

OnCampus



Chip Pickering

The Making of the Presidency

“I believe that there should be a separation of church and state, but I do not think there should be a separation of faith and politics.”
—Chip Pickering

Hindsight

According to veteran political analyst Sid Salter, speaking at a Millsaps Forum on the 2004 presidential election, the most important thing that happened for Mississippians on Nov. 2, 2004, was that Thad Cochran, the senior Republican senator from Mississippi, became chairman of the Senate appropriations committee.

Entitled “Reflections on the 2004 Presidential Election” and moderated by Dr. Don Fortenberry, the Millsaps College chaplain, the forum featured a panel of politicians, pundits, and academics who suggested what they believe the election said about the mood and concerns of the American electorate.

State Representative Virginia Carlton, the Columbia Republican, began by observing that President George W. Bush won reelection “by a clear majority” of the 60 percent of registered voters who turned out to vote. Carlton noted that a large part of the vote for the president was rural, and that his role as commander-in-chief and his response to the 9/11 attacks were also factors in his successful reelection bid. “I don’t think voters were sure of John Kerry’s position as to how he would pursue the war in Iraq,” Carlton said. “And across the nation, on the issue of family values, people turned out to vote in record numbers. When it came to terrorism, people were comfortable with the leadership that we have, and Kerry’s position really wasn’t understood.”

State Representative Alyce Clarke, the Jackson Democrat, said people seemed to have voted along party lines rather than voting on what would “be best for our constituents, our neighbors, or ourselves.”

“It appears we are divided” as a nation, she said. “That’s very unfortunate. I don’t feel that some of the moral issues we let slip into our vote should be as influential as they are at the polls.”



From left, Sid Salter, Dr. Bob McElvaine, Dr. Don Fortenberry, and state representatives Alyce Clarke and Virginia Carlton.

But Clarke said she was most impressed with the turnout in the election. “I’m proud of the number of voters who went to the polls,” she said. “We had more people voting this time than I can ever remember in my 40 years of voting. I remember when there were so many people who could not vote. That’s why it means so much to me.”

Dr. Robert McElvaine, the Elizabeth Chisolm Professor of History at the College, posed this question: “How is it that a president who took us into an unnecessary war, who squandered the huge outpouring of goodwill from around the world that came to us after Sept. 11, 2001, who had a two-thirds of a trillion-dollar turnaround in the federal budget, could possibly have been reelected?”

The answer? “Sex, lies, and videotape,” he said. “The three key moments that enabled Bush to win, I think, were the 4-to-3 decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Court saying that same-sex couples had a legal right to marry, the emergence of the Orwellian-named Swift Boat Veterans for Truth coming out with what were shown to be a whole host of lies about Senator Kerry, and the videotape of Osama Bin Laden that came out the weekend before the election.”

Salter, Perspective editor of the

2004: A Millsaps Perspective



Clarion-Ledger, said, "In Mississippi, and in the country in general, it had been widely believed for the last half-century that better voter turnout benefits the Democratic Party, and this election proved that's no longer true."

"I think by 'reporting for duty,' making Vietnam the cornerstone of his convention speech, and pushing to overcome the Swift Boat Veterans" mired Kerry's campaign "in a straw man debate," Salter said. "Whether you like Bush or dislike Bush, there are some very significant economic problems in the country. Health care is a terrible situation, there have been job losses, and there is a lot to talk about." But Kerry "spent the time from Boston to New York talking about Vietnam," Salter said.

Finally, Salter brought the perspective back home. "Cochran's new position as the chairman of the Senate appropriations committee is the single most relevant happening for Mississippians that day because the chairman of the appropriations committee can do things to help Mississippians of every race, creed, color, and political stripe," he said. Mississippi has had appropriations chairs twice in the last century with Democrats Jamie Whitten in the House and John Stennis in the Senate, and "it means a great deal to the state," Salter said.

—Jesse Yancy

Foresight

During 2004's bitterly fought race for the White House, Mississippi politicians Charles (Chip) Pickering, representing the state's third congressional district, and former Governor Ray Mabus put the "civil" back in civil discourse as they analyzed the making of the candidates for a Millsaps audience.

What was perhaps most startling about the evening was the gentility with which the two men approached what, according to the *New York Times*, psychologists have called one of the most disturbing, hate-filled contests on record.

