our legal and political system against the mindless critics who would profane and diminish it.

As his former students began to fill positions of leadership in the profession and in political and civic affairs, his unique influence started to be felt across the state in the emergence of a more progressive atmosphere that challenged some of the old provincial shibboleths based on race and gender. While there were many other enlightened members of our profession who helped drive this change, the strong and respected voice of Robert Khayat was a particularly effective force.

Because he had emerged in a non-confrontational way as an influential advocate for sensible and progressive ideas, he became the obvious choice to lead the university when Chancellor Gerald Turner resigned to become the president of Southern Methodist University in 1994.⁴ Robert Khayat was unanimously elected chancellor by the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning.

By any measure, it will be recorded that in the fifteen years under his dynamic leadership Ole Miss progressed more

⁴ Robert Gerald Turner was the second youngest chancellor in the university's history, serving from 1984 to 1995. During Turner's tenure, the university's endowment grew from \$8 million to \$64 million.

dramatically than in any comparable period in its history. That progress includes growth in the number and quality of its students and faculty; in its financial support and endowment; in its incredibly lovely pristine campus; in the buildings, laboratories, and library; in the art, music, and athletic facilities; in its greatly expanded areas of service to the state and nation; and most impressively, in its national standing and prestige.

When Robert became chancellor, he set as his goal the achieving for Ole Miss national recognition as one of America's great public universities. There are many unbiased observers who feel that he achieved that objective. What is universally agreed on is that Dr. Khayat, in his distinguished tenure as chancellor, set a standard for leadership that stamps him as one of Mississippi's all-time greatest transformational figures.

In his preface to Dr. Allen Cabaniss's 1948 *Centennial History of the University of Mississippi*, Ole Miss alumnus Dr. Peter Kyle McCarter, professor of English and dean of the university, wrote these words:

Following tradition and sentiment, which all of us love if we are worthy of our humanity, we sing and speak of *Alma Mater*. And what is "Ole Miss" but *Alma Mater* rendered into our more congenial Southern speech? Yet could there not be another symbolic figure for a great institution of learning and public service, the figure of a man in his prime years, a man with the deep brow of a scholar, the keen eye of the observer and seeker, the strong body that bespeaks the life of action, the capability of endurance, and the power to fight, if need be; a man who, let us say, has learned to live, as great men do live, by faith and reason reconciled; and one who can never be content with his own horizons or complacent about his own limitations? And may not such a figure symbolize, God willing, the University of Mississippi?

Do not those words also describe Chancellor Emeritus Robert C. Khayat?

DR. DANIEL P. JORDAN*

In the halcyon days of the 1950s at Ole Miss, Vardaman Dormitory was home to a special group of scholarship athletes. Vardaman A was reserved for the freshmen football squad and Vardaman B for the baseball and basketball teams. Meanwhile, the varsity football players lived in palatial luxury in Garland. The upperclassmen went to great lengths to provide a warm welcome for the rookies. “Freshmen Meetings” were less about academic subjects than giving the varsity of all sports a chance to improve their baseball swings while toughening up the posteriors of the frosh for the competition ahead.

In September 1956, Robert Khayat of 520 Beardslee Street in Moss Point, and myself of 1 Shady Lane, Philadelphia, arrived at Vardaman. Robert was destined to be a star in both football and baseball. I learned to look at life very philosophically as a subpar athlete in basketball and baseball. We also shared a common faith as well as membership in the famous “Freshmen Class” at the University Methodist Church. Our iconic teacher and mentor was Dean Emeritus of Men Malcolm Guess,⁵ and his sophomore assistant was Mary Ann Mobley,⁶ a future Miss America.

* Dr. Jordan was a scholarship letterman in basketball and baseball, served as student body president, and has been elected to both the student and alumni Halls of Fame at Ole Miss. He holds a Ph.D. in American history from the University of Virginia where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and was later a scholar in residence. From 1985 to 2008, he served as president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation (Monticello). Lou Jordan is a former Miss Ole Miss. The Jordans have three children, now all adults, including the Honorable Daniel P. Jordan III, an Ole Miss graduate with distinction and a federal district judge with chambers in Jackson, Mississippi. For assistance with this essay, Dr. Jordan wishes to thank Lou Jordan, Warner and Kay Alford, and Sue Keiser.

⁵ R. Malcolm Guess attended the University of Mississippi as a student from 1908 to 1913. In 1922, Guess was hired by the university to serve as general secretary of the YMCA. He was later appointed dean of men in addition to serving as YMCA secretary in 1933. Dean Guess ended his role as secretary in 1947 to serve as dean of men full-time. Guess retired from his position with the university in 1955. *Finding Aid for the R. Malcolm Guess Collection*, UNIV. OF MISS. LIBRARIES: ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (last visited Aug. 1, 2011), http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general_library/archives/finding_aids/MUM00566.html.

⁶ Mary Ann Mobley Collins graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1958. Also in 1958, Ms. Mobley was crowned Miss Mississippi followed by her Miss America win in 1959. Ms. Mobley went on to star in two films with Elvis Presley in 1965 and countless other films and television appearances throughout her forty-year long career. Ms. Mobley has been married to actor Gary Collins since 1967 and the couple has one

Attendance was excellent. Over time, Robert and I also developed a keen interest in the Chi Omega Sorority. Fortune smiled there in leading us to our wives of now almost fifty years, Margaret Denton (now Khayat) and Lou Schmelzer (now Jordan).⁷

Robert and I majored in history and came under the spell of such marvelous professors as John Hebron Moore,⁸ and his wife Margaret, and the controversial and courageous James W. Silver.⁹ In our spare time, we marched as “ground pounders” in the Army R.O.T.C. Along the way I came to know Robert extremely well and to admire him enormously. Our friendship would be close and lifelong. And I was far from alone because Robert’s capacity for friendship was—and is—limitless.

It was a fabulous time to be at Ole Miss. Robert and others have called it a Rebel Camelot. And why not?—the Korean War had ended in an armistice, and the Vietnam War hadn’t begun. Also ahead were the turbulent 1960s and 70s which rocked America with terrible assassinations, violent protests, and national discord. In our comfortable and lovely cocoon in Oxford, Ole Miss seemed invincible and the place to be. The football team won two national championships (among other distinctions), and the baseball team, our junior and senior years, captured the SEC title only to be denied by state segregation policies two trips to Omaha for the College World Series. We also reveled in back-to-

adult daughter. See THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF MARY ANN MOBLEY: BIOGRAPHY, www.maryannmobley.net/?page_id=32 (last visited Aug. 1, 2011); *Miss America crowns University Libraries a top priority*, 2 THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI J.D. WILLIAMS LIBRARY: KEYWORDS 11 (Spring 2008).

⁷ To extend the story, Robert’s roommate was Warner Alford, who married Coach Swayze’s daughter Kay, an Ole Miss beauty and brain and Lou’s big sister in the sorority.

⁸ A native Mississippian, John Hebron Moore and his wife Margaret Deschamps Moore both served as history professors at the University of Mississippi. John Moore wrote multiple books analyzing the South, particularly agriculture in Mississippi. John Moore retired from the history department at Florida State University in 1993. *New Books for Spring / Summer 2010*, THE UNIV. OF S.C. PRESS 21 (2010), <http://www.sc.edu/uscpres/catalogs/SS10.pdf>.

⁹ James Wesley Silver was an American History professor at the University of Mississippi from 1936 to 1964. Silver later taught at Notre Dame University and the University of South Florida before retiring in 1982. Alan Krebs, *James W. Silver, 81, a Professor Who Fought for Racial Equality*, N.Y. TIMES (July 26, 1988), at B7.

back Miss Americas,¹⁰ several Rhodes Scholars,¹¹ a stunningly beautiful campus (especially in the spring), and the general belief that we were hot stuff and destined for big things. It's fair to say we were self-confident if not cocky. Of course, we were largely oblivious to the terrible realities of racism and Mississippi's widespread poverty. That illusion was shattered in the fall of 1962 and the turmoil around the arrival of James Meredith. It is my belief that Robert's inspired and enlightened leadership as chancellor moved Ole Miss beyond its ugly past in race relations into a bright new era of robust diversity and progress. He also restored a previous joy, optimism, and self-esteem among the student body, faculty, alumni, and friends of the university. Robert transformed all aspects of the school—but his lasting contribution might be intangible in the re-establishment of the true Ole Miss spirit based on more substantive pride than beauty contests and brawn.

Athletics had a powerful influence on Robert, an influence that would later help him become the greatest chancellor in the history of the University of Mississippi. This argument can be overstated, but consider the positions he played. In football, he set records as a place kicker—a solitary role in the spotlight when, at times, the game was on the line.¹² He also played in the middle of the line—an excellent school of humility (and who is more modest and self-effacing than Robert?) where one's manhood, wile, and tenacity were routinely tested. In baseball, he earned accolades as a catcher—the quarterback of the team. And speaking of teams, in both sports Robert exemplified the attributes of a successful athlete. He was self-sacrificing; he had passion for the game; he understood the necessity of determination, loyalty, careful planning, and playing smart, as well as hard; and he had the sine

¹⁰ Mary Ann Mobley's win in 1959 was followed by Lynda Lee Mead (now Shea) earning the Miss America title in 1960. Both were members of the Chi Omega Sorority while attending Ole Miss. *People*, TIME MAGAZINE (Sept. 21, 1959), at 49.

¹¹ Twenty-five students from the University of Mississippi have earned the Rhodes Scholarship. HISTORY: THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, <http://www.olemiss.edu/info/history.html> (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

¹² Khayat led the nation in scoring by a kicker in both 1958 and 1959. To date, he is the only player in Ole Miss history to achieve that feat in consecutive seasons. Barbara Lago, *Chancellor Announces Retirement Plans*, OLE MISS SPORTS (last visited Aug. 1, 2011), <http://www.olemisssports.com/genrel/010609aaa.html>.

qua non of being a leader. He also lived by the Bear Bryant rule: “If we win, they did it. If we tie, we did it. If we lose, I did it.” Robert is without equal in deflecting, to others, credit which rightly should be given to Robert himself.

Robert has acknowledged his debt to the talented staff of the football team. I also know of his immense admiration for Coach Thomas King Swayze, Ole Miss’s chief recruiter and legendary coach of the baseball team.¹³ Coach Swayze was a ferocious competitor who had mastered the game of baseball. Perhaps more importantly, he had an eye for talent, knew how to build a team, made the game fun, and was unparalleled as a motivator.¹⁴ It’s no accident—in my view—that this profile sounds like Chancellor Khayat. I have often said, before audiences at Ole Miss and elsewhere, that the most important lessons I know about management, I learned from Coach Swayze. I’m sure Robert would agree.

People are rightly captivated by Robert’s personality which is warm, transparent, upbeat, and considerate. His intellectual capacity is shown in his being an Academic All-American as well as his finishing third in his class in law school, and his having earned a masters of law from Yale. Perhaps more important is Robert’s emotional IQ. One cannot find a more empathic individual or one who is more kind and caring or who has a greater gift of friendship more deeply rooted in sincerity and understanding. All of the above was clear on the baseball diamond.

