



Leadership *Matters*

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The Newsletter of the Lott Leadership Institute at The University of Mississippi

Welcome Back!

We hope everyone had a great summer and a great start back to the school year. We hope the semester so far has been exciting and educational. To our new freshman, transfer, and late-entry students, we are so excited to have you as a part of our program. Please know that the Lott Student Advisory Board is always here as a resource if you need help navigating the Institute or campus. To our returning students, we hope your Lott classes are going well!

Thank you to everyone who attended our first annual Orchid Ball! The proceeds are going to make a real difference in the cultivation and nurturing of Mississippi's students, and we are so grateful for your support. We'll be looking forward to sharing announcements about funding recipients and hopefully getting to see the awesome things our METP grads will do with the money.

Finally, we want to let you know that we will be setting up panels throughout the year for Lott alumni to speak about the Lott experience, their post-graduation paths, and how to apply the lessons we learn here outside the Institute's doors. Please keep an eye out on your email for updates on these panels and information on how to join in on the discussion.

Leadership *Matters* is a newsletter series with roots at the Institute's founding, and we thought it fitting to draw on this tradition as we look for opportunities to grow and improve. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and hearing some updates from your fellow Lott students. Thank you, and Lotty Toddy!

*Yours,
The Lott Student Advisory Board*

Orchid Ball 2021: Continuing Legacies, New Traditions



(from left to right): Mrs. JoAnn's orchid; Mrs. JoAnn; Orchid Ball Banner (designed by Carrie McPherson)

September 23, 2021. On her retirement, Mrs. JoAnn Edwards was given an orchid, a reminder of the unceasing and regenerative power of the grace and care she always showed those around her. As an extension of that tenderness, strength, and consistency, this year marked the first annual Orchid Ball, held at Oxford's Powerhouse. Established to further the Lott Institute's community engagement efforts, the Orchid Ball serves as a rotating benefit for organizations in the LOU community. For this inaugural year, funds raised will go towards graduating METP students to support the set-up and development of their classrooms.

The study of leadership tells us to act; the study of policy tells us how to. The public policy leadership curriculum has always been focused on developing and using the tools available to us to better ourselves and one another. The Orchid Ball is an example of such efforts.

Originally scheduled to take place in March 2020, the Orchid Ball has been a long time coming. Thanks to the tireless efforts of numerous volunteers, that work has finally come to fruition, marked by dancing, music, and fun—for Lott students and guests alike. In total, this event raised over \$2,000 to benefit METP students and their classrooms.

We are so thankful to everyone who attended and donated to this cause, and we can't wait to see how this event develops in the future! Special thanks to the Associated Student Body for co-sponsoring this event, Katelin Hayward and Carrie McPherson for their tireless planning efforts, as well as Dr. Jones and Mr. Gottshall for all their support.

See Internship Spotlights, Leadership Stories, and more inside





Internship *Spotlight*

Lott students apply leadership skills outside of the classroom

Despite the uncertainties brought about by the pandemic, our students have found ways to garner experience, cultivate their leadership skills, and serve their communities through internships. Here's a spotlight on four of our Lott leaders.



Dresden Day

Administrative Assistant, Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

"Working for A.G. Bell, I realized how much goes into making a nonprofit successful in the work that they do. This summer, my primary job was to write weekly updates to organization members highlighting the children who A.G. Bell has helped. I also worked with the Association's lobbyist, helping her fight for the rights of deaf children in the U.S. In doing so, I learned that there is more to Washington than politics."



Jack Furla

Legislative and Constituent Service Intern, D.C. Office of Sen. Roger Marshall

"Interning with Sen. Marshall's office, I had the opportunity to work both with his legislative team (researching bills and providing voting recommendations) and with his constituent service and press team (working with Kansans on their concerns). I was able to see how things really work in Congress and was right there in the action. I felt that I was able to grow as a student, decision-maker, and leader, as well as gaining career skills. I am honored to represent the Lott Institute in this capacity this summer."



Emmaline Schild

Pre-College Counselor, Lott Institute for Rising 9th and 12th Graders

"This summer, I had the honor of getting to showcase a little of what the Lott Institute has to offer. I was able to guide two sessions of rising 9th and 12th Graders during a month-long program which worked to develop leadership skills, earn credit, and get prepared for college. As a counselor, I worked to foster the potential in each student and deepen their engagement in the world. I loved getting to show 'Lotties' my passion for the program and all it has to offer!"



Olivia Maurer

Congressional Intern, D.C. Office of Rep. Garrett Graves (LA-06)

"Interning with Rep. Graves, I was able to deepen my understanding of policy areas of interest, as well as learning about new ones! I gained experience covering weekly House committee meetings and briefings, writing constituent letters, press releases, and vote recommendations. I also had the opportunity to present a portfolio to the Congressman based on my own original research. The internship gave me exposure to public policy in action and made me feel more prepared for a career in public service!"





