

Faculty & Staff



Taking part in the presentation of the Taylor Collection were, from left, Debra McIntosh, College archivist; Mabel Pittman Middleton, church historian; Richard A. Smith, senior vice president and dean of the College; Tom Henderson, College librarian; the Reverend Wendell Taylor, and his wife, Geneva.

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A New Chapter For Wilson Library

This year, the Millsaps-Wilson Library has seen a flood of gifts, as well as honors and awards for its staff, helping to expand the library’s already considerable resources and exhibitions.

The additions include new materials on 19th-century African-American Mississippi Methodism, as well as a stained glass window to be donated by the Class of 2005 in honor of the Reverend Don Fortenberry, who this year retired from active service after 30 years as Millsaps chaplain. The library is also receiving gifts from one of its own, Dr. Thomasina Blissard, who passed away in September 2004.

The collection on early Mississippi Methodism comes thanks to Reverend Wendell Taylor, longtime minister of Central Methodist Church in Jackson and former superintendent of the Hattiesburg District. In March, the 90-year-old minister presented his collection of the *Annual Conference Journal* to the J. B. Cain Archives of Mississippi Methodism, a special collection in the Millsaps-Wilson Library.

His *Journal* collection is from the conference of black churches in the southern half of the state, and the writings date from the 1880s to 1972. They include the minutes of the Mississippi Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, former Central Jurisdiction, and the Mississippi Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (North). This donation fulfills a promise made by Taylor when the Methodist archives were established 23 years ago by the College and the Church.

Taylor and his gift to the J. B. Cain Archives have enriched the Millsaps-Wilson Library. “Twenty-three of the 61 journals Reverend Taylor donated to the archives are original material, new information that fills in the gaps in our records,” said Debra McIntosh, College archivist. “So much of early African-American Methodist history in the state was handed down by oral tradition. Not much exists in written form, which makes Reverend Taylor’s collection of *Journals* all the more significant.”

Dr. Thomasina Blissard left a bequest to the library in honor of Bethany Swearingen, who served as the library director from 1951 to 1963. Blissard worked there from 1953 to 1955 as an assistant librarian. “We appreciate Dr. Blissard’s generous gift to the Millsaps Library,” said Dudley Marble, of the Millsaps College advancement office. “She knew Miss Swearingen was a vital part of Millsaps as head librarian, and the gift will assist the Millsaps-Wilson Library in so many ways.”

In April, Dr. James Cavett, B.A. 1941, presented to the College archives an American flag that was flown over the USS Arizona memorial in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 2004, to honor the memory of Millsaps classmate Pemble Field, who was on the battleship at the time of the bombing on Dec. 7, 1941. According to U.S. Navy records, Ensign Field, stationed in the lower handling room in turret III, was among the last sailors to leave the ship alive after confirming everyone in the turret had gotten out and battling the fires on deck.

The flag, a dark cherry folded flag case, and a framed certificate of presentation were given to the College archives by Cavett and his son, Dr. Clinton Cavett, 1970, of Roanoke, Virginia. Clinton Cavett recently visited the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor and arranged for the flag acquisition.

Gifts for the library are even projected to continue into the future, as in the case of the stained-glass window donated by this year's senior class in honor of Fortenberry. Students raised funds for the window as part of the Senior Year Experience, and the window will most likely be installed in late summer.

The library staff itself was the recipient of the Harrilyn Sallis Quality Service Award this December. The Sallis Awards are presented annually to the individual employee and the department that best exemplify excellence in service to the community. These awards are named for Harrilyn G. Sallis, retired dean of adult education at Millsaps, who founded the staff council. The Sallis Award recipients are nominated by their colleagues, those who are in the best position to see the quality of their work.

In addition, the Mississippi Library Association Scholarship Committee has awarded the 2005 Peggy May Scholarship

to circulation supervisor Ryan Roy. Criteria for the scholarship include academic excellence, leadership capabilities, and an evidence of commitment to a career in the field of library and information science in Mississippi.

"The scholarship is named for Peggy Jane May, who devoted her time and energy to the advancement of libraries in the state of Mississippi, and was established after her death to support her commitment to recruiting talented individuals to the profession," said June Schmidt, associate dean for technical services for the Mitchell Memorial Library at Mississippi State University and chair of the scholarship committee. "Ryan Roy was highly recommended by his colleagues at the Millsaps-Wilson Library as intelligent, dedicated, patient, and possessing tremendous potential as a truly excellent librarian."