In opening remarks at an October Arts & Lecture Series program, the two men presented their analyses of the race, with Pickering, a Republican, defending President Bush's record on both domestic and foreign policy and Mabus, a Democrat, explaining his support for Senator Kerry.

Mabus questioned "the why, when, and way" the country went to Iraq. "I think this administration has changed its position on why we went to Iraq more times than Ole Miss has changed quarterbacks this year," Mabus said. Moreover, he said, the invasion had led Iraq to become a "magnet" for terrorists. "I know what terror looks like," Mabus said. "I have been through a terror attack in Saudi Arabia, I've known what it's like to see people die, whose only thing they did wrong was go to lunch at the

wrong time and wear the uniform of the United States of America. Terror is awful and should be tracked down and eradicated, and we have not done that because we've taken our eye off the terror and put it on Iraq."

Pickering looked back on his formative years as a young man living in Eastern Europe in the 1980s to portray the roots of his political ideology. Pickering said that "if you've never been in a different place where you had a radically different system of government and a different way of making decisions economically and politically, you cannot appreciate or understand or fully know what is most important about America and the idea of America. You come from a far place to know much better and much closer your own place and your own home."

He said he supported the president because he believed Bush had a "strong, clear, convinced faith in freedom" rooted in the philosophy of the nation's founders. "We talk about the war on terrorism and sometimes we forget it is really a war of liberation," he said.

Fielding a question from the audience on the necessity of the Electoral College, Mabus said he thought the process should be examined for one reason: "In Mississippi we've gone Democratic once for president since 1956, we don't ever have candidates coming here, we don't

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A Green Light for Change

David Cobb, the Green Party presidential candidate, appeared on campus in October in an event sponsored by the Green Party of Mississippi. "I think George Bush stole the presidential election in 2000," Cobb told about 100 faculty, students, and supporters at the Ford Academic Complex. "I think that Al Gore and the Democratic Party, rather than securing the election that their candidate had won, spent the entire time blaming the Green Party for

votes that should have gone to the left." Cobb added that it was "time that we the people stand up, get out, and be part of the social movement in this country that will challenge the system of corporate takeover of our government." Cobb's appearance was coordinated by Sherman Lee Dillon, the Green candidate in Mississippi's 2003 gubernatorial election, religious studies professor Darby Ray, and philosophy professor Patrick Hopkins.

Some Food for Thought (And Thoughts About Food)

The marquee of the 2004 Millsaps Arts & Lecture Series was illuminated by an array of successful events that appealed to a broad spectrum of cultural interests. The season opened in September with a literary program by the writers Roy Blount Jr., a journalist, humorist, sportswriter, and novelist; Julia Reed, a Mississippi native and writer for *Vogue* and the *New York Times Magazine*, and the Jackson writer Jill Conner Browne of "Sweet Potato Queen" fame.

Taking the stage of the Ford Academic Complex Recital Hall in October was Gary Gallagher, recognized as one of the best historians of the Civil War. Gallagher is the John L. Nau Professor of the History of the American Civil War at the University of Virginia and is widely published in scholarly journals and the popular historical press. His books include *The Confederate War*, *Lee and His Army in Confederate History*, *Lee and His Generals in War and Memory*, and *The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History*.

The award-winning chef Cat Cora, a television star, cookbook author, teacher, and native of Jackson, transformed the auditorium in November into a 600-seat kitchen, preparing seasonal dishes for the program "Home for the Holidays." She is executive producer of *The Cat Cora Show*, a talk show on the Food Network centering on food, wine, and lifestyle.

In January, it was standing room only as the Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats combined acrobatics, traditional dance, and spectacular costumes with ancient and contemporary theatrical techniques. That was followed in February by Rufus McKay of the Red Tops, who played high school proms, nightclubs, and fraternity parties in the 1950s and '60s to become a significant cultural icon of Mississippi.

Also on the February calendar was Claudia Stevens, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, in *An Evening with Madame F*, a drama using music performed at Auschwitz by women inmates. Created to depict the struggle and moral dilemma of those who survived, this production has been called "one of the most profound theatre moments of recent times."

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ever get the debate that goes back and forth. I just think that every vote ought to count, every vote ought to matter." And, he added, "maybe the person that gets the most votes ought to win."

Pointing to deviations from the national model in Colorado, Maine, and Nebraska, Pickering said there were "things that state by state can happen that could make presidential campaigns pay more attention to an individual respective state."

