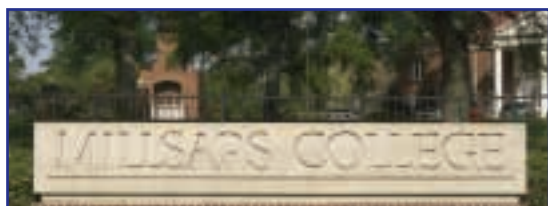


MILLSAPS COLLEGE



President's Report
2003



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GREETINGS FROM Millsaps College. As I write this note, we have much to be thankful for and much to celebrate!

With your faithful and generous support, we are continuing to make a difference in the lives of our students and our community. We have an outstanding future ahead of us. It is my distinct honor to serve as president of this remarkable institution at a time when Millsaps College is moving forward with great momentum.

This fall we were pleased to learn that not only do we have one of Mississippi's most magnificent students, Kenny Townsend, a senior selected as a 2004 Rhodes Scholar, but also the most outstanding professor in Mississippi for the second consecutive year, Greg Miller (English), as chosen by the prestigious Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching — Bob McElvaine (history) was last year's honoree. Kenny and Greg are testimony to the quality of our College, from both a student and faculty perspective. I am also pleased to report the important addition of Dr. Brit Katz, the new vice president for student affairs and dean of students, to our senior staff. We are now well-positioned for the wonderful opportunities ahead.

The Board of Trustees, under the inspiring leadership of Chair Maurice Hall, has undertaken a series of actions to help us respond to the challenging market conditions that have created hurdles for colleges nationwide. In the last several months, we have raised more than \$3 million through the Trustee Leadership Fund designed to support our budget

during the next three years. These funds will permit us to give much-deserved pay raises to our faculty and staff and to take financial measures that will help foster our success. It has been a privilege to work with our trustees and witness this incredible statement of faith in Millsaps College.

The Board has also approved moving forward with the "quiet phase" of a comprehensive fund-raising campaign. Over the next two years we will be seeking indications of support for this effort, which is based on our recently completed Strategic Plan. We'll have more to share on this subject in the upcoming year.

At our Trustee meeting in October, the Board also approved the Millsaps Campus Plan, a marvelous new physical blueprint for the College. The insert in this President's Report is a presentation of the work of the nationally renowned architectural company Ayers Saint Gross. Adam Gross, a principal in the firm, led the Board and our campus community through the development of the plan.

The Millsaps Campus Plan is a milestone in Millsaps' distinguished history. It honors our core values and builds on our strengths. Essentially, we are capturing the magnificence of the Bowl and expanding it both north and south from our central academic and administrative core. As our anticipated plans and resources come together, the measures illustrated in the plan will be phased in during the next generation and beyond. The brochure in this report is a document that you can share with others in the Millsaps family. It highlights our future while respecting the



Millsaps College is building a bright future on its foundation of excellence.

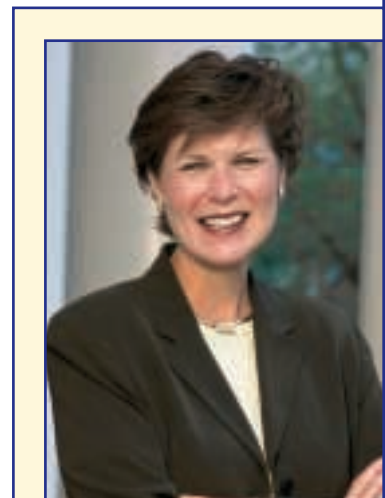
foundations that the College has so carefully established since 1890.

It is truly a remarkable time at Millsaps. Thank you for your faithful support. Your contributions, through your gifts of time, talent, and yes, treasure, are also statements of faith in Millsaps College. Our faculty, students, and staff are grateful for your assistance, whether from alumni, corporations, foundations, friends, or parents. Together, we are all a part of a truly special academic community.

With great appreciation,

Frances Lucas

Frances Lucas



2002–03 FISCAL OVERVIEW

MILLSAPS COLLEGE, which relies on your generous support, has an annual budget of approximately \$40.9 million.

Our largest single source of revenue is from students in the form of tuition, fees, room, and board. Last year student charges provided gross revenues of \$27.6 million, approximately 67 percent of the budget.

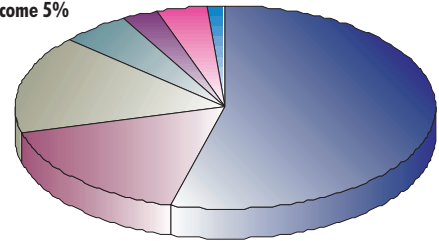
Total gifts and pledges to Millsaps for the year ended June 30, 2003, were \$6.62 million. Of these gifts, almost \$1.72 million was designated for current operations. The amount of \$1.58 million was added to the endowment of the College, and \$662,000 was received for building and capital projects. The remaining gifts were restricted for special programs. Of particular note was a \$2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to the Center for Ministry to support a program for sustaining pastoral excellence.

