

FACULTY & STAFF

Marrs honored by Mississippi Humanities Council

The Mississippi Humanities Council has selected Dr. Suzanne Marrs, the former E. B. Stewart Family Professor in Language and Literature at Millsaps, for a 2002 Humanities Teacher Award. As part of its Arts and Humanities Month celebration each fall, the council bestows this award on distinguished humanities professors at Mississippi's colleges and universities.

"Dr. Marrs is widely regarded as a fine teacher and is an important contributor to the life of Millsaps," said Dr. Richard Smith, senior vice president and dean of the College. "She is also a nationally recognized scholar on the work of Eudora Welty. We are very fortunate to count a professor of her caliber among our faculty members."

At Millsaps, Marrs teaches courses in composition, 19- and 20th-century American literature, and 20th-century Southern literature. In 1985 and 1986, Marrs was the Welty Scholar in Residence at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. She has lectured on Welty's works in the United States, Russia, and France and served as a

consultant for a 1987 BBC documentary on Eudora Welty. She also received the Phoenix Award for Outstanding Achievement in Eudora Welty Scholarship in 1998.

"The Mississippi Humanities Council greatly enriches life in Mississippi through its support of a wide variety of cultural programs," Marrs said. "It's a special honor to be recognized by this outstanding organization."

Marrs, who was authorized by the late Eudora Welty to write her official biography, is also the author of *The Welty Collection*, a guide to the Welty documents and materials at the state archives, and numerous articles on Welty's fiction. Her most recent book, *One Writer's Imagination: The Fiction of Eudora Welty*, was published in fall 2002. The new book centers on Welty's creative process, exploring the way in which Welty adapted the world around her for use in her fiction and how she dramatically revised her stories. The



Dr. Suzanne Marrs

book also details the biographical and historical background of some of Welty's work.



At left, Marrs with Eudora Welty; above, Marrs' book *One Writer's Imagination*.

Lucas is named leader of Southern University Conference

Dr. Frances Lucas, the 10th president of Millsaps, has been elected president of the Southern University Conference. The announcement was made in March at the organization's annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

"The Southern University Conference is a distinguished organization with a long and impressive history," said Lucas, who previously served as vice-president of the group. "It is an honor and a pleasure to be named president of a group so committed to the educational process."

The Southern University Conference was formed in 1985 to examine the progress of education and other matters pertaining to



President Frances Lucas

college and graduate work. Membership in the select body is by invitation, and current members hail from 13 states.

Lucas came to Millsaps from Emory University, where she served as senior vice president for campus life. A 1978 alumna of Mississippi State University, she received her M.A. and Ph.D. in administration of higher education from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. Lucas has also studied at the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University.

Lucas was recently named the 2002 Business Woman of the Year by the *Mississippi Business Journal*.

Ammon assumes Stewart Professorship

Dr. Ted Ammon, associate professor of philosophy and chair of the Millsaps philosophy department, has been appointed to the E. B. Stewart Family Professorship in Language and Literature, effective July 1.

The Stewart Professorship is awarded on a competitive basis for a two-year term to support the scholarly work of a faculty member in language and literature. It allows for a reduced teaching load, a summer stipend, and a research and travel fund.

"I am honored and delighted to be appointed the Stewart Professor," Ammon said. "I look forward to completing long-standing projects during my professorship."

With the support of the Stewart Professorship, Ammon plans to finish a book-length study of the work of Jorge Luis Borges.

The book is expected to contribute to the Borges scholarship by examining several philosophical complexities in Borges' work that have been studied only superficially by critics.

Ammon is also revising and expanding two shorter pieces in the areas of philosophy and literature: an article on skepticism and mysticism in Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood* and a longer article on rhetorical strategies of dominance in the plays of Harold Pinter. Lastly, Ammon is finishing a novel entitled *The Verge*.



