Partners,

Throughout the year, as audience members and financial supporters of our outstanding arts events, you demonstrate your love for theatre, music, the visual arts, dance, creative writing; and your commitment to their vibrancy at the university and in the local community.

This past academic year, you have helped us to present the Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit, the Ceramics National Showcase, a visit from acclaimed novelist Ben Lerner, the Southern Arena Theatre, dance showcases, and music of all kinds: *The Mikado*, the Southern Invitational Choral Conference, An International Serenade, and so much more.

Our performances enrich the cultural life of our community, allow our faculty to demonstrate their talents, and—most importantly—give our talented, hard-working arts students opportunities to learn, refine, and present their art. The life-changing possibilities for our students and the abundance of cultural richness for our community depend on your support.

Thank you for your gift to the arts at Southern Miss through your membership in Partners for the Arts. I’ll see you at the theatre, the dance studio, the art gallery, and the performing arts centers.

It has been my privilege to serve as your 2016-17 chair of Partners for the Arts. Our primary goals are to support and enhance the arts, promote arts education, and expand access to regional, national and international arts events and artists.

This past year was an exciting one for Partners for the Arts as we celebrated 20 years of supporting the arts at Southern Miss. We increased our membership by 14% and raised over $50,000 for support of the arts. These funds helped support 23 programs at the university in all of the arts disciplines to include art, creative writing, dance, music and theatre. Additionally, Partners for the Arts was able to award financial support directly to five students through the “Emerging Artist Award.”

Raising community awareness of the wonderful opportunities that are available to the public is just one of the many contributions and goals of our organization. Join us today and know that your support is part of the overall success of the arts taking Southern Miss to the Top!

RUSS WILLIS
CHAIR
PARTNERS FOR THE ARTS

MAUREEN RYAN, PH.D.
DEAN
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS
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The Southern Miss Hattiesburg campus is the venue for the 2016 Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, which features works of artists from across the country that will beautify our campus through April 2018. The exhibition featured four sculptures, including "It's All About Electricity" by Richard Herzog, installed behind the Liberal Arts Building; "Delphinian," a stainless steel piece by Andrew Light, installed in front of the Liberal Arts Building; "Better Days" by Nathan Pierce, installed in front of the International Center; and "Appalachian Balance Beam" by Durant Thompson, installed between Cook and McCain Libraries. The artists installed their works, conducted workshops, and spent time speaking to the community at evening lectures.

The University of Southern Mississippi Museum of Art hosted the Southern Miss Ceramics National, an exhibition of ceramic sculpture and sculptural vessel forms created by artists from across the United States. The nationally juried exhibition was the first of its kind at Southern Miss and attracted visitors and ceramic arts advocates from across the South. The national call for entries attracted attention from artists, curators, arts educators and collectors from across the country. In conjunction with the show, renowned ceramic artists Brian Harper, showcase juror, and Kenneth Baskin also gave lectures.

2017 Ceramics Visiting Artist Series welcomed Peter Christian Johnson, assistant professor of art at Kent State University to Southern Miss. Johnson hosted a three-day workshop, where he demonstrated advanced hand-building techniques in clay, as well as a résumé workshop, a Q&A session, and individual meetings with students for formal/informal critiques.

MacArthur Fellow Ben Lerner, winner of a 2015 MacArthur Genius Grant. Ben Lerner was on campus for two special events: a reading of his current work and a craft discussion, where he shared insights about his process for writing fiction, nonfiction and poetry.
The Hub Dance Collective (HDC) is a contemporary dance collective formed by Southern Miss Department of Dance faculty and serves as the only professional contemporary dance company in South Mississippi. HDC hosted its fourth annual Summer Concert Series in collaboration with the Southern Miss School of Music and the Hattiesburg community. The concert featured unforgettable evenings of live music and professional contemporary dance.

The National Dance Artist Series brought independent choreographers and small dance companies from around the nation to teach, choreograph for Southern Miss students, hold lectures/open rehearsals for the Southern Miss and Hattiesburg communities, and perform. The RE/Dance Group, based in Chicago, Ill., was in residency at Southern Miss for three days, during which they offered four master classes, a performance and a creative process talk. NDAS provides Hattiesburg communities exposure to the diverse range of dance art happening across the country.

Southern Miss Theatre opened its 2016 fall semester with Next to Normal by Brian Yorkey and Tom Kitt. This award-winning rock musical offered an unflinching look at a suburban family struggling with the effects of mental illness. Next to Normal has been acknowledged as one of the best musicals of recent years, winning the Outer Critics' Circle Award for Outstanding Score and the 2009 Tony Award for Best Original Score. It also won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, becoming just the eighth musical in history to receive the honor.
The Southern Invitational Choral Conference (SICC) is one of the best recruiting tools for the School of Music, as it brings top choral music students from high school and community colleges to our campus. Participating students are chosen by their teachers to participate in a two-day honor choir with guest conductors. The event has also become a great training ground for our own students, as graduate students in choral conducting operate this conference and play a large role in evaluating the process when the conference is over each year.

SOUTHERN INVITATIONAL CHORAL CONFERENCE
Faculty Sponsor | Greg Fuller
Attendance | 82 schools
Awarded | $2,500

The Southern Invitational Choral Conference (SICC) is one of the best recruiting tools for the School of Music, as it brings top choral music students from high school and community colleges to our campus. Participating students are chosen by their teachers to participate in a two-day honor choir with guest conductors. The event has also become a great training ground for our own students, as graduate students in choral conducting operate this conference and play a large role in evaluating the process when the conference is over each year.

