From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

TWO OF THE FUGATE QUADS GOING HOME TODAY

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JACKSON, Miss. – Today marks a bittersweet milestone for the Fugate family as two of their four quadruplets were released from the neonatal intensive care unit at Batson Children's Hospital.

Kristen Sue and Kelsey Roxanne are going home a mere three months after their birth and two weeks past their expected due date of May 2. Kenleigh Rosa and Kayleigh Pearl are staying for at least another week, possibly two.

Mom Kimberly said since their Feb. 8th births, the whole experience has been a roller coaster. "I'm just trying to take it day by day."

For her part, Kimberly is looking forward to being home, having spent only three nights there since the quads were born. She misses her oldest daughter, Katelyn, and hasn't even had a chance to see the nursery. For the last three months, the Ronald McDonald House on the University of Mississippi Medical Center campus has been her home.

"I don't know what any of us – my family or any of the other families there – would've done without them," she said. "To be able to be here with our children – whether in the NICU or the PICU or whatever is going on – is just overwhelming."

Kimberly and husband Craig plan to make the journey from their home in Jayess to Jackson as much as possible to see Kenleigh and Kayleigh and anticipate many follow-up visits with the girls' doctors for the next couple of years.

When asked what she's looking most forward to, she said, "To be able to have all five of my daughters home together."

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Please forward this message to colleagues who might be interested. If you wish to be removed from this list or know of a colleague to add, send an e-mail message to: jhospodor@umc.edu .

About Children's of Mississippi

Children's of Mississippi, part of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, encompasses all the pediatric services available at UMMC and at clinical sites throughout Mississippi. At the heart of these services is Batson Children's Hospital, the state's only hospital devoted exclusively to the care and treatment of sick and injured children. The Children's of Mississippi network brings specialized clinical care for children to communities across the state, making it easier for families to get the treatment they need closer to home.

About The University of Mississippi Medical Center

The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state's only academic medical center. UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health-related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training. The Medical Center's health-care enterprise includes five hospitals in the University Hospitals and Health System, and University Physicians, the faculty group practice. The Medical Center's threefold mission is to educate tomorrow's health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state's population. A major goal of the Medical Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health disparities. For more information, contact the Division of Public Affairs at 601-984-1100 or visit us on the Web at umc.edu/publicaffairs http://publicaffairs.umc.edu/