



F



CUS

A SIGMA CHI FOUNDATION PUBLICATION + SPRING 2022

FROM AMORY TO EMMY

SIGNIFICANT SIG SAM HASKELL, MISSISSIPPI 1977



ON THE COVER:

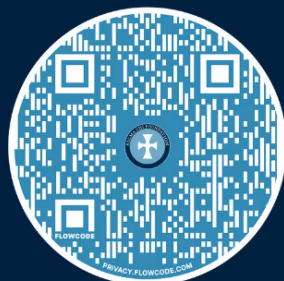
Significant Sig Sam Haskell, **MISSISSIPPI 1977**, brought a values-based approach to Hollywood as an agent and former Director of Worldwide Television for the William Morris Agency. Since 2013, his award-winning film partnership with longtime friend and former client Dolly Parton has inspired audiences across the United States and beyond. **PAGE 8**

(Cover images: Sam Haskell/Magnolia Hill Productions/Steve Summers/Jordan Strauss/Invision for the Television Academy/AP Images)

YOUR CHAPTER. LASTING BENEFITS.

ALUMNI ARE PAYING IT FORWARD TO THEIR HOME CHAPTERS WITH EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS, DESIGNATED ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIORITY ACCESS TO THE WORLD-CLASS PROGRAMS BUILDING THE TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS OF TOMORROW.

TO LEARN HOW YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT CAN BENEFIT FUTURE GENERATIONS OF SIGS ON YOUR HOME CAMPUS, VISIT SIGMACHI.ORG/BELL OR SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



INSIDE:

- 3 Inaugural Giving Tuesday Challenge a success for Foundation
- 4 A look at Foundation alumni receptions across the United States
- 6 Directly impact your home chapter through the Bell Challenge
- 8 From Amory to Emmy: A look at the life and career of Significant Sig Sam Haskell
- 23 Meet The Foundation: Director of Development Travis Shumake

FOCUS | A Sigma Chi Foundation Publication

EDITOR AND CREATIVE DESIGN
Wes Holtsclaw, **EAST TENNESSEE 2012**

PRINTING
Royle Printing

INAUGURAL GREEK-LETTER GIVING TUESDAY CHALLENGE A SUCCESS FOR FOUNDATION

Competitive single-day fundraising event collectively nets over \$105,000 for Evanston-based interfraternal neighbors Sigma Chi, SAE Foundations

Breaking organizational giving records in support of their respective annual campaigns, the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Foundation and Sigma Chi Foundation combined to raise more than \$105,000 during their inaugural Giving Tuesday Challenge.

The 12-hour competitive fundraiser through the CrowdChange platform marked a first for both organizations, as Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Sigma Chi alumni and friends made charitable gifts in an effort to deliver more support than their interfraternal rival in their respective Giving Tuesday efforts.

"This inaugural Giving Tuesday Challenge truly shows the power of collaboration. Fundraising is a team sport, and I'm extremely proud of how both organizations worked together to ultimately support our respective Brothers," said Sigma Alpha Epsilon Foundation President & CEO, Steve Mitchell (Indiana '83).

"Not only did we deliver a competitive fundraising atmosphere to cultivate alumni support, we each set Giving Tuesday benchmarks and hopefully showed other Greek-letter foundations that we can work together to directly benefit our members," said Sigma Chi Foundation President & CEO Ashley Woods, **EAST TENNESSEE 2000**.

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon Foundation surged

ahead in the closing hours and raised \$63,582 from 163 members and friends. The donations will go towards Sigma Alpha Epsilon's Annual Loyalty Fund, which supports its educational programs, events, scholarships, awards and the Levere Memorial Temple.

One block south on Hinman Avenue, the Sigma Chi Foundation received the support of 146 brothers and friends towards a \$42,030 effort for its Life Loyal Sig Annual Fund which benefits Sigma Chi's Transformational Leader platform, scholarships, historical initiative and operations from the J. Dwight Peterson International Fraternity Headquarters.

For the Sigma Chi Foundation, Tuesday's online campaign produced the largest Giving Tuesday performance in organizational history, more than tripling its prior benchmark and measuring fourfold against its 2020 mark. It was also the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Foundation's most successful Giving Tuesday, quadrupling its previous record.

Added Woods: "We hope the shared positive results of this effort encourages other Greek-letter Foundations to join the Giving Tuesday Challenge next year, creating friendly competition amongst our respective alumni and friends while championing, and bringing awareness to, the positive efforts we provide our young members."

ANNUAL REPORT ADDITIONS

THETA ETA | MISSOURI S&T

Jason Backues, 1999
Joseph Dersch, 2003
Wesley Dysart, 2017
Ryan Feldmann, 2017
Austin Fischer, 2017
Jacob Grapperhaus, 2011
Daniel Lachance, 1985

Timothy Lemunyon, 1986
David Loida, 1990
Jon Myers, 1985
Brian Williamson, 1995
John Wilmes, 1985

ETA NU | NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Tom Dancu, 1983

FOUNDATION ALUMNI RECEPTIONS



ABOVE: Six of Sigma Chi's eleven members of Congress joined more than fifty of the Washington Metro Area's most significant alumni for the Foundation's first-ever Congressional Reception in partnership with the Washington Alumni Chapter. **TOP LEFT:** (left to right) Hon. Blake Moore (R-UT/1st), **UTAH STATE** and **UTAH 2004**, Significant Sig and House Majority Leader Hon. Steny Hoyer (D-MD/5th), **MARYLAND 1963**, Significant Sig Hon. Steven Palazzo (R-MS/4th), **SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI 1994**, and Significant Sig Hon. Kelly Armstrong (R-ND), **NORTH DAKOTA 2000**. **TOP RIGHT:** Sigma Chi Foundation President & CEO Ashley Woods, **EAST TENNESSEE 2000**, is pictured with Significant Sig Hon. Tim Burchett (R-TN/2nd), **TENNESSEE-KNOXVILLE 1986**. (Photos by Wes Holtsclaw)

The Sigma Chi Foundation is proud to partner with donors and friends to provide engagement opportunities for alumni across the United States. These receptions and events give alumni an opportunity to meet with Foundation and Fraternity leaders, as well as connect with Significant Sigs from their region.

From November thru February, the Foundation held events in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Sarasota, FL and Palm Desert, CA.

Hosted by Significant Sig Stewart McLaurin, **ALABAMA 1981**, President of the White House Historical Association at the historic Decatur House, an evening of cigars and cocktails kicked off a two-night series in our nation's capitol on November 16.

November 17 saw the first-ever Congressional Reception in partnership with the Washington Alumni Chapter at the prestigious Capitol Hill Club, featuring appearances from six of Sigma Chi's 11 members of

Congress.

