

# CAMPUS NEWS

## Message of hope: Nova Series brings Goodall to Mississippi

“Good morning. *Bonjour. Guten tag. Jambo. Ogh-oo-ogh-ugh...*”

Jane Goodall taught hundreds of Mississippi middle and high school students how to greet one another in French, German, Swahili — and chimpanzee — as part of her April Nova Series program on the Millsaps campus. Her daylong appearance culminated in an evening presentation to a sellout crowd of more than 1,000.

Goodall said the careful listener will discover that the chimpanzee has a lot to say to humankind. “It’s as if the chimpanzee reaches across to us and says, ‘I do matter in your scale of reckoning,’” she said.

Goodall, whose lifetime of work with chimpanzees in the Gombe National Forest in Tanzania has earned her worldwide acclaim, participated in an academic outreach program to 275 high school students from around the state. It was followed by an afternoon lecture to 500 middle and high school students and a question-and-answer session with 80 Millsaps students.

She emphasized the pivotal role that her mother played in what was an unorthodox career for a woman in the 1960s. Her mother, for instance, always nurtured her interest in wildlife — from the compassion she showed to Goodall as a child when she brought worms to bed (“they’d die,” her mother said) to accompanying her into the forest for long periods.

An avid environmentalist and conservationist, Goodall quickly won over her audiences with warmth and humor, saying that she liked speaking to young people because they presented hope for the future. Indeed, she seemed to have a powerful rapport with the Mississippi students. “At the 1 p.m. session, the crowd of students spontaneously burst into a long and enthusiastic standing ova-

tion when Dr. Goodall took the stage,” said Martha Boshers, assistant vice president for development at Millsaps and an organizer of the Nova Series events. “And she was impressed by the thoughtful questions they asked.”

In her presentations, Goodall stressed that the dividing line scientists have seen between man and animals is increasingly blurry. For instance, in the Gombe National Forest in Tanzania she observed a male adolescent chimpanzee raise and protect an orphaned chimp. This is an important life lesson, she said, that shows how humanlike animals are and how much we can learn from them about “moral compassion.”

Goodall’s books *In the Shadow of Man* and *Through a Window*, and her spiritual autobiography *Reason for Hope*, form a cornerstone of modern environmental studies. Her book *The Chimpanzees of Gombe: Patterns of Behavior* is recognized as the definitive work on chimpanzees. “Dr. Goodall is one of the most influential scientists of our time,” said Dr. Richard Smith, senior vice president and dean of the College. “She has changed our perceptions of humanity and its relationship to the larger world.”

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for these students to meet one of the premier scientists of our time,” said Sandra Hindsman, a Jackson educator. “Dr. Goodall is a great example to follow. She has been passionate, dedicated, and relentless in her pursuit of her goals. She is a wonderful role model for girls, in particular.”

Goodall’s message is also heard beyond the classroom. “Politicians



Goodall with a toy monkey she was once given by a sightless magician. “If a blind man can do magic, you can conquer the world,” he told her, and she carries that message to children.

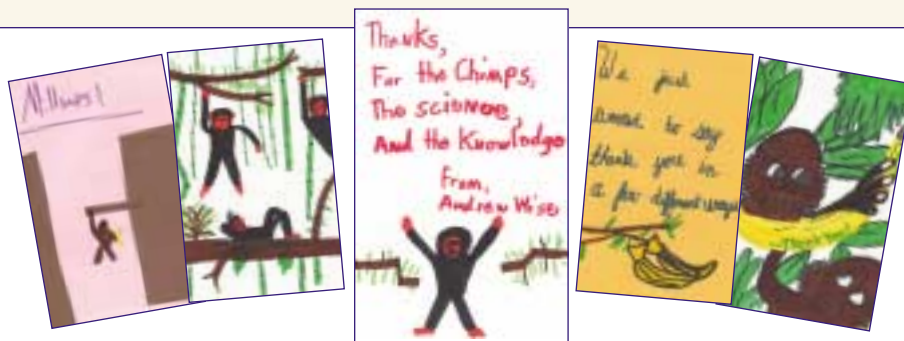
are beginning to be awakened to issues related to the environment and the natural universe,” said Dr. W. Lamar Weems of Jackson, who attended the keynote address.

