



A New Life in North Midtown

As I drive to work in the early hours of the morning, I'm struck by the North Midtown neighborhood where I live. It is one of the most economically downtrodden neighborhoods in Jackson. Each street exudes its own story, full of history and strife. Each block embodies a well-earned and well-worn character. I recognize that the simple joy that North Midtown provides me is shared by few and resolve myself to help other people notice this modest neighborhood. Moments such as these are just part of the reason I chose to spend my first year out of college living and working in this nearly neglected neighborhood.

Thoughtful discernment and a sense of adventure motivated me to live and work in North Midtown as a participant in the inaugural One Campus, One Community Postbaccalaureate Fellowship. A week before graduation, armed with a spirit full of anticipation and trepidation, I picked up the key to my new house, unscrewed the boards from its windows and set out on the first new adventure of my postbaccalaureate life.

Arriving at Millsaps as a freshman, I would have never believed that my first job out of college would include living and working in the neighborhood west of campus. If I've learned anything from life, it's that the most worthwhile experiences are often those that are completely unexpected. I am living a life of poverty amidst poverty in a house built by Habitat for Humanity, and I couldn't be more content.

I work half of each day at Millsaps and the other half at Habitat for Humanity-Metro Jackson. I am responsible for attempting to forge more relationships between North Midtown and the College and trying to link campus organizations to philanthropic sites that they can assist. Though I sincerely hope this work contributes to the nourishment of the College, it is by far my responsibilities to Habitat for Humanity that make me excited to wake up in the morning.

At Habitat I work as a maintenance man. I am the person called when toilets need to be unclogged, holes in the wall repaired, and windows replaced. Those tasks allow me to walk into the homes and lives of impoverished Jackson residents. I am graced with being able to see firsthand the hardships that face many.

By opening their homes and their lives to me, residents offer a glimpse at the common, hard-nosed realities that constitute life for so many of our nation's working poor. I could not be more thankful for these new friends in my life and the subtle, unconscious transformations that take place within me.

—John Kellogg, B.A. 2008



Upholding a Strong Tradition

Each year, the Millsaps Annual Fund provides financial resources that directly affect the quality of teaching and student life at Millsaps. Through scholarships, academic programs, and faculty or library support, your Annual Fund gift helps the College build on its foundation of excellence.

As Millsaps shapes its learning environment, cultivates its students, and constructs new areas of study, your gift offers the support the College needs to remain one of the nation's finest liberal arts colleges.

Give to the Millsaps Annual Fund today to ensure our success for generations to come. You can give online at www.millsaps.edu/devoff/af.

ALUMNI Millsaps Alumni gathered in San Francisco to connect with fellow alumni and get the latest news about Millsaps.

Millsaps Department of Annual Giving

1701 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39210-0001
601-974-1037
1-86-MILLSAPS (toll-free)
www.millsaps.edu