On November 18, Significant Sig Mark Tipton, **TULANE 1978**, hosted a Foundation event at the Cherokee Town & Country Club with special guest Ted Decker, **WILLIAM & MARY 1985**, President & COO of Home Depot.

January saw several prominent alumni from the Sarasota area join members of the Foundation Board of Governors for a special reception during their winter board meeting at The Ritz-Carlton.

And, most recently, on February 20, Significant Sig Rob and Donna Reifschneider, **SAN DIEGO STATE 1957**, and son Eric, **SAN DIEGO STATE 1988**, hosted alumni from the Palm Desert area to the former's residence for an evening of engagement.

For more information on Foundation alumni events, or to be added to an invitation list for your region, contact Associate Director of Donor Engagement Cora McDaniel at cora.mcdaniel@sigmachi.org.



TOP LEFT: From left to right, Sigma Chi Foundation Director of Development Jim Lawson, **SAN DIEGO STATE 1985**; Significant Sig Rob Reifschneider, **SAN DIEGO STATE 1957**; Foundation President & CEO Ashley Woods, **EAST TENNESSEE 2000**; and Eric Reifschneider, **SAN DIEGO STATE 1988**, visit during the February 20 Palm Desert reception hosted by the Reifschneiders. **TOP RIGHT:** Foundation Vice President of Operations John Price, **OKLAHOMA STATE 1991**, speaks with attendees during the January Sarasota reception. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The American and Sigma Chi flags fly proud at the home of Significant Sig Rob Reifschneider, **SAN DIEGO STATE 1957**, in Palm Desert, CA. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** From left to right, Bob Sherwood, **WASHINGTON STATE 1977**; Significant Sig Larry Culver, **WASHINGTON STATE 1964**; Bob Steil, **WASHINGTON STATE 1961**; and Significant Sig Jeff Burnside, **WASHINGTON STATE 1980**, represented the Beta Upsilon chapter at the February 20 Palm Desert reception. (Photos by Jay Ford, Jay Philbrick, Jim Lawson and Jeff Burnside)

DIRECTLY IMPACT YOUR HOME CHAPTER

Through the Thomas Cowan Bell Chapter Challenge, alumni can make a difference by supporting additional leadership, scholarship benefits

The Sigma Chi Foundation's Thomas Cowan Bell Chapter Challenge allows alumni brothers to support their home chapter, or a chapter of their choosing, with enhanced leadership and scholarship benefits.

These tax-deductible gifts help endow Sigma Chi's emerging leaders with the tools they need to positively impact society, and to safeguard Sigma Chi's legacy.

Whether it's designated academic scholarships, priority access for attendees at Sigma Chi's most distinguished leadership events and exclusive leadership retreats, the undergraduate chapters that have received additional benefits from the Bell Chapter program have found more success, on average, than non-Bell chapters.

"The additional workshop slots, Horizons berths and academic scholarships have played a tremendous role in our chapter and the development of the young men," said Zeta Omega chapter advisor Derek Wagner, **EAST TENNESSEE 2008**. "We've seen more brothers take leadership roles on campus and various other organizations, an increase of students graduating and pursuing higher degrees as well as an increase in brothers making the Dean's List from previous years.

"The tools they learn from these programs have been carried over to the local chapter and has paid dividends for Zeta Omega and the ETSU community."

According to the most recent annual Peterson report data, Bell chapters averaged a higher overall cumulative GPA, had more than 50% more brothers on the Dean's List, 65% more brothers actively involved in campus organizations, averaged 400 more hours of community service per year and raise, on average, \$7,500 more per chapter for philanthropy.

For alumni like Significant Sig John Cox, and wife Sally, **TEXAS A&M-COLLEGE STATION 1981**, the ability to directly impact his home chapter and provide additional program benefits were a key reason behind his support.

"Sigma Chi's leadership programs are world class," the Cox family said. "We are glad to support the Bell challenge which allows undergraduate brothers to attend and grow as leaders."

Since the program's launch in 2010, over 80 of Sigma Chi's 234 active chapters and 10 colonies have qualified for the Bell program.

Presently, 51 chapters and colonies are receiving enhanced leadership and scholarship benefits for the 2021 to 2022 fiscal year. Thirty-nine (39) have already qualified for the 2022 to 2023 cycle, which closes on June 30, 2022.

For more information on Sigma Chi Foundation's Thomas Cowan Bell Chapter Challenge or to learn how you can make a contribution directly to your chapter's 2022 to 2023 fund, visit sigmachi.org/bell.



Members of the Zeta Psi chapter at Cincinnati, one of 14 active endowed chapters receiving additional benefits through the Thomas Cowan Bell Chapter Challenge thanks to the ongoing support of their alumni.

BELL BENEFITS

Blue Level – \$10,000 annually or \$250,000 endowment

- Three (3) designated \$1,000 academic scholarships (four for endowment) that recognize lead donor.
- Priority Access for one additional participant at Krach Transformational Leaders Workshop*
- Up to \$1,200 Travel Stipend (\$1,500 for endowment) to support the chapter's participation in the regional Province Conference**
- One designated Horizons Huntsman Leadership Summit slot for a qualified applicant.
- Priority Access for chapter officers at the semi-annual Officer Training Academy.
- Local chapter retreat credentialed by Sigma Chi Leadership Institute
- Donor plaque for chapter house/facility.
- Invitation to chapter delegation for banquet dinner at Krach TLW (including alumni/faculty present).

Gold Level – \$500,000 endowment

- Six (6) designated \$1,000 academic scholarships that recognize lead donor.
- Priority Access for three additional participants at Krach Transformational Leaders Workshop*
- Up to \$2,000 Travel Stipend to support the chapter's participation in the regional Province Conference**
- Two designated Horizons Huntsman Leadership Summit slots for a qualified applicant.
- Priority Access for chapter officers at the semi-annual Officer Training Academy.
- Local chapter retreat credentialed by Sigma Chi Leadership Institute with up to \$3,000 stipend to support program expenses
- Donor plaque for chapter house/facility.
- Invitation to chapter delegation for banquet dinner at Krach TLW (including alumni/faculty present).

