

# Major Notes

**Brett C. Adams**, B.S. 1971, of Jackson died March 24, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity and the football team. He was also president of the Millsaps M-Club. In 1978, he was inducted into the Millsaps Sports Hall of Fame.

**Bettie Joan (Williams) Austin**, B.A. 1962, of Arlington died Nov. 11, 2007. While at Millsaps, she was a member of Beta Sigma Omicron, the Women's Council, and Kappa Delta. She was also on the Dean's List.

**Courtney L. Austin**, B.A. 2003, of Benton, Ark., died June 14, 2008. While at Millsaps, she was a member of Phi Mu sorority, the Anthropology Club, the Baptist Student Union, the Bobashela staff, Circle K, the College Republicans, the Diversity Group, and Habitat for Humanity. She was also a member of Major Productions, Millsaps Christian Fellowship, Pathfinders, the Psychology Club, and Wesley Fellowship.

**Terrell B. Bankester**, B.L.S. 1997, of Vicksburg died Feb. 6, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of the Adult Student Association.

**The Rev. Ronald J. Barham**, B.A. 1965, of Collinsville died July 20, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of the Ministerial League, Circle K, The Millsaps Singers and Wesley Fellowship. He received the Galloway Medal Award.

**William (Bill) A. Barksdale**, B.A. 1964, of Jackson died Feb. 10, 2008. While at Millsaps, he was a member of the football team, the Student Senate, and Circle K. He also served as president and vice president of Kappa Alpha fraternity, vice president of the M-Club and business manager of The Millsaps Singers.

**Colonel John R. Barr**, 1953, of Madison died June 26, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, The Millsaps Singers, and the Topper Club.

**James (Jim) A. Cloy**, B.S. 1965, of Jackson died July 20, 2008. At Millsaps, he majored in sociology.

**Billy R. Coile**, B.A. 1961, of Byram died Jan. 27, 2008. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and The Millsaps Players.

**Bobby F. Crudup**, B.B.A. 1977, of Jackson died March 29, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of the Black Student Association.

**Alandra R. Davis**, 2009, of Birmingham died July 14, 2008. She was the associate editor for the 2007 *Stylus* and a member of Tri Delta sorority.

**Hugh L. Davis**, B.S. 1957, of Jackson died July 18, 2008. At Millsaps, he majored in biology.

**The Rev. Henry N. Easley**, B.A. 1956, of Eugene, Ore., died June 29, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of Alpha Phi Omega, the Ministerial League and the Millsaps Singers.

**The Rev. George Harold Fleming Sr.**, of Ridgeland died Aug. 6, 2008. He established the Helene Brame Fleming Memorial Sponsored Scholarship Fund in memory of his wife. The scholarship is awarded annually with preference given to those students who commit to enter Christian ministry or a related vocation.

**Dr. Charles T. Fowler**, 1943, of Jackson died April 22, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

**James P. Fulton**, 1961, of Ridgeland died June 17, 2008.

**Martha F. Gandy**, 1947, of Hattiesburg died July 26, 2007.

**Glen W. Hall**, B.A. 1972, of Brandon died April 27, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and Pi Kappa Delta.

**Penelope D. Hall**, 1963 of Salisbury, N.C., died April 2, 2008.

**Dr. D.L. Harrison Jr.**, 1953 of Grenada died Aug. 4, 2008.

**Curtis O. Holladay**, B.S. 1958, of Fairview, N.C., died April 28, 2007. At Millsaps, he majored in geology.

**Robert F. Juraschek**, B.A. 1944, died March 31, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

**Paul B. King Jr.**, M.B.A. 1989, of Madison died April 2, 2008.

**Dr. Mary Elizabeth "Libbie" Lake**, 1988, died Sept. 24, 2008.

**Dr. James H. Lemly**, 1936, of Falls Church, Va., died Feb. 4, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of The Millsaps Players, the Debate Team, and the band. His estate endowed a scholarship in honor of his parents, Thomas M. and Mary Morrison Lemley.

**Magruder L. (Lee) Mansell Jr.**, 1941, of Jackson died March 13, 2008.

**Velma Anne Mauldin Magee**, 1957, of Huntsville died April 2, 2008.

**Dr. Robert D. McBroom**, 1958, of Gautier died May 26, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta.

**Martha E. McCoy Jr.**, 1949, of Crystal Springs died June 29, 2008. At Millsaps, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority, The Millsaps Players, and The Millsaps Singers.