Let me attempt to summarize a lot in one vignette. In our sophomore year, the baseball team was young and finding its way. Late in the season, we had a critical home series against our arch-rival, Alabama. The score was tied when I entered the game under daunting circumstances as a relief pitcher. I survived the jam,

¹³ Coach Thomas K. (Tom) Swayze was a three-year letterman in football and a four-year letterman in baseball as a student-athlete at the University of Mississippi before coaching the Ole Miss Rebels baseball team from 1951 to 1971. During his tenure Coach Swayze amassed a record of 361-201-2 which includes three appearances in the College World Series. See *Ole Miss Legend Tom Swayze Passes Away at 93*, OLE MISS SPORTS (Feb. 1, 2003), <http://www.olemisssports.com/sports/m-basebl/spec-rel/020103aaa.html>.

¹⁴ Coach Tom Swayze is commonly referred to as the first recruiting coordinator in the South. *Id.*

pitched several hitless innings, and got the win. Robert, as our catcher, inspired confidence by making the right calls and always providing a big target. In the locker room afterwards, Robert came over, said “here’s a souvenir for you,” and tossed me the game ball. My office has always been devoid of vanity space, but it has also had, on a shelf, a solitary now-yellowed baseball on which is written: “Ole Miss 6, Alabama 5.” Robert Khayat has enriched the lives of countless individuals with his quiet and thoughtful acts of kindness.

All who were student-athletes with Robert knew that he was destined for greatness. None of us was surprised in the least at his transcendent success as chancellor. We will always be deeply grateful for his unparalleled contributions to our alma mater and to our state and nation—and especially for his loyal and generous friendship across the years.

CHARLIE FLOWERS*

It is a great honor to write a few words about my old teammate and dear friend of fifty years. I find it impossible to write about him without the use of superlatives. I do not apologize for this for the simple reason that Robert happens to be the finest person I have ever known. Robert came to Ole Miss with the freshman class of 1956—possibly the greatest class both athletically as well as academically in the history of the university. In addition to their remarkable success on the football field,¹⁵ Robert's class went on to produce several pro-football players, several lawyers and doctors, an Ole Miss athletic director, an Ole Miss head baseball coach, and a number of college coaches and high school educators. Also in that freshman class was Robert's great friend Warner Alford.¹⁶ Little did they know at the time that they would spend the greater part of their lives working to make Ole Miss a better place. They have certainly succeeded in that endeavor.

One of the first things I noticed about Robert when he arrived on campus was how, through no apparent effort on his part, everyone simply gravitated to him, especially the football players. And believe me, considering the different individuals on that team

* Charlie Flowers is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame and served as the captain of the 1959 National Champion Ole Miss football team. Originally from Marianna, Arkansas, Flowers started at fullback from 1957 to 1959 and earned All-America honors both athletically and academically during that time. Following his tenure at Ole Miss, Flowers went on to play in the NFL for franchises in Los Angeles, San Diego, and New York. Flowers has been inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and the Ole Miss Athletic Hall of Fame, is a member of the Ole Miss Team of the Century, and is still the record holder of the highest rushing average per play in a season with 7.4 yards. COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME, http://www.collegefootball.org/famer_selected.php?id=50101 (last visited Aug. 1, 2011); *Ole Miss Histories and Records*, CBS SPORTS COLLEGE NETWORK, http://grfx.cstv.com/photos/schools/ole/genrel/auto_pdf/all-time-results-0810.pdf (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

¹⁵ From 1956 to 1959, the Ole Miss Rebels football team amassed a record of 35-7-1. *Ole Miss Histories and Records*, CBS SPORTS COLLEGE NETWORK, http://grfx.cstv.com/photos/schools/ole/genrel/auto_pdf/all-time-results-0810.pdf (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

¹⁶ Warner Alford served as Ole Miss athletic director from 1978 to 1994, and later held the position of executive director of the University of Mississippi Alumni Association. OLE MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, http://olemissalumni.com/news/default.aspx?page_id=330 (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

that was no small feat. Even then Robert displayed the defining characteristic that no doubt made him so admired—to put it simply—it was impossible not to want him as your friend. This characteristic was on display when he was asked to run for Colonel Rebel in his senior year.¹⁷ Wanting to support Robert, the entire football team campaigned on his behalf. Because the team was somewhat isolated from the rest of the students—players were required to sleep in the same dorm and eat in the same dining hall—some wondered if Robert had enough on-campus exposure to win. However, we quickly found that the team's isolation did not hurt Robert's chances at all. In fact, it was impossible to find anyone who wasn't going to vote for him. Obviously, he won in a land slide!

Another thing I immediately noticed about Robert was his innate toughness. Robert played tackle on both offense and defense for four years during his time at Ole Miss, and one thing's for certain: no one could play that position under Coach John Vaught without being tough. But when I think of Robert's football career at Ole Miss, I am reminded not only of his physical toughness but his mental toughness as well. During the 1959 season, on a freezing November day in Memphis, we played the University of Tennessee. The previous week, Tennessee had knocked LSU out of the unbeaten ranks, which made our game even more important. With a record of 7-1 we knew a win would send us to a major bowl game. For the first half it was an extremely hard-fought game. With just seconds to go before halftime, Robert came into the game and kicked a frozen football 47 yards against the wind right between the goal posts, and we entered the locker room leading 10-7. You never saw a more fired up bunch of guys. Needless to say we came out in the second half and won the game 37-7,¹⁸ earning ourselves a rematch against LSU in the Sugar Bowl.¹⁹ I've often wondered what would have happened had Robert not made that remarkable kick.

¹⁷ This title is the equivalent of the most popular male student at Ole Miss.

¹⁸ Ole Miss entered this game ranked fifth, but that decisive win catapulted the Rebels to the number two spot in the nation. How Ole Miss and LSU Advanced to the 1960 Sugar Bowl, Official Site of the Allstate Sugar Bowl, <http://www.allstatesugarbowl.org/site216.php> (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

¹⁹ The Ole Miss Rebels handily defeated the LSU Tigers 21-0 for their first National Championship. The 1960 Sugar Bowl was the first bowl game nationally

At the end of the football season, Robert was selected to play in the College All-Star Game against the NFL's reigning champion, the Baltimore Colts.²⁰ Robert remembers playing this game not as a kicker but as an offensive lineman. He loves to tell the story of lining up for the first play from scrimmage and across from him was none other than the Colts' All-Pro defensive tackle Eugene "Big Daddy" Lipscomb.²¹ Lipscomb, who was listed at 6'7," 300-plus pounds, looked across the line at Robert and said, "Boy, does your mamma know where you are?" Robert replied, "Obviously not. If she did I would still be in Moss Point!" I guess you could call his reply *grace under pressure*. The fact that Robert chose to kick in the NFL is a testament to his intelligence.²²

After an excellent career in professional football, Robert returned to Oxford and, as we all know, began his journey to becoming the fifteenth chancellor of the University of Mississippi. Those of us who love Ole Miss are grateful to him for being there for us and helping make our alma mater become the wonderful place that it is today. A few years ago, Robert's good friend and former law school student, John Grisham was giving a talk on campus and he said, "When I grow up, I want to be just like Robert Khayat."²³ For those of us who have known and loved Robert for so many years, I think that just about sums up our feelings. We should all want to grow up to be like Robert Khayat.

televised in color. 26th Annual Sugar Bowl Classic ~ January 1, 1960, Official Site of the Allstate Sugar Bowl, <http://www.allstatesugarbowl.org/site140.php> (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

²⁰ This game was known as The Chicago Charities College All-Star Game, and was held from 1934 to 1976 at Soldier Field in Chicago. The 1960 All-Star game featured Johnny Unitas throwing three touchdown passes to lead the Colts to a 32-7 victory over the College All-Stars and their coach, Otto Graham. Mark Bolding, *The 1960 College All-star Game*, BOLDING SPORTS RESEARCH, http://www.mmbolding.com/BSR/The_Chicago_All-Star_Game_1960.htm (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

²¹ Eugene "Big Daddy" Lipscomb played ten seasons in the National Football League and was selected for the Pro Bowl three times. Lipscomb played defensive tackle for the Los Angeles Rams, the Baltimore Colts, and the Pittsburgh Steelers. William Nack, *The Ballad of Big Daddy*, SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, Jan. 11, 1999, at 72-88.

²² Robert Khayat played four seasons for the Washington Redskins, and was named to the Pro Bowl in 1961. THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION, <http://www.footballfoundation.org/nff/biography/828/dr-robert-c-khayat> (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

²³ John R. Grisham, Address at the Investiture Ceremony of Chancellor Robert C. Khayat (Apr. 11, 1996).

DEAN EMERITUS PARHAM H. WILLIAMS JR.*

The morning was sunny, warm, and pleasantly humid—a typical September morning in Oxford. I carefully opened my Criminal Law casebook on the podium and surveyed the thirty-one students gathered for the first class of the semester. All were males who sat quietly, apprehensive and uncertain of what to expect. My eyes settled on a young giant squeezed into a narrow seat in the second row. Beneath his blond buzz cut, two baby blues gazed at me expectantly. “Aha,” I thought, “this must be Khayat.” Everyone on the law faculty knew who Khayat was—All-American, All-Pro, Colonel Rebel, Hall of Fame, frequent escort of Miss Americas and other glamour queens—but we were uncertain of his talent for serious academic work. I decided to test the waters.

“Mr. Khayat,” I said in a tone of soothing insouciance, “our first case is *Barker v. State*.²⁴ Would you be so kind as to recount the facts and then analyze the court’s holding?”

The case was a time bomb, loaded with conflicting facts and confusing definitions of the degrees of murder. I smiled inwardly, expecting a floundering effort that would expose the student’s total ineptitude for the study of law.

The response stunned me. The recounting of the facts was thorough and explicit. Some stumbling did occur in unraveling the theories of homicide, but few lawyers would have done any better. I regarded “Mister” Khayat with a growing sense of appreciation.

This guy was smart!

Thus unfolded my introduction to Robert Khayat, the law student. My initial impressions were continually reinforced as I

* Parham H. Williams Jr.: B.A., University of Mississippi; J.D., University of Mississippi; LL.M., Yale University. Dean Emeritus Parham Williams served as associate dean of the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1970 and dean of the school from 1971 to 1985. In 1985, Dean Williams left the university to serve as the dean of the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. After eleven years in that position, Dean Williams moved to Chapman University School of Law in Orange, California to lead that school as dean. Following his retirement from Chapman, Dean Williams returned to the University of Mississippi School of Law where he continues to teach. The Dean Parham H. Williams Endowed Scholarship has been established at each of the three schools of law led by Dean Williams and each school continues to award students with that scholarship.

²⁴ 150 N.E.2d 680 (1958).

got to know Robert better. He proved to be an excellent student, always well-prepared and ready to offer thoughtful comments and useful analyses of legal issues. Equally impressive was his willingness to undertake special assignments, whether curricular or extra-curricular (Josh Morse and Bill Bunkley had a few of the latter),²⁵ and to accomplish them quickly and effectively. I was not surprised when he was selected for membership on the *Mississippi Law Journal*, nor when I learned that his law school GPA ranked near the top of his class.

I doubt that many people today know that, while yet a student, Robert “created” the Ole Miss Law Alumni Chapter. I well remember when Josh Morse, then dean of the law school, asked Robert to “see if you can dig up the names of our graduates and make me a list.” Not only did Robert “dig up the names,” he created a complete directory including the address, age, and year of graduation of every living Ole Miss law graduate. Then he arranged the initial meeting, counseled the newly elected officers, and guided the nascent organization in its developing years. Frankly, all of us who graduated from the law school are the beneficiaries of Robert’s ground-breaking work in establishing an organization that continues to provide invaluable support to the law school and the bar.

