

# OnCampus

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Bishop Ward and President Lucas at Galloway discussing the roles of the Church and the College.

## For Two Leaders, One Powerful Vision

The Reverend Hope Ward, a North Carolina native who has been active throughout her life in the Methodist church, is the first woman to be appointed resident bishop of the Mississippi Area of the United Methodist Church. Likewise, Dr. Frances Lucas, also a lifelong Methodist, is the first woman to hold the post of president at Millsaps College.

This past March, Ward and Lucas took time out from their busy schedules to discuss Millsaps, the United Methodist Church, and those issues in between. Seated in a comfortable corner of historic Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church in downtown Jackson, they grappled with a fundamental issue for many within the College and the Church—the relationship between the two.

“Let me remind you,” Ward said, “that our founder, John Wesley, got his start as a campus minister. The mind, heart, and spirit of all United Methodists are connected, and we want to nurture that relationship.”

Lucas called the United Methodist Church the “mother” of Millsaps College. “We got our start with the investment of Methodists,” she said. “And the great thing about the United Methodist Church is that we welcome different viewpoints. That is good for a college.”

But amid this optimism are concerns about the tensions between Millsaps College and the Church. Issues such as evolution and desegregation divided the two institutions in the past, and for years there has been a perception of discord.

Ward called this a misconception. “Having been in Mississippi for six months, I have experienced very little, if any, tension, and I express great pride in Millsaps,” she said. Some opinions expressed at Millsaps might be “unsettling for some of us,” but “that is not unique to Millsaps and runs across the spectrum to all of our universities,” she said.

Lucas said that in her five-year presidency she had enjoyed “a wonderful relationship between the College and the Church, one



Dr. Lucas and Bishop Ward before the 2005 baccalaureate service at Galloway UMC in Jackson.

based on mutual support, pride, and hand-holding through financial difficulties in the early 2000s.

“The tensions that have arisen have not been between the Church and the College, but rather among individuals who happen to be in the Conference. They disagree with some of our methodology or points of view on campus.”

Ward observed that there was a 1994 hymn by Thomas Troeger called “Praise the Source of Faith and Learning.” “I love the hymn,” she said, “because it captures who God is in the world and how our confidence is in our God and not in what we know at this point. The more we can encourage courageous living, the less we will fear something that might be discomfoting”

Meanwhile, these two leaders have developed a great vision for the growth of the relationship between the College and Church—one that is positive and beneficial for all those involved. “I have had five years to think about this,” Lucas said, “and I think there are wonderful opportunities and partnerships that encourage more students to think about ministry—for instance, the Faith & Work Initiative and the Center for Ministry. I believe that Millsaps College is a wonderful base for many initiatives. Additionally, I think that the church can help us by recruiting many more United Methodist students. My hope is that we can more fully persuade local congregations to send us students and scholarships to go with them.”

Ward discussed the convergence of Methodist events on campus. “Just this morning, we came from a meeting regarding events,

and I inquired as to where they would be," she said. "And over and over again, Millsaps was the location of choice. The Center for Ministry is getting even more creative in helping clergy and lay folks to grow in their faith and that is all at Millsaps. I am finding out that there is a real hunger for more personal growth and leadership skills among our clergy and laity."

Both women have taken over historically male roles. Lucas, cautioning that she was going to stereotype, said she believed that "women are socialized to be collaborative—as little girls we would play in groups and collaborate, but little boys get in teams and compete. So, from our socialization on, we are more accustomed to creating conversations and partnerships to negotiate with people.

"That is truly the leadership that is called for today to solve any problem in any corporation, college, or church. We have to listen and collaborate and not compete."

Ward called to mind the image of bringing to life what wants to be born. "I think that women—through their life experience—bring an openness, and I think that women bring comfort because they have experienced so much," she said.

Millsaps conjures images of activism during the 1960s, desegregation, and protests, and Ward said she hoped that "Millsaps continues to be Millsaps. It was created with a unique mission and a unique heritage. And so I would love for us to be very confident in Millsaps."

Ward said she had been discussing a series of seminars called "Journey to the Light." "We were touring great historic locations of the civil rights movement," she said. "We stopped at Tougaloo College and it was great to hear of the partnership between Millsaps and Tougaloo. As I sat there, in their wonderful chapel, I gave silent thanks for Millsaps and that heritage."

—John Sawyer

*A political science major, John Sawyer, B.A. 2005, will enter the Jesuit Novitiate in August.*

## Garvin Is Named College Chaplain



The Reverend Elisabeth Anne (Lisa) Garvin has been named chaplain of Millsaps College. Garvin has been a deacon in the United Methodist Church and served in the Mississippi

Conference with responsibilities for youth camps, higher education, and campus ministry. She is filling the opening created with the retirement this year of Dr. Don Fortenberry.

"Lisa Garvin brings intelligence, creativity, compassion, and vision to the strong program of religious life at Millsaps," said Hope Ward, resident bishop of the Mississippi Area of the United Methodist Church. "Lisa's leadership will gift the entire Millsaps community in remarkable ways in the years to come."

Garvin, B.A. 1993, is a Hattiesburg native. While a student at Millsaps, she was a European studies major, second vice president of the Student Body Association, an athlete, an active member of the Campus Ministry Team, and president of her sorority.