**Robert H. McFarland**, 1940, of Bay Springs died March 31, 2008. He was a member of the Millsaps football team.

**Maurice T. McIntosh**, Whitworth 1930, of Collins died July 14, 2008.

**Clara Frances Jackson Meisburg**, B.A. 1962, of Tallahassee died May 25, 2008. While at

Millsaps, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority, Sigma Lambda, and the Concert Choir. She was president of the Baptist Student Union, secretary-treasurer of the Women's Student Government, secretary of Kappa Epsilon Delta, secretary-treasurer of the Women's Council, chair of the Orientation Committee, and pledge trainer of Chi Omega. She received the Outstanding Senior Award from Chi Omega and was voted a campus favorite. She graduated summa cum laude.

**Mary Carol (Nelson) Murphy**, 1939, of Lucedale died April 30, 2008. At Millsaps, she was a member of Phi Mu sorority.

**Josephine (Jo) T. (Timberlake) Nicholson**, B.A. 1941, of Jackson died Jan. 14, 2008. While at Millsaps, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority and Beta Beta Beta. In 1969-70, she served as a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. She and her husband **John W. Nicholson Jr.**, 1941, were financial supporters of the College, contributing to the General Louis H. Wilson Tribute Fund and the James Livesay Endowed Scholarship Fund.

**Dr. Vada Marcelene (Jenkins) O'Neal**, 1964 of Greenville died July 21, 2008.

**Cheryl H. (Hopper) Payne**, B.A. 1969, of Jackson died March 7, 2008. At Millsaps, she majored in English.

**Lillard D. Pepper**, B.S. 1959, of Jackson died May 18, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

**Lawrence W. Rabb Jr.**, B.A. 1942, of Meridian died March 30, 2008. While at Millsaps, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, Kit Kat, Omicron Delta Kappa, the International Relations Club, the YMCA Cabinet, Pi Kappa Delta, and The Millsaps Players. He served as editor of the *Purple & White*. He graduated with honors. From 1965-66, he served as president of the Alumni Association.

**David M. Read**, B.A. 1983, of Natchez died Feb. 5, 2008. At Millsaps, he majored in political science. He contributed to the Bergmark Endowed Scholarship Fund.

**Myrt N. (Naylor) Rhaly**, B.A. 1940, of Jackson died Jan. 7, 2006. At Millsaps, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

**Marion Howard Robinson**, 1944, of Jackson died Aug. 24, 2008.

**Jordan (Jordy) T. Rourke**, 2010, of Baton Rouge, La., died May 19, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of The Millsaps Singers.

**Dr. Theodore K. Scott Jr.**, B.A. 1958, of Monroe, Va., died May 26, 2008. While at Millsaps, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, Omicron Delta Kappa, and The Millsaps Players. He was a professor at Millsaps College.

**Johnny B. Sharp**, B.A. 1958, of Athens, Ga., died March 20, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of the Ministerial League and the Psychology Club. He also served as a representative on the Student Executive Board.

**Verna W. Shelton**, B.A. 1929, of Jackson died Feb. 1, 2008.

**Dr. Leslie W. Shelton**, B.S. 1957, of Columbia, S.C., died June 20, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity and The Millsaps Singers.

**Kent W. Van Skiver**, B.A. 1975, of Biloxi, died October 10, 2008.

**Charles M. Sours**, B.S. 1948, of Madison died June 27, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity.

**Marti H. (Howell) Speights**, B.A. 1965, of New Orleans died Feb. 22, 2008. At Millsaps, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority, the YWCA and the Wesley Fellowship.

**William Granville Sykes III**, B.A. 1953, of Henderson, Nev., died Oct. 19, 2007. At Millsaps, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

**Catherine H. (Hairston) Tomsyck**, B.A. 1945, of Madison died Feb. 28, 2008. At Millsaps, she was a member of Phi Mu sorority, the Beethoven Club, and the International Relations Club. She also served as news editor of the *Purple & White* and secretary-treasurer of Chi Delta. She graduated with honors.

**Kearney R. Walters Jr.**, 1953, of Carriere died Sept. 11, 2007.

**Dr. Louie F. Wilkins**, 1946, of Brookhaven died March 24, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity.

**Robert B. (Butch) Williams**, M.B.A. 1982, of Nashville died Dec. 19, 2007. At Millsaps, he was a member of The Millsaps Players.

