

Major Notes

Hailman profiles Thomas Jefferson and his love of wine



John Hailman, B.A. 1965, has received acclaim for his 2006 book *Thomas Jefferson on Wine* (University Press of Mississippi), a work that provides extensive insight into our third

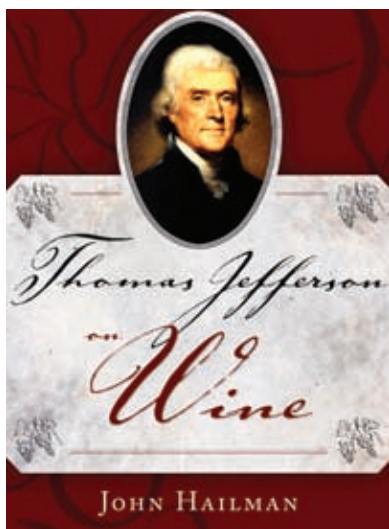
president's love for wine.

As a student, Hailman had planned to major in philosophy, but when he found out how difficult the comprehensive exam was, he switched to French—a decision that may very well have changed his professional life. His knowledge of the language helped him get a job as a consultant at a wine shop, and when the owners of the store learned that the fellow unloading trucks could accurately pronounce what was written on the wine labels, he was given a promotion on the spot.

He then transitioned into writing a wine column published in *The Washington*

Post and in syndication for more than a decade by Gannett News Service. One week Hailman wrote a piece that highlighted the Founding Fathers and their little known affinity for Madeira. According to Hailman, “all of the Founding Fathers were expected to be goody-goody teetotalers,” an assumption that he would find to be false.

The curator of Monticello read his column and asked Hailman to examine more than 300 of Jefferson's letters. Hailman's aim in 1974 was to write an eight-page pamphlet—a project that got “a



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little out of hand,” says Hailman. Now, 32 years later, it is a 455-page book that has received national attention from *The New York Times Book Review*, *Wine Spectator*, and *Bon Appetit*, among other publications.

When asked how his Millsaps education prepared him for his law career as well as his writing endeavors, Hailman cites the College's commitment to writing across the curriculum. “Millsaps helped me as a lawyer and a writer by its teaching of reasoning rather than memorizing.” He gives an endearing list of influential classes and professors, staff members, and coaches. Yet Hailman claims that Dr. T. W. Lewis, now professor emeritus of religion, was his biggest influence, as he not only taught him and his wife, Regan, but also married the couple in the Millsaps chapel in 1969.

Hailman has served as a judge at numerous international wine competitions for more than 20 years. He now divides his time between homes in Oxford, Mississippi, and Merignac in the Charente region of southwest France.

—Rebecca Day

Doctor-poet Stone inducted into Georgia Writers Hall of Fame



Millsaps College graduates are known for creating fascinating career paths, often blending their most ardent passions in unusual ways. Stealing moments between seeing

patients to record an inspiration of poetry and jotting down lines for poems on index cards, **Dr. John Stone**, B.A. 1958, attended to writing while doctoring. Likewise, his writing attends to doctoring.

As one example, *On Doctoring*, a collection of stories, poems, and essays that

Stone edited with Richard Reynolds, M.D., is given each year to all students entering medical school in the United States. More than 275,000 copies of the book have been distributed through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant.

The physician, poet, essayist, educator, and lecturer was inducted into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame this year. The award recognizes writers who have contributed to the literary heritage of Georgia and was established by the University of Georgia's Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Stone, of Tucker, Georgia, is emeritus professor of cardiology at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta.

An early aptitude for both writing and medical studies was evident during Stone's

years at Millsaps. The Jackson native edited and contributed essays and poems to the College's literary magazine, *Stylus*; was a member of Kit Kat, the creative writing honorary at Millsaps; and garnered both the Tatum Award, for the highest grade point average among premed students, and the coveted Founders Medal, for the highest grade point average among all students over four years. He was named "Mississippi's Outstanding Young Poet of 1957" from among 2,000 entries. Prior to attending Millsaps, he wrote poetry and served as editor of a high school literary magazine for which Eudora Welty served as a judge. Stone included Welty's *A Worn Path* as a selection in *On Doctoring*.

