LONG BIOGRAPHY OF CHANCELLOR JEFFREY S. VITTER

Jeffrey S. Vitter is the 17th chancellor of the University of Mississippi, as well as Distinguished Professor of Computer and Information Science. He is a renowned computer scientist, a passionate advocate for higher education, and an avid reader. His 37 years' experience at noted universities Brown, Duke, Purdue, Texas A&M, and Kansas culminated in his "dream job" when he became chancellor of Mississippi's flagship university in January 2016. Since then, the University of Mississippi has attained the Carnegie R1 highest research activity designation, placing the school in the top 2.5% of the nation's colleges and universities. It is the state's largest and top-ranked university and has set records for student admissions, credentials, and retention.

Fueled by his belief in the power of higher education to transform lives, communities, and the world, Dr. Vitter has charted the university's momentum to achieve ever greater heights. Ole Miss continues its long legacy of leadership in academic excellence with a $1 billion building program including a state-of-the-art STEM building, creation of superlative networks of faculty called Flagship Constellations, major community partnerships, and greater capacity and reach of the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

In addition, Dr. Vitter relishes his role as the voice of the university. Since arriving at Ole Miss, he has greatly expanded communication and connectivity via town halls, informational blogs, and robust use of social media. He and his wife Sharon are often seen around campus, in the Grove, at athletic events, and on restaurant stools throughout Mississippi, getting to know people the old fashioned way.

Dr. Vitter's research expertise deals with big data and data science, especially the algorithmic aspects of processing, compressing, and communicating massive amounts of information. He has been elected a Fellow of the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Association for Computing Machinery, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He is a National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator, a Fulbright Scholar, and an IBM Faculty Development Awardee.

A native of New Orleans, Vitter graduated in mathematics with highest honors from the University of Notre Dame in 1977 and earned a Ph.D. under Don Knuth in computer science at Stanford University in 1980. He also holds an MBA in 2002 from Duke University.

Dr. Vitter's wife Sharon is a native Kansan and a pharmacy alumna of KU. Their three children Jillian, Scott, and Audrey were born in Providence, RI and are Notre Dame alumni. Jillian received her medical degree from Georgetown University and is a practicing anesthesiologist. Scott, a former U.S. Army Ranger and captain, is a PhD student in mechanical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. Audrey is on the G.E. Corporate Audit Staff in Zurich, Switzerland. The Vitters are enthusiastic about the arts and genealogy and are huge sports fans.