Pickering said that a deep socio-political rift in this nation had emerged over the last 30 years. "The current generation of Vietnam-era leaders and we as a nation have struggled both on social issues and on economic and foreign policy issues like no other generation has until you go back to the Civil War period," he said. He said the nation could not "go an extended period of time with this much division, with this much rancor, with this much mistrust between the two parties."

Then, during an evening that seemed

more polite than political, Pickering seemed ready to take off the gloves. Bush, he said, had "intentionally misled no one. He has core values, core convictions. You may agree with him or disagree with him. But don't call our president a liar."

Referring to polarizing social issues such as abortion and gay marriage, Pickering said that the nation was being failed by its courts. "Instead of letting state legislatures and Congress make decisions that would reflect the values of the majority or a community or a county or a state, judges have begun making decisions I believe are not conforming to the way the founders and the Constitution intended."

Mabus countered that "the most activist decision I know of was the decision four years ago not to allow a recount and see who actually won the presidential election."

Addressing a question from the audience on the separation of church and state in the election, Mabus said that "to go to a church and talk about your desire to be elected, I view that in the same positive way I view faith-based initiatives the administration has undertaken."

"I believe that there should be a separation of church and state, but I do not think there should be a separation of faith and politics," Pickering said. "And there's a difference. If you look at all the great movements of our nation's history, from the Great Awakening during the Colonial time that really shaped the founders' views of what a government should be, to the Civil War and the abolitionist movement, to the civil rights movement and any great social reform movement in our nation's history, it has been guided, motivated, and inspired by faith."

Pickering is serving his fourth term and is vice chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Mabus, a native of Choctaw County, was the youngest governor in the nation during his 1988–92 term. Mabus was appointed U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia by President Bill Clinton, serving in the mid-1990s.

—John Webb



The award-winning Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats.

Else School Under New Management



Dr. W. Ken Harmon has been named to lead the Else School of Management into its next phase of growth. He replaced Dr. Randy Boxx, who left the College

at the end of the 2003–04 academic year to become dean of the Harry F. Byrd Jr. School of Business at Shenandoah University in Virginia.

Harmon, the fourth dean of the Else School, is the former chair of the Department of Accountancy and Business Law at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, where he was also a professor of accounting. He has taught at Middle Tennessee State, Arizona State University West, the University of Missouri-Columbia, and Drexel University. He earned a bachelor of science in accounting, a master of accountancy, and a doctor of business administration in accounting at the University of Tennessee.

Harmon was named professor of the year four times during his tenure at the University of Missouri-Columbia, as well as the 1989 faculty member of the year at Missouri's College of Business. His students have lauded him as a dynamic and caring teacher, and he is known for working closely with students to develop their personal and career goals.

"Ken's entrepreneurial ideas and leadership will allow him to quickly build on the fine tradition and reputation that already exists at the Else School," said Dr. Frances Lucas, president of the College. "Ken emerged from a national search that had many excellent candidates. Ken has an excellent track record as a teacher, instructor, and fund raiser. I have no doubt that his business development skills in particular will go a long way

toward increasing the relationships between the Else School and the business community."

"Millsaps College and the Else School of Management have a long tradition of supreme academic quality," Harmon said. "I am very excited to have the opportunity to become part of that tradition. Additionally, I see numerous, exciting prospects on the horizon. Especially promising is the notion of building strong, creative ties between the Else School of Management and the regional business community."

Harmon has been active with the business honorary society Beta Gamma Sigma and has been published in the *Journal of Information Systems*, the *CPA Journal*, and the *Information Systems Control Journal*. He served as editor of the *Journal of Accounting and EDP* and currently is an associate editor for the *International Journal of Accounting Information Systems*. Harmon has implemented numerous software systems for health-care billing and worked as a staff auditor for Price Waterhouse & Co.

"Dr. Harmon is a gifted teacher—winning numerous teaching awards throughout his career, a strong scholar, and a talented administrator," said Dr. Richard A. Smith, senior vice president and dean of the College. "I fully expect that he will be an excellent dean who will help lead the Else School and the College to new levels of accomplishment and distinction. I very much look forward to working with him." —J.Y.