Stone's association with Millsaps

College has developed in memorable ways over the years. In 1977, he was named Alumnus of the Year. This award was established by the College in 1950 and is presented annually to an individual in recognition of outstanding contributions to his or her chosen profession, church, and community, as well as to Millsaps. In 1990, he wrote the libretto for *Canticles of Time*, a choral symphony with music by Dr. Samuel Jones, B.A. 1957, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Millsaps College. The symphony won the Music Award of the Mississippi Institute of Arts & Letters in 1991. In 1993, the Writing Center, John Stone Hall, was named in his honor. Once serving as the president's residence, John Stone Hall is



Once serving as the president's residence, John Stone Hall is the home of the Writing Center, the Core Curriculum office, and the classical studies department.

also the home of the Core Curriculum office and the classical studies department. The Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters has twice bestowed upon Stone the Literature Award.

Stone's collections of poetry, which are published by Louisiana State University Press, include *The Smell of Matches* (1972), *In All This Rain* (1980), *Renaming the Streets* (1985), *Where Water Begins* (1998), and *Music From Apartment 8: New and Selected Poems* (2004). A book of his new and collected essays, *In the Country of Hearts*, was originally published by Dell and reprinted by LSU Press in 1996. His essays have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Discover*, and *MD Magazine*. Stone's work has also appeared in *Poetry*, *The American Scholar*, *The New York Quarterly*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Southern Review*, *New England Review*, and *Poetry Northwest*. His work has been widely anthologized, for instance in *The Norton Introduction to Literature* and *Contemporary Southern Poetry*.

—Patti Wade, *Sophia Halkias*

Cancer foundation a testament to the life of Jennifer Sorrells



Basketball has long been **Lance Stoner's** first love. "I knew I would always regret it if I did not pursue it past high school if the opportunity presented itself," he said. When he graduated in 2002,

he was a four-year letter winner on the Millsaps basketball team, and today he coaches youth basketball—passing on his love for the game to a new generation. But basketball isn't the only thing Stoner has carried over from his life at Millsaps.



Lance Stoner and Jennifer Sorrells, for whom a cancer research foundation is named. They met in an environmental science class.

In addition to coaching, Stoner runs both the Jacksonville franchise of Stanley Steemer Carpet Cleaners and the Jennifer Sorrells Foundation for cancer research.

He met Sorrells, B.S. 2002, in an environmental science class during his sophomore year. "She had transferred in, and I had never really seen her out or on campus," Stoner recalled. "I was immediately drawn to her. As I got to know her, I found that not only was she beautiful, but she was smart, funny, shy, and adventurous."

After graduation, Stoner knew his future lay in returning home to Jacksonville to run the family business, while Sorrells went on to graduate school at the University of Kentucky. But the long-distance relationship didn't last long: Sorrells moved to Jacksonville, and the two became engaged shortly thereafter. They were in the process of making wedding plans when their lives changed again. Sorrells experienced some back pain while doing yard work and was soon diagnosed with osteosarcoma—bone cancer.

Stoner calls the next two years "an emotional roller coaster that consumed our lives." Sorrells, who died in 2006, received most of her treatment at the University of Florida Shands Cancer Center, where the foundation has now formed an

endowment.

"The great thing about this foundation is that just before Jenn passed away we had an opportunity to discuss starting the foundation and where we wanted the money to go," Stoner said. "That is the most special detail about starting and continuing the work." Setting up the endowment at the cancer center required \$20,000, which took the foundation about six months to raise.

Stoner is working closely with one of the doctors who was on Sorrells's treatment team—Dr. C. Parker Gibbs—and who is on the cusp of a major breakthrough on how to treat the very cancer with which Sorrells was afflicted. "It's a very exciting time for the foundation," Stoner said. "We can be part of revolutionizing how this disease is treated."

For more information about the Jennifer Sorrells Foundation, call 904-361-8433. Donations can also be made to the Jennifer L. Sorrells Endowed Fellowship for Geophysics Research, by contacting the Millsaps College Office of Development at 601-974-1023.

—Margaret Cahoon