Additionally, \$3.6 million was provided by the College's endowment and investment portfolios. While the financial markets of the past fiscal year largely trended downward, the College was able to hold its own and even saw some slight improvements in market values



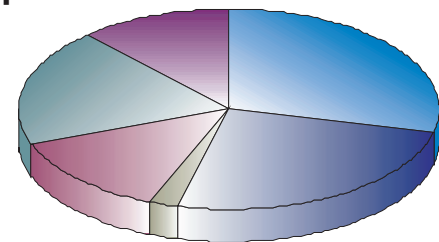
REVENUE

- tuition and fees 54%**
- gifts 17%**
- auxiliary enterprises 16%**
- endowment and investment income 5%
- federal and state grants 3%
- net gains on investments 4%
- other 1%



EXPENSES

- student aid 29%**
- instructional 25%**
- institutional support 19%**
- academic support 2%
- student services 13%
- auxiliary enterprises 12%



on some of its long-term holdings. The endowment as of June 30, 2003, was \$77.9 million.

Our largest expenditures are for people. Last year, more than \$16 million was allocated for salaries and benefits for our faculty and staff. Another \$11.7 million was designated for student aid. These two items comprise 68 percent of the expenditure budget of the College. Indeed, a total of \$33.2 million, or 81 percent, was spent directly on students in the form of instruction, academic support, student services, and the residence life program (residence halls and dining). The remainder — \$7.6 million — provided institutional support necessary for the upkeep of the College — general administration, business services, insurance costs, fund-raising, etc.

Our greatest needs are for student financial assistance.

The cost of attendance for a full-time undergraduate during 2002–03 was \$23,700. After measuring revenues generated by the student population, less financial aid, the College is recovering a little more than half of its actual costs from students. The remainder must be funded by other sources. Gifts generated to help students, either through endowed or sponsored scholarships, will help to free other resources to nurture and enhance the academic mission of Millsaps College.

Louise Burney

Vice President for Finance

THIS PRESIDENT'S Report celebrates those who have invested their resources to build on the rich heritage that distinguishes Millsaps College. I am honored to say thank you on behalf of the College for your support during the 2002–03 year.

We received more than \$6.6 million in outright gifts and pledge payments during the year, while new gifts, pledges, and planned giving commitments to the College totaled \$14 million. Eighteen scholarships were created during the year. Awards like the Allison Coggin Lee and Cuple Works Gray scholarships described in this report will help assure that students who seek a quality education can attend Millsaps.

Unrestricted Millsaps Annual Fund gifts totaled \$710,000, an increase of 18 percent over the last three years. These contributions are important because they allow us to enhance programs across the College. Total gifts to the annual fund, both restricted and unrestricted, were in excess of \$2.3 million. Included in this amount was \$342,000 from the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Additionally, our alumni participation rate increased from 34 percent in 2001–02 to 39 percent in the 2002–03 fiscal year.

Every gift that we receive at Millsaps, whether large or small, is important to us. Each dollar given allows us to further our tradition of academic excellence and service to the community.

Included in this report is an overview of the Millsaps Campus Plan. This plan will



Lobby of the Franklin W. Olin Hall of Science.

guide our facility enhancement over the next several decades. It is an exciting vision for this campus. The foundation of the plan, however, is built on people and programs. Each improvement is tied to a greater comprehensive plan that envisions a vibrant academic community.

Gifts for scholarships, faculty support, program enhancements, facilities, and the annual fund combine to provide the financial support needed to make the vision of this College a reality.

Regardless of the purpose behind your gift, you should know that all of us at Millsaps College thank you for your generosity and seek your continued

support as we seek to fulfill our mission.

Charles R. Lewis

Vice President,
Institutional Advancement



ADMISSIONS UPDATE

THE FALL SEMESTER has been extremely busy and productive for the Office of Admissions at Millsaps College. We have been maintaining an intense travel schedule and also hosting events on campus for prospective students, their parents, and college counselors from all over Mississippi and the South.

I am pleased to report that these efforts give us a sense that our year should be an excellent one in admissions. Interest in Millsaps College is high and the turnouts have been exciting to see. Some examples are: More than 250 attended Scholars Day, our largest turnout ever; we've seen record numbers at all of our Millsaps Night events from Atlanta to Houston; and this fall we had our largest single day in the history of the College for receiving applications, 112 in all.