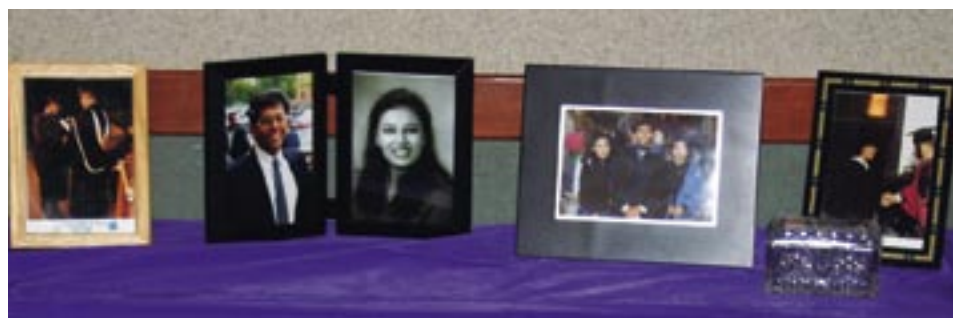
Scholarship Honors Extraordinary Siblings

Just scratch the surface of many Jackson cultural traditions—from the Crossroads Film Society to Jubilee!JAM—and you're likely to encounter the name of Ruma Haque, B.A. 1983, who died in 2002 as the result of an automobile accident. In 1996, her brother, Raju Haque, who left his imprint on New Orleans as "the Mardi Gras attorney," succumbed to cancer.

It is in memory of these two extraordinary young people that their mother, Dr. Monira Haque of Edison, New Jersey, has created the Ruma and Raju Haque Memorial Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship, which will be awarded to an entering freshman majoring in English or political science, was announced on campus in July at an "Evening Celebrating the Lives of Ruma and Raju Haque."

"The response to the event, which was more of a celebration than a memorial, was overwhelming," said Vernon King, director of development at Millsaps College. "We received numerous gifts in memory of Ruma and Raju, and Dr. Haque seemed overcome with the number of alumni and friends that came.

"Throughout the evening Dr. Haque seemed struck speechless by the number of guests that greeted her and told her how much they loved Ruma and Raju. However, when it came time for Dr. Haque to receive her daughter's Livesay Award posthumously,



Gallery of memories: photographs of Ruma and Raju Haque displayed at an evening celebrating their lives and contributions.

she was as eloquent as any orator could be. Her speech was heartfelt, and everyone in the audience was noticeably moved by her words. The evening was indeed a celebration of the lives that Ruma and Raju lived and each of them lived life to the fullest.”

Both Raju Haque and Ruma Haque entered the field of law after studying at Millsaps. Ruma Haque graduated from Millsaps with a degree in English. She was a member of Kappa Delta sorority, as well as the Millsaps Players and the English honorary society Sigma Tau Delta. She served on the staff of the *Bobashela* and the *Purple & White*. After graduating from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1987, she served as president of the government law section of the Mississippi State Bar Association, president of the National Association of County Civil Attorneys, vice president of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, vice president of the Crossroads Film Society, and secretary of the Hinds County Bar Association. She also served on the board of directors of the Millsaps Arts & Lecture Series and was a member of Mississippi HeARTS Against AIDS and the Junior League of Jackson. At the time of her death, she was serving as the attorney for the Hinds County Board of Supervisors, that body's first full-time attorney.

Raju Haque graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and Loyola University Law School. He became a member of the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association and civic organizations. He also served as an assistant city attorney for New Orleans. He was an envoy to the New Orleans Asian-American Pacific Society, the National Rifle Association's Legion of Honor, the Mardi Gras Task Force, and the Krewe of Tucks.

“Both Ruma and Raju are prime examples of the type of outstanding

alumni that Millsaps produces,” King said. “They gave 100 percent of themselves while they were students and continued to give back to their respective communities after graduation.” King added that the Haque Endowed Scholarship would perpetuate those values and their commitment to others. —J. W.



Miss India A Jewel In Millsaps' Crown

Senior Reshoo Pande, 21, was crowned Miss India USA in an October pageant at Kean University in Newark, New Jersey.

Pande, who is from Greenwood, was selected as the first Miss India Mississippi in a pageant on the Millsaps College campus in June. She competed against more than 22 state representatives during the three-day pageant and faced off against representatives from 32 other countries in the Miss India Worldwide competition in Mumbai (formerly Bombay), India, in January.