After I became dean, I was truly privileged to have Robert’s unfailing assistance and support as associate dean. When I reflect on those years (it seems that I spend a lot of time reflecting these days!), I inevitably conclude that much of the success achieved by the law school during those years was the result of Robert’s inspired and untiring efforts in coordinating the academic work of the faculty and students. He was the quintessential role model for our younger law faculty—an exceptionally able and conscientious classroom teacher; a productive scholar; and a compassionate and caring counselor and friend to his students. In addition to carrying a full teaching load, Robert was incredibly productive as an administrator, carrying more than his full share of administrative duties while accomplishing unbelievable quantities of just plain

²⁵ Both men were dean of the University of Mississippi School of Law. Joshua M. Morse served as dean from 1963 to 1969, while Joel W. Bunkley, Jr., served as dean from 1969 to 1971. MICHAEL DE L. LANDON, THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW: A SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY 97, 112-113, 118 (2006).

old hard work. I shall always be grateful for Robert's support and help.

Few university presidents have graced their office with the array of skills and experience that Robert exemplified. True, some presidents may match his "people skills"—though close inspection will narrow that list to a handful. And granted, some may boast of comparable campus building programs—though again I suspect that the list is quite short. And there may be a few, a very few, with the incredible talent for fundraising that is among Robert's most notable strengths. But none, I am certain, have encouraged and influenced more people with the warm and winsome sincerity that is the hallmark of his very being.

Let's cut to the chase. How many university presidents have been at the helm of their school when it achieved a coveted chapter of Phi Beta Kappa? And how many have raised hundreds of millions in gifts that have transformed their institution? And how many have presided over a presidential debate?²⁶ And how many can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Marty Stuart and blow away the crowd with scintillating Nashville chops and rockabilly chicken pickin'?²⁷ I rest my case.

Prime among Robert's virtues are an easy grace and an innate modesty. But he deserves to enjoy the accolades heaped upon him, especially the naming of this magnificent law center in his honor. Consider this. When Dean Roscoe Pound finally retired as university professor at Harvard in 1947, a collection of essays, penned by the leading scholars of the day, was published in his honor. A magazine reporter asked him his thoughts about the publication. The venerable dean smiled and replied: "Well, a man is entitled to have his head swell a little over that!"²⁸ So, my counsel to Robert is simple: let your head "swell just a little bit"

²⁶ On September 26, 2008, the University of Mississippi hosted the first in a series of four presidential debates between Senator John McCain and then Senator Barack Obama. 2008 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE, <http://www.olemiss.edu/debate/> (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

²⁷ Country music singer Marty Stuart wrote *The Moss Point Kid* as a tribute to then Chancellor Khayat. Stuart performed the song during a concert at the Gertrude Ford Center on April 30, 2009. MARTY STUART, *The Moss Point Kid* (2009). A video of the performance is available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0v2qDHAgYo> (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

²⁸ *Education: Man with a Memory*, TIME MAGAZINE (Feb. 24, 1947), at 50.

and enjoy all the good words that come your way. And please know always that I am very, very proud to have been your teacher, your colleague, and your friend.

THE HONORABLE REUBEN V. ANDERSON*

Robert Khayat and I were students in law school together at the University of Mississippi in the mid-1960s. I can say with all honesty that not everyone greeted me with the same ready smile and handshake that he did. Many did not acknowledge my existence. That was the beginning of my deep respect for this man.

Over the more than forty-five years that I have known Robert Khayat, I have had many opportunities to witness his immensely significant contributions to the university, the legal profession, and the State of Mississippi. I have known him in his capacity as a professor at the law school and as university chancellor. Throughout my legal career, our paths have crossed many times. This tribute gives me the chance to offer a public thanks for the many considerate acts of kindness he has provided me.

I would like to reflect, however, on more personal experiences that reveal his generosity of spirit and fullness of character. What I have seen him do for our state as a whole is remarkable. We have worked together with the Mississippi Economic Council, our state's premier economic development organization. He took on the challenging task of leading the first Blueprint Mississippi

* Reuben Anderson is a senior litigation partner in the Jackson office of Phelps Dunbar LLP. Prior to joining Phelps Dunbar, Mr. Anderson served as the first African-American Justice on the Mississippi Supreme Court. Mr. Anderson grew up in Jackson and graduated from Tougaloo College in 1964. After being denied admission into the University of Mississippi School of Law, Anderson enrolled in law school at Southern University in Baton Rouge. After his first year, Anderson received a scholarship to the University of Mississippi School of Law where he was the only African-American student in his class.

Upon graduation, Mr. Anderson was hired by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund where he focused his practice on school desegregation and civil rights. In 1970, Mr. Anderson helped form the law firm of Anderson Banks Nichols & Leventhal. Jackson mayor, Russell Davis, appointed Anderson municipal court judge in 1976. Governor Clifton "Cliff" Finch appointed Anderson County Court Judge in 1977. In 1981, Governor William Winter appointed Anderson to the Hinds County Circuit Court, and in 1985, he was appointed by Governor William Allain to the Mississippi Supreme Court. Anderson served in that capacity for six years.

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Anderson served as president of the Mississippi Economic Council, president of the Mississippi Bar Association, and a commissioner for the National Collegiate Athletic Association. He was inducted into the Ole Miss Alumni Hall of Fame in 1995 and received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Mr. Anderson received a Mississippi Bar Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007 as well as the University of Mississippi School of Law Alumnus of the Year Award in 2005.

effort,²⁹ pulling together a somewhat fragmented business community and creating a common agenda.

The final report released in 2004 was a strategic business plan for continuous and significant improvements in the standard of living across all regions of Mississippi.³⁰ It called for ways to nurture the business climate, improve education, and advance economic development through a partnership between business, education, and government, so that all of the goals outlined in the plan could be achieved. As a result of the thorough planning the initiatives have been sustained. This is a product of the time and effort that Robert Khayat put into the task.

Another noteworthy accomplishment that I witnessed is the part he played in reaching a resolution of the *Ayers* case regarding state funding for historically black universities, long neglected.³¹ It was at his suggestion, as chancellor of Ole Miss, that the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning reached an agreement that helped bring an end to the litigation and direct funds to Jackson State University, Alcorn State University, and Mississippi Valley State University. Without his influence, the matter could be still in litigation.

His close association with the University of Mississippi Medical Center in its academic as well as health care roles, including its presence at the Jackson Medical Mall, has been a tremendous benefit to the city of Jackson and the State of Mississippi. The new Ole Miss Chancellor, Dr. Daniel Jones, is maintaining the same strong support, and the university's supporters appreciate this thoughtful plan of succession.

²⁹ Blueprint Mississippi is a coalition of state development agencies whose mission is to "[t]o create a strategic business plan, a blueprint, that provides opportunity for continuous and significant improvements in the standard of living across all regions of Mississippi. This sustainable, trackable program of work will serve as a road map to success by nurturing the business climate, improving education and advancing economic development through a partnership among business, education and government."

³⁰ A link to the full text as well as an executive summary of the 2004 report can be found at: <http://www.msmecc.com/images/stories/blueprint/2004BlueprintReport.pdf>

³¹ The *Ayers* case refers to a settlement reached between the State, the Justice Department, and private plaintiffs in a suit filed by Jake Ayers, Sr., claiming that the state's historically black colleges suffered from not receiving the same funding as the State's historically white colleges. The settlement resulted in the State agreeing to spend nearly \$500 million over two decades to increase funding for Jackson State University, Alcorn State University, and Mississippi Valley State University.

All of us in this state—businesses, educational institutions, and citizens—have also benefitted from Robert Khayat’s influence in Washington, D.C., and the Mississippi State Capitol. And we will all benefit for generations to come, as graduates of the University of Mississippi and its school of law gain valuable skills and knowledge for their lives and careers, thanks to the superb advancements both institutions have enjoyed under Robert Khayat’s leadership. His integrity, vision, and perseverance are the hallmarks of leadership of the highest order.

PROFESSOR ROBERT A. WEEMS*

I would never have taught at the University of Mississippi School of Law but for Robert Khayat. I met Robert when I came to law school in 1964. He had started the previous semester. We became good friends, as did our wives. Following our graduation we kept in close touch. After practicing law in Pascagoula for a while, he joined the faculty of the law school, and soon became associate dean. He would mention from time to time that he thought I would like teaching law, and that there was a possibility of joining the faculty at Ole Miss. I had been in private practice in Vicksburg for eleven years, but the thought of teaching at Ole Miss certainly peaked my interest. When I told Robert that I would like to try, he, with the assistance of other friends on the faculty like Guff Abbott, Cliff Hodge,³² and Dean Parham Williams, got the rest of the faculty to go along.

My tenure at the law school, however, may well have been short-lived but for Robert. I had been teaching Wills and Estates, and had developed cases, statutes, and materials for a new course specific to Mississippi wills and estates. Under the prevailing rules at the time, this compilation alone was sufficient to satisfy the research component required for tenure, however, the year that I became eligible for tenure the university hired a new provost who instituted new tenure requirements. His rule was that a candidate for tenure had to publish a book or some other significant work—which left me understandably concerned. The day after hearing of this new rule, Robert informed me that we were flying to Atlanta the next day to talk to the people at The Harrison Company, publishers of law books. He, with the

* Robert A. Weems: B.S., Millsaps College; J.D., University of Mississippi. Professor Weems joined the faculty of the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1977. Since then he has been named Outstanding Law Professor six times and received the university's Outstanding Teacher Award in 1994. Professor Weems has published multiple editions of the books *Wills and Administration of Estates in Mississippi* and *Mississippi Wills and Estates: Cases, Statutes, and Materials*. Along with Professor Emeritus Guthrie T. Abbott, Professor Weems conducted the annual seminar "Summary of Recent Mississippi Law" from 1984 to 2011.

³² E. Clifton Hodge, Jr., served as an associate professor with the University of Mississippi School of Law from 1974 to 1982. Mr. Hodge is currently a partner in the general litigation group of the law firm Phelps Dunbar LLP in Jackson, Mississippi. PHELPS DUNBAR, <http://www.phelpsdunbar.com/attorney-profile/profile/hodgejr-94.html> (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

assistance of Dean Williams, got them to agree to publish my book so that I could qualify for tenure—which I got.³³ Robert was not only considerate of his friends, but was always willing to use his influence and charm to help anyone who could use it.

Robert contributed to the betterment of the law school in countless ways. He was a very good teacher. His special expertise was in local government law. His students loved him for his teaching ability and perhaps even more for his interest in them as individuals as well as students. By the middle of a semester he would know them all by name and know something about most of them. And it seems he never forgot.

He also made many meaningful contributions to Oxford and Lafayette County. I will mention just two. Shortly after I had moved to Oxford I went with him on a Thursday night to Harmontown,³⁴ a small community north of Oxford, to explain to a group why he thought it was important for them to vote for a bond issue to renovate the courthouse on the Square in Oxford. Through Robert's help the initiative passed. He was also a moving force in getting a two percent tourism tax passed, over determined opposition, to help the university build a baseball stadium and to provide the City with funds to make it more attractive to visitors. To date, the City has received millions of dollars from this tax, and the baseball stadium we have now has grown from that beginning.³⁵

But Robert's crowning achievements came during his fourteen-year tenure as chancellor of the university. It has been said that he did not just improve the university, but transformed it. He transformed the attitudes of many people who work here, and of the students who study here. He transformed the physical campus as well. There is no part of the university that was not improved, whether it was the construction of new buildings, the

³³ Professor Weems' book—MISSISSIPPI WILLS AND ESTATES: CASES, STATUTES, AND MATERIALS—was a huge success and in print for twenty years, producing three editions.