As President Lucas has indicated, having both a new Rhodes Scholar and the professor of the year for the state of Mississippi doesn't hurt. It gives us some solid information to reinforce the value of a Millsaps education. This is well known to you, but we need to make it more widely known, throughout Mississippi and beyond.

Two new vehicles are also facilitating the conversations we are having with prospective students, their families, and the counselors. The Colleges That Change Lives web site, based on Loren Pope's highly respected book of the same name, is increasingly valued as a fundamental resource in our market. A new addition, Colleges of Distinction, is also becoming more visible and sought out as a college selection resource.

Let me share with you, for your use with potential students, some of the "Quick and Interesting Facts" that we use in presenting our case as a "Community of Scholars":

- Millsaps College is a nationally competitive institution with regionally distinctive programs such as field study in Yucatan, Mexico; the Faith & Work Initiative; and the multi-disciplinary Heritage Program for freshmen.
- Student Profile — 1,200 students; 42 percent from outside Mississippi, including 31 states and six countries; 46 percent male, 54 percent female; Millsaps College has a 16 percent minority student population, 10 percent of which is African American. More than 20 percent of our students have an alumni connection.
- Millsaps College was the first institution in Mississippi with a Phi Beta Kappa chapter; is one of 40 *Colleges That Change Lives*; and is ranked in the top half of national liberal arts colleges and often rated as a best value by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- Millsaps College is also featured in the *Yale Daily News' Insider's Guide to the Colleges*; cited as an educational leader by the *College Finder*; selected as one of the *Princeton Review's Best 351 Colleges*; and named in the new admissions resource, *Harvard Schmarvard*.
- Athletics — NCAA Division III, Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. Baseball, basketball, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, and tennis for



men; basketball, cross-country, golf, soccer, tennis, volleyball, and softball for women. Cheerleading and a dance team are also available.

- Millsaps College has won the David M. Halbrook Award for Academic Excellence in 16 out of the last 20 years. The award is given to the college or university in Mississippi with the highest graduation rate for student-athletes.

Ann Hendrick

Ann Hendrick

Dean of Admissions
and Financial Aid



Scholarship honors Allison Coggin Lee



Allison Coggin Lee, B.A. 1991, M.B.A. 1995.

NOT LONG BEFORE Joey and Allison Coggin Lee were married in 1999, they flew to San Antonio, Texas, together. Allison — a seasoned journalist who had been on the front lines of television news and was rarely afraid of anything — “had a very real fear of flying,” as her father later said. Still, she said nothing as she and Joey boarded the plane. Nor did she complain when they flew halfway across the world to hike in the Himalayas. “You had to know Allison to know how difficult that trip was,” said her father, Jim Coggin of Jackson, president and chief administrative officer of Saks Incorporated. “But she met adversity with quiet confidence.”

Later, when Allison was diagnosed with melanoma, “she met her cancer the same way,” said her mother, Pat Coggin. “She was going to defeat it, to win.”

Whether she had 30 seconds to wrap a report for the 10 o’clock news or was studying ways to fight the disease that claimed her life at age 33, Allison faced the world with a spirit that never flagged. “She was a bright and beautiful girl, and beautiful on the inside,” her father said. “She cared about what was going on around her. She was not self-centered, but rather she focused on the outside world.”

In her professional life, she mentored others. In her civic life, she devoted herself to helping others through the Diabetes Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, and Grace House of Jackson. In her family and social life, she put others’ needs before her own. To speak to those who were close to her is to be inspired by the selflessness that they say she always exhibited — even in the fiercely competitive fields of journalism, public relations, and marketing.

The Allison Coggin Lee Memorial Endowed

*Love is patient, love is kind.
It does not envy, it does not boast,
it is not proud. It is not rude,
it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered,
it keeps no record of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil
but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects, always trusts,
always hopes, always perseveres.
Love never fails . . .*

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Scholarship, established after her death in January 2003, will honor that unselfish spirit by assisting M.B.A. students at the Else School of Management, where Allison herself studied and found her calling. Candidates for the scholarship must “have displayed academic excellence, leadership skills, a conviction for ethical standards within the business community, and work experience.”

Indeed, those are the very qualities that Allison demonstrated in her own academic and professional life. Allison, who received her B.A. from Millsaps in 1991 and her M.B.A. in 1995, was so highly motivated that while working toward her undergraduate degree in English she had already become an esteemed member of the news staff at WLBT-TV, Jackson’s NBC affiliate.

After graduation, she continued to work at the station, where she had been named a senior news producer. “Allison Coggin Lee was a bright, intelligent, funny lady who lit up any room she walked into,” said Howard Ballou, an anchorman at WLBT. “From the very beginning of her internship and subsequent employment with WLBT, Allison was an asset. She was one of those rare co-workers you looked forward to seeing each day.”