The Miss India USA pageant is organized by the New York City-based India Festival Committee, which has been holding the annual event for the last 23 years. Pageant contestants must be of



Festival of Lights

In November, the Diwali festival was celebrated on campus for the first time in the history of Millsaps College. It is a day observed by Hindus worldwide, marking the return of the god Rama from 14 years of exile. The evening started with an Indian buffet, followed by the singing of the mantra and lighting of the Diwali lamps by Dr. Frances Lucas, president of the College. The Diwali story was told as a skit performed by Indian children from the Mississippi Indian community. Regional dances were performed by Indian students. A *tabla* (drum) performance and a fashion show were also featured. The local Indian community, the Student Body Association, and the Office of Student Affairs helped make the evening a success. —Anu Goel

Indian origin, ages 17 to 25, unmarried, and living in the United States. Pande is the daughter of Dr. Ravi and Manju Pande of Greenwood. “My parents were so surprised,” she said. “We thought I’d do well, but winning came as a total surprise.”

The pageant's four segments included evening gown, Indian dress, talent, and question and answer. “I did a dance to a mixture of Indian and hip-hop music,” Pande said. “It wasn't competitive at all,” added Pande, an accounting major. “My roommate was from Arizona, and she was incredible. I made a lot of friends, and even if I hadn't won, it would have been a good experience.”

Pande received the crown, a \$1,000 scholarship, and two tickets to India for the pageant. —J. Y.

Allegiance to the Millsaps Flag

Millsaps senior Yulon Stewart carries the College flag in Iraq. A biology major with a minor in psychology, she was called for duty in January 2004. She had six months left before her graduation. Not long ago, while on leave, she visited Sherry Wilburn, director of the Multicultural Association at Millsaps College, and asked for a Millsaps flag. She said she wanted the flag to represent her college with the rest of the troops. —A.G.



Thai Score: Student Receives Asian Grant

Senior Doc Billingsley was awarded a Freeman Foundation-Asia scholarship to conduct research in Thailand for his honors project in anthropology, and his journey into the heart of that nation was posted online in a detailed, engaging, and colorful travelogue.

Billingsley, a native of Senatobia, spent the summer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying the Thai language and spent the fall semester in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with the UW-Madison Thailand program. His honors project is entitled "Culture, Policies, and Population Trends



in Thailand: An Anthropological Case Study." He worked with professors at Chiang Mai University, as well as several nongovernmental organizations.

The primary goal of the Freeman-ASIA Award Program is to increase the number of American undergraduates who study in East and Southeast Asia by providing students with information and financial assistance. Awardees are expected to share their experiences with their home campus to encourage study abroad by others and to spread understanding of Asia in their home communities.

Billingsley was awarded \$5,000 and to complete the service requirement set up a weekly online travel journal for high school

students. The site, www.savethisworld.net, is full of factual information about his studies, as well as whimsical photography and anecdotal material about life in the Far East.

For instance, Billingsley's Nov. 4 entry in "Doc's Thailand Travel Journal" details his fieldwork in family-planning research. "Nowadays, contraception use and low fertility are the norm rather than the exception," he writes. So the Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand "spends most of its resources combating HIV/AIDS and administrating various rural development projects."

"Supporting Doc is easy to do," said Dr. Michael Galaty, associate professor of anthropology. "He is a great student who works hard and has good ideas that he follows up on. The plan to study in Thailand and do an honors project was his originally, and we have done what we can to help that plan become reality."

Over the course of his four years, Billingsley will have done field research

in Virginia, Hungary, Mexico, and now Thailand. He has given readings at the Society for American Archaeology, and published with Galaty, one of his mentors. The paper Billingsley presented at the Southern Sociological Association won the best student paper award from the association and is soon to be published.

"Doc is an excellent student who has shown his abilities both in the classroom and in various field settings," said Dr. Julian Murchison, assistant professor of anthropology and sociology. "I know that he has gained a great deal personally and intellectually as the result of his experiences."

—J. Y., J. W.



From left, Eleanore Kelly, Ellen Beilmann, Nicole Christopher, and Brad Corban, theological fellowship recipients.

The Fellowship Of the Cross

Students Ellen Beilmann of Hattiesburg, Brad Corban of Tupelo, and Eleanore Kelly of Memphis, along with Nicole Christopher, B.A. 2004, of Pensacola, have received fellowships from the Fund for Theological Education, an Atlanta-based organization that provides support and guidance to students who wish to consider the ministry as a possible career.