³⁴ Harmontown, Mississippi is an unincorporated community located in Lafayette County between Highway 7 and Interstate 55, just north of Sardis Lake.

³⁵ The current baseball facility, Swayze Field at Oxford-University Stadium, opened on February 19, 1989. OLEMISSSPORTS.COM, <http://www.olemisssports.com/facilities/ole-facilities-swayze-field.html> (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

renovation of existing buildings, or the beautification of virtually every piece of ground not occupied by a building.

In Saint Paul's Cathedral in London there is a plaque bearing the name of its great architect, Sir Christopher Wren. It is inscribed "Reader, if you seek his memorial—look around you."³⁶ There easily could be a plaque like that somewhere, anywhere, on this campus with Robert Khayat's name on it.

³⁶ The Latin phrase etched on a stone plaque obituary by Wren's son, reads "Lector, Si Monumentum Requiris Circumspice." JAMES ELMES, SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN AND HIS TIMES 411 (Chapman & Hall 1852).

PROFESSOR EMERITUS GUTHRIE T. ABBOTT*

In 1964, my wife and I, newlyweds, moved into the Avent Acres apartments in Oxford, Mississippi, and my life was changed for the better because that is where I met Robert Conrad Khayat. Robert and I were starting at the Ole Miss Law School. I entered law school because I couldn't figure out what to do with my math degree, and Bob Galloway,³⁷ my good friend and college roommate, was going to law school—so why not just tag along?

Robert entered law school because he needed help with the laws of contracts—especially negotiations. You see, Robert had just finished a year of work as placekicker for the Washington Redskins of the NFL. For his excellent work, Robert was awarded All-Pro honors by the league, and the Redskins offered him a contract for about \$14,000 to sign for the next year. Robert, without the help of the sports agent who is so ubiquitous today, demanded that he be paid \$15,000, or “I will just go to law school.” The rest is history! The Redskins had another bad year, and the University of Mississippi and our law school continue to reap the benefits of the Redskins' folly.

Knowing Robert as a neighbor, law school classmate, faculty colleague, and as chancellor, has enriched my life in many ways. He has always been an exemplar of what a fine human being should be. Of course, his shining examples kept many of us Avent Acres neighbors in trouble by comparison. For instance, on cold winter mornings when my wife Patsy would go out to start our car

* Guthrie T. (Guff) Abbott: B.A., University of Mississippi; J.D., University of Mississippi; Fellow in Law and the Humanities, Harvard University. Professor Abbott became a full-time member of the University of Mississippi School of Law faculty in 1970 following three years of private practice in Gulfport, Mississippi. From 1984 to 2011 Professor Abbott, in conjunction with Professor Robert Weems, conducted the annual seminar “Summary of Recent Mississippi Law.” Professor Abbott served as the acting dean of the law school from 1985 to 1986, and in 1998 became the second professor to serve as the president of the Mississippi Bar following Dean Robert J. Farley who served as bar president in 1954. Professor Abbott is the Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens, & Cannada Lecturer in Law Emeritus and continues to teach Mississippi Civil Practice at the school of law.

³⁷ Robert C. Galloway is a member of Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens, & Cannada, PLLC in the firm's Gulfport office. Mr. Galloway received his bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi in 1964, followed by a law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1967. BUTLER SNOW, http://www.butlersnow.com/bob_galloway.aspx (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

and go to work, she would see that Robert's long green Pontiac was running and getting warm for Margaret Khayat to enter shortly thereafter. My mother taught me that "comparisons were odious," but Patsy was obviously never given that lesson.

Robert was a leader at the law school from the day that he joined the faculty, and I will forever be indebted to him for helping me gain a faculty position. There are numerous reasons why Robert was well-liked and respected by students and faculty alike, but a conversation that we had many years ago explains a lot. Robert was serving as associate dean of the law school and had just helped a student stay in school by both securing financial aid and sharing some sound advice regarding school and life.³⁸ As with so many other instances in assisting students and faculty colleagues, Robert had gone "above and beyond." I tried to compliment Robert on what he had done, but he wouldn't hear of it. He simply said: "Guff, what I really like to do is help people."

Well Robert has been blessed and in turn has blessed thousands of people with his help, including me. His innovative thinking, sound judgment, and work ethic have benefitted the law school, the university, the legal profession, and our community and state.

I am literally "richer" because of Robert. In my thirties Robert *made me* start saving some money. He said: "Guff, you owe it to your family. You have to save something every month, even if it is just \$50.00." I listened, and we may never be rich, but we will never be poor—thanks to Robert Khayat.

In discussing Robert with faculty colleagues you hear of his wonderful sense of humor (he even laughed when referred to as the "Ass Dean" of the law school—short for Associate Dean, of course). Words and phrases such as: "collegial," "forgiving" (I do not believe that Robert has ever held a grudge in his life), "caring," "sound judgment," "fair," "smart," "forward thinker," "truly loves and cares for all of God's children," are the types of comments you will hear.

³⁸ Robert Khayat served as the associate dean of the law school for seven years before moving to the Lyceum to become vice chancellor for university affairs. Professor Thomas R. Mason would replace Khayat as the law school's associate dean. MICHAEL DE L. LANDON, *THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW: A SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY* 144 (2006).

It is my privilege to know and be influenced by Robert and to call him colleague and friend. I smile every time I enter the Robert C. Khayat Law Center. No honor ever bestowed could be more richly deserved.

JUDGE S. ALLAN ALEXANDER*

I never knew Robert Khayat the football player, perish the thought! Football? I attended a small undergraduate school for women in Missouri, if that gives any indication of my interest in sports. I met “Mr. Khayat” as a first-year student at the law school in 1975, but I was never in one of his classes. After graduating from law school and working for two years as a federal law clerk, I went into private practice as an associate with Holcomb, Dunbar, Connell, Merkel, Tollison, & Khayat, where Robert was a partner. By that time, however, Robert was spending almost all of his time as a law professor, so I never actually practiced law with him.

All of those “near misses” would ordinarily mean that Robert Khayat had no opportunity or inclination to influence me personally or professionally, but that is not the case. In fact, his grace and example have been guideposts for me, more and more as I have grown older.

The size of the law school student body population has not changed much since the mid-seventies. I was in the last class to graduate from Farley Hall;³⁹ the cramped building somehow felt more intimate and allowed more constant interaction between faculty and students. It will not surprise anyone who ever met Robert to learn that he took advantage of that fact, always making a point to learn students’ names and something about them personally. He has always had that rare gift that allows him to connect with and motivate other people regardless of gender, race, age or socioeconomic status. He regularly mingled with students in the halls, visited the *Law Journal* offices (and, I’m sure, other student-staffed offices) to take our pulses and generally let all the

* Judge S. Allan Alexander: B.A., William Woods College; J.D., University of Mississippi. Following fourteen years of private practice in Oxford, Mississippi, Judge Alexander was appointed to her current position as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi in 1994. Since 2007, Judge Alexander has served as a co-chairperson of the uniform local civil rules committee for the United States District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi, and since 2008, she has served as the chairperson of the rules committee for the Federal Magistrate Judges Association. In 2008 Judge Alexander was bestowed with the Mississippi Women Lawyers Association Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2009 received the Northern District Chief Judge Award.

³⁹ The University of Mississippi School of Law moved from Farley Hall to the Lamar Law Center in the summer of 1978. See MICHAEL DE L. LONDON, THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW: A SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY 136 (2006).

students know that he was available to assist them in any way he could.⁴⁰ He still calls me “Miss A.” because my first-year study group—a group of what my mother always referred to as “knotheads”—called me that. Everyone in the study group but me played guitar or banjo, and Robert used to bring his guitar when they got together to celebrate and play. We loved that.

Although Robert’s life may appear charmed to some, his successes have come to him not by luck but by dint of good instincts, a head for strategy, a sense of mission, and the hard work and dedication necessary to carry him to full success in nearly everything he has ever attempted. His keen powers of observation and his insight into human nature, in combination with his determination to excel while doing good, give him the vision to see possibilities and the energy to push them through to reality possessed by very few. It is our good fortune that he chose to apply all of these talents to the task of directing the University of Mississippi toward excellence in all departments. It is no exaggeration to say that there was probably no other individual who in fourteen short years could have moved Ole Miss so far away from its haunted, negative past and started the school so effectively on its clear path to real academic competitiveness in a public university setting.

In all of his accomplishments Robert has been guided by a rock-solid sense of what is right and what is wrong. And he has learned—and taught me along the way—that inner peace and a constructive life come from forgiveness of self and, more importantly, forgiveness of others for real or perceived wrongs. As he once told me, refusal to forgive does nothing to harm the unforgiven; the harm it causes is to the intransigent grudge-holder, eating away at the latter’s capacity for kindness and good. Life, he said, became so much simpler after he came to that realization. The concept that hatred and vengeance do not solve problems did not originate with Robert, of course, but he was the one who personified it for me by living the principle himself.

This, then, is the Robert Khayat I know. He is a mission-driven perfectionist with his drive tempered by a strong sense of

⁴⁰ While in law school, Judge Alexander served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Mississippi Law Journal*. 48 MISS. L.J. 1097 (1977).

compassion, fairness, and justice. His example has been invaluable to me and to countless others.

PROFESSOR DEBORAH H. BELL*

I have known Robert Khayat as a colleague, a dean, and a chancellor. But I first knew him as my professor.

I started law school in 1976. It was a different time. Professor Kingsfield, of *The Paper Chase* fame,⁴¹ was a model for law professors across the country. The Socratic method—overlaid with intimidation and, in some cases, sarcasm—was the expected style of teaching. Then, there were no laptops in the classroom. No barrier between you and the query with your name attached. No way for a compassionate classmate to text you a few key phrases. And the demographic of the faculty matched. The professors were male. White. Intimidating.⁴²

The class of 1979 gathered for the first time in an enormous lecture hall—all 220 of us in a single Torts class. Looking back, I can see the faces of judges, governors, CEOs, bar presidents. But at 8:00 on an August morning, we were frightened twenty-somethings in faded jeans and bad 70s hair.⁴³ Tom Mason lit a cigarette,⁴⁴ waved a coffee cup at us, and in his gravely smoker's

* Professor Deborah Hodges Bell: J.D., University of Mississippi. A 1979 graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, Professor Bell joined the school's faculty in 1981. She is the founder of the school's Civil Legal Clinic and served as the clinic's director until 2009. Professor Bell is the author of the book *Bell on Mississippi Family Law*, currently in its second edition and widely used by the State's practitioners and judiciary. She has served on various statewide committees including the Access to Justice Commission Pro Se Committee, the Mississippi Gender Fairness Task Force, and the Supreme Court Domestic Violence Task Force. Professor Bell has received numerous awards including 2005 University of Mississippi Law Faculty Public Service Award, the 2006 Mississippi Bar Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year Award, 2007 Mississippi Center for Justice Champion of Justice Award, and the 2009 Mississippi Bar Susie Blue Buchanan Lifetime Award. As a student at the University of Mississippi School of Law, Bell served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Mississippi Law Journal*.

⁴¹ The 1973 film, based on the 1970 novel, starred John Houseman as Charles W. Kingsfield, Jr., the "boorish and pompous . . . [s]ocratic [m]onster" who served as the first-year Contracts professor at Harvard Law School. Michael Vitiello, *Professor Kingsfield: The Most misunderstood Character in Literature*, 33 HOFSTRA L. REV. 955, 966 (2005).