Garvin earned her master of divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University, completed a year's hospital chaplaincy at Baptist Health Systems in Jackson, and served for four years as director of programs and education at Crossgates United Methodist Church in Brandon. "She gained invaluable campus ministry experience by working with two of our nation's finest chaplains: Don Fortenberry at Millsaps and Susan Henry-Crowe at Emory," said Frances Lucas, president of the College.

"She brings to the position of chaplain a deep commitment to spiritual exploration and worship, ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, and the ongoing task of connecting Millsaps to the wider community in modes of respect, service, and mutual transformation."

"The chaplain plays a crucial role in the life of the College, ministering to a diverse group of students, faculty, and staff and helping us connect to the wider world in modes of compassion and justice," said Dr. Darby Ray, director of the Millsaps Faith & Work Initiative and a member of the Department of Religious Studies. "I feel confident that Lisa has the experience, sensibilities, commitment, and deep spiritual grounding to fill that role with grace and courage."

Garvin's appointment is the culmination of a competitive national search overseen by a diverse committee of students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

—Jesse Yancy



## Professions of Faith

The Reverend Rebecca Youngblood, B.A. 1973, an elder in the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church, became executive director of the Center for Ministry at Millsaps College in February. She succeeded the Reverend Andy Johnson, the center's founding director. The Center for Ministry is a shared work of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church and Millsaps. Johnson is now the pastor of Asbury UMC in Petal. The Reverend Sherry Johnson, an ordained deacon in the Mississippi Conference, joined the staff in July as associate director, with responsibility for implementing the Pastoral Excellence Project funded by the Lilly Endowment. Johnson comes to the Center for Ministry from Bethlehem Center in Jackson, where she has served as executive director for nine years.

## More Perspectives On Our Southern Literary Heritage

The Millsaps College campus is familiar territory to award-winning authors. Eudora Welty taught at Millsaps and served on the Board of Trustees, and James Whitehead and Miller Williams were on the Millsaps faculty.

Turner Cassity, John Stone, Joe Edd Morris, Lewis Nordan, and Ellen Gilchrist were students at the College. Among the distinguished Southern writers and critics who have been visiting professors and speakers at Millsaps are Walker Percy, Ellen Douglas, Cleanth Brooks, Reynolds Price, Clyde Edgerton, Susan Ketchin, Larry Brown, and Beth Henley.

This tradition was continued during the spring semester, when Millsaps College welcomed authors Edward P. Jones and Elizabeth Spencer to campus, as well as two French scholars, one specializing in William Faulkner and the other in Welty.

Jones was on campus to read a selection from his latest novel, *The Known World*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Although Jones is a native and resident of Washington, D.C., he is widely considered by critics to be a Southern writer. Jones's presence on campus was so valued that he was made the subject of the interview portion of the campus literary magazine, the *Stylus*.



François Pitavy and Danièle Pitavy-Souques of Burgundy, France, lecturing on Faulkner and Welty.

Elizabeth Spencer came to campus to read from her collection of old and new short stories, *The Southern Woman*. Spencer is a native of Carrollton, Mississippi, and has spent a significant amount of time in the Jackson area. Most recently, Spencer is enjoying success from the musical adaptation of her novella *The Light in the Piazza*. The show, which has been playing at Lincoln Center, won six Tony Awards in June.

During their visits, both authors spent time in discussions with Dr. Suzanne Marrs's Contemporary Southern Writers class. The students spent their semester reading several 20<sup>th</sup> century Southern works, including *The Known World* and *The Southern Woman*.

Marrs, whose book *Eudora Welty: A Biography* will be published in August, said she felt that having the authors in class was a great learning experience for her students. "It tremendously increased our understanding of their work, of the ways experience sparked their imaginations, of the work involved in writing and revising, of the extent to which an author consciously controls his material," she said.

Danièle Pitavy-Souques and François Pitavy, French specialists on Southern writers, came to campus in April. The Alliance Française of Jackson, with Millsaps support, made Jackson part of their national lecture tour. It was Mme Pitavy who delivered the address when Welty was honored with the French Legion of Honor at the Old Capitol in 1996.

M. and Mme Pitavy, who live in Burgundy, France, wrote their doctoral dissertations on Faulkner and Welty, respectively. Mme Pitavy knew Eudora Welty personally and in 1992 organized in Dijon the first international symposium on her work.

M. Pitavy's topic was "The Making of a French Faulkner." He said French translations had deregionalized Faulkner and made him a universal classic there. M. Pitavy's explanation of translation practices provoked lively discussion, as did his



## Pondering the Heart Of Welty's Stories

Dr. Suzanne Marrs, professor of English, discussed several Eudora Welty short stories at a series of Writer's Choice seminars in June at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building. Each session focused on a favorite story of one of Welty's fellow writers.

Marrs's book *Eudora Welty: A Biography* will be published in August. Marrs has written "a book that debunks the myths and quotes enough of the writing to make you hunger for the novels and stories," according to Dorothy Allison in a review for *Publishers Weekly*.

