

# University Dedicates Home for Lott Institute, New Scholarship Honors Patricia Lott

**I**n summer 2000, Gordon Fellows participated in the inaugural Trent Lott Leadership Summer Institute for High School Students at the University of Mississippi.

Through the experience, the Tupelo, Miss., student was sold on attending Ole Miss instead of going out of state as he had planned. Now as a senior and the newly installed president of the UM Associated Student Body, Fellows spoke at the April 16 dedication of the Lott Leadership Institute on the Oxford campus.

“The Lott Institute’s summer program made me realize that I could get a great education in Mississippi,” says Fellows, an international studies major.

“The experience opened my eyes to what Ole Miss has to offer, and I learned the importance of staying at home in Mississippi.”

U.S. Sen. Trent Lott – an alumnus and longtime leader on Capitol Hill for whom the institute is named – and Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour also spoke at the dedication ceremony, which marked completion of the \$2.5 million renovation of LaBauve Hall, home of the institute.

“The dedication ceremony was the culmination of years of hard work and commitment to better prepare our state’s and the nation’s future leaders with the skills needed to be successful,” says Chancellor Robert Khayat. “We are truly grateful to Sen. Lott for his loyalty to this endeavor.”

The chancellor announced the new Patricia Thompson Lott Scholarship Endowment for students in the Lott

Leadership Institute. Created to honor the wife of Sen. Lott, the scholarship fund was begun with gifts from Bill and Donna Gottshall, Guy and Sis Hovis, and Gary and Mary Sue Sisco.

Patricia Lott was the guest of



Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck, from left, Patricia Lott, U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, and Chancellor Robert Khayat cut the ribbon at the Lott Institute dedication.

honor at a luncheon on campus shortly before the dedication ceremony, and the new scholarship fund was first unveiled there.

Kicking off dedication activities Thursday was Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough with a keynote address in the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Called a “master of the art of narrative history,” McCullough has been an editor, essayist, teacher, lecturer and familiar presence on public television. His address focused on the qualities of greatness and leadership.

“David McCullough is probably the most prominent historian in America right now,” says Dr. Robert Haws, chair of history and interim director of the Lott Leadership Institute. “He’s a leading public intellectual who has lectured across the world.”

Following the Friday dedication,

Sen. Lott and several other outstanding alumni, including former Gov. William Winter, appeared in a forum for students called “Bridging the Gap.” Other panelists included Federal Express Corp. executive Rose

Flenorl; Ronnie Agnew, executive editor of *The Clarion-Ledger*; Otis Sanford, managing editor of *The Commercial Appeal*; Sam and Mary Haskell, executive vice president for the William Morris Agency and an actress-singer, respectively; Danny Covington, rate commissioner of the U.S. Postal Service; Matt Lusco, a Birmingham, Ala., accountant; Jackson businessman Stephen Johnston; Cathy Stewart, Mississippi

Teacher of the Year; and Jenny Robertson, account executive for Archer-Malmo in Memphis.

“The Lott Leadership Institute joins the Croft Institute for International Studies and the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College as signature programs for University of Mississippi undergraduates,” Haws says.

The institute enters the ranks of similar organizations, such as the McConnell Center for Political Leadership at the University of Louisville, the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee and the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas.

*Individuals and organizations interested in contributing to the Patricia Thompson Lott Scholarship Endowment can contact the University of Mississippi Foundation at (662) 915-5944 or 800-340-9542 or e-mail [umf@olemiss.edu](mailto:umf@olemiss.edu).* ■