

# University of Mississippi School of Engineering, Rust College partner for Dual-Degree Program

*Students earn degrees from each institution with a five-year course plan*

Holly Springs, Miss. – With a new dual-degree program, students can pursue mathematics at Rust College for three years and follow up with two years at the University of Mississippi School of Engineering. Four tracks are included in this partnership: biomedical engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering and mechanical engineering. Successful students graduate with a degree in mathematics from Rust and an engineering degree from Ole Miss. Students get the best of

both worlds with this arrangement, Rust College President Ivy R. Taylor said. “We are grateful and excited about this new partnership with Ole Miss School of Engineering, which expands offerings and opportunities for Rust College students,” Taylor said. “Engineering is a strong career field that needs more diversity and our Rust College students can now benefit from the small, supportive environment at Rust for three years and the strong engineering

program at Ole Miss for two years.

“We will increase the pipeline of Black engineers for business and industry and increase diversity at the state’s flagship institution through this innovative partnership. I appreciate everyone who worked to make this a reality.”

UM Chancellor Glenn Boyce also hailed the collaboration

“This outstanding partnership with Rust College is an important initiative to produce more STEM majors, which will have a distinct impact on our state and region,” he said. “This collaboration is especially notable between Mississippi's oldest historically Black college and the state's oldest engineering school.

“I'm excited to see how this program will provide students more options and opportunities as well as prepare them to succeed

## MC announced President's List

Clinton, MS -- Hallie Westbrook of Pickens was named to the Spring 2021 President's List at Mississippi College.

The Mississippi College Office of Academic Affairs releases the president's list after the close of fall and spring semesters each academic year. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must maintain a 4.0 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system. The student must take a full course load of at least 12 semester hours of undergraduate credit with all academic courses impacting their grade point average.

Mississippi College, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is a private, co-educational, Christian university of liberal arts and sciences serving more than 4,700 students, from 40 states and more than three dozen countries. Founded in 1826, Mississippi College is the oldest institution of higher learning in Mississippi, the largest private university in the state and America's second oldest Baptist college. Mississippi College is home to 84 areas of undergraduate study, 16 graduate programs, a doctor of jurisprudence, a doctor of education leadership degree, and a doctor of professional counseling degree. Mississippi College seeks to be a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ.

and thrive in their careers and in leadership roles.”

It was serendipity that sparked this partnership.

Marni Kendricks, assistant dean at the School of Engineering, met with Rust College’s baseball coach Stanley Stubbs last year to discuss an engineering student project for the college’s athletics facilities. As they were talking, a potential student called Stubbs asking if the college had an engineering program; he was keen to attend Rust but wanted to study engineering.

That got the ball rolling. Officials at Rust’s Division of Science and Mathematics and UM’s School of Engineering spent the next six months working to integrate the degree course plans so that students could meet all requirements within five years.

“A degree in mathematics from a historic liberal arts institution, an engineering degree and a paid engineering internship, all within five years, makes for a graduate ready to go make the world a better place,” Kendricks said.

Dartell Treadwell, vice president of student engagement at Rust, worked closely with Kendricks to develop the curriculum.

“We have been intentional in setting up this program,” Treadwell said. “Rust stu-

dents are taking engineering classes at Ole Miss by their sophomore year. That introduces them to engineering students, faculty and campus early on.”

Integral to this work was Donald Cole, math professor at Rust and professor emeritus at Ole Miss. His knowledge of both institutions and his passion for inclusive education, especially with STEM subjects, streamlined the process.

UM engineering Dean Dave Puleo stresses the wider benefit of this program.

“Engineering will solve many of the great challenges of the 21st century: health care, climate change, infrastructure and more,” Puleo said. “A goal of this partnership with Rust is to create a more diverse group of young engineers, who bring a variety of backgrounds and experiences to create innovative solutions.”

The dual-degree program will be available to students beginning in fall 2021.

About Rust College Rust College is a historically Black, co-educational, senior liberal arts college founded in 1866 by the Freedmen’s Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church to offer quality programs in business, education, humanities, science and math, and social sci-

ence to prepare students for leadership and service in the global society.

Located in Holly Springs, Rust College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate and baccalaureate degrees.

For more information about Rust College, call 662-252-8000, ext. 4915, or visit <http://www.rustcollege.edu>.

About the University of Mississippi

The University of Mississippi, affectionately known as Ole Miss, is the state's flagship university. Included in the elite group of R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification, it has a long history of producing leaders in public service, academics and business.

Its 16 academic divisions include a major medical school, nationally recognized schools of accountancy, law and pharmacy, and an Honors College acclaimed for a blend of academic rigor, experiential learning and opportunities for community action.

Recognized among the nation's most beautiful, Ole Miss’ main campus is in Oxford, which is routinely acknowledged as one of the country’s best college towns.

# Butcher, Baker and Candlestick maker

“Butcher, Baker, and Candlestick maker”, which one fits you? It seems that just here lately everybody wants to be a baker and they want to use White Lilly flour and they want to make biscuits. I have never seen so many different ways to make and prepare the ever hopefully light as air and high as the



## Peggy's Take

sky concoctions. Everybody has their own recipe and theirs is, of course, the best. I was taught at an early age the best way to make the perfect biscuit. I had the best teacher, my grandmother. Of course, we did not have the special flour everyone wants now, but we had a good flour and made delightful biscuits. She had a big dough trough, which I was fortunate enough to have been gifted by her, that she kept her flour in and stored it inside her old pie safe, with her old sifter with the wooden handle. There was a small opening in the bottom of her safe that her dough bowl and her sifter would fit and that’s where they were put each time, she finished using them.

Every morning she would bring these treasures out and make those delicious biscuits. She always made herself two regular sized and made my granddaddy two about the size of a saucer. He would always brag that he only ate two biscuits every morning, but he never said how big they were.

I can remember standing

on my little box my granddaddy made me to boost me at the table and to stand on as I helped her in the kitchen, to “help” her make these morning delights. She would always start by making a ‘well’ in the flour, filling it with lard made from the last hog they had killed, working it through the dough and then adding some of her homemade butter-milk to form the pinched off dough for each biscuit, laying them on the flat iron skillet and slipping them into a really hot oven. As she pulled them from the oven, my

granddaddy would be sitting at the long roughhewn table tapping on the flowered oil cloth saying, ‘biscuit, biscuit.’”

I have made these mouth-watering savories many times, but I have never duplicated the same taste that she would pull from the old wood fed oven.

## GRANDMOTHER'S BISCUITS

Add 2 t. baking powder, 1 T. sugar, ½ t. salt, ½ cup shortening, 2/3 cup of buttermilk, and work together with your hands. After mixing and smooth, pinch off desired amount or roll out and cut out with a biscuit cutter. Place in a hot oven, 400\* for about 10 – 12 minutes. Then.....all you would need would be some of her fresh churned butter.

*Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.*