

UM to Throw Party for Its Retiring Chancellor

Contributed by Barbara Lago
04/24/2009

OXFORD, Miss. - University of Mississippi students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends are throwing a party Thursday (April 30) for Robert C. Khayat, their retiring chancellor.

Weather permitting, the party will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Grove, the huge park-like area in the middle of UM's Oxford campus.

"Everybody affiliated with Ole Miss absolutely loves the Grove, including Chancellor Khayat, so this is the perfect spot for his party," said UM Dean of Students Sparky Reardon, who will emcee a short, informal program at 4 p.m. on the Grove stage.

Refreshments will be served from 3 to 5 p.m.

If it rains Thursday, the party will move to the C.M. "Tad" Smith Coliseum.

Sue Keiser, Khayat's assistant for 11 years, said that her retiring boss "didn't want anything formal or expensive, so we're just going to serve lemonade and cookies, and are inviting all our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends - past and present - to show up."

Khayat became UM's 15th chancellor in summer 1995 and retires June 30.

During his 14 years as UM's chief executive, he has drawn praise for a multitude of achievements. This year alone, UM ranked among the nation's top 25 public universities on Forbes.com, hosted a presidential debate, announced its 25th Rhodes Scholar, inaugurated the first black president of its alumni association, trounced Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl

and completed its successful \$200-million MomentUM campaign.

"Our alumni and friends love Chancellor Khayat, and I hope many of them will be able to come to campus and visit with him and other members of the Ole Miss family as we gather to celebrate 14 years of prosperity at our state's flagship university," said Alumni Affairs Director Tim Walsh.

For more information about Khayat's legacy at Ole Miss, visit <http://news.olemiss.edu> and type "Khayat" into the search engine