⁴² Now we have gender equality—the Kingsfield role was effectively reprised by a woman in the movie *Legally Blonde* when she asked one student if he would bet a classmate's life on his answer. *LEGALLY BLONDE* (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer 2001).

⁴³ The Farrah Fawcett "wings" look was the style of choice. Somehow it never looked like the poster.

⁴⁴ Thomas R. Mason joined the faculty of the University of Mississippi School of Law in the spring of 1973 and was appointed associate dean in the fall of 1983.

voice said, “Girl in the black t-shirt . . . stand up.”⁴⁵ My heart stopped. My voice shook.⁴⁶ Property was no better. I spent hours preparing my case presentation for “Iron” Mike Featherstone—complete with a diagram for the board.⁴⁷ He picked up an eraser, wiped away my notes and told me to sit down. I knew classmates who were physically ill before his class.

Having survived round one, we gathered for the first spring class in the strange first-floor room with the enormous column in the middle.⁴⁸ The schedule read Wills and Estates, Professor Robert Khayat. We all were, understandably, tense—girded for the next onslaught.

Robert’s teaching style was by far the friendliest and most relaxed we had encountered. The class was challenging, but there was no shouting. He was firm without being demeaning. He expected much from us . . . but he offered something in return. He remembered our names. He wanted to know about our hometowns. He asked about—and often knew—our parents. And, over the years, he never forgot us.

Robert has described the significance of one person’s friendliness to him as a lonely, homesick freshman. He has done the same for more students than we can count. Fittingly, the building that bears his name is designed for connection. The classrooms encourage exchange rather than create intimidation. The building is scattered with small group seating. Student organization offices are scattered among faculty offices, and a café

MICHAEL DE L. LANDON, THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW: A SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY 123, 144 (2006).

⁴⁵ Professors were free to smoke in class, including George Cochran, who repeatedly confused his cigarette with chalk and stabbed the blackboard, shooting sparks into the first row of the class.

⁴⁶ Professor Mason’s growl, it turned out, disguised an Okie heart of gold. But it took a while to realize that.

⁴⁷ D. Michael Featherstone joined the faculty of the law school in 1972 and would remain with the school for twenty-nine years before retiring in 2001. David W. Case, *Tribute to “Iron Mike” Featherstone*, 70 MISS. L.J. 497 (2000).

⁴⁸ Tommy Ethridge, whom we miss dearly, is alleged to have called repeatedly during one semester on “Mr. Post,” misreading the designation for the column on the seating chart.

Thomas R. Ethridge joined the law school faculty in 1971 following his service as a Mississippi State Senator and a United States attorney for the northern district of Mississippi. MICHAEL DE L. LANDON, THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW: A SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY 117 (2006).

offers a spot for faculty and students to mingle throughout the day. Even the staircases seem designed to make us stop and talk.

Robert's achievements as chancellor have been aptly documented. He will be remembered for the beauty of the campus, the expansion of private funding, securing Phi Beta Kappa, recruiting minority students. But what I will remember is that as a first-year law student he made me feel at home.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ And oddly, it has turned out to be just that.

MARY ANN CONNELL*

Chancellor Robert C. Khayat and I first met in the Sunday school class for freshmen students in Wesley Hall at the Oxford-University Methodist Church in early September 1956. I was a sophomore at the university attending the Sunday school class for a second year because Dean Malcolm Guess, the teacher, told my friend Mary Ann Mobley and me that we had failed the class the first time around and had to pay penance by coming back the second year to welcome and assist the next class of incoming freshmen. On the first Sunday of the fall semester in 1956, we welcomed the new group to our class with donuts and hot chocolate. Among the group were Dan Jordan from Philadelphia and two young men from South Mississippi, Robert Khayat and Warner Alford. Also in the class were Gerald Walton, later provost of the university, and his to-be wife, Julie Hart. That nurturing and supportive place spawned friendships that would last a lifetime.

Throughout our days at Ole Miss, I observed Chancellor Khayat to be the same warm, loving, caring, and charismatic person he is today. A true “Renaissance Man,” he studied history and literature, read and wrote poetry, appreciated music and the arts, and engaged in the life of the university community in all of its multi-faceted layers. He was the embodiment of what the study of liberal arts is about.

My first professional interaction with Chancellor Khayat came when he, Grady Tollison, and I practiced law together on the Square in Oxford. Although it was a time when women were not generally accepted in the legal world, they welcomed me, taught me how to practice law, supported me intellectually and personally, and caused me to love being a part of the legal profession.

Our lives continued to intersect professionally and personally. Shortly after Chancellor Khayat returned to the

* Mary Ann Connell: B.A., University of Mississippi; M.A., University of Mississippi; MLSci., University of Mississippi; J.D., University of Mississippi; LL.M., Harvard Law School. Ms. Connell was formerly general counsel for the University of Mississippi and a former president of the National Association of College and University Attorneys. She is presently of counsel with Mayo Mallette PLLC, Oxford, Mississippi.

campus to teach in the law school, I became the university attorney. I continued to see the boy-student of early Ole Miss days grow to become the man-student of later professor and chancellor days. Through all these years, I have continued to observe the eternal verities of William Faulkner—truth, justice, mercy, kindness, and love—lived out in this person whom I am honored to call my friend.

In 1969, Chancellor Khayat and his wife Margaret moved to Oxford shortly after my husband Bill and I did. Chancellor Khayat and I immediately restored our college friendship, but this time with an added dimension. I found Chancellor Khayat's wife Margaret to be my soul-mate. From the beginning of our friendship, we recognized that we are different in many ways, but those differences do not matter. We share a binding, loving relationship that ideological and political differences can never separate. She is one of the brightest, quickest, most well-read, interesting, loving, caring people I have ever known. Time spent with Margaret is time cherished by me. So, to Chancellor Khayat, I give my appreciation for bringing a true friend, Margaret, into my life.

Although Chancellor Khayat's accomplishments as chancellor are many, one in particular has provided the university with tremendous national recognition and will endure in perpetuity.

In his investiture address on April 11, 1996, Chancellor Khayat "set for the institution a series of goals that would improve the academic quality of the University of Mississippi, [and] stimulate the intellectual and cultural life of the university community. . . ."⁵⁰ One of his most ambitious goals was to pursue a long-held dream of *sheltering* a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.⁵¹ Many, including the chancellor's strongest supporters, thought he was dreaming the impossible.⁵²

⁵⁰ Robert C. Khayat *Investiture Address*, OXFORD EAGLE, Apr. 11, 1996, at 11B.

⁵¹ *Id.* The term "shelter" is used by Phi Beta Kappa to indicate that a college or university hosts a chapter of the academic fraternity.

⁵² See, e.g., Barbara Lago, *The Renaissance Man*, 54 OLE MISS ALUMNI REV. 24 (Summer 2005) (Gloria Kellum, vice chancellor for university relations, stated "When he unfolded his plans to pursue a chapter, I told him he was crazy, it was not possible. . . ."); Pamela Hamilton, *Accomplishment silences doubters*, DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN, Oct. 23, 2000, at 5 (noting that Chancellor Khayat admitted that "some people thought I'd lost my mind").

Chancellor Khayat displayed unwavering commitment and courage in an effort to obtain recognition by the nation's most prestigious academic honor society. Shortly after his appointment as the University of Mississippi's 15th chancellor, Chancellor Khayat called upon Dr. Douglas W. Foard, Secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, in Washington, D.C., to discuss how the university might succeed in its application for a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and why the university's previous applications had been denied.⁵³

Dr. Foard told Chancellor Khayat that the university's library holdings were inadequate, faculty salaries in the College of Liberal Arts were below standard, and student ACT scores were too low.⁵⁴ Dr. Foard also impressed upon the chancellor that the application for a chapter must originate with and be submitted by the faculty of the university who were members of Phi Beta Kappa. When he returned to Oxford, Chancellor Khayat first set about to remedy the problems Dr. Foard had identified. He solicited gifts from generous donors: \$8 million to support the holdings of the John D. Williams Library, \$5.4 million to recreate the honors program as the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College,⁵⁵ a gift equivalent to a \$60 million endowment to create the Croft Institute for International Studies, \$30 million from two former law students as an endowment for faculty salaries, and a \$25 million commitment from the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation for a state-of-the-art performing arts center.⁵⁶

The University of Mississippi Foundation Board of Directors enthusiastically undertook responsibility for planning and

⁵³ Phi Beta Kappa rejected the university's previous applications in 1952, 1977, 1983, and 1987. The university withdrew its pending application with the outbreak of the Civil War. Likewise, the university withdrew its application in 1930 when Governor Bilbo intruded into higher education in Mississippi and dismissed several faculty members. Phi Beta Kappa suspended action on all applications, including that of the University of Mississippi, in 1942 after the beginning of World War II.

⁵⁴ Interview with Robert C. Khayat (Mar. 30, 2011); 54 OLE MISS ALUMNI REV. 27 (Summer 2005).

⁵⁵ A later endowment by the Barksdales brought the total gift to \$8.3 million for continued support of the Honors College. The Honors College has housed some of the most gifted undergraduate students in the nation, including two Truman Scholars, two Goldwater Scholars, and a Rhodes Scholar.

⁵⁶ Interview with Robert C. Khayat (May 7, 2011); Interview with Don L. Fruge, former president and CEO of the University of Mississippi Foundation (May 2, 2011).

conducting a campaign for the private support that would fund academic enrichment projects for the library, scholarships, faculty salaries, and the honors program. The Phil Hardin Foundation provided a grant of \$24,000 to support the work of the Phi Beta Kappa Application Committee and subsequently gave a \$450,000 challenge grant to the university to be used in pursuit of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter.⁵⁷

After obtaining these gift commitments, Chancellor Khayat hosted a dinner at Memory House for the thirty-five regular and six emeriti Phi Beta Kappa faculty members at the university and asked if they were willing to undertake leadership in the arduous process of applying for a chapter. The assembled faculty accepted Chancellor Khayat's challenge, and thus began an unprecedented partnership, including Chancellor Khayat, the university administration, the foundation, the faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Ole Miss. With the endorsement of the Phi Beta Kappa faculty, Chancellor Khayat asked Dr. Ronald Schroeder, associate professor of English, to serve as chair of the Phi Beta Kappa Faculty Application Committee. Dr. Schroeder readily accepted and began work on the preliminary application. Chancellor Khayat offered the logistical support of the Office of the University Attorney toward compiling the massive amounts of data required. Nearly a year was spent gathering information and writing the preliminary application.

Chancellor Khayat and Dr. Schroeder delivered the university's 108-page preliminary application to the Phi Beta Kappa Society's Washington, D.C. headquarters on October 22, 1997.⁵⁸ When they returned to campus, Dr. Schroeder wrote Chancellor Khayat expressing his gratitude for the chancellor's "unflagging support of our application for a chapter of Phi Beta

⁵⁷ Letter from C. Thompson Waycaster to Chancellor Robert Khayat, Feb. 13, 1996 (on file in the office of the chancellor); *UM receives challenge grant to help obtain Phi Beta Kappa chapter*, OXFORD EAGLE, Oct. 10, 1997 (The challenge grant required the university to match the grant on a two-to-one basis. The university raised \$900,000 to be eligible to receive the \$450,000 grant.).