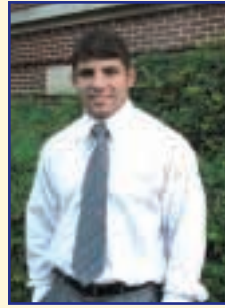
“Allison helped us all stay young and grow,” said Maggie Wade, a WLBT anchorwoman. “She was a true news competitor when it came to the big stories, but she always had compassion for the people who were the subject of our stories. She could write a story in 30 seconds and never miss a beat. She held her own in a newsroom full of people who were older and who thought they were wiser. We all learned Allison was wise beyond her years.”

Allison had a natural way of imparting that wisdom to others. Michelle Baker Willis, a senior news producer for a television station in Greenville, South Carolina,



"I think the connection we had was also based on the fact that I lost my mother, just as they had lost a daughter."

— Celeste Fleming,
Else scholarship recipient



"Not only did they tell me about the scholarship, but they wanted to know all about me."

— Chris Schiro,
Else scholarship recipient

met Allison in 1992 while interning at WLBT as a high school student. "Some people at the station patted me on the head and sent me about my way," Willis wrote to Allison's family, upon learning of their loss. "But your daughter took me seriously. By the end of my first week, she had already taught me how to edit video for the newscast. She had also given me something more important: a career path and a mentor. I wasn't sure what role I wanted to play in the newsroom when I arrived, but by the end of that first week, I knew I wanted to be as good as Allison."

By 1993, Allison had established a formidable reputation in Jackson as a topnotch television producer. Nevertheless, some soul searching led her to look beyond broadcast journalism toward a career in marketing and public relations. "She realized that a news career was going to be a rugged life," her mother said, and so, ever seeking new challenges, Allison enrolled in the master's program at the Else School of Management.

As an undergraduate, Allison had transferred to Millsaps College after two years at the University of the South so she could continue her work at WLBT, and that period in her education was overshadowed by her growing responsibilities at the station. But as a graduate student, she blossomed academically. The time she spent with her professors and other colleagues in the College's nurturing environment proved to be a turning point in her life, according to her family. "At that time, Allison was still exploring and deciding who she was going to

be," said Jim Coggin. "The M.B.A. program at Millsaps helped her find herself. She liked the fact that Millsaps was a smaller school with small classes, and she really took to the faculty." Among her more memorable experiences, he said, was a trip to Europe that led her to write and present a paper on the British department store chain Marks & Spencer.

ALLISON GREW PARTICULARLY close to several of her professors, including Dr. M. Ray Grubbs, Dr. Patrick Taylor, and the late Charles Sewell, an executive-in-residence whose guiding hand played a critical role in the lives of the students who knew him. Grubbs, a professor of management, characterized Allison, who worked as his graduate assistant, as "going about her work quietly and competently," adding that "she was an example to others, students as well as faculty." In fact, she won the first Charles Sewell Leadership Award for Most Outstanding M.B.A. Student. She also received the Dean's Scholarship Award and was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, the honorary leadership society.

"While she was in the M.B.A. program here, Allison was my graduate assistant for part of the time, as well as having been a student in one of my classes," said Taylor, an associate professor of economics and director of the undergraduate business program. "As a student, she mastered the material quickly and well. As a graduate assistant, because she saw many of her tasks as learning opportunities rather than merely busy work, she was able to do things most of the other graduate assistants I've had would not have been able to do. Allison had a keen mind and would not allow to go unchallenged things that didn't seem to make sense to her. Students who are self-assured enough to do that make better learners and make us better teachers."

In turn, Allison said that the Else School faculty had made an enormous difference in her life, her sense of purpose, and her self-worth, according to her father. "She said that they gave her responsibility and trusted her, which in turn gave her a lot of confidence in herself," he said.

After earning her degree, Allison went on to work in public relations and marketing for such high-profile firms as the Cirlot Agency, the GodwinGroup, and SkyTel. And in the working world, where colleagues knew Allison during her battle with cancer, she continued to be the kind of person who inspired everyone around her. Allison faced her illness "with the unselfishness and grace of also becoming my closest confidant during my crumbling marriage," said Melissa Taylor, who



Allison and Joey Lee at the 2000 Olympic bike trials.

worked with Allison in SkyTel's marketing department. "She was more worried about me than she was herself. She bought me books and included notes in them for encouragement. She made a bracelet for me inscribed with the word 'Hope.'"

Now, through the scholarship that Allison's family has endowed, this extraordinary young woman who gave so much to so many can continue doing so in spirit. At a crucial time in her life, Allison got the guidance she needed at the Else School, and her family "felt that if she had had that kind of experience, then there had to be a lot of other young people in the same situation," Jim Coggin said.