"Marrs takes pains to refute the image of Eudora as a perfect 'Southern Lady,' a 'nearly petrified woman holding to the mores of the Southern past'—myths strengthened and reinforced by Ann Waldron's 1998 biography and the lengthy *New Yorker* article by Claudia Roth Pierpont. . . . Here we have the necessary counterpoint: not Eudora the pitiful old maid nor Eudora the homely, the victim of her domineering mother, but the real deal: Eudora the writer who loved fiercely but never married. . . ." —John Webb

comment that the French had no writers like Faulkner and Hemingway in the 1920s and '30s and that they actively sought American fiction after World War II.

"Eudora Welty: Language and Politics" was Mme Pitavy's topic. She believes that Welty's stance is more American than Southern, more concerned with the universal than the anecdotal. In particular, she saw a strong allusion to the horrors of McCarthyism in *The Ponder Heart*. She also saw a raucous mockery of frontier evils in *The Robber Bridegroom*.

The receptions after both lectures included the Millsaps community, other local and national authors, French-speaking Alliance members, and many from the

Jackson area. “So many strong opinions expressed, even in different languages, made for two unforgettable evenings,” said Gail Buzhardt, a scholar in French and director of the language lab. “It was an incredible three days. People like Ellen Douglas, Austin Wilson, and Peggy Preshaw brought their perspectives to bear on the lectures, and it was moving to see evidence of the strong friendship that had existed between the Pitavys and Miss Welty.”

—Clint Kimberling, with Gail Buzhardt

## A Share in \$17.5M For Gene Research

Millsaps College has been selected as one of seven partner institutions in a \$17.5 million grant to the University of Southern Mississippi to continue funding the Mississippi Functional Genomics Network.

Genomics is the study of genes and their function. To help train and retain biomedical researchers in the state, the genomics project has established five research facilities, providing the cutting-edge instruments needed for scientists and students. The facilities also serve the project’s regional partner institutions, which, besides Millsaps, are Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Mississippi College, Mississippi University for Women, and Tougaloo College.

“The Mississippi Functional Genomics Network was basically begun about four years ago, and it was the result of a three-year grant program through the National Institutes of Health,” said Dr. Sarah Lea McGuire of the Millsaps College biology department. “The program was called the Bioinformatics Research Infrastructure Network. The target group for these grants was states that were traditionally underfunded by the National Institutes of Health.”

In 2002, Mississippi ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> in



With guidance from Dr. Sarah Lea McGuire, as well as other faculty, students gain research experience.

NIH funding with total awards of \$34.8 million. Mississippi received one sixth the funding its population would predicate.

“The group at Southern Miss was awarded one of these first grants to establish the genomics network,” McGuire explained. “Through that, they were able to involve a number of students and set up research centers across the state. We’re now in the second phase of that, called the Idea Network of Molecular Biology Research Excellence.”

“Millsaps College has created a nucleus of biomedical research-active teacher-scholars and students who are publishing and presenting the same quality of undergraduate research that is produced at some of the nation’s top comprehensive universities,” said Dr. Timothy Ward, interim associate dean of sciences at Millsaps College. “This grant establishes Millsaps College as a major player in biomedical research within Mississippi, and a leader among undergraduate colleges nationally.”

The second phase of the molecular biology project involves including a number of smaller institutions and enhancing the research capabilities at those smaller institutions, while continuing to build this infrastructure within Mississippi. This will allow students and researchers to work together.

“An important mission of the Mississippi Functional Genomics Network is to provide students and their mentors with the resources they need to be successful, including the highly technical and expensive instrumentation that is now

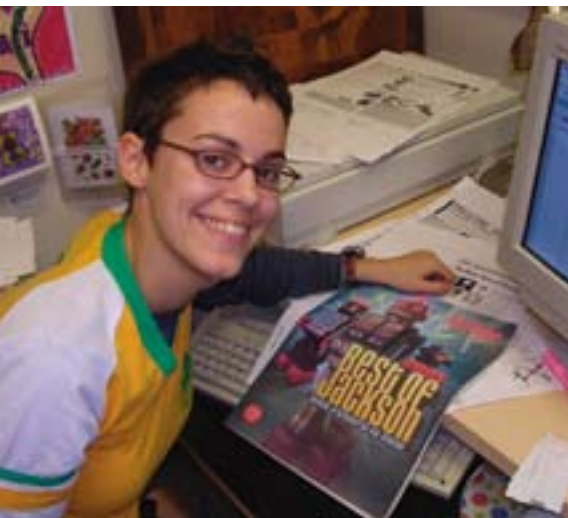
an essential component of the modern biomedical research enterprise,” said Dr. George Santangelo, genomics network director and professor of biological sciences at Southern Miss.

“The concept of the Mississippi Functional Genomics Network is truly visionary,” said Dr. Sarah Armstrong, chair of the biology department. “It creates a network of research laboratories and specialized equipment that is available to genomics researchers throughout the state. Our students have the opportunity to work not just with their own research supervisor, but also with others around the state.”

The grant has provided the College with a new faculty member, Dr. Bernadette Connors, formerly of Gettysburg College, a specialist in yeast genetics who will be joining the faculty in August. The grant is also providing significant equipment funding, almost \$200,000 in the first year, which will go toward updating the labs. It is also providing funds for technicians as well as student salaries.