**Dan A. Wright**, B.A. 1947, of Clinton died July 9, 2008. At Millsaps, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, Omicron Delta Kappa, and The Millsaps Players. He was a former vice president of the Alumni Association.

## FRIENDS

**Robin Revere Davis** of Meridian died April 28, 2008. In the early 1990s, she worked in the acquisitions department of the Millsaps-Wilson Library.

**Lucille Hansard** of Franklin, Tenn., died May 26, 2008. From 1955-64, she was the administrative assistant to Bishop Homer Ellis Finger, president of the College from 1952-64.

**Colonel Richard G. Wilkinson** of Jackson died April 10, 2008. The Millsaps chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity dedicated their house to him in honor of his generous financial support.

## Bishop Homer Ellis Finger Jr.

*Former president of Millsaps College*

Bishop Homer Ellis Finger Jr., a former president of Millsaps College who later became a United Methodist bishop, died on May 25 in Asheville, N.C. He was 91.

As the sixth president of the College from 1952 until 1964, Finger was known for navigating tense times in an era of national racial unrest. He summed up the position of the College when he said, "College students have a right to hear various points of view. They are more mature in their judgment than they are sometimes credited with...Millsaps College has its weaknesses...but indoctrination is not one of our weaknesses." By 1965, voluntary integration occurred at Millsaps without violence.

Dr. Frances Lucas, president of the College, met Finger in June 2000 at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in North Carolina. "He wished me well with great enthusiasm and affection," she said, noting that they corresponded through the years and that Finger remained interested in the College.

Millsaps alumni recall Finger's extraordinary memory. "In those days the president's house was on campus in what is now the English house, and he would have every freshman and new student in groups of 15 to 20 come for punch and cookies, and he would call them by name," said Robert N. Leggett, B.A. 1962, a Millsaps trustee.

Finger at age 16 left his home in northeast Mississippi, rode all night on the train without benefit of sleeping quarters and arrived at the train station in Jackson at 5 a.m. After wandering Capital Street downtown for two hours, he hailed a taxi and arrived at the College for his freshman year. During his time at Millsaps, he forged a lifelong connection with ideas and institutions of faith and education.

He graduated *magna cum laude* from the College and received a master of divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School. He held honorary degrees from five colleges. After receiving his master of divinity degree, he served a small church in Coldwater, arriving as a bachelor but leaving with his bride, Mamie Lee Ratliff. He served in the Philippines as a Navy chaplain during World War II.

He received an appointment to Oxford University United Methodist church in 1946. In 1952, at age 35, with three children, Ellis, 8; Bill, 5; and Betsy, 1, he became president of Millsaps. He was elected in 1964 to the Episcopacy in the United Methodist Church and served in the Nashville Episcopal area for 12 years and the Holston area in Knoxville, Tenn. for eight years. He served on numerous church-wide ministries.

Finger is among Millsaps College's eight bishops honored with a scholarship. The Millsaps United Methodist Bishops Scholarship assists entering United Methodist students who exhibit outstanding leadership and service in their school, church or community.

—N.L.F.



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## Carol Comstock Bergmark

*Friend of Millsaps College*

Millsaps College lost a dear friend when Carol Comstock Bergmark, 87, died on July 8 after a brief illness. She came to Millsaps as the spouse of Bob Bergmark, a longtime Millsaps professor, and became a great friend, mentor, and avid supporter of the College.

Carol Bergmark graduated from the University of San Antonio, now Trinity University, and attended Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J. While working as church secretary at Travis Park Methodist Church in San Antonio, Carol met Bob Bergmark, a Boston University seminary student who attended a church service on his way to mission work in Mexico. They married in 1946, had three children and served together in Methodist churches, Bob as pastor and Carol as choir director, in Massachusetts and Texas. In 1953 the family moved to Jackson when Bob Bergmark accepted a position as a professor of philosophy at Millsaps.

A talented musician, Bergmark taught piano lessons for 27 years and served as contralto soloist for several congregations and many choral organizations. She performed with the Millsaps Singers in major works for many years.

“Carol Bergmark was a strong musical artist and an avid supporter of the arts in the Jackson community, and she was an inspiration to all of us in the arts’ community,” said Dr. Tim C. Coker, chairman of the Department of Performing Arts at Millsaps.