Beilmann (United Methodist), Corban (United Methodist), and Kelly (Episcopal) received undergraduate fellowships, and Christopher (United Methodist) received a ministry fellowship to attend the Candler School of Theology at Duke University. These fellowships were awarded through the Fund's Partnership for Excellence program, which is aimed at "identifying, inspiring, and supporting persons of excellent gifts and diverse backgrounds for careers in the church and related institutions."

Fellows receive a stipend and will attend an Excellence in Ministry conference in California this summer, where they can meet top theologians and religious leaders and reflect upon vocation with students from throughout the country. All three undergraduate students have been

involved in the CALLS (Considering a Life of Leadership and Service) program of the Millsaps College Faith & Work Initiative, which has offered these students resources and support for their exploration of a life of religious or theological leadership.

“CALLS provided me with a network of students with whom I am able to discuss discernment from a common perspective,” Beilmann said. “It encouraged an environment of insightful and meaningful conversation in a group that is completely unique at Millsaps.”

Begun in 1954 with the goal of supporting excellence in the profession of ministry and supported by individuals and grants from a group of U.S. foundations, the Fund for Theological Education has provided students with nearly 5,000 fellowships and has generated new programs for theological and ministerial support. —J.Y.

Millsaps on the Rise In Media Rankings

Millsaps College has risen to 89th from 91st among the 217 national liberal arts colleges in U.S. News & World Report’s *America’s Best Colleges*. The U.S. News & World Report ranking system relies on data gathered from each college on up to 15 weighted indicators of academic excellence. The colleges in each category are ranked against their peers.

In addition to the U.S. News & World



Report announcement, Princeton Review’s recently released *Best 357 Colleges of 2005* ranks Millsaps College third in the category of “best bargains” and 14th in the academic category of “class discussions encouraged.” The Princeton Review annually surveys more than 106,000 students who rate their respective colleges for the publication.

Millsaps has also been featured in *Colleges of Distinction*, a new college guide and website profiling some of the nation’s strongest institutions of higher education. Based on the opinions of guidance counselors, educators, and admissions professionals, *Colleges of Distinction* honors colleges that excel in key areas of educational quality.

“Millsaps is a remarkable institution with amazing faculty and students,” said Ann Hendrick, dean of admissions and financial aid. “While we know what makes us nationally competitive and regionally distinctive, it’s always great to be recognized by national college guides. This third-party endorsement attracts student scholars and encourages them to learn more about Millsaps.”

Millsaps College was also recognized in an article entitled “Who Needs Harvard?” in the October 2004 issue of *Atlantic Monthly*. Contributing editor

Gregg Easterbrook writes that while this year only 16 of the 32 American Rhodes Scholars hailed from elite colleges, “the others attended Hobart, Millsaps, Morehouse, St. Olaf, the University of the South, Utah State, and Wake Forest, among other nonelites.”

“For his 1990 book, *Looking Beyond the Ivy League*, Loren Pope scanned *Who’s Who* entries of the 1980s, compiling figures on undergraduate degrees,” Easterbrook writes. “Pope found that Bowdoin, Denison, Franklin & Marshall, Millsaps, and the University of the South were better at producing *Who’s Who* entrants than Georgetown or the University of Virginia . . .”

Millsaps is also cited as one of Pope’s 40 *Colleges That Change Lives* and is the only Mississippi institution featured in the *Fiske Guide to Colleges*. —J.Y., J.W.

United We Stand: College Wins Charity Challenge



Millsaps College received the College/University Challenge

Trophy from the United Way of the Capital Area at its annual meeting in June. The College/University Challenge was a competition for the largest percentage of employee participation in the campaign.



PACIFIC OVERTURES



A fashion show of kimonos from the Cultural Foundation for Promoting the National Costume of Japan was held on the Homecoming 2004 weekend, featuring performances of Japanese folk songs by the Millsaps Singers. The presentation was a product of cooperation between the foundation, Nissan North America in Canton, the Japan Association of Mississippi, the Japan-American Society of Mississippi, and Millsaps College. Every year, the foundation, based at the Hakubi Kyoto Kimono Schools in Tokyo, chooses one American city to host the exhibition. This year; the foundation made an exception and visited both Jackson and New Orleans. Japanese models demonstrated 31 kimonos, ranging from the *yukata* (a casual summer kimono) to the formal *suikan* (the ceremonial kimono worn by samurai in ancient times). —Julie Whitehead

The participants, who collectively increased pledges by almost 62 percent, were Belhaven College, Jackson State University, Millsaps College, Hinds Community College, Mississippi College, and Tougaloo College.