They thought about how that could translate into a memorial to their daughter, and so was conceived the scholarship. "When anyone dies, you look back and think of what you should do in her memory," said Pat Coggin. "Because of her experience at Millsaps, we decided to establish this scholarship so that those kinds of experiences could go on forever."

Allison "left a positive impression on all who had the good fortune of knowing her, and a scholarship in her name is a fitting tribute to this wonderful young lady who left us way too soon," said Ballou, of WLBT.

Allison's family said that interviewing candidates for the scholarship was cathartic as they became acquainted with young people so much like Allison in their hopes, dreams, and the determination to do something with their lives. "We just fell in love with them," Pat Coggin said.

"It was good to talk to young people entering that phase of life," said her brother, Jim Coggin Jr. "Of the five candidates, all of them had good experience, and it was difficult to choose from among them."

THE PROCESS WAS equally affecting for the recipients. "I got the feeling that I got to know their daughter just by talking to them," said Celeste Fleming, who plans to pursue brand marketing after earning her degree. "The Coggins didn't make you feel uncomfortable. I had this connection because I used to work for Saks in Jackson, like her father, but I think the connection we had was also based on the fact that I lost my mother, just as they had lost a daughter."

And although the family may have initially sought to award the scholarship to someone just like Allison, Fleming said she felt that their final choice proved to be someone very different. "I think they were looking for a person with work experience who was also into their career, with the same traits as their daughter. In many ways, I'm very different," she said.

The family agreed that they went into the process with one set of expectations, but were so powerfully moved by the applicants that they came out with another point of view entirely. Sometimes, they said, it was as if Allison herself had been in the room. "Allison would often identify people with needs and want to help them," Jim Coggin said. "If Allison had been sitting there, these are the two that she would have selected."

"Allison's family were some of the nicest people I

have ever met," said Chris Schiro of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a scholarship recipient who is pursuing his master of accounting degree while working at the Pearl River Resort in Choctaw, Mississippi. "Not only did they tell me about the scholarship, but they wanted to know all about me."

It seems fitting that Allison is memorialized by a scholarship that allows her to play a role in the education of young people, a quality that came so naturally to her. "My parents paid for a fine education at one of the best journalism schools in the world," Willis said in her letter to the Coggins. "But Allison taught me more in the time I worked with her than any professor. She had a very special way of connecting with people. She treated everyone with respect and she got it in return."

"She lives on in me because of what I learned from her. I take the time to teach interns at my station everything they are willing and able to learn. That's because Allison cared enough and took the time to do that for me."

"I believe in angels and that people come into your life for a reason," said Taylor, of SkyTel. "Allison was an angel in my life. She was there for me through the toughest time of my life. While, ironically, it was the toughest time in hers. I only hope that I could fight a disease with the strength, graciousness, dignity, and unselfish nature that Allison did."

Joey Lee is honoring his wife's legacy by participating in a marathon through the Sahara Desert to raise money for the American Cancer Society. As he prepares to endure what promises to be a grueling race, Joey said, his wife's suffering is always on his mind. "But it won't be close to anything she had to go through," he said.

"Allison wanted everybody else to be happy," said Lee, who met Allison when they were both working for the GodwinGroup, an advertising firm in Jackson. "A year after we were married, we went on a trip to Thailand, Nepal, and India to go trekking in the Himalayas. She would probably have preferred to go somewhere else, like Australia, but she wanted me to be happy."

And on that flight to San Antonio before they were married, Joey said, she said nothing of her fear of flying until they were seated on the plane. "She met her fears head on," he said. "She never said anything. She just held my hand tight."



Trekking in the Himalayas.

David McNair pledges \$1 million to support student missions



David McNair with President Lucas on the Millsaps campus.

IN 1987, David McNair, a Jackson businessman, traveled to San Francisco to do “hammer and nail” work on a small suburban church. In 1992, six months after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, he spent six weeks on a mission trip to Kazakhstan. Since then, McNair has traveled the world on Christian mission trips through international organizations like Global Outreach, Here’s Life Mission to Africa, and Jackson’s own First Baptist Church.

Now McNair is looking to make a difference closer to home. “Sometimes you can be 12 time zones away, in a country where you can’t speak the language, when you could be more effective 12 blocks away,” said McNair, of Brandon. “Building houses and so forth is wonderful, but you have to put God in the program if you really want to change lives.”

So, in an effort to change lives in his own backyard, the real estate developer has pledged gifts to Millsaps College totaling at least \$1 million toward the establishment of the David C. McNair Endowment for Christian Missions. The endowment is meant to underwrite campus programs geared toward evangelical missions and stipends for Millsaps students and faculty who wish to participate in Christian missionary work either in the United States or abroad.