During the civil rights movement of the 1960s, Bergmark was active in Mississippians for Public Education and was the Protestant representative of the Interfaith Fellowship, formed to promote understanding and cooperation of Jews, Catholics, and Protestants. She served as president of the Millsaps Women’s Group, and in 1969 was a co-founder of International Friends, created to provide a support network for women arriving in Jackson from all over the world.

“Carol was a remarkable woman, a woman of wide interests, progressive thought, quiet courage, and abiding friendship,” said Dr. Don Fortenberry, B.A. 1962, retired Millsaps chaplain. “Dedicated to issues of peace and justice, to fine music both as an instrumentalist and as a contralto soloist, to international understanding and to relishing each and every experience as profoundly as possible, she set a high standard for living fully and deeply. Those who knew her over time were blessed with unfailing support and friendship without restraint. Carol was a model of authentic living and was—and continues to be—a gift in my life beyond measure.”

Bergmark’s daughter Martha Bergmark received an honorary doctorate from Millsaps in 2008. Memorial contributions may be made to the Bergmark Endowed Scholarship Fund at Millsaps College, c/o Director of Donor Relations, P. O. Box 151191, Jackson MS 39210.

—N.L.F.

*“Carol was a remarkable woman of wide interests, progressive thought, quiet courage, and abiding friendship.”*

## Aleda Shirley

### *Writer-in-Residence*

Aleda Shirley, Millsaps College writer-in-residence known for her wit, her love of life, and her perceptiveness about students and their interests, died June 16 after a long battle with cancer. A graduate of the University of Louisville, she taught at Millsaps from fall 1999 to spring 2008.

She was the author of three collections of poetry, *Dark Familiar* (Sarabande Books, 2006), *Long Distance* (Miami University Press, 1996), and *Chinese Architecture* (University of Georgia Press, 1986), which won the Poetry Society of America's Norma Farber First Book Prize. She published poems in many magazines, including *Poetry* and *American Poetry Review*, and received, among many other awards, fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kentucky Arts Council and the Mississippi Arts Council.

Greg Miller, a Millsaps professor of English who helped facilitate the hire of Shirley when he was department chair, recalled that Shirley helped students do their best work "and to be supportive of one another in discerning what 'breathes,' as Emily Dickinson might say, in stories and poems. Her students have gone on to do well. They universally adored her, as did her colleagues."

Shirley trusted students' intelligence and allowed them to pursue projects they wished to pursue within the framework of an assignment, said Jack Boettcher, B.A. 2008 and an English major. "She encouraged aspiring writers to become wider readers and could make suggestions based on the sort of writing toward which a particular student gravitated. She would defend her opinions tirelessly, but she didn't refer to her authority as a successful poet for the legitimacy of her arguments, because she wanted to engage as genuinely as possible with her students and the questions their writing raised."

Dr. Suzanne Marrs, Millsaps professor of English, remembered Shirley during a service on campus for her love of Frank Sinatra, red lipstick, sushi at Little Tokyo, and teaching. "She could send classes into gales of laughter with one comment," she said.

—N.L.F.



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## Percy Johnson

*Longtime Employee of the College*

Percy Johnson, a beloved Millsaps employee for 35 years, died on March 23. He worked at Millsaps from May 4, 1971 until his retirement on July 31, 2006.

“He loved the College and was always willing to help,” said David W. Wilkinson, director of the physical plant who worked with Johnson for 28 years. “He was one of the first to arrive in the morning and one of the last to leave in the evening. I didn’t just lose an employee when he died, but I lost one of the best friends I ever had.”

Johnson was hired to run a Bush Hog and take care of the campus grounds but later handled maintenance needs from plumbing to painting. He knew exactly how the Leggett Center and the Ford Academic Complex Recital Hall needed to be set up for particular uses, Wilkinson said. “All you had to do was tell Percy, ‘It’s the Principals’ Institute, and you set up,’ and he knew just what to do,” he said.

Bessie Harmon, wife of former Millsaps College President Dr. George Harmon, said Johnson was a hard worker who through the years became a personal friend of her family.

Johnson would insist on driving the Harmons to the airport and picking them up when they traveled, she said. She recalled one time when they drove themselves to the airport, but Johnson met them anyway, telling them he thought they might like to have someone welcome them home.

Johnson was born Feb. 13, 1942, in Jackson. He was one of 15 siblings. “He was one of the most down-to-earth people you could ever meet,” said Johnson’s son, Emmanuel “Scooter” Morris, a maintenance technician at Millsaps.

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