McGuire explained that the group involved in the molecular biology project is researching yeast, the organism used to make bread. “As it turns out, the cell-division processes are conserved from yeast to man, which means that they’re the same processes and very similar genes and proteins,” McGuire said. “What we study in yeast can be transferred to what goes on in humans. The information obtained from studying yeast has been transferred to higher organisms, including man, and it has done a lot to help us understand how cancer cells go wrong so that we can design drugs that knock them out.

“Because we understand the proteins and processes involved, drug companies are using that information to develop drugs that target specific molecules which affect cell growth.” —J. Y.



## Zine and Heard: Dispatches from Central America

Meg Hyneman, B.A. 2005, was not the type of student to take the beaten path. For one thing, Hyneman designed her own major. And following her 2003 semester abroad in Central America, Hyneman not only recorded her experiences in a journal but also chose to self-publish her writings in a medium commonly referred to as a “zine.” Hyneman’s *Testimonies from Central America* is a collection of personalized stories that she placed into a brief historical and political context.

Zines are underground publications, usually photocopied and distributed by the writer without the expectation of a profit. Hyneman said she enjoyed the format of a zine, which is at once personal and political. She explained that zines are “easy

Eventually, Parks would like to pursue a master’s degree in journalism, but she has changed her mind regarding the type of journalism she would like to pursue. “I like the idea of the *Free Press*,” she said. “It is a social justice paper but still retains its journalistic integrity. I used to want to do daily newspapers, but I’ve learned so much here.”

Parks goes on to cite Millsaps and Dr. Paula Garrett as influential in honing and refining her journalistic skills. Garrett’s journalism class was particularly helpful in teaching her what types of stories are appropriate, as well as how to edit efficiently. Garrett was also Parks’s adviser for her honors project on feature journalism and encouraged her to look at different types of articles and alternative papers. Parks’s four years of experience on the *Purple & White*, particularly her two years as managing editor and this year as editor in chief, have taught her how to successfully manage a paper: “Both experiences, the *Jackson Free Press* and attending Millsaps, have really prepared me for a future in journalism,” she said.

—Becca Day

to put together, self-publish, and distribute to a wide group of people.”

During her time in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, Hyneman realized that she wanted to raise awareness and foster compassion for the citizens of these Central American countries. Hyneman’s main motivation for publishing her zine was a self-described “overwhelming need” to share the stories she heard. “I took detailed notes on everybody’s testimonies because they seemed so important, but I didn’t realize until near the end of the semester that a zine would be the best way to share these stories,” she said.

During her semester in Central America, Hyneman was enrolled in the Sustainable Development and Social Change program offered through Augsburg College’s Center for Global Education. Hyneman describes the curriculum as experiential learning, meaning that educators “wanted us to learn from our experiences with the countries and the people in them, not simply from one teacher in a classroom.”

Hyneman embraced the spirit of the program by interviewing coffee workers, massacre survivors, revolutionaries, ex-guerrilla fighters, and political leaders. This assortment of testimonies and interviews gives Hyneman’s zine a genuine appeal to readers and communicates the importance of her journey.

Hyneman didn’t write her zine exclusively for Millsaps students. Rather, she said, her intended readership was “mostly people who were already interested in some kind of ‘social justice’ issues but didn’t really know much about Central America.”

Since her zine has been completed, Hyneman has distributed about 100 copies to Millsaps students in addition to the 200 copies distributed in the Jackson community.

For a copy of *Testimonies from Central America*, contact Meg Hyneman at [meghyneman@gmail.com](mailto:meghyneman@gmail.com).

—C. K.

## The Scoop on Casey

While most Millsaps seniors were spending their last months in college celebrating and job hunting, Casey Parks had already found her nine to five. Parks, a 2005 graduate and winner of the Frank and Rachel Anne Laney Award, has spent the last year as assistant editor of the *Jackson Free Press*.

Her job is a laundry list of responsibilities. She assigns many of the stories and coordinates photographs or art to go with them. And, as a type of mentor, Parks workshops stories with new writers and coordinates projects and other learning experiences for the interns. On press night, Parks stays late to help with final edits after writing articles and helping with layout.

The English major also had classes, homework, an honors project, and was editor of the *Purple & White*. Her typical day lasted from about 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., excluding homework or days before either of her two papers went to print. On those nights (typically Mondays and Tuesdays), Parks left the office around 1:30 a.m. These would seem like impossible time demands for any other student, but she thrived on her hectic schedule. “I find that the busier I am, the more I get done,” she said. “But I had to be extremely scheduled to fit it all in.”

Parks plans to continue working at the *Free Press* until October, when she is scheduled to move to France to teach English. “I’d like to get involved with a student paper over there—it’s kind of hard to just let it go cold turkey,” she said.

## Finding Meaning, Purpose in Brazil

Junior Theon Johnson III of Sharon, Mississippi, traveled to Brazil in January to meet with a group of 60 young adults to explore their common religious heritage and apply it to social issues in the larger world. In addition, he took part in an anti-globalization rally that drew more than 230,000 young people from all over the world.

On the agenda in Porto Alegre was a two-day mission seminar on Wesleyan identity, sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries; a one-day ecumenical youth day organized by the Council of Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean, the World Student Christian Federation, and the World Council of Churches; and a six-day intercontinental youth camp related to the 2005 World Social Forum, a grassroots organization seeking creative alternatives to global economics driven by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

“Even though we have experienced times of war, disease, and poverty throughout history, the voices of 230,000-plus individuals stood as living witnesses that progress can be made,” Johnson said. “At least for a small amount of time, people were willing to put aside their differences in search for commonality. People were willing to renounce hatred in favor of unconditional love. People were willing to repudiate war in favor of acknowledging the power that lies in peace.”