⁵⁸ Letter from Dr. Ronald A. Schroeder to The Committee on Qualifications, Phi Beta Kappa (Oct. 22, 1997) (on file in the office of the chancellor); memorandum from Dr. Ronald A. Schroeder to Phi Beta Kappa Faculty (Oct. 23, 1997) (on file in the office of the chancellor).

Kappa.”⁵⁹ In particular, he thanked the chancellor for having given the Application Committee material assistance (notably by enlisting the university attorney to give logistical support), focusing the community’s attention on the academic mission of the university, vigorously pursuing gifts and grants from external sources, and tirelessly offering encouragement and optimism.⁶⁰

The preliminary application was well-received. Work immediately began on a much longer and comprehensive General Report that contained detailed information regarding virtually every facet of the university’s mission and operation.⁶¹

The collaborative work in compiling this document took an entire year. On September 30, 1998, Dr. Schroeder delivered the 418-page General Report to the Phi Beta Kappa Society. The Society’s Committee on Qualifications gave its preliminary approval of the written application. Shortly thereafter, a team of visitors from Phi Beta Kappa came to campus.⁶² Over three days, they conducted an extensive study of the university’s resources that supported the application for a chapter. Impressed with the

⁵⁹ Letter from Dr. Ronald A. Schroeder to Dr. Robert C. Khayat, chancellor (Oct. 23, 1997) (on file in the office of the university attorney).

⁶⁰ *Id.* It should be noted that during this same time period, Chancellor Khayat faced the greatest challenge of his years as chancellor. He upheld the ban the athletic department placed on sticks and banners exceeding 11” x 14” from athletic arenas as part of its game-management practice. This action was part of the chancellor’s mission to change the image of the University of Mississippi by aggressively confronting its shortcomings, both real and perceived. His efforts resulted in Confederate flags almost totally disappearing from Vaught-Hemingway Stadium on football game days. See Kevin Sack, *The Final Refrains of “Dixie,”* N.Y. TIMES, Nov. 1, 1998, § 4A, at 20. The importance of Chancellor Khayat’s action in the flag controversy cannot be overemphasized. See Lago, *supra* note 5, at 29 (“Had we not dealt with the Rebel flag, we would not have received Phi Beta Kappa, and that is a fact,” Khayat said. ‘I was told that by people in Phi Beta Kappa. That trauma we went through in ‘97 was part of this package.’”); see also *A legacy inscribed*, TUPELO DAILY J., Apr. 18, 2011, available at http://nems360.com/view/full_story/12830730/article-EDITORIAL—A-legacy-inscribed? (“The Phi Beta Kappa designation the university eventually received would not have come without those changes, nor would the university’s heightened national profile.”).

⁶¹ The completed Report contained data on the organization of the university and the College of Liberal Arts, admission and enrollment of students, degrees conferred, the curriculum, grading policies, advising, cultural activities, faculty compensation, athletics, laboratories in the sciences, computing facilities, and the university’s financial condition.

⁶² Members of the visiting team were: Dr. Ira Fischler, psychology professor at the University of Florida; Dr. Allison Blakely, history professor at Howard University; and Dr. Solomon Gartenhaus, physics professor at Purdue University.

McDonnell-Barksdale Honors College; improved support for the libraries; the strengthening of the Liberal Arts faculty salaries; the diversity of the faculty, staff, and student body; and a rise in entering freshman ACT scores; the site team made a positive recommendation to Phi Beta Kappa's twelve-member Committee on Qualifications. In May 1999, the Committee on Qualifications recommended to the Phi Beta Kappa Senate that the faculty at the University of Mississippi shelter a chapter. The Senate followed the affirmative recommendation of the Committee and sent its positive vote to the Society's Council.

The final step in the process came on October 21, 2000, when Phi Beta Kappa Council delegates from all the chapters in the nation voted "overwhelmingly in favor" of establishing a chapter at the University of Mississippi.⁶³ Chancellor Khayat, Dr. Schroeder, and other representatives of the university were present at the national convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, when the 300 delegates from around the country made the final vote. Within minutes after the affirmative vote was announced, Chancellor Khayat said: "I'm thrilled for the university and our students. It is really a national affirmation that Mississippi has made a major commitment to high-quality higher education."⁶⁴ One observer, describing the chancellor's jubilant spirit, said he looked "like the man who just kicked the winning field goal."⁶⁵

Accolades and congratulations quickly poured in from faculty, students, alumni, donors, and officials at other universities. Phi Beta Kappa Society Secretary, Dr. Doug Foard praised the chancellor, saying: "Give Khayat the credit. He has brought the university to Phi Beta Kappa standards in all the areas identified in the past as weaknesses."⁶⁶ Congratulations from the higher education community and the press abounded.⁶⁷ On the day of the

⁶³ Chris Thompson, *Ole Miss lands Phi Beta Kappa chapter*, CLARION-LEDGER, Oct. 22, 2000, at 1A.

⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁵ Debbie Rossell, *Phi Beta Kappa says yes to Ole Miss*, OXFORD EAGLE, Oct. 23, 2000, at 1A.

⁶⁶ Thompson, *supra* note 22.

⁶⁷ See, e.g., *Aiming high: Ole Miss getting Phi Beta Kappa reflects state's greater aspirations*, NE. MISS. DAILY J., Oct. 24, 2000 ("It marks an important step in reaching Khayat's often stated goal for Ole Miss to become recognized as one of the nation's top public universities."); *Education: Phi Beta Kappa award benefits state*, CLARION-

next Ole Miss home football game, a plane flew over Vaught-Hemingway Stadium with a banner floating behind, “Phi Beta Kappa Comes to Ole Miss.” Joy, pride, and celebration over this remarkable achievement permeated the air on that homecoming day.⁶⁸

On April 6, 2001, the university held a formal ceremony in the Circle in front of the Lyceum to celebrate the University of Mississippi becoming the first chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at a public university in the State of Mississippi. Designated Beta of Mississippi, the chapter inducted fifty-six students from the top ten percent of those in the College of Liberal Arts as Ole Miss’s first class to be given the Golden Key of Phi Beta Kappa.⁶⁹ Since that time, Beta of Mississippi has inducted 692 students into its chapter at the University of Mississippi.⁷⁰

Chancellor Khayat made stellar contributions to the University of Mississippi during his fourteen-year tenure as leader of this institution, but none has been larger than his support of the Phi Beta Kappa faculty in their quest to shelter a chapter of the nation’s most prestigious academic honor society.⁷¹

LEDGER, Oct. 24, 2000, at 8A (“[T]he PBK decision shows the world that higher education in Mississippi is not only a priority, but an ongoing achievement.”).

⁶⁸ Warner Alford, former athletic director, described the occasion: “It was like winning the national championship.” Lago, *supra* note 5, at 28. Jesse Phillips, publisher of *The Oxford Eagle*, described the occasion as “Ole Miss scores academic ‘touchdown.’” Mr. Phillips went on to say: “None of The University’s great moments, i.e., a national championship in football, going to the College World Series in baseball or competing in post season play of basketball, tennis or golf, equal The University of Mississippi being tapped by Phi Beta Kappa.” Jesse P. Phillips, *Ole Miss scores academic ‘touchdown,’* OXFORD EAGLE, Oct. 24, 2000, at 4. Vice Chancellor Gloria Kellum, who had earlier thought Chancellor Khayat was asking for too much too fast with his quest for Phi Beta Kappa, apologized to the chancellor, saying, “When the chapter was approved in Philadelphia, I congratulated him and told him he was courageous. He looked at me and said, ‘What about crazy?’” Lago, *supra* note 5, at 24.

⁶⁹ Alpha of Mississippi of Phi Beta Kappa was chartered at Millsaps College in 1988 and was the first chapter of the Society in Mississippi. Beta of Mississippi remains the only chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at a public university in this state.

⁷⁰ Information on Beta of Mississippi inductees provided by Dr. Luanne Buchanan, Secretary-Treasurer of Beta of Mississippi, May 2-4, 2011.

⁷¹ “Coming just five years after Khayat was named chancellor, the vote is viewed by many across campus, state and nation as the pinnacle of his administration.” Lago, *supra* note 5, at 28.

DR. CAROLYN ELLIS STATON*

Having spent the better part of four decades on the Ole Miss campus, Robert Khayat, upon becoming chancellor, already knew all of the university's positives and negatives, nooks and crannies, and successes and failures. His belief in the potential of the university was unparalleled, and he had a keen sense that Ole Miss could be more than a solid state flagship. He knew that with some changes, it could evolve into one of America's great public universities.

Ole Miss had always been a home for Mississippi's gifted students, but Chancellor Khayat set out to make it more attractive to the state's best and brightest students. At the time he became chancellor, Ole Miss's existing honors program was small and had limited resources. He dreamed early that we could offer more to students, and before his investiture, he had already proposed creation of a full-scale honors college to alumni Jim and Sally Barksdale. At his inauguration, he announced the Barksdale gift, then the largest in the history of Ole Miss. There was overwhelming enthusiasm in the Ole Miss community for this endeavor.

And so, with his energy and vision, he created the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.⁷² He put great effort into recruiting the best students, and those efforts were so fruitful that the new Honors College quickly became a dominant part of the

* Carolyn Ellis Staton: B.A., Tulane University; M.A., Teacher's College of Columbia University; J.D., Yale Law School. A native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Dr. Staton served as an assistant U.S. attorney in New Jersey and practiced in a private firm in New York before joining the faculty of the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1977. During the 1993-94 academic year, Dr. Staton served as the acting dean of the law school. In 1994, she was appointed interim associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, and in 1995, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs. In 1999, Dr. Staton became the first female to hold the position of provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Mississippi. After Dr. Staton's service at the law school, former students honored her with the creation of an endowed scholarship in her name at the University of Mississippi School of Law. Dr. Staton was the first recipient of the Mississippi Bar Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year Award. She has also been the recipient of the Mississippi Bar Susie Blue Buchanan Award.

⁷² In 1997, the McDonnell-Barksdale Honors College was created through an endowment made by Jim and Sally Barksdale. After the death of Sally Barksdale in 2003, the honors college was renamed in her honor as the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. HISTORY OF THE SALLY McDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE, <http://www.honors.olemiss.edu/about/history/> (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

culture at Ole Miss. Within short order, students flocked to what he had created, a place that provided education that rivaled the Ivies and other elite private schools, but provided that education in an affordable manner. Today, the Honors College stands as a major achievement, drawing the best students into its community. Students proudly proclaim their identification with the Honors College, and they thrive in the unique opportunities it presents to them.

Chancellor Khayat did not stop with that academic achievement. Through the generosity of the Bancroft Foundation, he created the Croft Institute for International Studies.⁷³ Aware that universities in Mississippi had little or no courses in international studies, he saw the need to bring students to what has become a global table. Numerous faculty positions were added in new fields, and Asian studies, Latin American studies and Western European studies became established fields of learning. During Khayat's administration, the university went from having no courses relating to Asia to becoming the national flagship program for the study of Chinese.

It has long been known that Ole Miss produced a majority of state and federal political leaders. Building on this history, Chancellor Khayat built the Lott Leadership Institute, which would provide more opportunities for students to learn skills necessary to take on leadership roles, whether in government or the private sector.⁷⁴ Along with the Lott Institute, a new major, Public Policy, was created to provide a formal education for future leaders.