“It is remarkable for a man who manages this many business interests to also make time for service to others,” said Dr. Frances Lucas, president of the College. “His mission trips take him around the world: recently to Ecuador, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil, and last year to Tanzania, Uganda, and Cameroon. When he is not on a mission trip, he is enabling others to serve in missions, sharing his faith, or serving in leadership positions on boards of service organizations.”

The endowment is intended to support work with Christian mission organizations that transcend both national and denominational boundaries. “International missionary work seems particularly important in an increasingly global society,” said Charles Lewis, vice president for institutional advancement. “This endowment will allow Millsaps students to live out the command to

‘love thy neighbor as thyself’ and to demonstrate tangible acts of service that make the world a better place.”

Twenty percent of the endowment will go toward campus workshops, lectures, and special events; 40 percent to stipends for students who wish to carry out short-term work with College-sponsored missions or off-campus missions approved by the selection committee; and 40 percent going to support students who wish to participate in longer-term mission work, usually over the summer. “I’m grateful for the stewardship of Millsaps in this project,” McNair said. “I hope this endowment will help continue the rich Christian traditions of Millsaps.”

The endowment supports a vision that goes beyond the standard-issue “junior year abroad” experience in which the focus centers on what students can gain for themselves academically and culturally. Said Matt Marston of Memphis, a junior, “Through this program, students will work for solutions and learn more about society’s problems.”

The McNair Endowment will also afford students “the opportunity to have firsthand experience in the mission field,” said Ricky James of Hattiesburg, a senior. “It will allow students to become leaders and give them the know-how to lead others in the Christian missionary experience.”

Patrick Black of Weir, a junior, said that the campus initiative would “provide an opportunity for student leaders to gain real-world experience in the field of missions. The service-leadership calling is a timeless calling. There is always a need somewhere.”

As a Jackson developer, McNair raised the business profile of Lakeland Drive with the Treetops Boulevard area, now known for its restaurants and retail establishments. In 2001, he opened a warehouse and office condominium. But on a business card that lists his commercial interests, from a self-storage company to a business park, he calls himself “Temporary Chief Steward.” After all, McNair likes to say, “Ownership is the key to it all. When I truly realized that God created and owns it all, including my body, my time, and my pocketbook, then it all seems to run together, and returning my part of it to God is natural. God owns the Millsaps campus, the faculty, and the students, but he also owns their time while they are here. It is good that Millsaps not only offers the liberal arts exposure to all value systems, but points the students in the right direction of the Christian value system for the rest of their lives.”

McNair grew up in Jackson, attending Millsaps College from 1956 to 1959. “We are a Millsaps family,” McNair said. “My father, two brothers, and a sister all attended Millsaps at one time or another. We three brothers were all here for one year. It was a great year; the conversations on different subjects were terrific.” McNair graduated from Mississippi State University in 1961 with a degree in business administration. From there his résumé reads like an unlikely adventure story. After six months’ active duty in the U.S. Army Reserves in the early 1960s, he worked in advertising and was in charge of mechanical production at the *St. Louis Globe-*



David McNair on a mission trip to Honduras.

Democrat. He did publicity and recruiting for the St. Louis Cardinals (NFL) and even operated a mail-delivery airline, Orion Airways, that flew mail to 32 cities. His last venture was a private television station that was sold to the *Los Angeles Times*.

McNair has an unassuming demeanor and self-effacing manner (“I will always be grateful to those who have put up with me in small groups,” he likes to say) that belie his zeal for Christian missionary work. But to meet McNair is to quickly learn of his passion for Christian values. If he has a rich and varied stash of anecdotes about running the airline and football team, he has just as many stories of his ministry around the world, with such organizations as the Here’s Life Mission to Africa.

For instance, he joined a team that traveled the countryside of Uganda in a sports utility vehicle with a film about Jesus that team members would project onto a sheet stretched between two trees. Thousands would attend from miles around, he said, adding that there was a remarkable response.

McNair said that although he has always been a Christian, it wasn’t until after he had devoted a lifetime to business pursuits that he felt called to missionary action. “It started with a sermon at Northminster Baptist Church in Jackson,” he said. “The minister, the Reverend John Thomason, said to ‘get out of the pew and do something.’”

That idea, of putting faith to work in the real world, struck home with McNair, who then began working with the Gateway Rescue Mission in Jackson twice a month. That planted a seed that grew after he moved to the First Baptist Church of Jackson and began making more mission trips. Through a former pastor and friend in Tupelo, Dr. Randy Von Kanel, he began to work with Global Outreach International, which has 140 missionaries in some 28 countries. “Few individuals that I have met have a passion for missions like David McNair,” said Von Kanel, president of Global Outreach International and the senior pastor of Tupelo’s First Baptist Church. “David has always demonstrated a heart and a hand for missions and evangelism. His heart also beats for young adults, particularly the college-age student or young career person, to know and experience God’s will for their lives.