* Participants at Krach TLW receive licensed leadership certificates
 ** Allowable Travel Expenses per Fraternity/Grand Quaestor Reimbursement Guidelines

2022-23 BELL OUTLOOK

ENDOWED GOLD CHAPTERS

Butler / Rho
 Indiana / Lambda
 Oklahoma State / Gamma Delta

ENDOWED BLUE CHAPTERS

Alabama / Iota Iota
 Ball State / Epsilon Omega
 Cincinnati / Zeta Psi
 Cornell / Alpha Phi
 Emory / Beta Chi
 Florida Southern / Epsilon Sigma
 Georgia / Delta
 Maryland / Gamma Chi
 San Diego State / Delta Xi
 Southern California / Alpha Upsilon
 Tennessee-Knoxville / Beta Sigma

ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP SECURED FOR 2022-23

GOLD
 Georgia Tech / Beta Psi

BLUE

Arizona / Beta Phi
 Auburn / Gamma Sigma
 Bradley / Delta Rho
 Bucknell / Kappa
 California-Santa Barbara / Zeta Kappa
 Cal. State-Northridge / Zeta Xi
 Drake / Theta Gamma
 East Tennessee / Zeta Omega
 Georgia Southern / Eta Zeta
 Illinois / Kappa Kappa
 Kent State / Zeta Lambda
 Michigan / Theta Theta
 New Mexico / Zeta Phi
 Purdue / Delta Delta
 San Jose State / Epsilon Theta
 South Carolina / Gamma Nu
 South Florida / Theta Beta
 Texas Christian / Epsilon Mu
 Washington State / Beta Upsilon
 Youngstown / Eta Chi

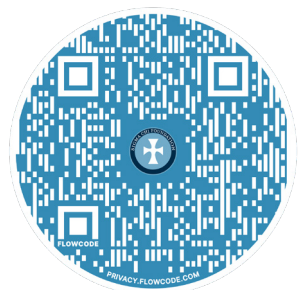
COLONY

Eastern Illinois
 Louisiana State
 Westminster

FUNDS NEEDED

TO SECURE QUALIFICATION FOR 2022-23

Arkansas State / Theta Chi
 Bridgewater State / Theta Zeta
 Brown / Beta Nu
 Cal. State-Long Beach / Eta Beta
 Case Western / Beta Eta
 Central Florida / Eta Pi
 DePauw / Xi
 Eastern Kentucky / Eta Alpha
 Florida / Gamma Theta
 Florida Gulf Coast / Lambda Zeta
 George Washington / Epsilon
 Iowa State / Beta Omicron
 Kansas / Alpha Xi
 Kentucky / Lambda Lambda
 Miami (FL) / Gamma Phi
 Michigan State / Gamma Psi
 Missouri / Xi Xi
 Montana State / Beta Rho
 North Florida / Kappa Beta
 North Georgia / Theta Epsilon
 Oklahoma / Beta Kappa
 Pennsylvania / Phi Phi
 Penn State / Alpha Chi
 Southern Methodist / Delta Mu
 St. Thomas / Iota Tau
 Texas A&M-College Station / Eta Upsilon
 Texas-Austin / Alpha Nu
 Texas Tech / Epsilon Mu
 Utah / Beta Epsilon
 Western Carolina / Kappa Gamma
 Western Kentucky / Zeta Mu



Scan the QR code above to see your chapter's status

// COVER STORY //



FROM AMORY TO EMMY...

For Significant Sig Sam Haskell, MISSISSIPPI 1977, a values-based approach to life helped lifelong dreams become an award-winning reality

By Wes Holtsclaw
EAST TENNESSEE 2012

much like the smalltown settings on television screens in the 1960s, Amory, Mississippi (population 7,000) was picturesque Americana at its finest.

It was a place where everyone knew everyone. Children were allowed to ride their bicycles anywhere in town from the ages of five or six and traverse their neighborhoods until the echoes of their mother's bells or voices ushered an expeditious return home for supper.

It was the type of town where children could dream big, and there was arguably no bigger dreamer in Amory than the young Significant Sig Sam Haskell III, **MISSISSIPPI 1977**.

Unlike many children of the era, he didn't dream about following John Glenn to space or becoming the next Kennedy in politics. An avid studier of *TV Guide* and other entertainment publications of the day, he was well-informed and just knew that one day he would rub elbows with the stars.

"Every time I told people I was going to Hollywood when I grew up, they probably laughed behind my back and said, 'Bless his heart,'" Haskell said in December. "But I kept dreaming."

Through hard work, persistence and resilience, and grounded by the values and faith instilled in him by his late mother who would inspire his 2009 national best-selling memoir *Promises I Made My Mother*, Haskell's dreams were realized with a 27-year career as one of the most prominent and trusted agents in Hollywood.

For some, the opportunity to serve as Executive Vice President and Worldwide Head of Television for the William Morris Agency, influencing American audiences through the many hit television series he packaged or representing a who's who of entertainment legends, would be the cap of a legendary career.

Not for Haskell. There were other dreams to pursue.

And less than 10 years after founding Magnolia Hill Productions and building a widely successful partnership with former client and entertainment icon Dolly Parton and Warner Bros. Television, the title of "Emmy-winning producer" became a permanent fixture to his resume.

To get from Amory to the Emmy, several pieces had to perfectly fit the puzzle of Sam Haskell's life.

And fit it they did.

AMORY, OXFORD AND HOLLYWOOD

Long before he was named by *Television Week Magazine* as "One of the 25 Most Innovative and Influential People in Television of the Last 25 Years," he was Sammy Haskell, the eldest son of Sam Haskell, Jr., **CINCINNATI 1952**, and Mary Kirkpatrick Haskell who met in an Air Force hospital in Mobile, Alabama during the Korean War.

His father was a successful clothing salesman often on the road allowing his mother, a revered nurse, to interrupt her own nursing career to invest time in raising their three sons.

Sam had a particularly close bond with his mother. She encouraged his many dreams and the important values she taught him and his brothers through their Eagle Scout programs, athletic endeavors and school and church activities would all play a big role in his future success.

"My mother played a very important part in teaching me principles upon which I based my life and career," Haskell said. "She taught me about faith, and she made sure we were in the church as often as we possibly could be. She supported my brothers and me and was always there to make sure we were doing what we were supposed to do on time. She was always very present in our lives."

As Haskell and his brothers grew older, and his parents' relationship ended in divorce, his mother returned to work as the state of Mississippi's first

LEFT: Significant Sig Sam Haskell, MISSISSIPPI 1977 (center), is handed the 2021 Emmy Award for Outstanding Television Movie for "Dolly Parton's Christmas on the Square." Pictured with Haskell (L-R): co-Executive Producers Hudson Hickman and Joe Lazarov, and Executive Producer/Director Debbie Allen. (Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision for the Television Academy/AP images)



In one of his many roles at the University of Mississippi, Significant Sig Sam Haskell (above) portrayed Richard Henry Lee during a 1976 production of '1776.' (Image courtesy of Sam Haskell)

school nurse practitioner in the Amory Public Schools, further inspiring his life through her generosity and 18 years of work with the youth of the community.