A noted children’s author, Goodall cited such classic characters as Dr. Doolittle and Tarzan as sparking her interest in animals and exploration. “I fell passionately in love with Tarzan and was terribly jealous of that would-be Jane of his,” she quipped.

Goodall devotes much of her time to environmental activism. She promotes the work of the Jane Goodall Institute, an organization with operations in 14 countries. The institute supports the continuing Gombe study and other research, education, and conservation programs.

Goodall has received the Medal of Tanzania, the National Geographic Society's Hubbard Medal, and Japan's prestigious Kyoto Prize. She also received the third Gandhi/King Award for Nonviolence, presented in 2001 at the United Nations by the World Movement for Nonviolence, and was designated a Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II.

The Millsaps Nova Series hosts individuals of international standing who have played transforming roles in the fields of education, business, government, religion, science, and the arts. The series was made possible by BancorpSouth, BellSouth, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, EastGroup/Parkway Foundation, and Dermatopathology Associates PLLC — Dr. Billy L. Walker and Dr. Jennifer Smith Schulmeier.



Fifth-graders who met with Goodall flooded the president's office with thank-you cards.

Nova Series programs are intended to be discussions of cultural, social, economic, and political changes affecting Mississippi, the nation, and the world. Goodall's appearance was offered as part of the Millsaps Green Semester, a series of events focusing on environmental education, conservation, and consumer responsibility.

Complementing Goodall's stu-

dent program were related presentations by Dr. Michael Galaty, assistant professor of anthropology; Dr. George Bey III, associate professor of sociology and anthropology and associate dean of sciences; Dr. Jamie Harris, associate professor of geology; Dr. Debora Mann, assistant professor of biology; and Dr. Patrick Hopkins, assistant professor of philosophy.

## 'Why I Live at the P.O.': Students catalog Welty's mail

At colleges across the country, students read the completed works of Eudora Welty. But at Millsaps, students get to read Welty's mail. Led by Dr. Suzanne Marrs, a Millsaps English professor, 13 Millsaps students have stepped out of the classroom and into the life of Eudora Welty.

The students are working to document and catalog letters sent to Welty by various writers, including poets William Jay Smith and Hubert Creekmore and author Reynolds Price. The information in the letters is being catalogued and put into a database. The class also attempted to determine how each writer influenced Welty's works and vice versa.

"The work we are doing is of great significance to our own education and to the academic community in general," said Charlie Mock, a student from Brandon. "The information found in these letters will continue to shed light on a wonderful woman's work, thus giving the world a greater insight into her writing."

In 1957, Welty donated a collection of her manuscripts, papers, personal correspondence, and photo-

graphs to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. She continued to donate her personal effects to the MDAH throughout the remainder of her life, resulting in the most impressive and extensive Welty collection in the world.

In 1986, Welty revised her estate so that ownership of her house would pass to the state of Mississippi upon her death. The Millsaps students' work is a part of the efforts of the MDAH and the Eudora Welty Foundation to establish The Welty House Museum. The museum will serve as an inspiring venue for regional literary events, in addition to offering exhibits and tours of the house and garden.

As the Stewart Family Chair in Language and Literature at Millsaps, Marrs teaches courses in composition, 19th- and 20th-century American literature, and 20th-century Southern literature.

Marrs is also the author of *The Welty Collection* and numerous articles on Eudora Welty's fiction. Her most recent publication, *One Writer's Imagination: The Fiction of Eudora*

Welty, was published in fall 2002.

In 1985 and 1986, Marrs was the Welty Scholar in Residence at the state archives. She has lectured on Welty's works in the United States, Russia, and France and served as a consultant for the 1987 BBC documentary on Eudora Welty. Marrs received the Phoenix Award for Outstanding Achievement in Eudora Welty Scholarship in 1998.

