

# Major Notes

## Winning Weekend

Homecoming 2005 took place on a beautiful autumn day, and the campus was filled with alumni and friends coming together to bask in the warmth of memory.



Reunions were held for the classes of 1955, 1965, 1975, 1980, 1985, and 1995, and the Young Alumni party was held Saturday night at Schimmel's Restaurant.

Some 3,500 fans flocked to see the Majors square off against archrival Rhodes College at Harper Davis Field. At halftime

ceremonies, Tommy Ranager was honored with the official renaming of the Tommy Ranager Fieldhouse. Newly inducted Millsaps Sports Hall of Fame members Shane Langston, B.B.A. 1980, M.B.A. 1982, Susan Kasperbauer-Mascari, B.A. 1995, William (Billy) Mann, B.S. 1949, William (Red) Powell, B.S. 1956, and basketball Coach John Stroud (1990–2003) were joined by many past Hall of Fame members, and the 1975 football team (8-1 record), which earned national recognition through regional play, was also honored. Gina Marie Colon, 2006, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Colon of Shreveport, was crowned as the College's 2005 Homecoming Queen.

The Majors went all out and pulled off a 30-29 victory over Rhodes that will be

remembered by the fans for years to come. Freshman D. J. Mello of Decorah, Iowa, clinched the victory with a 31-yard field goal with 1 minute, 41 seconds remaining, snapping a six-game losing streak for the Majors.

At the faculty showcase in the Kava House, Dr. Stan Galicki (geology) discussed his project in Turkey and compared his work to the popular television show *CSI*. Dr. Patrick Hopkins (philosophy) discussed the medical ethics of creating better-than-human humans, and Dr. Suzanne Marrs (English) provided access to the secret world of Eudora Welty, whose biography she published in August. —J. Y., J. W.



Patrick Hopkins at the faculty showcase.



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## Who Is . . . Matthew Luter?

Matthew Luter, B.A. 2004, a graduate student at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, appeared on the television game show *Jeopardy* in September. After passing the contestant test in February, producers invited Luter to Los Angeles to play in July.

A longtime *Jeopardy* viewer, Luter knew that he was up against some tough competition, so his “plan from the start was to play aggressively,” he said. “I decided that if I hit a Daily Double in a literature or music category, the topics I felt most comfortable with, I’d go all or nothing. I did just that, and it didn’t work out.

“A big element of the game is luck with regard to what material comes up the day you’re on. I had pretty bad luck with the categories that came up. While I could have won with different categories, I got topics that I just didn’t know too well. That and the buzzer—that thing is frustrating!”

With disappointment, he acknowledged that his winnings weren’t huge; second place is worth a flat rate of \$2,000—and a tote bag. “But since I’m in grad school right now, the extra money will come in handy just to make ends meet and such,” he said. “Probably the best part has been the comments I’ve received from lots of people about how well I came across on TV, and if

nothing else I’ve got a great story for the rest of my life and a fun little distinction that relatively few people can claim.”—J. J.

## Harvey’s Biography Of ‘Mr. New Orleans’

Chance Harvey, B.A. 1970, has written the first full biography of the legendary writer known as “Mr. Louisiana” and “Mr. New Orleans.” Harvey’s *The Life and Selected Letters of Lyle Saxon* portrays a colorful, busy life that was full of contrasts.

Saxon presented himself as the perfect Southern gentleman, but he grew up fatherless in modest circumstances. As the host of a French Quarter salon, Saxon dispensed drinks, anecdotes, loans, and advice to many friends, including William Faulkner, Oliver La Farge, and Sherwood Anderson, yet he was often lonely and retreated to his solitary cabin at Melrose Plantation.

While Saxon was ambivalent toward his work with the WPA Writers’ Project, resenting the time it took from his own writing, the Louisiana division was, under his direction, the most productive in the United States. Although Saxon’s history books brought him fame and a place in New York literary circles, he was deeply insecure about his talent and mourned his inability to write novels.

A Southern literature scholar and a longtime fan of Saxon, Harvey has

### *The Life and Selected Letters of Lyle Saxon* By Chance Harvey



researched the facts behind the Saxon myths and presents the reality behind his legend. This volume also contains excerpts from Saxon’s correspondence with family and friends, including letters from Grace King, William Spratling, and Sherwood Anderson. Harvey received her M.A. from Duke and her Ph.D. from Tulane. She currently resides in Tylertown, Mississippi.

—J. Y.



## How Millsaps Got to Carnegie Hall

From left, Cindy Brunson, B.A. 1970, of Madison, Gebbly Smith, 1968, of Crystal Springs, and Marion Francis, B.A. 1968, of Annapolis, Maryland, outside Carnegie Hall in New York, where the former Troubadours joined some 240 other singers from Mississippi in June to perform Verdi’s *Requiem*. The concert was an encore performance of a 2002 performance at Jackson’s Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church, produced as a memorial to the victims of 9/11. Also onstage were the Galloway choir, the Mississippi Chorus, and singers from other local choirs. Of soloist Anna McDonald, B.A. 1966, Francis said: “Leland Byler would have been so proud of Anna. Her solo was spectacular, and it really spoke well for Millsaps College. We all enjoyed singing together again just like we did in our college days.”

—J.W.