Dr. Ted Ammon

Peede is appointed speechwriter for new N.E.A. chairman

John Parrish Peede, who has served as Millsaps' director of communications for the last year and a half, has been appointed speechwriter to the chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington.

Peede was recommended for the presidential appointment by the chairman of the NEA, Dana Gioia, and he

was offered the position following an interview and evaluation by the White House office of personnel.

"Reporting on the Millsaps Difference as the editor of *Millsaps Magazine* has been one of the greatest pleasures of my professional career," said Peede, who joined the Millsaps communications staff in 1997.

"It has been a privilege, too," he added. "Some years ago, at a Millsaps conference on Southern literature and religion, I wrote these remarks for a speaker: 'The South is not a riddle to be solved, or a book to be read, but a house to be lived in.' What I said of the South then, I say of Millsaps now. As with so many others before me,

Millsaps has been a grand house and a welcoming home where I have lived among family.”

Peede said that he “could not have enjoyed better support from any college president or administration” than he had over the past five and a half years. “President Harmon hired me to direct the magazine, and President

Lucas promoted me and mentored me at key times in my career,” he said. “They have my gratitude, as does the communications staff who labored month after month, year after year, to deliver a magazine worthy of the College.”

Peede, who left the College in April, said that the decision to move

on was difficult. “My decision was consistent with what I was taught by the Millsaps faculty and students and alumni: Always challenge yourself, always be open to new opportunities, always look for new ways to grow. I have left Millsaps, but it will never leave me.”

Burke named Cook Chair at Else School of Management

Dr. Kimberly Burke, associate professor of accounting, has been appointed the Kelly Gene Cook Sr. Chair of Business Administration at the Else School of Management.

A Millsaps faculty member since 1995, she received her B.B.A. and M.S. degrees from Texas Tech University and her Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. She has served as the director of the accounting program since 1999, directing both the undergraduate and the master of accountancy programs.

Burke’s areas of scholarly research include consumer satisfaction with assurance services and accounting education. She has published articles in *Advances in Accounting*, *The Journal of Information Systems*, *The Review of Accounting Information Systems*, *The Journal of Applied Business Research*, *The Journal of Business Education*, and *Internal Auditing*.

Burke is also the co-author of a national continuing education course provided by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

As a teacher, Burke encourages students to master the technical aspects of accounting that will allow them to enter the accounting profession upon graduation and to develop dynamic thinking and reasoning skills that will sustain them both professionally and personally.

Her teaching is distinguished by an active learning environment that promotes critical thinking and communication skills in the classroom and by her willingness to extend the boundaries of her classroom to the professional community.

The Cook Chair, established in 1991 through the generosity of the Kelly Gene Cook Sr. Charitable Foundation, provides an opportunity for Millsaps College to recruit or retain



Dr. Kimberly Burke

an outstanding teacher/scholar whose accomplishments deserve recognition. The chairholder teaches, guides, and counsels students at all levels, conducts scholarly research, publishes findings, and exchanges ideas, theories, and concepts with students, faculty, and external communities.

Around Campus

Arts and Letters

Collin Asmus (art) has had three paintings accepted into a national juried exhibition at the Slidell Cultural Center in Louisiana. His work received a second place award in the show.

Amy Forbes (history) in April presented a paper entitled “Ridicule in the Courtroom: Political Satire and the Jury Trial in France,” at the annual conference of the Society for French Historical Studies in Milwaukee.

Darby Ray (religious studies) delivered the convocation address at Rust

College’s Religious Emphasis Week in March.

Elise Smith (art) had a paper accepted for the annual Southeastern College Art Conference meeting this October in Raleigh, N.C. The title of this paper is “‘A pillared shade’: The Tree as Monument and Metaphor in Georgian England.”

Bill Storey (history) attended a workshop in Amsterdam, where he participated in a roundtable of historians who are planning to write a multivolume history of modern European technology. After the meeting, he presented his

findings on the history of guns in South Africa to the African Studies Seminar at St. Antony’s College, Oxford University.