Roy is working on his master's degree in library science from the University of Southern Mississippi, and the scholarship money will go toward his tuition for the fall semester. He expects to complete the degree in the fall of 2007.

"I'm thrilled to be the recipient of the 2005 Peggy May Scholarship," he said. "It's an honor to be recognized by the Mississippi Library Association, and I look forward to upholding a quality of service worthy of this award. Working in the Millsaps-Wilson Library has been extremely rewarding. All the staff here have been great mentors, and I can only hope that my career in librarianship continues to be as pleasant as it has been thus far." —Chris Spear, J.Y.



Dr. James E. Bowley and Lindsey Topp, B.A. 2005, in summer 2004 at Qumran Cave 11, where Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

Bowley Brings Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit to Life

Dr. James E. Bowley, associate professor of religious studies, served as the consultant for the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at the Gulf Coast Exploreum in Mobile, Alabama, from February 2004 to April 2005. Bowley assisted the museum directors in designing the presentation's layout, content, and audio guides.

He also led tours, spoke to church, synagogue, and community groups, was interviewed by numerous newspapers, and was one of 10 of the world's leading Scrolls scholars who lectured at the exhibit. He spoke on "The Mysterious Copper Scrolls" to an audience of 500 in April.

Bowley earned his Ph.D. in 1992 from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where he first studied the Dead Sea Scrolls with senior scholar Ben Zion Wacholder. In addition to writing many articles about the Scrolls, Bowley is an editor for the official *Dead Sea Scroll Concordance*, a multivolume and multiyear project published by E. J. Brill, a leading European academic publisher.

Since coming to Millsaps in 2002, Bowley has taught courses related to many aspects of the Bible, ancient Judaism, and Christianity and has led students to Israel for archaeological digging.

Next year, Prentice Hall will release his *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: A Guided Tour of Israel's Sacred Library*. It will incorporate more material from the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls than any other textbook to date. Bowley wrote this introduction over the course of several years, specifically for undergraduates, and it



The framed certificate of presentation for the American flag from the USS Arizona Memorial (shown here in its cherry case) was given to the College archives by Dr. James Cavett and his son, Dr. Clinton Cavett.

has been “tested” by Millsaps classes.

“My Millsaps students, and especially my assistant Matthew Marston [B.A. 2005], have given me excellent feedback as I seek to make my work accessible, appealing, and of the highest intellectual quality,” Bowley said. “They have improved the book greatly and in so doing will have helped students all over the country in the coming years learn more about the ancient culture and literature of Israel and the Bible.”

For more information, visit home.millsaps.edu/bowleje/ and www.millsaps.edu/religion/index.shtml.

Wade Is Chosen To Lead the Office Of Communications



Patti Wade has been named director of communications and marketing.

Wade brings more than 20 years of experience as a public relations professional to the communications office. Prior to coming to Millsaps, she had led departments of marketing and public relations in two health-care institutions, taught college public speaking and journalism, and operated a small business for communication consulting. At both health-care institutions, she developed the communications departments into well-staffed, organized, and effective resources. She has worked with advertising agencies to develop communications campaigns that succeeded in raising top-of-mind awareness and in increasing market share.

Wade, who joined the College in September 2001 as special assistant to the president and later that year was asked to serve as Commencement director, has

addressed classes at the Else School of Management and presented a paper at a regional business conference on campus.

“Patti is a highly organized professional who brings to the Millsaps communications office a dynamic background in corporate community relations, and she knows how to articulate the evolving needs of this College with skill and grace,” said President Frances Lucas.

She holds a master’s degree in public relations and a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the School of Mass Communication and Journalism at The University of Southern Mississippi. She has completed additional graduate course work at USM and the Else School of Management.

Wade is certified by the American Hospital Association Society of Hospital Marketing and Public Relations and is a current member of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi and Crossgates United Methodist Church.



Just Outstanding

Dora Robertson, faculty secretary for the Division of Arts and Letters and the Division of Sciences, has won the Harrylyn Sallis Quality Service Award in the individual excellence category. The Sallis Award, named in honor of Dr. Harrylyn Sallis, dean emerita of adult learning and a strong proponent of the Millsaps College quality service initiative, goes to Millsaps College staff members and departments in recognition of outstanding service within and outside the College community. The award for excellence by a department went to the staff of the Millsaps-Wilson Library (see related story, page 15).



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