“But, more than just having a heart, David translates his passion into hands-on involvement. His philosophy leads him to be very supportive of missions. And not just with money, but with all of his life. David is a man on a

mission and doing missions. He makes regular visits to mission points overseas offering encouragement, support, and wise counsel to missionaries.”

Why such a strong involvement in missions? “The answers lie in his deeply held faith,” Von Kanel said. “He genuinely believes, and he deeply loves. His interest and commitment to students at Millsaps simply reflect his heart for a new generation to know Christ and to make Him known.”

Global Outreach ministers everywhere from rural China to the inner city of Liverpool, which McNair recently visited. “Only 5 percent of the population in Liverpool attend church,” said McNair, a Global Outreach board member. “You have to go back to grammar school now to reach the kids.”

McNair said he believed that Millsaps missionaries could be especially effective in a world where the young seem increasingly disillusioned. “College-age missionaries can work with young people because they can relate to young people,” he said. “They also have the physical stamina it takes to work in schools and hospitals and tell people about Christianity.”

“I have always seen Christianity as paradoxical,” McNair said. “You hear one thing in church and practice another thing outside of church. Missionary work, either ministry evangelism or pure evangelism, is an opportunity to put into practice what we hear.”

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Victor Smith, the former state gaming commissioner and president of the Here’s Life Mission to Africa, meets weekly with McNair in an “ecumenical sharing” group. They also work together with Mission Mississippi, a church-based racial reconciliation movement in Mississippi. “Of all the people I know in Jackson, David has more of a heart for missions and is more effective,” Smith said.

“He is committed to spending time in missionary work and Christian work.”

Traveling as a missionary, unlike, say, backpacking across Europe, is not about self-fulfillment, McNair said. “Christianity is about God-fulfillment. A Christian worldview is so important. Mission trips are life-changing, both for the people who minister and those to whom they minister. Millsaps is not a widget factory, mass-producing doctors, lawyers, and accountants. Millsaps College goes beyond that to create professionals who have the Christian values that are much needed today.”

From the Great Depression to a great passion for education



Cuple Works Gray in the 1930's.

IF THE LIFE of Cuple Works Gray were a scrapbook, you would find two photographs — one from the front of the book and another from the back — that seem to serve as bookends for her remarkable story. The first, in black-and-white and slightly blurry, might have come from one of those Eastman Kodak Brownies that sold for about \$2.50 in the 1930s. In it, Gray is standing beside a Model A Ford, with her hands folded, her eyes bright and inquisitive, a soft smile on her lips, and a camellia adorning her blouse. The light is stark, the subject close-cropped and narrow.

The latter, a digital photograph taken many decades later, features the high definition and nuanced tones of today's cameras. There is

the same soft smile, the alert and perceptive eyes, and, again, flowers. They are bright yellow daylilies, this time, and the photograph encompasses an open field that dissolves into the trees beyond.

The two portraits, one severely restricted by the frame of the picture, the other reaching to the horizon, sum up the course of a life that, despite the limitations imposed by history, has opened and blossomed in remarkable ways. It is a life that has taken Gray, 92, of Fulton, Mississippi, from the Depression era, when family responsibilities deprived her of the college education she longed for, to the present, when a scholarship in her name will help young people who aspire to a quality education, as she did.

The Cuple Works Gray Endowed Scholarship was established by her daughters, Ida Gray Ballard of Brandon and Ina Gray Kimbrough of Florence; and her granddaughters, Jennifer Ballard Gross of Brandon and Julie Kimbrough of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. It will benefit students majoring in the arts and sciences.

"These endowed scholarships allow us, on a continuing basis, to make a vital difference with students who require aid to benefit from the Millsaps experience," said Dr. Charles Lewis, vice president for institutional advancement. "We are indebted to the family for this gift, which facilitates knowledge for an incoming student."

The first Gray scholarship was awarded this year to Courtney Costello, a freshman from Bastrop, Louisiana. "When I heard about the scholarship, I was at a loss for words," Costello said, adding that she was especially interested in biology and that she might pursue the study of medicine. "I am so grateful for this award and am extremely thankful for the family of Cuple Works Gray."

The eldest daughter in a family of 12, Gray was born in 1911. Because of overwhelming family responsibilities during the lean years of the Depression, Gray left school

after the eighth grade. Despite her passion for learning, there were crops to be harvested, clothes to be made and mended, and a large family to be supported.

"Washing the family's clothing involved drawing water, building fires around a wash pot outside, scrubbing clothes on the rub board, stirring the clothes in boiling water, and putting them through two or three rinses," recalled Gray, who still lives in the house that she and her husband built in the 1930s. "I also made quilts, which was one of my favorite activities. From a new quilt pattern, I cut materials from scraps of fabric and hand-sewed the pieces together. I picked cotton and carded it for the batting, then completed the quilt with hand-stitching."