FESTIVALSOUTH
Faculty Sponsor | Jay Dean
Attendance | +20,000
Awarded | $1,500

The City of Hattiesburg came alive with the exciting eighth season of FESTIVALSOUTH, Mississippi’s only multi-week, multi-genre arts festival, offering both free and ticketed events to local residents and cultural tourists. Musical offerings ranged from blues and jazz to Broadway, classical and bluegrass. To cap off the incredible list of line-ups, the “Artie” events for children and late-night events contributed to making it the best season yet.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SEASON 16-17
Faculty Sponsor | Jay Dean
Awarded | $7,500

The 97th season saw the venerable symphony perform music from across the spectrum of musical genres. Opening night, "The Power of Influence" featured Dr. Ellen Elder, a faculty member in her debut appearance with the symphony. Other season highlights included An International Serenade, a glorious evening of music that celebrated internationalism in the School of Music; Close Connections, featuring the exceptional talents of assistant professor of oboe, Dr. Galit Kaunitz; and An International Carousel. The symphony season came to a close with an audience favorite, Future Stars. Each year the symphony honors the memory of William T. Gower, a renowned woodwind performer, teacher and conductor of the orchestra, by awarding three superb musicians a performance with the symphony.

HOLIDAY CHORAL SPECTACULAR
Faculty Sponsors | Greg Fuller and Jay Dean
Attendance | 2,000
Awarded | $1,500, $1,500

Activities, the USM Symphony Orchestra and the Hattiesburg Choral Union planned a two-night event of full orchestra and chorus celebrating the much anticipated holiday season. The Holiday Spectacular is meant to bring together not only the community, but regional schools, which are invited to participate in this special performance as well. This year, the two sold-out evenings featured 400 participants, including local choral groups from Petal Middle School, Sumrall Middle School and Purvis Middle School.
The Connoisseur’s Chamber Music Series is committed to bringing to the Hattiesburg and Southern Miss communities the very best in national and international artists. The 2016-17 season included performances by the Ariel Quartet, Millennium Ensemble, Audition Mode and Greg Tardy Quartet. Concerts were presented in a variety of venues in the Hattiesburg area. Additionally, each of the ensembles provided an educational outreach program to students in Hattiesburg and the surrounding communities.

The world-renowned trombonist, Colin Williams, associate principal trombone of the New York Philharmonic, was the featured guest artist of the 2017 Southern Miss Trombone Day. He performed a solo recital, gave a master class, and a lecture, and was featured with the Southern Miss Trombone Choir. Mr. Williams is a leading musician and master pedagogue in the trombone community.

The USM Symphony Orchestra and the Southern Opera and Musical Theatre Company presented Gilbert and Sullivan’s The Mikado. This world-famous musical comedy took the stage and, as part of the fun, took aim at local and national politics and personalities. The Mikado gave singers, dancers and instrumentalists a wonderful educational experience, while providing a major cultural experience for the general public.

The Southern Miss Cello Festival, in its fifth edition, is a two-day marathon of guest artist recitals, master classes and cello orchestra performances, and this year, it featured Robert Jesselson from the University of South Carolina and Kimberly Patterson from the University of Memphis. The festival offers cellists from all over the South an opportunity to meet and learn from the best professionals in the field of cello playing.
The Southern Flute Festival’s third edition featured the internationally renowned flutist Raffaele Trevisani. The festival is the most important flute-related event in the Gulf Coast region each summer, and it featured activities geared to all levels of flute playing from middle school through graduate level, as well as amateurs and flute enthusiasts. Students got to enjoy two full days of wonderful master classes, lectures, recitals and competitions.

FLUTE FESTIVAL
Faculty Sponsor | Danilo Mezzadri
Attendance | 100
Awarded | $1,000

The 2016 Baroque Week brought to our campus renowned Spanish cellist and baroque music specialist Aldo Mata. Mata gave two master classes and a piano recital. The grand finale concert, with the Southern Miss String Orchestra, was hosted in the Hattiesburg Cultural Center in downtown Hattiesburg.

BAROQUE WEEK
Faculty Sponsor | Marcos Machado
Attendance | 110
Awarded | $1,000

World-class clarinetist, Dr. Lisa Overlander, and body mapping instructor Dr. Andrée Martin, were in residence at Southern Miss as our featured artists for 2017 Clarinet Day. Dr. Overlander presented a solo recital and master class, and Dr. Martin presented a body-mapping clinic, designed to help students perform with ease and avoid injury.

CLARINET DAY
Faculty Sponsor | Jacqueline McIlwain
Attendance | 50
Awarded | $1,000
20th anniversary

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PARTY
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
APRIL 4, 2017 | TRENT LOTT CENTER

Partners for the Arts members enjoyed an evening of light hors d’oeuvres, beverages and featured entertainment hosted by the Partners for the Arts Executive Board and the College of Arts and Letters in celebration of its 20th anniversary.

The College of Arts and Letters and PFTA bestowed awards to honor and thank Mark Rigsby, Charles Thomas and the Hattiesburg Arts Council for their contribution to the Arts programs.

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Mark Rigsby | Faculty of the Year
Charles Thomas | PFTA Member of the Year
Rebekah Stark-Johnson | Hattiesburg Arts Council | Community Organization

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS AND 20 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT! LET’S CONTINUE TO TAKE THE ARTS AT SOUTHERN MISS TO THE NEXT LEVEL.
GRAND BENEFACCTOR
Dr. and Mrs. J. Larry Smith in memory of Mrs. Jane Becker Heidelberg

BENEFACCTOR
Temple and Rodney Bennett
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<table>
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<th>Revenue Description</th>
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<td>Partners Fund (Friends of the Arts)</td>
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2001-02 | Ned Mcinnis
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2003-04 | Jimmy Mckenzie*
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2007-08 | Becky Montague
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