Photo: Mississippi Magazine



Marrs and her students poring over Eudora Welty's correspondence.

## Postcard from Cuba

Meg Hyneman and Wesley Kelley, both Millsaps sophomores from Jackson, traveled to Cuba in March to experience firsthand the nation's people, culture, government, and economy, and to better understand how that country is affected by U.S. policies. The tour included stops in Havana and Santa Clara, burial site of the Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara. The students had the



opportunity to interact with ordinary Cubans, learning about their lives and the effects of the U.S. embargo.

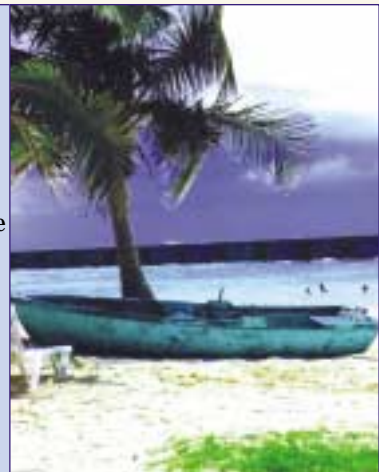
Hyneman, who studies religion, philosophy, and Spanish, said that she thought the United States could learn from Cuba and its people. "In Cuba, they really focus on preventive medicine, since they don't have a lot of resources due to the U.S. blockade," she said. "Still, their infant mortality and life expectancy is like that of Sweden or Denmark, not like the rest of the 'developing world.' I had heard very little of Cuba's achievements in human rights before I went; the only information we get

from the U.S. press tends to be about civil rights violations."

The tour was sponsored by The Associated Colleges of the South and coordinated through the Center for Global Education at Augsburg College. "I was a bit nervous going on the day we declared war on Iraq, since Cuba is definitely anti-war and anti-imperialism," Hyneman said, "but the Cuban people do a really good job of differentiating between the U.S. government and the U.S. people. They were warm and welcoming and really emphasized that they wanted to have better relations with 'their brothers and sisters in the United States,' since we are their closest neighbors geographically."

"Educational trips like these are important because it would be impossible for me to really understand the injustices present in the United States without experiencing the struggles happening elsewhere in the world," Hyneman said. "I want to learn how the way I live — the way the U.S. middle class lives — really affects people in other parts of the world."

Kelley, a business administration major whose photographs are featured here, said that she was planning several photographic exhibitions of Cuba and its people.



## Center for Ministry receives \$2 million Lilly grant

The Lilly Endowment has awarded the Center for Ministry, operated by Millsaps College and the Mississippi United Methodist Conference, \$2 million to participate in a national program called Sustaining Pastoral Excellence.

The Lilly Endowment initiative is designed to foster a high caliber of pastoral leadership in the United States. Overall, 47 grants totaling \$57.9 million were awarded in October to U.S. organizations with religious affiliations. More than 700 institutions submitted proposals.

"We are deeply honored that the Lilly Endowment has recognized the Center for Ministry as an extraordinary resource for pastoral education," said President Frances Lucas. "The College exists today because of the vision and faith of our Methodist founders, and this cornerstone gift will further strengthen our historic bond with the Mississippi Conference."

The five-year, \$2 million award will allow the Center for Ministry to establish a Pastoral Excellence Project. The project, which began in January, hosts interdenominational clergy and laity to assess pastoral ministry in Mississippi. The project will also offer pastoral seminars, provide grants for education of the clergy, develop models of evaluation and support for United Methodist ministers, and create a scholar-in-residence program.

"The Center for Ministry Pastoral Excellence Project will open the doors to high-quality resources and life-changing experiences for many pastors in Mississippi," said the Reverend Andy Johnson, the center's executive director. "Our goal is to honor God's call and to offer support as pastors seek to nurture that call over a lifetime of ministry."

Other recipients of Lilly Endowment pastoral-excellence grants include theological schools, regional and national judicatories from large

and small denominations, church-related colleges and universities, ecumenical organizations, retreat centers, and congregations from most major Christian traditions.

