

Major Notes

W. E. Ayres, B.A. 1954, of Pine Bluff, Ark., died Dec. 8, 2006. While at Millsaps, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, Omicron Delta Kappa, The Millsaps Singers, and the band. He also served as president of the Student Body Association. He and his wife, **Diane B. Ayres**, B.A. 1953, a former Board of Trustees member, have been longtime financial supporters of the College. He served as chair of the Annual Fund Drive in the 1960s. In the 1990s, they gave to the New Century of Light campaign and to the Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Brown Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Vernon Lee Burkhead, 1940, of Grenada died Oct. 19, 2006. At Millsaps, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Mildred G. Cagle, 1934, of Jackson died Dec. 15, 2006.

Evelyn Newman Carroll, 1950, of Tupelo died Nov. 21, 2006. At Millsaps, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority. She and her husband, **the Rev. Joseph William Carroll**, B.A. 1950, supported the College through donations to the Paul Douglas and Mary Giles Hardin Scholarship Fund.

Henry Wyatt Clowe, B.S. 1936, of Jackson died Oct. 27, 2006. While at Millsaps, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and the Ramblers Club. He served as president of the Science Club and was the circulation manager of the *Bobashela*. He was also a student assistant in the chemistry department.

Alma Van Hook Cox, 1948, of Jackson died Sept. 26, 2006. The daughter of a teacher and a coach, she grew up on the Millsaps campus. While at the College, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority, the Women's Council, and The Millsaps Players.

The Rev. Ellis Robert (Bob) Dickerson, B.A. 1950, of Cantonment, Fla., died Nov. 27, 2006.

Elizabeth (Betty) Longinotti Douglass, B.A. 1948, of Terry died Jan. 10, 2007. At Millsaps, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority and The Millsaps Singers.

Man D. Gardner Jr., 1952, of San Diego died Dec. 3, 2006.

Shirley Jean (McMullan) Hackman, B.A. 1959, of Madison died Feb. 2, 2007.

While at Millsaps, she was a member of The Millsaps Singers, the Vikings, Wesley Fellowship, and the Women Christian Workers. She also served as a dormitory assistant.

Kenneth M. Hathaway, B.A. 1969, of Natchez died Oct. 4, 2006. At Millsaps, he served as secretary of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and was a member of The Millsaps Singers.

Doris Draper Huddleston, B.A. 1929, of Lamont died Nov. 15, 2006.

Joyce Patrick Langford, B.A. 1948, of Jackson died Nov. 28, 2006. While at Millsaps, she was a member of Phi Mu sorority.

Susan Collins Logan, B.A. 1970, of Brandon died Jan. 4, 2007. At Millsaps, she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority.

Syble Hinson Meadows, B.S. 1938, of McCarley died Jan. 1, 2007. At Millsaps, she was a member of Beta Sigma Omicron and The Millsaps Singers. She received the Clark Essay Medal from the English department her senior year.

Irene Breland, 99, longtime English teacher

Lillian Irene Breland, B.S. 1929, of Jackson died on October 31, 2006, at the age of 99. Breland transferred from Asbury College in Kentucky to Millsaps, where she majored in English and romance languages. She earned M.A. and M.Ed. degrees at Mississippi College and also did graduate work in English and counseling at the University of Virginia and Colorado College.

She credited Millsaps with instilling in her the confidence to pursue teaching. Her career in teaching spanned 41 years in Mississippi high schools, including Runnelstown, Porterville, New Hebron, Glen Allan, Liberty Grove, and Central and Murrah high schools in Jackson. In 2004, Millsaps established the Irene Breland Award for Excellence in English and Literature, which is presented each year to an English major certified to teach English.

As one of the College's older alumni, Breland had remained active and independent until she was assaulted by a robber in the driveway of her Jackson home. She died a few months later as a result of injuries sustained in that robbery. Former students and Millsaps alumni in the Jackson area offered a reward for the capture of the perpetrator.

Memorials for Breland will go toward the Irene Breland Award for English students and may be sent to the attention of the Office of Institutional Advancement.

—Kay Barksdale



Walter B. McCreight Jr., 1950, of Madison died Oct. 7, 2006. While at Millsaps, he was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Frances Elsie Rembert, 1941, of Jackson died Sept. 30, 2006. At Millsaps, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Betty Langston Ridgway, 1953, of Pine Bluff, Ark., died Dec. 20, 2006. While at Millsaps, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Col. Paul Sheffield, B.S. 1939, of Memphis died Sept. 26, 2006. At Millsaps, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Delta, The Millsaps Players, the Pre-Med Club, the YMCA, the Science Club, the Nit Wits, the Millsaps Motorcycle Club, and the Collegians. He held the rank of corporal and sergeant in the band. He also served as master of ceremonies for the Faculty Frolics.

Jennifer L. Sorrells, B.S. 2002, of Kenner, La., died July 18, 2006. While at Millsaps, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority. The first student majoring in geology with a concentration in geophysics, she assisted with geophysical research that was presented at the 76th Annual Meeting of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists in New Orleans in October 2006. Her fiancé, **Lance Stoner**, B.S. 2002, has started the Jennifer Sorrells Foundation in her honor.