Gray was married to Travis Moore Gray in 1936, and her essay "Courtship, Marriage, and Family Life in the Great Depression" won the 1994 "Memories of Mississippi" competition sponsored by the University Museums at the University of Mississippi. Published in the book *Memories of Mississippi*, it evokes — in the primary colors of an uncomplicated pen — an explicitly detailed portrait of life in Depression-era Mississippi.

"The summer after we married, I got a job sewing at a garment manufacturing company in Fulton," Gray wrote. "I made men's work shirts. I was paid based on how much I sewed, and I got 75 cents to one dollar a day when I started. I worked 10-hour days six days a week, and I still vividly recall the first day I made three dollars."

She recorded the following expenditures in her January 1937 ledger: "five gallons of gasoline, \$1.05; four days' labor, \$4; 48 pounds of flour, \$1.80; one dozen apples, 15 cents; property tax, \$6.07. I paid 35 cents on April 16, 1937, to have my hair set and dried. Travis paid 35 cents for my first anniversary presents (rolling pin, 25 cents, and biscuit cutter, 10 cents) in March 1937. I paid 25 cents for a pair of socks for his anniversary present. I still use the rolling pin



“Receiving this honor and learning of Gray’s passion for education have inspired me to strive for more challenging goals and to take advantage of all the rewarding opportunities here at Millsaps.”

— Courtney Costello,
scholarship recipient

when I make biscuits from scratch.”

The family lacked electricity until 1939 and running water until 1940. And despite the economic constraints of the time, Gray spent \$120 on a piano, demonstrating that education came first in her heart. She encouraged her four daughters to play, and subsequently her grandchildren.

“My cousin and I spent many an afternoon playing on that piano — all of the children and grandchildren had piano lessons — creating a variety of orchestrations, some melodious and some unfortunately cacophonous,” said Jennifer Ballard Gross, a granddaughter. “As children, my cousin and I treated my grandparents’ place, both inside and out, like one big playground. An adventure was always afoot.”

The Grays farmed more than 100 acres, raising pigs, chickens, and cows. “For a time, they even had a mule named Star,” recalled Gross. “They had rows and rows of garden filled with anything and everything that could be grown: watermelon, potatoes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, lima beans, peas, corn, squash, lettuce, etc. You name it, and they grew it. They even had a mini-orchard of apple and pear trees; they also had rows of grape vines, strawberries, blueberries, and scuppernongs.”

Gray recalls living well, surrounded by friends and family in a home that was filled with music and laughter. Still, she longed to return to school and finish her studies. “I always believed that education was very important and I wanted to continue learning,” Gray said. “Having an education makes you more confident, both personally and in the community.”

First, she made sure that her daughters would get the kind of

education she had wanted for herself. “She was determined that her children would have a college education and she succeeded,” said her daughter Ida Gray Ballard.

“Her children are grateful that she gave us the opportunity to get a college education, which she could not get because of the Great Depression,” said her daughter Ina Gray Kimbrough.

“If it were not for my grandmother’s determination and repeated sacrifice, my family would not have attained the educational opportunities afforded to us,” Gross said. “By establishing a scholarship in her name, her children and grandchildren are able to honor her with an indelible ‘thank you.’ She will now be a part of helping others realize their educational dreams.”

After her daughters graduated, Gray herself found the time to complete her high school classes and enter college. She took college classes during the summers and worked as an elementary school teaching assistant, a position that afforded her the opportunity to help others get the kind of education she

values so highly.

Gray’s daughters share their mother’s commitment to education. Ballard, a product specialist for Great Source Education Group, has served on the faculty of the Mississippi University for Women. Kimbrough is an education consultant who has worked for Mississippi State University as a district director.

Gross teaches at Jackson Preparatory School and also works as a tutor in math and chemistry. Julie Kimbrough, an attorney licensed in North Carolina, is completing a master’s degree at the University of North Carolina. Both granddaughters graduated magna cum laude from Millsaps in 1996. Kimbrough was also a Phi Beta Kappa graduate.

Clearly, Gray inspired her children to realize their educational goals, and she will continue helping others to do the same through the scholarship that has been established at Millsaps College. “We are so pleased to receive a gift in honor of Cuple Works Gray,” Vice President Lewis said. “She is a testament to the ideals of lifelong learning and we are proud to accept a scholarship endowment in her name.”

Said Costello, “Receiving this honor and learning of Gray’s passion for education have inspired me to strive for more challenging goals and to take advantage of all the rewarding opportunities here at Millsaps.”



Gray’s lifelong love of learning has blossomed into a scholarship in her name.