While concentrating on the academic community, increasing the size of the library, and bolstering faculty salaries, Chancellor Khayat knew that the road to greatness would take more. With

⁷³ The Croft Institute for International Studies hosts approximately 175 students from twenty-two states and twelve countries. Once in the program, students select a region and global theme on which to concentrate and are required to become proficient in a foreign language. CROFT INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, <http://www.croft.olemiss.edu/Pages/?section=5&page=45> (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

⁷⁴ The Lott Leadership Institute has a three-fold mission. First, prepare students to assume positions of leadership. Second, support policy research through the Public Policy Research Center. Third, create and support outreach programs. LOTT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, <http://www.lottinst.olemiss.edu/About/> (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

fortitude and vision he led Ole Miss into confronting its past, embracing it, and moving beyond it to become a national leader in racial reconciliation. Thus, the Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation was created,⁷⁵ and the forty-fifth commemoration of James Meredith's admission culminated in the dedication of a statue of Meredith and a reunion of the U.S. Marshals on campus during those turbulent days.

Chancellor Khayat clearly ranks as the most transformative of all Ole Miss chancellors. We often speak of his administration as a renaissance. That is not an understatement. Under his leadership, the University of Mississippi was reborn and became a model for the 21st century American university. His deep love for Ole Miss was the undercurrent for all his achievements, achievements that would dramatically enhance the university while ensuring that it is, indeed, one of America's great public universities.

⁷⁵ The William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation was founded in 1999 to "build more inclusive communities by promoting diversity and citizenship, and by supporting projects that help communities solve local challenges." THE WILLIAM WINTER INSTITUTE FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION, <http://www.winterinstitute.org/pages/aboutus.htm> (last visited Aug. 1, 2011).

DR. ANDREW P. MULLINS JR.*

Nobody loves the University of Mississippi more than Robert Khayat. During his fourteen-year tenure as chancellor, he demonstrated that love every day, and I truly believe that everything he did and each decision he made had the advancement of Ole Miss as the ultimate goal. His love was Ole Miss and his overriding passion was the way it looked—the beauty of the grounds and buildings; the types of flowers in the beds; the lighting of the campus; where the gutters emptied; the lack of paint on the doors and windows; where the air conditioners were located; the design of garbage cans; the height and color of the curbs; the content and color of every campus sign; where grass grew and where it did not and why it did not; the position of the pine straw; the canopy of the trees; the conditions of streets—including the color of pedestrian crossing stripes; and *trash*. To this day if I pass a small piece of litter without picking it up, I feel guilty and have this feeling like God is watching. I appreciate seeing students and faculty members continuing to take pride in the Ole Miss campus just as Robert Khayat instilled in all of us.

Like the rest of campus, his concern for the Grove was always high. On early season football game days, if the weather forecast was for rain, I knew that a call from the chancellor was imminent.⁷⁶ It always followed the same pattern—a concern for the soaked grass being trampled beyond repair by the crowds of fans followed by the question of why we don't close the Grove so it will remain in the beautiful condition it was before the season began. My reply was always the same, but painful nevertheless because I could sense the disappointment from one who loved the beauty of the Grove beyond any football fans. My consistent

* Dr. Andrew P. Mullins Jr. currently serves as chief of staff to the chancellor and as an associate professor of education. Mullins has served as the special assistant/chief of staff for three chancellors over a seventeen-year span. A native Mississippian, Mullins grew up in Macon, Mississippi before earning a B.A. in history from Millsaps College. Mullins would then earn his M.A. in history from Mississippi College and later attended the University of Mississippi to earn a Ph.D. in higher education administration. As a co-founder of the Mississippi Teacher Corps Program, Mullins continues to serve as a co-director for that organization.

⁷⁶ Mullins also serves as the chair of the University of Mississippi Game Day Committee, a group responsible for the planning and oversight of activities during game days on the Ole Miss campus.

response was that the grass would be trampled regardless, it would of course be replaced after the season, and we had to serve our fans despite the inclement weather. He would always respond that he knew I would say that, but it was worth a try nevertheless.

All of us who worked with Chancellor Khayat began to see things in a different perspective because of his attention to detail. Now when we visit other campuses, we notice various aspects of appearances that previously would have been overlooked. We all have a deeper appreciation of the small things that make such a difference in a campus—things that collectively contribute to the overall quality of the educational experience. As the appearance of the campus improved, the pride in the university grew. The feelings of those who worked and learned here were that this was indeed a special place. We relished the compliments of visitors and the favorable comparisons with other institutions of higher learning.

It was Chancellor Khayat's love for Ole Miss that prompted his interest in the possibility of a presidential debate being hosted at the university. In 2003, he walked into my office and asked if I knew anything about the presidential debates that had been hosted on university campuses. My reply was that I knew only of a university or two that had hosted in the past. He instructed me to get as much information as possible because he felt that hosting one in the 2004 campaign would be a good way to get our story told to the world. That goal of telling our story, of showing the world that the University of Mississippi had overcome many obstacles and was now a player on the international stage of research universities, would be our focus for the next four years as we learned that the best course of action was to concentrate on the election year of 2008 rather than 2004. The chancellor asked me to begin working on this possibility and promised his full support. The more we discussed the opportunity of telling our story—rising from a small, regional, provincial university with much historical baggage, to a diverse, comprehensive, world class research university—the more excited he became.

When the Commission on Presidential Debates first sent a team of inspectors to Ole Miss, the team members were impressed with the chancellor's commitment. He immediately assured them

that we would make every effort necessary. The Commission will not discuss why a site is chosen, and it is all speculation why we were selected in the late fall of 2007 as one of the four sites, but it was obvious the commitment shown by Robert Khayat from that first official visit was a major factor. The amount of money required, the massive physical changes in the campus, and the demands on the staff were daunting at times, but the chancellor's commitment to making it a positive experience for the Ole Miss-Oxford communities never wavered.

There were times when the changes to the campus and to the Ford Center were painful for him to watch—especially when the ugly chain link fence was erected.⁷⁷ There were occasions when he would storm into my office and ask why particular changes had to be made. He would offer suggestions for me to give the Secret Service or the Commission staff, but he knew like the suggestion on shutting the Grove for rain on game day, the answer would be the same. However, as the changes fell into place, the chancellor's worries were eased and he increasingly left the details to the Steering Committee while he concentrated on the big picture. He also had the foresight to realize that changes we were required to make for debate day should be made with the future in mind and have positive permanent effects as much as possible.

As the debate day approached he became more at peace and less concerned with the details. He was increasingly pleased with the student and faculty participation and encouraged everyone's involvement. He was confident, calm, and certain the debate would occur even in the midst of the crisis presented by Senator McCain's threat to not show.⁷⁸

Friday, September 26, 2008, went perfectly in every way. One of our most prominent alumni said to me immediately after the

⁷⁷ In preparation for the debate, the Commission on Presidential Debates required the university to erect fencing around the Ford Center and block nearby roads to protect the safety of presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama. Jason Linkins, *Ole Miss Officials: Debate Cancellation Would be \$5.5 Million Loss*, HUFFPOST POLITICS (Sept. 24, 2008 5:49 PM), http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/09/24/ole-miss-officials-debate_n_129057.html.

⁷⁸ Senator John McCain temporarily suspended his campaign in order to focus on congressional negotiations concerning the downturn in the U.S. economy and the proposed Paulson Bailout Package. As a result, McCain requested the debates at Ole Miss be postponed, which worried university officials that he may not attend the scheduled debate. *Id.*

debate, "I have never been prouder of my alma mater as I am tonight." Chancellor Robert Khayat was also filled with pride. The debate was the perfect capstone to the renaissance he had inspired. Due to his leadership, Ole Miss had shown the world the new University of Mississippi.

J. WARNER ALFORD JR.*

With the help of a young lady named Barbara Jean Hill—a classmate of mine at McComb High—I first met Robert Khayat in 1955 during my senior year of high school. Barbara Jean had an aunt and uncle in Moss Point, whom she would often visit. When Barbara Jean would visit Moss Point, Robert—then the big man on campus at Moss Point High—would show her around town, and they became friends.

Our senior year, Robert and I both signed with Ole Miss to play football. That fall, McComb hosted the South Big-Eight basketball tournament, and Barbara Jean told me Robert was coming to play. She also suggested I talk to him about rooming together at Ole Miss. When I found Robert during a break in play, I said, “Look, Barbara Jean says we ought to room together at Ole Miss,” to which he replied ‘Yeah, I guess she’s right.’ That’s how Robert and I met and started a friendship that flourished during our college years and remains today. That friendship has allowed me to view Robert’s greatest triumphs, but has also provided me with a glimpse of his resiliency and his ability to overcome all obstacles and setbacks that he encounters.

Most people do not know that Robert planned to become a doctor when he enrolled at Ole Miss. In fact, he came to Oxford the summer before his freshman year to take a Chemistry class, so he wouldn’t have to take it while playing football in the fall. His teacher was C.M. Jones, better known to his students as “Cyanide Jones.” Robert told me that Jones covered everything he had learned in Chemistry at Moss Point High in the first ten minutes of his college class. When “Cyanide” handed grades out at the end of the term, Robert got a D.

* J. Warner Alford Jr.: B.B.A., University of Mississippi; M.A., University of Mississippi. Alford, a native of McComb, Mississippi, served as a captain of the Rebels’ 1960 SEC and National Championship football team. A guard on the Rebels’ offensive line, Alford was inducted into the Ole Miss Sports and the Mississippi Sports Halls of Fame. Following his playing career, Alford returned to Ole Miss to serve as defensive line coach under Head Coach Billy Kinard. In 1978, Alford was hired as the University of Mississippi athletic director and held that position until 1994. From 1994 to 2004 Alford served as an executive in the insurance industry, before returning to Ole Miss in 2004 to lead the Ole Miss Alumni Association as its executive director. Alford is married to the former Kay Swayze, and the couple has three children and six grandchildren.

He was determined to do better the next semester, but after the first, he knew he needed help. So Robert went to talk to Cyanide Jones and said, "Dr. Jones, I really need some help in this class." Jones agreed, saying, "I think we can get you through this class, but if you pass, I want you to promise me you will never step foot in the Chemistry building again." Robert agreed and eventually did pass, but I always liked to say that Jones' Chemistry class ended Robert's hope of becoming a doctor, at least of medicine.

While at Ole Miss, Robert was a star athlete in two sports. He played baseball for Coach Tom Swayze and football for Coach John Vaught. As the Rebels' catcher, he helped lead Ole Miss to back-to-back SEC Championships in 1959 and 1960. As the Rebels' kicker, he led the nation in scoring by a kicker in 1958 and 1959. He also earned Academic All-American and All-SEC honors in 1959. All of those accolades, however, would not have been possible had Robert not had the resiliency he possessed.

Early in his college career, in 1958, we played the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. We had never beaten Tennessee in Knoxville, ever, but we were playing pretty good that game. We were up 16-12 after the half, but the lead didn't last long. Tennessee had a little back named Gene Etter, who broke a long run, and they went up 18-16. Then we got the ball and started driving down field. We moved the ball all the way to the 19-yard line, and all Robert had to do was kick a field goal to win the game—but Robert missed. A kick he had probably made a million times, but this time he was off the mark.

That miss tore him up. When we got back to campus, Robert told me he was going to the stadium. I asked if he wanted me to go with him, but he said, "No, I'll take Bill Keys." Bill, who was manager of our team, tells the story of how they went to the stadium, and he held the ball on the 19-yard line, while Robert kicked and kicked and kicked. Robert tells me he sometimes wakes up in the middle of the night and still thinks about missing that kick.