In the midst of family changes, Sam was making a name of his own at Amory High School as a standout student, football player and leader. He was President of his senior class and Rotary Boy of the Year.

With the University of Mississippi in Oxford on the horizon, the revered young Haskell was vouched for by prominent members of the community, Sigma Chi alumni like his father, who wrote letters of support for his recruitment to the Eta chapter prior to his arrival at the University of Mississippi.

“They decided that out of many of the kids in my class interested in Greek life, they wanted to support me to be a Sigma Chi,” Haskell recalled. “Of course, that was delightful news to my father, because he had talked about Sigma Chi my whole life. I look back on it and I think I really owe it to those guys and my father for writing the letters and making the phone calls to make sure I got a bid.”

Over the course of his four years at Ole Miss, Haskell was a star on campus representing Sigma Chi as director of the Miss University pageant as well as a featured member of campus music groups and various theatre productions. He was nominated Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honorary and Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities.

Within the Eta chapter as Magister, he was able to further cultivate leadership abilities that formed over the course of his life – skills that would collectively benefit him upon arrival in Los Angeles.

But there was one major decision that changed everything. Sam Jr.’s vision for Sam III was a pathway to medical school. Sam, however, had fallen in love with the arts on campus and the entertainment bug that bit him as a child was still very present.

The decision to change courses didn't please his father but was supported by his mother and encouraged by his brothers at the Eta house. It was one of many decisions that ultimately changed his life.

Another moment happened in August 1976.

While attending an event at the school's College Hill Presbyterian Church a freshman from Beaumont, Texas caught his eye. Weeks later, during auditions for campus vocal ensemble "The Group," Mary Donnelly was among those who auditioned, and Haskell made it a point to voice his approval of her performance from the audience.

Sam then sat beside her in the music theory class they shared her first semester. A struggling Haskell found help from Mary, who gave him lessons that helped him pass. It led to their first date on September 17, 1976.

"I'll never forget calling my mother and saying, 'This is the most beautiful girl in the world. I'm going to marry her one day,'" Haskell remembers.

Their relationship flourished and Mary, a Chi Omega and Sigma Chi Little Sister, became Miss Mississippi in 1977 and competed for the title of Miss America.

Sam graduated from Ole Miss, passed on an opportunity in local television and embarked for California in 1978 with his eyes set on a career in entertainment law.

Upon arrival at Southwestern School of Law, however, Haskell felt out of place and compelled to return home.

"I called my mother and said, 'I think I've made a big mistake. I don't like it here,'" said Haskell. "She told me to come on home. I called Mary and told her, she said, 'From the day I met you, this is all you've ever talked about. You've got to stay. You've got to go for it and give it a chance. You've either got to do this or get it out of your system.'"

It was the pep talk he needed. A persistent Haskell willed his way into a meeting with one of the law school's alumnae at the William Morris Agency, a meeting that changed his life.

He left law school and landed a position in the



Significant Sig Sam Haskell (center) is pictured with his first William Morris Agency client, Emmy winning host Kathie Lee Gifford (left) and his wife of 39 years, singer and actress Mary Donnelly Haskell (right).

(Image courtesy of Sam Haskell)

agency's famous mailroom where his work ethic, character and determination quickly led to an agency role that blossomed. By the time Sam and Mary were wed in 1982, Haskell had worked with some of Hollywood's biggest names.

Through the eighties and nineties, the hit series he helped guide to air, including "Fresh Prince of Bel Air," "Everybody Loves Raymond," "Sisters," "Mad About You," "Lost," "Murphy Brown" and "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," helped define a generation of viewers.

His clients read like a 'Who's Who' list. Dolly Parton, Kathie Lee Gifford, Debbie Allen, Ray Romano, Whoopi Goldberg, George Clooney, Lily Tomlin, Martin Short, Tony Danza and His Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex among them.

None of it would have happened without the encouragement of his wife.

"Mary is the reason I'm sitting here today," Haskell said of his wife. "Without her, I could not be who I am or do what I do."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

SIGS ON SAM

Significant Sig Sam Haskell III, **MISSISSIPPI 1977**, (pictured bottom left next to former roommate and pledge brother Dennis Legate, **MISSISSIPPI 1977**) says his four years as an active Sigma Chi in the Eta chapter at Ole Miss were four of the best years of his life.

Quite a statement from the Emmy-winning Producer whose 27 years at the William Morris Agency in Hollywood saw him guide some of the entertainment industry's biggest names and help some of the most prominent series of the 1980s and 1990s find their place on network television.

Several prominent Eta chapter alumni and one current undergraduate member spoke highly of their great friend and brother, who never forgot his Mississippi roots.

DENNIS LEGATE, MISSISSIPPI 1977

Long before retiring after a 37-year career in the banking industry, Legate was roommates with Haskell in the Eta house in Oxford. He was there when Sam made the life-changing decision to opt out of pre-medicine studies and work towards a career in entertainment.

"I don't have a big brother, but Sam was like a big brother. He taught me a lot of things, how to dress and how to do a lot of different things. He is, to this day, pretty much the way he was – the way we all knew him as pledges.

"Sam was someone that I could confide in. He always had a positive attitude and he's one of those guys that we always looked up to and trusted. We all knew that he was going to be successful because he was just so geared and focused."



BARRY CANNADA, MISSISSIPPI 1977

Cannada served as President of Ole Miss' student body prior to a successful legal career at the Butler Snow firm, where he has been named among America's top attorneys for business. His wife, the former Angelyn Atkins, was Ole Miss Homecoming Queen and a Sigma Chi Little Sister with Sam's wife, Mary Donnelly Haskell. The couple is actively involved in Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru), which Barry serves as Chairman.

"Sam and I had a great pledge class. We're all still very close and we all kept up with each other. Pretty much everybody knew what was going on. And Sam was iconic in some ways, so keeping up with Sam was a way of keeping up with everybody.

"As my career blossomed, I was doing some work in San Bernardino (California) while Sam was still at the William Morris Agency and I called him and said, 'Look, I'm gonna be over there this weekend. I've got some time on Friday. Can I come and see you?' ->

"I rode down there and went to his office and he had a couple of movie stars in the waiting room waiting on him.

"He came out and spoke to them and said, 'Hey, this is my friend from Mississippi. We're going to lunch and we'll be back later.' I was like, 'Sam, don't you need to meet with these folks?' He said, 'No, it's okay.' He never forgot his friends.

"I'll never forget, we went down the elevator. It stopped and Walter Mathau got in the elevator with his. 'Hi, Walter.' 'Hi, Sam.'"