Johnson, who is majoring in philosophy and religious studies, said that issues ranging from economics to human rights and religion to industry dominated the Social Forum camp. “These lectures



Theon Johnson of Millsaps and Kim Wutherich of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church at the 2005 World Social Forum in Brazil.

and discussions were established primarily by grassroots organizations,” he said. “I believe that these workshops were very helpful because they provided grounds upon which people could peacefully gather to discuss some of the large issues that plague the individual, political, and governmental systems of the world.”

The ministries group included church youth from the United States, Cambodia, Indonesia, Angola, Mozambique, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Chile, and a 20-member youth delegation from the Methodist Church in Brazil.

“It was through spending time with members from the Brazilian, world, and U.S. Methodist delegations at this event that I was able to gain a greater insight about what it means to be an active part of a genuine global church,” said Johnson. “For a few moments in time, I was privileged to view a snapshot of what God is calling people to do.”

Johnson said the experience had transformed his perspective on the world. “It is easy to remain in the comforts of my surroundings and reflect upon the people and events of the world, but to stand face-to-face with someone who has experiences that are somewhat different from my own is another thing entirely.” —J. W.



## A Millsaps Tree Grows In New Zealand

Millsaps College's spirit of environmental and cultural activism reached a new quarter of the globe this past fall when Lauren Theobald, B.S. 2004, along with classmates Kate Bruce, B.A. 2004, and Megan Parks, B.A. 2004, went gadding about Down Under.

To show her appreciation to Millsaps College, especially the biology department, for helping her understand “what a good education really is” and how to push herself “by continually inviting new challenges,” Theobald had a kauri tree (*Agathis australis*) planted in one of the regenerating forests on the Coromandel Peninsula of the North Island of New Zealand.

The kauri tree is second in height only to giant sequoias, but the kauri contains more timber. Theobald said that efforts to restore their numbers are important to natives of the country due to the tree's cultural and economic significance. The newly planted tree is marked with a silver tag that reads “Millsaps College MS, USA.”

“I hope that someday another graduate of Millsaps will have the chance to travel to New Zealand and track down the tree to view the progress it has made,” Theobald said. —J. Y.



## Taking the Trail Less Traveled

The Appalachian Trail runs from Maine to Georgia, some 2,160 miles through 14 states, attracting campers and hikers from all over the world. This spring, a group of hikers from Millsaps took a jaunt along a short section of the trail, while last summer and fall one intrepid alumnus undertook to become a “2,000-miler,” an achievement duplicated by only about 3,000 people in the last century.

The group trip was organized by sophomore Bahen Privett through the Millsaps College Outdoor Adventure Club. The Outdoor Adventure Club is a group of students who plan outings around the country, providing members with a limited amount of equipment and supplies for the journey.

Privett, along with junior Drew Harmon, freshman Will Benton, freshman Clay Kirkpatrick, junior Andrew Harris, and Ben Ross, B.S. 2005, hiked 45 miles between Erwin, Tennessee, and Elk Park, North Carolina, during spring break.

The area is known as one of the most beautiful sections of the trail. “We went over several bald mountains that had absolutely breathtaking views,” Privett said. “We traveled with everything we needed on our backs. We cooked out every night and purified our drinking water out of streams we would pass. The weather couldn’t have been better. Highs were in the 50s every day and we never saw a drop of rain. It took us five days to cover the 45 miles.”

“I enjoyed the whole winter camping experience,” Ross said. “Down here, we don’t get a lot of winter weather, so the ice hiking was pretty intense.”

Robert (Burt) Thuston, B.B.A. 2004, took on the far more ambitious endeavor of hiking the entire trail from



Andrew Harris, left, and Will Benton on Jane Bald in the Roan Highlands of North Carolina, part of the Appalachian Trail.

Maine to Georgia, in one continuous southerly journey. “Southbounders” represent about 10 percent of total reported 2,000-milers, and on the average only 19 percent of those who undertake the journey complete it.

“Over the course of 150 days, I came across some of the most generous people imagined, and I also came across people I did not care too much for,” Thuston wrote in his journal. “On the trail I experienced my best nights’ sleep ever, and also my worst nights’ sleep ever—it was absolutely miserable, cold, and wet.

“But regardless, I got up the next morning and pressed on because that’s what I did: I hiked,” Thuston said.

“There were times on the trail when I actually thought it would be nice if I were to conveniently roll my ankle so I could have an excuse to go home, but there were also times when I would walk down the trail exalted by the fact that I was doing it and had no worries other than survival, no obligations to answer phone calls, do homework, or pay bills. At these times I was thrilled at the simplicity of my life and joyful about the meaningful people and experiences I had come across.

“The second most rewarding part of the trail was personal accomplishment on a daily basis. Each day I would get stronger and stronger, and push myself harder and harder. I pushed myself to physical limits I never thought I could reach.

“And third, I was able to say to myself, ‘I set out to do it, and I did it.’ It’s rewarding to take on an endeavor that large and finish it.” —J.Y.