Else School

Ajay Aggarwal (management) has been appointed to a second two-year term on the Decision Sciences Institute’s innovative education committee. The committee conducts the instructional innovation competition annually and determines the winner of the prestigious DSI Innovative Education Award.

He has also been elected chairman

of the board for the south-central Mississippi chapter of the American Production and Inventory Control Society.

He won the Best Paper in Track Award at the southeast Decision Sciences Institute annual meeting in Williamsburg, Va. The paper, entitled "Business Ethics: Do Well by Doing Good," was co-authored by Andy Felo.

Randy Boxx (Else School) served as the program chair for the 2003 AACSB International annual meeting held in New Orleans in April. In addition, he has been selected by the organization to serve as the vice chair of the new maintenance of accreditation committee.

Sciences

Connie Campbell (mathematics) has been asked to serve as a leader for the national workshop "Leading the Academic Department: A Workshop for Chairs of Mathematical Sciences Departments."

Michael Galaty (sociology-anthropology) delivered a paper entitled "The Mallakstra Regional Archaeological Project: The Fifth Season" at the international symposium Viti Arkeologjik 2002, in Tirana, Albania, sponsored by the Albanian Academy of Sciences and Institute of Archaeology.

Mark Lynch (mathematics) had a paper entitled "A Class of Metrics with Strangely Shaped Disks" accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Mathematical Education*.

Sarah Lea McGuire (biology) attended two invited seminars at the International Fungal Genetics Conference in March at Asilomar, Calif. One seminar was entitled "The SNXA1 Gene of *Aspergillus Nidulans* Affects the DNA Damage Checkpoint." The second one was entitled "Mentoring Undergraduate Research in a Small College."

She has also been awarded a

three-year, \$100,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to fund fungal genetics research on the molecular biology of cell division.

Jimmie Purser (computer science) will appear on the satellite broadcast "Tech It or Leave It: Technology's Impact on Teaching Methodologies." He also presented a paper entitled "Technological Literacy and Information Fluency in a Senior Chemistry Seminar" at the national American Chemical Society meeting in New Orleans.

Staff

Shelly Bass (communications) was awarded a second place award from the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi for her work on the Millsaps web site.

Nicole Bradshaw (communications) was awarded four PRism Awards from the Public Relations Association of Mississippi for her skills in public relations work for Millsaps.

She also won a second place award from the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi.

Don Fortenberry (student affairs) was elected to the executive committee of the Leadership Jackson Alumni Association.

He will also be chairing a panel at a meeting in Washington sponsored by the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. The symposium, "The Clash of Civilizations," involves a number of key United Methodists on Capitol Hill. The symposium honors United Methodist Bishop James Mathews, who has written about Mahatma Gandhi and has worked for interfaith and intercultural understanding.

Nola Gibson (adult learning) was a judge for the second year for the *Mississippi Business Journal's* annual "Salute to Business and Industry" contest. She was also elected secretary of the Southern Regional Council of the College Board at its February

meeting in Tampa. She is the Mississippi representative to the council.

Kathi R. Griffin (writing center) and six peer writing tutors conducted an all-day workshop in March at Jackson State University. The workshop was designed to help prepare eight undergraduate JSU students for tutoring as their new writing center, The Richard N. Wright Center for the Written Word, takes shape.

Lewis Lowe (communications) won two PRism awards and two PRAM awards of excellence from the Public Relations Association of Mississippi for his work in the design of Millsaps publications.

He also won two first place awards, two second place awards, and one third place award from the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi.

Larry Madison (library) had an essay entitled "Onomastic Musings" accepted for publication in the February 2003 issue of *Against the Grain*, a library journal.

Todd Rose (student affairs) has been named president-elect of the Mississippi Association of College Student Affairs Personnel and will be responsible for organizing the association's meeting in 2005.

Cynthia Thompson (athletics) graduated cum laude, Phi Theta Kappa, from Hinds Community College, with an associate's degree in applied science.