DON FRUGÉ, MISSISSIPPI 1967

Frugé has been a faculty member at Ole Miss since the 1970s and is currently serving as Chairman of the Ole Miss Athletics Foundation Board of Governors. For 22 years he served as president and CEO of the University of Mississippi Foundation. Frugé was Chapter Advisor of the Eta Chapter when he first met Sam Haskell. His wife, Mary Ann, is former Chi Omega National President.

"I remember Sam well. Many students come and they're not sure exactly what they want to do. I would say that's not true of Sam. He knew what his passion was and he followed his dream. He came here on pre-med and made the decision to adjust, to follow his dream and he absolutely prepared himself to be the successful person that he is today.

"Sam and (wife) Mary, both, give their time and resources, whatever it is they can lend to make this a better world that we live in. I find them to be models that we all should follow."



Legate

Howorth

Scruggs

RICHARD HOWORTH, MISSISSIPPI 1972

The former Mayor of Oxford, Mississippi, Howorth is the award-winning founder and owner of Square Books, one of the most revered independent bookstores in the United States. His store hosts over 150 author events per year, was the first to feature in-store signings by John Grisham and Larry Brown. Haskell's national bestselling memoir Promises I Made My Mother was one of the store's bestsellers for three years.

"Ever since he's been (back in Oxford) he's been a very positive force for the community and the university. Sam's a person who is always thinking about ways that he can help people around him. He's thoughtful in that regard and he's been great to have here in Oxford.

"I remember when his memoir came out, we held an event and it was very popular. We sold lots of copies of his books. I think people were moved by the story itself, not just because of Sam. I'd say it hit close to home for a lot of people who grew up in Mississippi and some of the small towns here; those stories and the sense of faith and family."

JACKSON SCRUGGS, MISSISSIPPI 2025

Scruggs was recently initiated into the Eta chapter. The son of a Sigma Nu and grandson of an SAE, his family's friendship and his own personal relationship with Haskell helped inspire his decision to become a Sigma Chi.

"I've known Sam my entire life. He's a great man and he's done a lot of great things in life. ... It means a lot that guys like Sam (still give back). Sam is a producer in Hollywood. He's no longer in the chapter, yet, he still care about this place and he still helps out both monetarily and also through his support. It means a lot to have guys like that who put their time and energy into this place when they don't have to."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Haskell retired from the William Morris Agency in 2004. In 2007, he was named “One of the 25 Most Innovative and Influential People in Television for the Last 25 Years” by Television Week Magazine.

FROM PACKAGING TO PRODUCTION

In his career as an agent, when working on television series, Haskell often supported his clients with their scripts, casting decisions and everything it took to get a show ready to pitch to a major network.

“I supported every aspect of what they were doing,” he said. “But it wasn’t mine. It was theirs.”

Through special events, charity fundraisers and concerts, Haskell was bitten by the production bug.

[Note: See page 19 to learn more about Haskell’s philanthropic efforts.]

By 2013, he was ready to take it a step further. It would be much of the same work he had done prior, only this time it would be his own company. And the result would be timeless, values-centered stories that appealed to families and resonated with viewers beyond the metropolitan centers.

Named after the Oxford dream home he built with wife Mary following his retirement from WMA in the late oughts, Magnolia Hill Productions was born.

“There are two viewing audiences in this country,” said Haskell. “You have the east and west coast, that’s one, and everything else in the middle is two. I go for the middle. ... I believe there is an unserved audience out there and I created Magnolia Hill Productions as a way for me to facilitate making a reality of the dream that I wanted to produce my own shows.”

To help achieve his vision was his longtime friend and former client Dolly Parton.

One of the most beloved stars of her generation, Parton was eager to take inspiration from her real-life story and music and cultivate genuine television films that inspired America. But it wasn’t without challenges.

“When I sold ‘Dolly Parton’s Coat of Many Colors’ to NBC, the advertisers were all afraid that it was going to be too colloquial, too country and too small, but because it was Dolly they gave us a chance,” Haskell said. “In my heart I knew it would work!”

“The night before it aired, the president of the network called and said, ‘I’m not expecting this to do very much. I just want you to be prepared. It’s a good movie. You did a good job. But I want you to be prepared that there probably won’t be a lot of people who watch it.’”

“Dolly Parton’s Coat of Many Colors” premiered on December 10, 2015 and was an immediate hit with over 16 million live viewers making it the most-watched original television movie on network television in six years.

Its success earned repeat airings and NBC was quick to pick up a holiday-centered sequel for 2016.

“Dolly Parton’s Christmas of Many Colors – Circle of Love” aired on November 30, 2016, delivering 14.5 million live viewers with a number one ranking in each of the key demographics.

Each of the films earned the Movie Guide Epiphany Prize and the Christopher Award, but the latter earned Haskell and his team their first nomination for Outstanding Television Movie at the 2017 Primetime Emmy Awards.

“My life has been a good example about dreams,” Parton said. “Dreams can come true. You can come from anywhere — you can come from no money and make money.

“That rags to riches Cinderella story I really feel has been my life and I am so thankful and grateful for it. But I like to try to be a good example and show things and do things that will help. Things that say, ‘You can do it, too.’”

Next up was a 2019 anthology series for Netflix. “Dolly Parton’s Heartstrings” which was a collection of eight films based on her life stories and based upon her songs.

Featuring an all-star cast of award-winning actors including Kathleen Turner, Ginnifer Goodwin, Delta



Alyvia Lind (pictured top right) portrayed little Dolly Parton in "Dolly Parton's Coat of Many Colors" and "Dolly Parton's Christmas of Many Colors," the first two projects in the Dolly Parton-Sam Haskell partnership. "Christmas of Many Colors" earned Sam his first Emmy nomination for Outstanding Television Movie. (Images courtesy of Sam Haskell/Magnolia HillsProductions)

Burke, Gerald McRaney, Bellamy Young, Cameron Manheim, Kimberly Williams Paisley, Juliane Hough and Oscar winner Melissa Leo, collectively, its episodes were honored by the 2020 PaleyFest as one of the best television series of 2019.

The episode, "These Old Bones" was nominated for Outstanding Television Movie at the 2020 Primetime Emmy Awards, while the episode "Two Doors Down" was honored as Best Individual Episode at the 2020 GLAAD Awards.

A DREAM BECOMES REALITY

In 1965, at the age of 10 in the front seat of his good friend Randy Hollis' family car, a young Sammy Haskell – after predicting that Dick Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore would win Emmys in their respective acting categories for their performances in Van Dyke's series – boldly announced that one day he, too, would win an Emmy.