## Millsaps in Iraq: One Soldier’s Story

On the morning of September 11, 2001, junior Wayne West reported to the Military Entrance Processing Station in Jackson to sign his six-year commitment to the Mississippi National Guard. “I was driving from Monroe when our country was attacked,” West recalled. “By the time I arrived, the entire military complex was on high alert. The recruiter wouldn’t even sign me up. In fact, he had already called my mother to say he was sending me home to let things settle down and to give us time to decide whether to proceed with the enlistment. I turned around and drove back to Monroe.

“A couple of weeks later, I was on a plane to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, for basic training during what would have been my first semester at Millsaps.”

West returned to Jackson in time to spend the holidays with his family, just before he finally started classes as a business major in the spring of 2002. As a weekend warrior, he traveled either to Carthage or Hattiesburg once a month to train with Alpha Company of the 150<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers. During his last semester before deployment, West worked with local recruiting officials, visiting area high schools to promote the benefits of serving with the Mississippi Army National Guard.

“Once the United States started sending troops to Iraq, our unit knew it was pretty much just a matter of time before we would be called up,” he said. “That call came early last summer. We reported to Camp Shelby on August 29 for additional training before we were sent to Fort Irwin, California, for advanced desert training. Fortunately, we had a few days with our families during the holidays before we deployed to Iraq on January 12.

“Before we arrived in the country, I really didn’t have an opinion one way or another about the war. I was going whether I liked it or not, so there was no use in complaining or forming negative opinions

that would only make the year-long deployment feel like a decade.”

The first two weeks, however, proved to be a rude awakening for the troops from Mississippi. Two soldiers from the 155<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team were killed in action.

“The first memorial service held on base was almost more than I could bear,” West said. “Looking at the soldier’s helmet hung over his weapon, propped up in his shoes, tore me up. Listening to the chaplain and the commander talk about what a good father and brave soldier he had been made me think, ‘What if that were me?’ ”

After four months in Iraq, Sergeant West says he has new perspectives. “I’ve actually seen firsthand what we are doing for these people. Although I don’t get as much time around the locals as others do, each time I’ve traveled outside the wire, we usually see 10 people smiling and waving for every mean-looking face.”



Sergeant Wayne West, right, and a friend at Camp Shelby.

Soldiers from Mississippi have been busy. “We are constantly finding terrorists and detaining them, catching mortar men and people setting out improvised explosive devices or roadside bombs,” he said. “We are finding weapons caches and anti-aircraft launchers. In short, we are making this place a lot safer. The people here know it, and they appreciate it.”

West says living conditions for Alpha Company are sparse at best.

“We live in the ghetto of Baghdad, about 30 miles southwest of the city,” he

said. “Not a happy place by comparison, but we have made it home. We have come to a place with minimum assets such as a shortage of water, which means no showers at times, only two meals a day, Iraqi summer and winter, dust for days, no gym, no phones, and a very small Internet café. Despite all this—with the camaraderie of the soldiers, the support from home, and just sheer determination—we have made the surrounding community safer. We have also made it known that we are here to help and that we are peaceful, but powerful.”

For more on West’s activities, including contact information, go to [www.waynesworld2005.blogspot.com](http://www.waynesworld2005.blogspot.com).

—*Rebecca McCormick,*  
an independent feature writer  
based in Hot Springs, Arkansas,  
is also Wayne West’s mother.

## From the Bowl To the National Mall

Rather than focusing on regular class lectures, sophomores Amanda Simpson, Keelie Broom, and Ben Buckner attended speeches given by such powerful figures as CBS News journalist Bob Schieffer and publisher Steve Forbes. Instead of walking between Sullivan Harrell and the Academic Complex, these students spent their time commuting between classes on Capitol Hill and at the White House, as well as the Supreme Court and the Smithsonian Institution.

The three were participating in the Washington Semester Program, offered through American University. It allows students to apply the principles they have learned in textbooks to the real world while gaining credit for a full semester. Each semester approximately 400 students representing more than 150 colleges and universities around the nation participate in one of 12 programs that range from American politics to journalism to law enforcement.

Broom said she had found her Washington Semester to be enlightening and challenging on both an academic and a personal level. “You learn a lot about yourself when you remove yourself from a comfort zone and move into a totally different atmosphere with which you have very little familiarity,” she said.

Students participating in the Washington Semester apply for internships at those places that pique their interest. The internships are as varied as the curriculum and include positions at the White House, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives offices, the Washington, D.C., Police Department, Republican and Democratic National Committees, and various special-interest groups.

Buckner chose to complete his internship in broadcast journalism. Two days of the week, Buckner worked as an intern at Cox Broadcasting, a Washington bureau for 12 affiliate stations around the country. “This semester has been an incredible learning tool and not only puts me one step ahead in all of my political science classes at Millsaps, but it has also been very valuable in the sense that it has given me experience working in a real job setting,” Buckner said.

Simpson spent her time in the office of U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, Democrat of Arkansas. “Not only am I learning what goes on behind the scenes of the Senate, but I am also learning how to communicate with constituents, how a good office is run, and how to get issues on the agenda,” she said. “The work that I have done here is priceless and will hopefully help me in the future when I enter the political sphere.”