Robert's determination paid off, and after graduation the Washington Redskins drafted him in the NFL draft. He kicked for them, and even went to the Pro Bowl his rookie year. It was a golden year for Robert, and it appeared that everything was going

great. During the offseason, however, he went to Vicksburg to do his practice teaching, as he was planning on teaching high school after his football career. It was during that time, in the summer of 1961, that he developed pancreatitis. It was terrible. Robert's family was called to the hospital several times and told he wasn't going to make it, but like every other tough situation he has faced, he overcame it. He eventually went back home to Moss Point to recover, but he often says that he left Mercy Hospital in an ambulance, "but it could have been a hearse." Not only did Robert overcome his life-threatening illness, but he returned to the NFL and continued his pro career.

Robert's perseverance would earn him induction into the Ole Miss Athletics Hall of Fame and the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. During the Ole Miss Football Centennial in 1993, fans chose him as the kicker on the "Team of the Century." He also received the NFL Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998 and the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame's Distinguished American Award in 2003.

Following his pro career, Robert returned to our beloved Ole Miss to attend law school, where he graduated third in his class in 1966. Robert loved it so much that three years later he joined the law school's faculty. He took a short leave of absence during the 1980-1981 academic year to earn a master of laws at Yale University before returning home to Ole Miss to teach once again. Robert then ascended to the position of associate dean of the law school before moving to the lyceum to serve as vice chancellor in 1984. In 1989, Robert became the first president of the NCAA Foundation, a position he held for three years, but was once again called back to his post as a law professor at Ole Miss.

In 1993, the Ole Miss Law School was looking for a dean. Robert absolutely loves Ole Miss and the school of law, and he wanted nothing more than to be dean, but the faculty voted him unacceptable. Robert was incredibly hurt. I remember telling him, "Look, I think God has something better for you. Your time will come." I had no idea how prophetic those words would be. Two years later, the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning selected Robert to be the university's chancellor. The rest, as they say, is history. His legendary accomplishments as

chancellor are well-documented and would not have been possible had it not been for Robert's unwillingness to give up.

When Robert and I were playing football for Ole Miss, there was a 25-second play clock, meaning that if somebody knocked you on your keister or rang your bells so to speak, you had 25 seconds to shake it off, get back up, and get yourself back into the game. We called that the 25-second rule and Robert applied it to every aspect of his life both on and off the field. He refused to let difficulties or disappointments keep him down for long. It is why he has always bounced back, whether from missing a kick, illness, getting passed over as dean, or receiving letters and calls from people who wanted the university to halt its progress. Robert Khayat refuses to give up or be deterred by setbacks.

While he was chancellor, there were many challenges and obstacles that could have hindered his progress. But, just as he did in his personal life, Robert applied the 25-second rule and overcame them. As a result, Ole Miss improved academically and athletically, and it truly became the great public university that he envisioned.

Everyone knows of Robert's love for people and his affection for Ole Miss. As chancellor, he called members of the Ole Miss community his "family." Those of us who know him well know how much he meant those words. He believed in Ole Miss, and he wouldn't accept the thought that we, as a family, couldn't achieve our goal of becoming a great public university.

That resiliency is embedded in his character. Robert is able to make people believe in themselves and he inspires people to be better than they thought they could be. Others didn't start believing this really was a great university until they witnessed how much Robert Khayat believed in the university and how much he was willing to overcome to move the university forward. One of Robert's greatest goals was securing a Phi Beta Kappa chapter for Ole Miss. Achieving that goal was like winning the national championship and making the game-winning kick. No one believed we could win, but Robert went after it, and he achieved it. As long as I've known him, when he sets his mind to achieving something, he does whatever it takes to achieve that goal.

The University of Mississippi is better because of Robert's love, service, and vision for making it a great university. He lived and fulfilled his dream for Ole Miss through his dynamic leadership, which he learned on the playing field. That's where he learned the benefits of teamwork and developed his never-quit attitude. As chancellor, he built a leadership team that loved him and Ole Miss, and then he gave us the ball and let us run with it. Because we believed in him and believed in what he wanted to accomplish, there wasn't anything we couldn't do. When the game-ending buzzer sounded, Robert and his team had transformed the entire university.

It is a fitting symbol of his love and his resolve that the school that once voted him unacceptable as its dean now finds itself housed in a building bearing his name.

CHANCELLOR DANIEL W. JONES*

When Robert C. Khayat announced his retirement as chancellor two years ago, many of us were deeply shaken. We simply could not imagine Ole Miss without him at its helm, because it was he who inspired us to accomplish more than we ever dreamed we could, and we treasured the years we were privileged to work with him. Few loved the university and its people more, or better, than he did, and it was that love that inspired him, and us, to work to build Ole Miss into a great university worthy of admiration and respect.

Chancellor Khayat's deep affection for Ole Miss began as a student, when he was a catcher for baseball coach Tom Swayze and a kicker and lineman for legendary football coach John Vaught. Since then, that affection, coupled with his ability to enable people to believe in themselves and what they are doing, has sparked a multitude of achievements that faculty, staff, students, and alumni believed impossible.

Those of us in the Ole Miss community caught our first glimpse of that love when he was invested as chancellor. He began his tenure by shoring up academic programs. He did so by sharing his vision for academic excellence with others and enlisting their help to significantly increase endowments, library holdings, technological resources, liberal arts programs, and student scholarships. Shortly afterward, university faculty secured a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, the first awarded to a public university in Mississippi.

Chancellor Khayat demonstrated this love and commitment many times during his fourteen years as our CEO. On his watch,

* Daniel W. Jones, M.D., is the 16th chancellor of the University of Mississippi. Prior to his appointment on July 1, 2009, Dr. Jones was vice chancellor for health affairs, dean of the school of medicine, and Herbert G. Langford professor of medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) in Jackson. Active in the American Heart Association (AHA), Dr. Jones served as national president of the organization from 2007 to 2008. A native Mississippian, he graduated from Mississippi College in 1971 and earned his M.D. in 1975 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Upon completion of his residency, he maintained a private practice in Laurel, Mississippi. A fellow of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Jones is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and is designated as a specialist in clinical hypertension by the American Society of Hypertension Specialists. He has been named one of the "Best Doctors in America" from 1996 to 2008 and is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha national honor medical society.

Ole Miss conducted two capital campaigns that raised nearly \$775 million. With the help of thousands of donors, the university created its top-notch Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, Lott Leadership Institute, Croft Institute for International Studies, and Galtney Center for Academic Computing. The university also produced two Rhodes Scholars, rose in the national rankings, and hosted a presidential debate. All of these accomplishments, and others, reflect Chancellor Khayat's ability to share his affection and vision for the university with all of those around him.

Chancellor Khayat has been a dedicated caretaker. He left the university a foundation that includes one of the country's most beautiful and well-maintained campuses, an annual operating budget of nearly \$1.5 billion, and a legacy of securing more than \$170 million worth of research each year, and providing some \$138 million annually in financial aid to deserving students. Under his transformational leadership, Ole Miss invested more than \$535 million in physical facilities on the Oxford and Jackson campuses. On the Oxford campus, these facilities include a new performing arts center, chapel, business and accountancy complex, eight-story Inn at Ole Miss, indoor practice facility, academic support center, residential college, and office buildings for the athletics and physical plant departments. At the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, new facilities include a new university hospital, student union, research center, health-related professions building, and new critical care, children's, and women and infants hospitals.

Few people have done more to enhance the university, and certainly no one could have asked for more effort, diligence, love, and ability than we received from Robert Khayat. Chancellor Khayat was never shy about telling members of the university family that they have a responsibility to move our university and state forward. His increased expectations lifted every part of the university, and that has led to greater expectations throughout our state. During my time at the Medical Center, he encouraged us to expand our vision and role in addressing health disparities in our state and nation. Like many others, I simply couldn't say, "No" whenever he asked for my help, and working with him is a rare privilege.

We believed in him and believed in what he wanted to accomplish for our university, so we gave to Ole Miss, or we gave our best for her. It could be said that Chancellor Khayat created and coached his own legendary team of Ole Miss faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends. We are privileged to have been a part of that team.

Our former provost once said that Ole Miss was relatively unknown before Robert Khayat became its chancellor, but was much more nationally prominent when he retired in 2009.⁷⁹ Chancellor Khayat did, indeed, change the university's direction, and I, too, think history will treat him as one of the heroes of Ole Miss. I say that because I watched his efforts to make his alma mater blind to color and warm and welcoming to all. Under his leadership, the university commemorated the fortieth anniversary of its integration, erected a civil rights monument, and established the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation. By the time he retired, Chancellor Khayat had helped create a model of reconciliation and a university culture that values and respects the dignity of everyone.

When Chancellor Khayat retired nearly two years ago, he said he was doing so "with a heart filled with gratitude to the thousands of people who support our university" and "with an abiding affection for the people and the school."⁸⁰ We, on the other hand, will always be thankful for his many years of leadership and service. Many of us have tried over the years to express our gratitude and our affection for him. But those efforts fell short of the appreciation Robert Khayat is owed. We have inducted him into our Athletics Hall of Fame, chosen him as the kicker for our "Team of the Century" and our Outstanding Law Professor of the Year, and established scholarships in his name. Now we are immensely proud to place the name Robert C. Khayat upon this school's magnificent new law center not only to ensure that his contributions to Ole Miss are remembered by future generations,

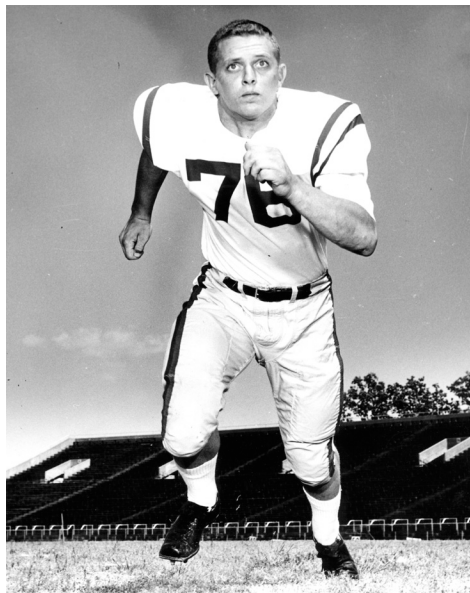
⁷⁹ *Chancellor Announces Retirement Plans: Robert Khayat to Retire June 30, After 14 years Shepherding Ole Miss*, (Jan. 6, 2009), http://news.olemiss.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4287%3Akhayatretirement&catid=124%3Anewsdesk1arc&Itemid=10.

⁸⁰ *Id.*

but also to inspire them to accomplish more than they ever dreamed they could.



*Robert Khayat played catcher for the Ole Miss Rebels baseball team



*As a result of his success on the football field, Robert Khayat was selected as the placekicker on the Ole Miss "Team of the Century"



*The Washington Redskins drafted Robert Khayat in the 1960 National Football League draft



*Robert Khayat served as the Redskins' starting kicker for three years



*Professor Khayat lecturing first-year law students in what is now Farley Hall



*Associate Dean Khayat at work in his office at the Lamar Law Center



*Chancellor Khayat leads students on a walk through campus



*Chancellor Khayat at work in his office in the Lyceum



*Chancellor Emeritus Khayat in the new Robert C. Khayat Law Center



*Chancellor Emeritus Khayat with wife Margaret, daughter Margaret Khayat Bratt and her husband David, son Robert C. Khayat, Jr., and his wife Susannah Baker Khayat, and the Khayat's grandchildren Molly, Ben, and Betsey