As the other children in the car heckled and laughed, Randy's mother, Weesie, spoke up:

"Stop," she said. "If Sammy believes he's gonna win an Emmy, then I believe he's gonna win an Emmy!"

Flash forward to 2020. Haskell had received two Emmy nominations, but he and his production partners had been denied.

For his next project with Parton, the Netflix holiday musical "Dolly Parton's Christmas on the Square," there was something different, something special from the onset.

Said Haskell: "I conceived the whole concept for the show. I was going to write it as a book and Dolly convinced me to do it as a musical – she wrote 14 songs and we sold it in the room to Ted Sarandos, the chairman/CEO of Netflix."

"I wanted to write things that really fit who (the characters) were and where they were from," added Parton. "You want to have fun stuff and things that also touch you."

Along with Parton, Broadway and Hollywood icon Debbie Allen was among Sam's closest friends in the



Top: Significant Sig Sam Haskell and Dolly Parton with their Emmy awards. (Photo by Steve Summers) Bottom: Haskell and Debbie Allen walk off the stage after receiving the 2021 Emmy for "Outstanding Television Movie." (Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision for the Television Academy/AP Images)

entertainment industry.

Already a recipient of three Emmys, two Tony Award nominations and a Golden Globe Award by that point, she was one of the entertainment industry's most esteemed choreographers, directors and all-around entertainers, and her involvement in the musical as director and choreographer took it to another level.

But magic was needed from day one. From the onset, the production had to be pitch perfect due to both budgetary and time restrictions.

"We made magic on 'Christmas on the Square,'"

said Allen. "We never had enough money to do that movie but, wow, you would never know it."

Backed by the new music and lyrics by Parton, and a cast that included Christine Baranski, Jenifer Lewis and Treat Williams, "Dolly Parton's Christmas on the Square" aired on Netflix on November 22, 2020 and debuted on its Top 10 list for programming throughout the entire world.

Given the global climate due to the COVID-19 pandemic and political unrest, the film provided a message that resonated during the holiday season.

Added Parton: "Who knew that when we were creating this movie, that it would be aired in the middle of the pandemic, and it would bring so much joy and so much hope to millions of people around the world? I think that was one of the greatest gifts that we gave and didn't even know quite when we were doing it that we were going to help uplift the world."

For Haskell, what made the film extra noteworthy was the inclusion of both his wife, Mary Donnelly Haskell, and daughter, Mary Lane Haskell. Both had been featured individually in prior roles in Parton-Haskell movies, but "Christmas on the Square" marked the first time both mother and daughter were featured together on film.

Said Mary Donnelly Haskell: "As proud as (Sam) is of all of his projects, there was something very special about that time we all spent together."

The film became Haskell and Parton's third project to receive an Emmy nomination for "Outstanding Television Movie."

On September 18, 2021, Haskell, Allen and their team arrived at The Event Deck at L.A. Live in Los Angeles.

"We were competing against feature films that couldn't get distribution because of COVID or had gotten placed on streaming services that put them up for the Emmy because they weren't distributed in time for the Oscars," Haskell said.

"I'm sitting there looking at Steven Spielberg's group with a movie against us, Allen Ball, another Academy Award Winner, and Robin Roberts from 'Good Morning America,' and I'm thinking 'You know

what? Tough category. It really is an honor to be nominated and to be in this group of people.

“When they said our names, I just fell apart.”

On stage, Haskell in the midst of his speech, including recognition of Parton, Allen and their team, Maria Schlatter, Hudson Hickman, Joe Lazarov, Netflix, Warner Bros. Television, the cast and his Magnolia Hill unit Billy Levin and Bobby Kelly, simply had to catch his breath.

Allen, with her hand around her longtime friend, looked over and said, “Sam... we won.”

Last December, while hosting his family for the holidays, Haskell was planning a special visit to his hometown.

Fifty-five years after making the proclamation in the backseat of her car, he would visit Weesie Hollis and thank her for being among those who believed in him.

“When I was a little guy, I dreamed of this,” Haskell said. “I wanted it so badly. And my mother and my aunt Betty, and my Aunt Marilyn — my father’s sister — and a couple of my mother’s friends like Weesie Hollis and Elnor Williams... well, they all believed in me.

“I would say that there are probably a lot of people in Amory, Mississippi to this day who are shocked that it actually happened. But I was able to do it because I believe so strongly in myself and worked so hard to get there. The odds were against me. It’s a very tight business and I was an outsider with no contacts or family to open a door for me. I had to open them myself. And open them I did.”

THE JOURNEY AHEAD

But Haskell was and is far from finished.

In 2020, his team, in their first major project sans Parton, secured the rights to one of the 1970s most beloved series, “The Waltons,” one of his favorite shows as a teenager and college student.

Starring Bellamy Young as Olivia and Logan Shroyer as John Boy Walton, and featuring original series star and former John Boy, Richard Thomas, in the narratorial role, “The Waltons’ Homecoming” was a remake of the 1971 film that guided the original

IN THEIR WORDS:

DOLLY PARTON:

“There is no way to describe my relationship with Sam other than to say it is amazing and perfect for me. We are so in sync in everything we do. I love his devotion and love to me, to the crew and the artists when we are working on projects. Sam is the perfect partner.”

DEBBIE ALLEN:

“Sam is my brother. I was born in Texas, he was born in Mississippi. My family is black, his family is white, but we are cut from the same cloth. We’ve had a lot of the same experiences coming up in this industry and we have an understanding and can say anything to each other. We can laugh out loud in the middle of a lot of pain, which makes it all seem bearable and we know how to work magic together.”

BELLAMY YOUNG:

“Getting to work with Sam is like Christmas morning happening every day — you wake up wrapped in wonder, excited to see what the day will bring. He has the most beautiful heart and the most diligent and honest work practices. Anyone who ever has the privilege of working with Sam will forever be proud to be a soldier in his army of love, as you can well see from the years of devotion so many colleagues and friends boast. It is rare to meet someone with such vision and power who is also truly kind. And, of course, he has amassed a similarly caring, brilliant team at Magnolia Hill with Bobby Kelly and Billy Levin. To work with Magnolia Hill almost ruins a person for life in regular-old Hollywood. Thank heaven Sam (and team) have plenty of dreams to see to fruition for years to come. For that, I couldn’t be more thankful — as an audience member, as a colleague and as a friend.”



Significant Sig Sam Haskell (back center) is pictured with members of his Magnolia Hill Production team and cast members from "The Waltons' Homecoming," which became the CW network's highest-rated program during 2021. (Images courtesy of Sam Haskell/Magnolia Hill Productions)

series to air.

"I remember watching 'The Waltons' with my grandma — it was her very favorite show," said Young. "For that reason alone, I jumped at the chance to be a part of this new iteration.