"We will be most interested in following these projects over the next few years," said Craig Dykstra, the Lilly Endowment vice president for religion.

"They offer the promise of meaningful renewal for many pastors in this country. The endowment's current religion grant-making revolves around two major and interlocking considerations: first, identifying, nurturing, and educating a talented new generation of pastors and, second, recognizing and supporting the excellent ones we have. Not surprisingly, we know that healthy, engaged, thoughtful, dedicated ministers usually go hand in hand with healthy, vibrant, and effective congregations."

## McMillan to share business expertise at Else School

Howard L. McMillan Jr. joined the Millsaps Else School of

Management as executive in residence in January. In this role, McMillan will assist students with career decisions, share his considerable business experience in the classroom, and be involved in external-relations work.

McMillan, who graduated from the University of Mississippi, attended the Harvard School of Business Administration and the School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University. Currently, he is a financial adviser with Morgan Stanley and the president of Century Club Charities.

He has served as president of Deposit Guaranty National Bank and Deposit Guaranty Corp., the American Bankers Association, the United Way of the Capital Area, and the Country Club of Jackson. McMillan has also served as chairman of the board for the MetroJackson Chamber of Commerce, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra Association, Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, and the Jackson Metropolitan Crime Commission.

"We are very fortunate to have someone with Howard's extensive and varied business and community background at the Else School," said Randy Boxx, dean of the Else School of Management. "I am particularly excited about the prospect of our students spending quality time with him."

## Millsaps scores high during reaccreditation

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has reaffirmed Millsaps'



Howard McMillan

accreditation for another 10 years.

Each school being considered for accreditation or reaccreditation is required to document compliance with a series of requirements, commonly known as "must statements." These requirements fall into six major categories: principles and philosophy of accreditation, institutional purpose, institutional effectiveness, educational program, educational support services, and administrative processes.

"Our basic self-study document was 259 pages long, going point by point through all the must statements and documenting how we were in compliance with each one," said Dr. Elise Smith, an art professor who chaired the self-study effort. "And then we had reams of appendices and supporting evidence to go along with it."

The SACS committee gave the undergraduate curriculum at Millsaps an unusually strong affirmation. They made no recommenda-

tions for change in that area, and described the Core, in particular, as "exceptional in its conception and its execution."

Elise Smith "worked tirelessly to make sure our self study was superb," said Dr. Richard Smith, senior vice president and dean of the College. "She performed an extraordinary service to the College."

In addition, Millsaps was reaccredited in January by the United Methodist Church's University Senate. The University Senate is an elected group of 25 higher education professionals who determine which schools meet the criteria for being listed as United Methodist-related institutions.

The senate, established in 1882, is one of the oldest accrediting bodies in the country. The United Methodist Church has 124 related schools across the United States, from rural communities to large cities. Student enrollment ranges from 200 to 15,000.

## Millsaps Players: From politics to the parlor



The Millsaps Players' 2002-03 season is perhaps best characterized by its diversity. Productions included the world premiere in November of *The Great Western Swamp*, a timely commentary on war, violence, and the Middle East conflict in the context of Greek tragedy, written and directed by the award-winning playwright and Millsaps adjunct theater professor Kos Kostmayer; the February production of *The Robber*

*Bridegroom* (above), Alfred Uhry's musical based on the writings of Eudora Welty, directed by Denise Halbach, also an adjunct professor; and Brandon Thomas's 19th century comedy, *Charley's Aunt* (below), directed in April by Brent Lefavor, associate professor of theater. The Players presented four senior-directed plays in the fall: The first two were *The Purification*, by Tennessee Williams, directed by Sam Sparks (B.A. 2003), and *The Actor's Nightmare*, by Christopher Durang, directed by William Dubuisson. *Trifles*, directed by Erin Whitaker, depicted the aftermath of a murder, and *Legwork*, directed by Joey Wilson, was a dark satire of corporate America.