Broom interned at the office of Senator Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi. Broom sees her Washington Semester as an opportunity for professional advancement. “I feel like I’ve put myself way ahead of the game by making connections that will help me get where I’m trying to go after graduation,” Broom said. —C.K.

## Marks Family Endows Haughton Scholarship

In 1942, Helen Murphy and her twin sister, Evelyn, didn't think a college education was in their future. Their father, who had a grocery store at Rawls Springs, just north of Hattiesburg, couldn't afford the tuition. It was assumed that they would stay at home and work.

In their teenage years, the Murphy sisters moved with their family to the city of Hattiesburg. Helen recalls the one person

who changed the course of her life. The Reverend L. D. Haughton was the minister at Court Street Methodist Church, and he baptized the sisters when they were 14 years old.

"We were greatly influenced by his sermons and his genuine interest in us," she said. "He was a kind, gentle, sensitive man who preached the word of God and sought out ways to live as Christ would want us to live."

Haughton did not attend Millsaps, but he knew the Murphy sisters had graduated near the top of their high school class and that they would succeed there. So he encouraged them to pursue a Millsaps education.

"He urged us to save our money and go on to college," Helen said. Few scholarships were available in the early 1940s, but after eight months of work they had enough money, with \$100 from the Methodist Women at Court Street and a \$100 scholarship from Millsaps, to enroll.

After they arrived at Millsaps, the sisters found that they had jobs in the Navy cafeteria, which was set up for the Navy V-12 program held at the College from 1943 to 1945. "I'm sure Reverend Haughton had been in touch with President Marion Smith or someone to line up those jobs," Helen said. They worked in the cafeteria as long as the Navy program lasted, and then Helen found work with the telephone company downtown and paid Millsaps every month. "We went through college on faith and hard work," she said.

The Murphy sisters (Helen Murphy Marks and Evelyn Murphy McIntyre) taught elementary school for a combination of 63 years. But for the influence of a Methodist minister who encouraged them to realize their potential, hundreds of children would have missed their caring influence.

The Reverend Warren Pittman wrote of Haughton, in the 1979 *Conference Journal*: "Though his earthly life is over, his ministry continues through the lives of those whom he touched and the Church that was strengthened through his dedicated service."

And Haughton will continue to be remembered at Millsaps. In July 2003, Helen, B.A. 1947, and her husband, Sutton Marks, B.S. 1948, created The Reverend L. D. Haughton Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund. Preference for the scholarship will be given to a student who is in absolute need of financial aid in order to obtain a college education.

"Reverend Haughton was a crucial turning point in my life," Helen said. "I never cease to thank God for his interest in my sister and me. With this scholarship money, the College will be able to give some students the chance that was given to us. We are both very appreciative of our education at Millsaps." —Kay Barksdale

## Pepper Rally

Jennifer Paradise, B.S. 2005, left, and Meghan Pigott, B.A. 2005, represented the E.A.R.T.H. team with the only vegetarian entry in the Chili Bowl in March. Featuring record attendance and the most teams entered in the event's five-year history, the fund-raiser was sponsored by the Mississippi Delta chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The cook-off, benefiting the Lifeshare Foundation, raised about \$6,000 for Jackson's less fortunate families. "We are investing our time and energy in this project because we believe in it," said co-chair Matt Marston, B.A. 2005. "We are having a good time, and we are inviting everyone to share in the excitement!" —B. D.



Jennifer Smith, with Dr. Bill Brister, left, graduate admissions director, and James Coggin, the father of Allison Coggin Lee.

## Lee Scholarship Goes To 2003 Alumna

Jennifer Smith of Jackson has been awarded the Allison Coggin Lee Scholarship for the 2005–06 academic year.

Smith is a graduate of St. Andrew's Episcopal School and received her bachelor of business administration from Millsaps College in 2003. As an undergraduate student, Smith was a President's Scholar and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honorary society. Smith is currently employed by Nejam Properties in Jackson, where she is a leasing manager.

She is beginning the M.B.A. program this summer.

The \$10,000 scholarship is the largest awarded to a Millsaps M.B.A. student. It was established in memory of Allison Coggin Lee, an Else School graduate. The recipient must exemplify exceptional aptitude for graduate business study, exhibit involvement in College and community activities, and demonstrate business professionalism and highly developed communication abilities.

## Babbitt, Cochran Headline 2005 Commencement

It was a road trip from Princeton University that brought Milton Babbitt, one of the most revered and influential figures in 20th century music, back to his childhood home of Jackson to receive an honorary doctor of arts degree at the Commencement ceremony in May. "Babbitt's music is discussed in virtually every music history textbook in use today," said Dr. Frances Lucas, president of the College, in her

introductory remarks. "For the past five decades he has had an unparalleled influence on serious music and thinking about music."

While Babbitt's impact is felt in music, it is in politics that Senator Thad Cochran, keynote speaker, wields his own considerable authority. The son of a principal and teacher in the schools of Pontotoc, Mississippi, and an accomplished scholar who has worked tirelessly on behalf of education, the Mississippi Republican received the honorary degree of doctor of laws.