Maintenance was the first department with 100 percent participation in the drive, which spurred several other departments to obtain total participation. The names of departments and individual contributors were placed on a "Tree of Compassion" in the A. Boyd Campbell College Center, where the trophy is displayed.

"We congratulate Millsaps for winning our College Challenge," said Carol Burger, president and chief executive officer of the United Way of the Capital Area. "Their participation helped to make the competition a success. They should be proud of their efforts to help make an impact on our community's needs."

In addition, Quint Withers, a Millsaps student, won the Youth Volunteer Award. Withers joined the Youth United Way Student Volunteer Program in February 2002 as a member of the Youth Donor Investment Committee. He assisted other high school and college students in making funding decisions for youth programs in Hinds, Madison, and Rankin counties to address teen pregnancy, alcohol and drug abuse, violence, and reading proficiency among teens. —J.Y.

Commencement 2004 A Matter of Degrees

The 2004 Commencement ceremonies were distinguished by the presentation of the first Don Fortenberry Award for scholarship and service, ideals that Millsaps goes out of its way to integrate and promote on campus.

"For more than 30 years, your unconditional involvement in student lives and campus life has literally reshaped our students' experiences," Dr. Frances Lucas, president of the College, told Fortenberry.

"It is no surprise that one of my chaplain colleagues refers to you as the best college chaplain in these United States. You are a precious treasure to our College and we publicly proclaim our affection with the annual award that bears your name."

The award went to Julia Mitchell of Magnolia. Her classmate Kenneth Townsend, himself a Rhodes Scholar now studying at Oxford University, wrote in his nomination: "What is most remarkable about Julia is the way she has served without the expectation of recognition. Julia serves and leads with a spirit of selflessness."

The Honorable John Palmer, U.S. ambassador to Portugal, served as the keynote speaker. A pioneering business executive in answering and paging services, and radiotelephone and wireless technologies, Palmer has set a standard equaled by few for creative thinking, innovative technology, and successful management and marketing. Palmer served on the first President George Bush's Export Council and as an adviser to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

He has also served as chairman and president of Mobile Communications Corp. and was the founder and chairman of SkyTel. In 1994, Palmer established the Jonathan M. Sweat Music Endowment at Millsaps, and the Millsaps Bell Concert Series of piano performances was established last year in the memory of his grandmother, Mrs. J. Y. Bell.

The Rev. Kenneth Carder, formerly the bishop of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church and an author who has lived out his vision for peace, racial reconciliation, and ministry, delivered the baccalaureate address.

In addition to Palmer and Carder, honorary degrees went to Dr. Wallace Conerly, a 1957 alumnus who has served as dean of the University of



Myrlie Evers-Williams receiving her honorary degree.

Mississippi School of Medicine, and Myrlie Evers-Williams, widow of the assassinated civil rights leader Medgar Evers, who worked with her husband to organize voter registration drives in the 1960s.

Also presented with an honorary degree, at a later date, was Hugh Landrum Jr., a business pioneer and community leader in Columbus, Georgia. Landrum's health prevented him from attending commencement.

The Founders' Medal was shared by Brian Houston of Grand Junction, Tennessee, who entered medical school at

Emory University in Atlanta, and Townsend, a native of Kosciusko pursuing graduate studies at Oxford in political philosophy.

The Frank and Rachel Anne Laney Award went to Ashley Nichols of McComb, who was chosen for her essay reflecting on the value of a Millsaps education, "A Second Hand Account."

Dr. Suzanne Marrs, professor of English and noted Eudora Welty scholar, was the recipient of the 2004 Distinguished Professor Award for teaching and scholarship.

Phi Beta Kappa

Lauren Elizabeth Brian
Sonya Rochelle Brown
Jeffrey Bryan Cole
Joye Caroline Cox
Jay Oliver Craddock
Margaret Anne Dykes
Jared Wayne Eastlack
Erin Elizabeth Gourlay
Peter Whittlesey Gray
Akanksha Gupta
Jason Daniel Hatt
Brian Allan Houston
Jerry Michael Landry
Matthew Jonathan Luter
Julia Lane Mitchell
Ashley Norwood Nichols
William Michael Pickard
Elizabeth Lene Santiago
Natalie Nicole Smith
Gloria Beth Surber
Kenneth Lane Townsend
Randi Kay Young