"The impact The Waltons had on the television drama is enduring: a truly multigenerational family story was unprecedented at that time but has come to be such a meaningful format. ... After these years of distance and fear to get to share a story of family, of togetherness, of faith, of love — for me, that felt dearly needed and right on time."

Debuting on the CW on November 28, 2021, "The Waltons' Homecoming," the first television movie produced for the network, brought the CW its highest viewership of the year.

"When everyone else in town was afraid to do a 50th anniversary remake of a show that was iconic,

while many believed it was untouchable, my friend Mark Pedowitz, chairman and CEO of CW, believed in us," said Haskell. "We increased their viewership on the CW by 400% and now they're ordering more."

With future work alongside Dolly Parton and additional "Waltons" films in the planning stages, there is no slowing down for the man who retired from the William Morris Agency in 2004, only to find a more rewarding second act in the entertainment business..

"Sam is a success because he never gives up," Parton added. "He is willing to work 24/7, 365. He has faith in God and faith in what he is doing. Plus, he is also brilliant."

But such is the life of a dreamer. A dreamer that never gave up. A dreamer whose hard work and faith engineered success, and whose persistence and values have weathered storms in an always-evolving industry.



Significant Sig Sam Haskell speaks during the dedication of the Sam and Mary Haskell Theatre on the campus of the University of Mississippi. Sam and Mary (pictured right) have raised millions towards academic scholarships and philanthropic efforts. (Photo by Robert Jordan/Ole Miss Communications)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MISSISSIPPI AND BEYOND

Whether it's supporting academic scholarships for youth in need of financial assistance or supporting major initiatives at their alma mater or within their community, Significant Sig Sam Haskell III, **MISSISSIPPI 1977**, and his wife, singer, actress and recording artist Mary Donnelly Haskell, have always paid it forward.

It was part of the core values instilled in each of them growing up, it became a part of their lives as students at Ole Miss and it followed them to Los Angeles where their respective careers and family blossomed.

"We are grateful for our blessings, but if you cannot give back, if you cannot pay it forward, you're missing the mark," said Mary Donnelly Haskell, who became an established television actress with guest roles on series like "Sisters," "Touched By An Angel" and "7th Heaven" and more than 20 movies for television

while her husband guided Hollywood stars and television efforts at the William Morris Agency.

Collectively, the Haskells have helped raise millions for organizations and causes near and dear to their hearts primarily in Mississippi where their story began in 1976.

Sam has long been inspired by the memory of his late mother, Mary Kirkpatrick Haskell, who pioneered the role of school nurse practitioner in the state of Mississippi and taught her three sons the importance of giving back at an early age.

"My mother had this expression that she shared with me and my brothers many, many times," said Haskell, whose community service projects as a student and an Eagle Scout were important moments during his youth. "A blessing is not a blessing unless it is shared.' And I always understood what that meant."



Brad Paisley, Kirstie Alley, Wynonna and Brad Garrett were among the celebrity guests at the 2004 Stars Over Mississippi event produced by Significant Sig Sam Haskell in his hometown of Amory, Mississippi. (Image courtesy of Sam Haskell)

Those lessons followed him from his hometown of Amory to his college town of Oxford where he gave swimming lessons to youth during the summer and participated in community events through the arts.

For Mary Donnelly Haskell, who had a similar values-guided upbringing in southeastern Texas, community engagement followed her to Ole Miss and was a pivotal part of her role as Miss Mississippi.

“Sam always says that my family raised me the same way in regard to giving back” Mary said. “We had that support system.”

—

A major piece of Sam Haskell’s support system was lost in 1987 as stomach cancer claimed the life of his beloved mother at the age of 61

In the days, weeks and years that followed, Haskell made a promise to himself, and his mother, that her lessons and memory would be echoed through his life and in service to others.

“My mother was concerned about kids who couldn’t find the money to go to school,” Sam said. “She was always going to the wealthier people in Amory as the school nurse and sharing stories about the kids she was taking care of, what their needs were whether

that was eyeglasses, braces or medical work. But she was always worried about the kids who couldn’t get a college education.”

Mary Kirkpatrick Haskell was valedictorian of her senior class and the most outstanding student at Amory High School in 1942, but Sam noted her family couldn’t afford to send her to school. She joined the Air Force through the Cadet Nursing Corps and earned a full ride at the University of Tennessee.

“She was always so proud of that and I knew the way to stop mourning her death — because she was a great loss, not only to our family, but to the community — was we had to do something to celebrate her life.”

In 1991, Sam and wife Mary founded the Mary Kirkpatrick Haskell Scholarship Foundation in her memory. Its purpose would be to award annual full ride scholarships for students in need attending any state college or university in Mississippi.

To raise scholarship funds, Sam called upon his clients and Hollywood friends who visited his hometown every other year from 1992 to 2004 for the biennial “Stars Over Mississippi” events. The events became a community effort bringing as many as 10,000 people to the small town for a parade of stars and charity concert that saw performances from the likes of Dolly Parton, Vince Gill, Wynonna, Brad Paisley and appearances from some of Sam’s top clients like Debbie Allen, Ray Romano, Sela Ward, Jean Smart, Brad Garrett, Tony Danza, Phil Hartman and close friend Prince Edward of the British Royal Family.

Collectively, the events raised more than \$4 million and are educating over 200 deserving students from Amory and beyond.

The “Stars Over Mississippi” events were a precursor to the support the Haskells would help provide the state.

From August 23 to 30, 2005, Mississippi’s gulf coast was devastated during Hurricane Katrina. While much of the national attention was placed on the major damage incurred in New Orleans and around Louisiana, Haskell saw first-hand the need in his home state and worked diligently to develop and produce a

fundraiser event.

“Mississippi Rising” was telecast from the University of Mississippi on October 1, 2005. Broadcast across MSNBC and hosted by Morgan Freeman, featuring twelve short documentaries from Whoopi Goldberg and director Penelope Spheeris and the performances and participation of Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, and celebrities such as Faith Hill, Samuel L. Jackson, Sela Ward, Debbie Allen, Jason Alexander, Gerald McRaney, Delta Burke and many more, the telethon and subsequent efforts raised over \$30 million for victims.

The concert events weren’t the only major avenues of support for Sam or his wife during their time in Hollywood.

On top of volunteer efforts within their church and community, Mary Donnelly Haskell was actively involved with the Los Angeles Mission, serving as a board member of its Anne Douglas Center and President of the Celebrity Action Council which provided homeless support services, personal goods and substance abuse services for low-income and homeless women.