Cochran, now chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, challenged the Class of 2005 to stay involved in the political process. "I heard once of a recent college graduate who was contemplating what to do with his or her life after college and a friend suggested politics as an option," he said. "The response was, 'I am certainly not going to have anything to do with politics.' Whereupon another friend who was listening in on the conversation said, 'Well, politics is certainly going to have a lot to do with you.'

"That is something to think about, maybe not in the sense that it should be a



Student Body Association President Paige Henderson leading the Class of 2005 into the Bowl at Commencement.

profession everyone should consider, but in the context that we all are affected by political decisions that someone makes every day, and it means we should take part in the process."

Honorary degrees also went to Kathryn Loeb Wiener and Howard McMillan Jr. Wiener received the doctor of public service degree for her work on behalf of such cultural institutions as the Mississippi Museum of Art, Mississippians for Public Broadcasting, and the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience.

The Else School of Management's executive in residence, Howard McMillan Jr., who has served as the president of Deposit Guaranty National Bank and a director of the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta, was honored with a doctor of laws degree.

The Founders' Medal, which is awarded to the graduating senior with the highest grade point average for the entire College course of study and has received a grade of "Excellent" on the comprehensive



From left, honorees Thad Cochran, Milton Babbitt, Howard McMillan Jr., and Katherine Wiener at Commencement.



“She is not a flashy leader, but I’ll bet she will live a life of dignity, vision, purpose, and compassion.”

Dr. Elise Lawton Smith, professor of art history, was the recipient of the 2005 Millsaps College Distinguished Professor Award, which recognizes

faculty members who inspire students and whose writing, research, and artistic accomplishments are of the highest quality. The award carries a cash prize of \$5,000. Dr. David Davis, associate dean of Arts and Letters, said that Smith’s “life as a teacher, scholar, mentor, and friend remind us all of what it means to be an active and positive force in society.”

The baccalaureate speaker was the Reverend Hope Ward, bishop of the Mississippi Area of the United Methodist Church and vice-chair of the Millsaps Board of Trustees. (See story, page 2.) — J.W.

examinations, went to Ryan Day. Day planned to move to St. Louis to become a research technician at Washington University School of Medicine and to apply to M.D./Ph.D. programs over the course of the year.

The Frank and Rachel Anne Laney Award, which recognizes the graduating senior who has written the finest essay reflecting on the value of a Millsaps liberal arts education—required reading for incoming freshmen—went to Casey Parks, who not only served as editor in chief of the *Purple & White* but also is assistant editor of the award-winning alternative weekly the *Jackson Free Press*. (See related story, page 6.) The award was established in honor of Frank and Rachel Anne Laney as a tribute to their commitment to excellence in higher education. Parks’s winning paper was entitled “Your Silence Will Not Protect You,” and she is a passionate advocate of free speech. In October, she will be going to Nantes, France, to teach English to middle school classes.

The Don Fortenberry Award, which recognizes the senior considered to have performed the most notable, meritorious, diligent, and devoted service to the College with no expectation of recognition, was bestowed upon Paige Henderson. Henderson claimed the senior year trifecta of student body president, Homecoming Queen, and Most Distinguished Woman, and she served as Campus Ministry Team co-chair, chair of the Senior Year Experience, and Team Captain for Up ’Til Dawn. The award is named for Don Fortenberry, the retiring chaplain. “My sense is that Paige is a quiet and steady contributor to the common good, just like Don Fortenberry,” said Dr. Darby Ray, director of the Faith & Work Initiative.



## Beta Gamma Sigma

The Beta Gamma Sigma business honorary society at Millsaps College inducted 13 students into the chapter in April. Pictured are, back (from left), Dr. Bill Brister, president, Beta Gamma Sigma; Scott Ehr Gott, 2004 M.B.A. member; Dr. Kevin Pauli, secretary, Beta Gamma Sigma; center, James A. Coggin, president and chief administrative officer, Saks Incorporated; Rob McKnight, 2005 M.B.A. inductee; Rich Knox, 2005 M.B.A. inductee; Dr. Ken Harmon, dean of the Else School of Management; front, Jennifer Smith, 2002 member; Kelly Miller, 2004 member; Lane Williamson, 2005 inductee; Megan Holcomb, 2005 inductee; Amberley Etheridge, 2005 inductee, and Anjali Pahwa, 2005 inductee. Not pictured are inductees David Metxner, Brent Guitreau, Chunfang Zhu, Jason Eastlack, Dana Van Deman, Vimala Gutti, and Terry Glenn Tullos.



## Phi Beta Kappa

This year’s Phi Beta Kappa inductees are standing (from left), Daniel Monroe Taylor, Doc McAlister Billingsley, Robert John Sawyer II, Matthew Hunter Marston, Trevor Clanton Theilen, Ryan Brent Day, James Benjamin Brock; seated, Kelly Ann Maddox, Natacha Marie Touchette, Arlene Rose Chiemprabha, Jennifer Dee Baynham, Adryon Mai-Lee Wong, Carly Neda Dessauer, Jamie Lynn Holcomb, Michelle Cormier, Sarah Esma Gardner-Cox, Nora Thoa Oliver, Lindsey Anne Topp, Tina Huettenrauch, Christina Leigh Giurintano, Angela Denise Ward, Stacey Elizabeth Douglas, and Alexa Rae Golliher. Not pictured are Margaret Ferrell Hyneman, Angela Bordelon Pell.