Catching up and moving on: Some updates from around the Institute

Lott students win big in Fall Homecoming Elections

Yet again, Lott students made a fantastic showing in this year's Homecoming Elections, sponsored by the Associated Student Body (ASB), with several students throwing their hats in the ring as candidates. Notable wins this year include Ian Pigg (Mr. Ole Miss) and Madison Gordon (Miss Ole Miss).

Behind the scenes, Attorney General Grace Dragna and Deputy AG for Elections Kinsey Carlson brought elections back to the Lyceum steps in style, rolling out new voter engagement initiatives resulting in the University's second highest election turnout on record.

Congratulations to all those involved with homecoming campaigns this fall, and look out for more opportunities to get involved as the ASB Department of Justice begins to evaluate proposed changes to our elections system.



(from left to right): Madison Gordon and Ian Pigg drive through the Oxford Square during the Homecoming Week Parade.

Warren Debate Union finds new home in Department of Writing & Rhetoric

After more than a decade, the Institute's first floor classroom is quiet on Sunday afternoons. The Warren Debate Union, which returned to the University in January 2000 under the leadership of Mrs. JoAnn Edwards, is now housed in Lamar Hall under the Department of Writing & Rhetoric. Despite the transition, team members look forward to the potential ahead. "It's an adjustment, to be sure," said James Hirsch, Captain of the WDU, "but we're excited about being able to grow our connections around campus and continue the important dialogues we've started." The team is gearing up for their first public debate of the year on **November 8th at 5:30 in Union 323**, coming off a great showing at Lewis & Clark, where Eric Narbo and Clinton Jones IV reached the final round. If you're interested in joining the team or learning more about the Warren Debate Union, contact Dr. Jacob Justice at jwjustic@olemiss.edu.

Alumni Spotlight: Wills Hay (PPL '20), English Teaching Assistant, Moldova



"On August 11th, I left Washington, D.C. for Rybnitsa, Moldova, where I serve as a Fulbright English Teacher. My city sits on the east side of the Dniester River in Transnistria, a breakaway region next to Ukraine. I teach English at the local University branch in Rybnitsa. The city boasts one of the largest metal factories in Eastern Europe and the most prominent Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Moldova. To best immerse me in the community, I am living with a family. My host mother works at the University and is strict Russian Orthodox. She has taken me to church several times, and we visited Saharna Monastery last week. Everyone knows I'm here and is eager to meet me. According to my host, I'm the only American many have ever seen. Private tutors and high school teachers invite me to their classes. Each week I'll speak at Ukrainian and Russian high schools, support an afterschool tutoring group, and lecture at the University. If anyone is interested in Fulbright or working abroad, please reach out!"





'Leadership through Service'

By: Bobby L. Hudson III

My experience at The University of Mississippi has truly helped shape how I apply my actions in advocacy efforts. I've always been very involved in the community, but once joining the University community I understood that the fight for Inclusion needed momentum. Freshman year I quickly learned that many of my peers wouldn't speak up or voice their opinion in the form that I would, and as horrific and controversial events occurred on campus I felt obligated to speak my mind in any setting needed.

My first formal opportunity to be involved in the University's diversity efforts was after joining the Black Student Union's (BSU) Cabinet Aide program. Through being a Cabinet Aide, I was appointed as the student representative for BSU to the Climate Study Working Group and currently still serve in this capacity. I charged myself, that my involvement at the University should be solely invested in the fight for diversity and inclusion.

During my sophomore year I served as an iTeam Peer Educator, UM Connect Mentor, and attended the Men of Color National Conference through the Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement. During the previous academic year, I served as a student member on the Division of Diversity & Community Engagement's DEI Student Advisory Board, the Founder & President of the University of Mississippi Society for Blacks in Political Studies (BIPS), Chartering President of UM Phi Beta Lambda, and served as the first Associate Director of Cross Cultural Engagement for the University of Mississippi Associated Student Body (ASB). I currently serve as the returning President of BIPS, Charge d'Affaires for the Council for Black Student Affairs, and the Chief of Staff for the Black Student Union.

Through my involvement on campus, I quickly learned that my passion for serving others allowed me to emerge into various leadership roles. Essentially, I learned that I am most effective in my leadership through my passionate service. Serving my respective communities has allowed me to showcase my leadership in so many ways.



Bobby Hudson is a senior studying public policy leadership and education from Gulfport, Mississippi.

Our Mission

The educational mission of the Lott Leadership Institute rests upon a premise of responsibility. The goal of the program is to cultivate and inspire honest, compassionate, and responsive leaders. A key foundation for our organization is the belief that the essence of leadership is stewardship and that students and other individuals must be encouraged to accept responsibility for the betterment of the world around them.

Is there anything you want to see in the next edition of LeadershipMatters?

Email us at lottadvisoryboard@go.olemiss.edu, or call us at (662) 915-3799.





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