Jane Hyde West Stewart, 1939, of Ridgeland died Dec. 3, 2006. At Millsaps, she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority, Eta Sigma, The Millsaps Singers, The Millsaps Players, and the YWCA.

William F. Tate, 1950, of Tupelo died Sept. 5, 2006.

William Oscar (W. O.) Tynes Jr., B.S. 1941, of Ridgeland died Oct. 30, 2006. While at Millsaps, he was a member of Sigma Rho Chi fraternity, the Science Club, the M-Club, and the track, football, and basketball teams.

The Rev. Hubert G. Wallace, B.S. 1938, of Asheville, N.C., died Oct. 12, 2006.

Clifton L. Webb, 1959, of Brandon died March 23, 2006. He attended the College as part of the Navy V-12 officer training program.

Thomas Marvin Williams Jr., B.S. 1938, of Meridian died Nov. 7, 2006. While at Millsaps, he was a history major and member of Pi Kappa Delta honorary.

the Beethoven Club, and The Millsaps Singers. She was preceded in death by her husband, **James W. (Pete) Wood**, B.A. 1956, longtime business manager of the College. After his death, she helped establish a scholarship in his memory. The family has now renamed the scholarship in honor of both of them as the James W. "Pete" and Grace C. Wood Endowed Scholarship Fund.



Dr. Noel C. Womack Jr., B.S. 1944, of Jackson died Jan. 29, 2006. At Millsaps, he served as president of Kappa Sigma fraternity and his senior class. He was a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, Omicron Delta Kappa, Beta Beta Beta, The Millsaps Singers, and The Millsaps Players. From 1959–1960, he served as president of the Millsaps College Alumni Association.

Nina Grace (Gracie) Cunningham Wood, B.A. 1939, of Ridgeland died Jan. 24, 2007. While at Millsaps, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority, Sigma Lambda, the YWCA,

FRIENDS

Clara M. Stanford of Jackson died Aug. 29, 2006. She was on staff with the College in housekeeping from 1979–1989.

Lewis W. West of Jackson died Jan. 10, 2006. He taught art and sculpting as an adjunct professor of art at Millsaps during the late 1980s.



Robert H. Padgett

Emeritus Professor of English

Robert H. Padgett, emeritus professor of English, died November 28, 2006, at the age of 77. He had retired from teaching in May 1992 after 32 years on the Millsaps faculty.

The Millsaps community celebrated his life at a memorial service in Fitzhugh Chapel. While every professor leaves an imprint on the history of the College, it is Padgett who is credited with being the chief architect and first director of the Millsaps Heritage program, an interdisciplinary humanities program that integrates history, literature, religion, philosophy, and the fine arts into a single elective course of study. The program continues today and is one of the College's academic marks of distinction.

Dr. T. W. Lewis recalled that Padgett, a Fulbright Scholar, joined the faculty in 1960, having completed a Ph.D. residency at Vanderbilt with a dissertation waiting to be written. Padgett chose to put the dissertation on hold when the chair of the Millsaps English department suffered a heart attack and he was asked to take the role of temporary chair.

Dr. Charles Sallis, emeritus professor of history, quotes Padgett as saying that it was probably during the third year that Heritage came of age: "It was during that year's fall semester final exam that I entered AC 215 and descended . . . to find inscribed in Gothic script on the blackboard: 'Abandon hope all ye who enter here.' . . . I knew then that the Heritage program had arrived. We had passed through despair and self-pity to wit and irony."

Padgett's interest in interdisciplinary study did not stop with the Heritage program. In 1982 he helped to design the Liberal Studies Seminar, the academic course required for students entering Millsaps through the adult degree program. He also introduced the concept of Writing Across the Curriculum, which ultimately led to the establishment of the Writing Program and the Writing Center at Millsaps.

As the community remembers his many academic accomplishments, we are also reminded of the person of Bob Padgett: "I cannot think of a time when Bob Padgett did not support me and those he knew who valued education and the intellectual growth of our students," said former English professor Dr. Rick Mallette, who directed the Heritage program for seven years. "As many of us who knew him can testify, he was a jolly fellow, a cultivated man, and a great asset to the College," Mallette said. Former English professor Dr. Judith Page remembers him as "the person you could go to with the most minute academic question, and Bob would know the text or have thought about this issue." Emeritus German professor John Guest said, "I thought he would go on forever," and Dr. Catherine Freis remembered him as "truly a Renaissance man. I am most grateful for the scope of his humanity."

A remembrance of Padgett would not be complete without some mention of his office, which Dr. Page poignantly recalled: "I was always amazed, too, by his desk, which looked like a dustheap but was really a magically organized space with its own filing system. Bob had no trouble finding the paper he needed, always to our amazement."

In his closing remarks at the ceremony, Dr. Lewis said: "Many of us are aware that Bob's gift to the College as the architect and nurturer of the Heritage program has become an endowment that pays rich dividends. So now let us praise and remember Bob Padgett along with all gifted women and men who have given of themselves to this academic community."

—*Kay Barksdale*

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