Sam served on boards in the Los Angeles community that helped orphan children, gave back through organizations such as Make A Wish and Children’s Miracle Network, and helped William Morris client Marlo Thomas with fundraisers for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

“When you talk about servant leadership, you talk about the desire that is there in your heart to do something good through someone else’s infrastructure,” Sam said. “Whether it’s created by someone else or whether you create it yourself, you need to be a part of that and help other people.

“You know that expression, ‘it takes a village,’ well there are many villages in our lives. We have the village of our family, our workplace, our church family, and our friends. We walk through many villages, but the consistency of taking the same principles and actions through each one is so important.

SIGMA CHI:

Another of Sam’s passions, Sigma Chi, has received his attention both nationally and locally.

He served the Sigma Chi Foundation as a past member of the Foundation’s Board of Governors, and also visited several chapters across the United States and Canada following the release of his 2009 memoir, sharing inspirational stories of his journey in the entertainment industry.

Locally, he has served the Eta chapter as a contributor to reconstruction efforts on its house and as an alumni mentor to young brothers.

“I love mentoring and talking to young people, helping them in a non-directing kind of way, but an encouraging kind of way,” Haskell said. “I think that everyone needs a little push. And if they open up to you and tell you what their choices are, you might help them make the right choices. You just want to encourage and nurture.”

SERVANT LEADERSHIP:

Servant leadership is an important part of the lives of many brothers, including Sam Haskell, and the premise will play an important part in the new **Transformational Leader** program.

One of the certificate modules under development by the Sigma Chi Leadership Institute, “Servant Leadership: Empowering Others” will be a 20-clock hour hybrid course.

Students learn a servant leader’s focus is on the growth and development of others through active listening, empathy, awareness and commitment.

To learn more visit sigmachi.org/transformational-leader.

“When you’re a servant leader, there’s always someone there to attack you, accuse you of giving back for attention or something more. If (your service) is pure and it comes from your heart, most people will see that. We mustn’t be afraid to stand in the light of God’s grace and do something that’s right, and something that’s good.”

—

Since building their dream home and returning to Oxford in the late oughts, the Haskells have been actively involved with their alma mater and other important causes in the community and their lives, and given of their time, talents and treasure.

It wasn’t just a Hollywood thing. It’s who they are.

“When you’re successful, it’s easy to forget to give back and that’s something they never allowed to happen,” said longtime Oxford resident and civic leader Patricia Lewis, who has known the couple from their time as students in the 1970s. “I don’t know of an instance where they’ve ever stopped giving. Their generosity is a very special quality that they both possess. ... They are born mentors. They have the ability to take young people by the hand and help them find their way.

“They certainly know the creative side of life, but they know about life itself and about the pitfalls that are often in your journey. They have encouraged in so many ways, so many young people over the years. That’s a God-given quality that they are willing to share. That they are willing to give the kind of encouragement to young people and make a real difference in their lives — that part of their life gets very high marks in my opinion.”

Mary has served the Ole Miss theatre department and has held a key role as member and past chair of the Ole Miss Women’s Council for Philanthropy, a groundbreaking program providing scholarships and counsel for students destined to be leaders.

Sam’s support is also echoed throughout the arts and theatrical efforts at the school, through monetary giving and volunteer efforts.

The pair have taken great pride in serving as a

mentor to students on campus.

“If we can pay it forward and mentor and encourage these students, that’s what it’s about,” Mary said. “We have scholars here that we watch at Ole Miss, we see them graduate and go out into the world and hopefully they are becoming the next generation of leaders and philanthropists.”

Sam and Mary’s efforts were collectively recognized in 2012 as the University of Mississippi named the main theatre within its Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts in their honor.

“When the Chancellor called and surprised us with that honor, we were humbled and yet so excited that our names would continue to be a part of the legacy that the Ford Center is, because it really is a jewel to not just this part of Mississippi, but this part of the Southeast,” said Mary, who has performed at the Kennedy Center, the White House and with the Prague Symphony Orchestra.

For many in the Oxford community, the Haskells’ friendship and presence alone has meant a great deal to both their alma mater and the region at large.

“Just knowing Sam Haskell means having a special friendship,” said Sandra Haney, a longtime server at Oxford’s Big Bad Breakfast. “He makes you feel like you’ve known him forever. I know if I ever need anything, all I’d have to do is pick up the phone and call.”

“When Sam and Mary returned and became part of the community, they slid in as if they had always been here,” added James Beard award winning chef John Currence. “(They) understand that if our community isn’t healthy, if we’re not nurturing our community in a way that’s helping it grow, then it’s just dying on the vine.

“Sam, in the last 10 years, has done his absolute damndest to try to draw every project that he’s gotten involved in to somehow benefit this place he calls home. He’s one of the reasons I love this place as much as I do because there are just so many people here that are dedicated to and understand how important it is to make life better.”



// MEET THE FOUNDATION + TRAVIS SHUMAKE //

During the week, Sigma Chi Foundation Director of Development Travis Shumake, **NORTHERN ARIZONA 2007**, works with alumni across New York to support academic scholarships and leadership programming that impacts brothers in the United States and Canada.

By weekend, Travis, the son of National Hot Rod Association legend Tripp Shumake, is blazing a trail of his own in drag racing as the NHRA's first openly gay driver.

He began the licensing process last October

with a 4.009-second, 319.62 mph run at the Texas Motorplex. One month later, Shumake met licensing requirements with a run of 3.963 seconds at 304.05 mph.

Presently working on sponsorship for the latter half of the NHRA Camping World Series season, Shumake is expected to make his nitro Funny Car debut in the fall.

He is expected to make his professional debut in a top alcohol classification at the NHRA Las Vegas Nationals in April.

IN SEPTEMBER 2020, THE 27-DAY GLASS FIRE DESTROYED MUCH OF THE LANDSCAPE AROUND OUR HOME IN CALISTOGA, CA AND NAPA VALLEY.

THROUGH THE SMOLDERING EMBERS, AS THE SIGMA CHI FLAG FLEW PROUDLY AND UNSCATHED ABOVE OUR FORMER TASTING ROOM, WE KNEW WE WOULD **SPRING FORWARD.**

TODAY, IN HOC NAPA VALLEY IS STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE, PRODUCING THE WORLD-CLASS WINES THAT OUR BROTHERS IN THE 1855 WINE CLUB EXPECT.

AND NOW, THROUGH ONE OF OUR NEW CLUB LEVELS THAT BEST FITS YOUR BUDGET AND LIFESTYLE, YOU, TOO, CAN JOIN THE BROTHERHOOD AND RAISE A GLASS.



in·hoc
NAPA VALLEY

VISIT INHOCVINO.COM TO LEARN MORE