

## WENDY S. KOPP

In her senior thesis at Princeton University, Wendy Kopp proposed the creation of Teach For America, the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools. She has spent the last 15 years working to sustain and expand the organization.

Her vision was—and remains—that one day, all children in this nation will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education through the efforts of America's most promising future leaders. Those future leaders include the 4,400 corps members who this year taught in our neediest communities, reaching approximately 375,000 students. Last summer, Teach For America established its Memphis region, choosing Rhodes College, we are proud to say, as its training site.

Teach For America alumni are loyal to the organization's mission, becoming lifelong leaders in the pursuit of educational excellence and equity. They include more than 12,000 people—still in their 20s and 30s—who are already assuming significant leadership roles in education and social reform. They lead some of the most acclaimed schools in urban and rural areas, advise governors and senators on education policy, marshal the resources of companies and law firms toward education reform and win the highest accolades teachers can win.

Wendy Kopp serves on the board of directors of The New Teacher Project and the advisory boards of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, Duke University's Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship and the National Council on Teacher Quality.

The recipient of many honors for her work, she is the youngest person and the first woman to receive Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson Award, the highest honor the school confers on its undergraduate alumni.

In gratitude for her vision of education and leadership in America and for her steadfast commitment to making that vision reality, I am pleased to award Wendy Kopp the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

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William E. Troutt, President  
May 12, 2007

## THE ALGERNON SYDNEY SULLIVAN AWARD

The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award is presented annually to one non-student who has given selflessly to the college. It is my pleasure to announce that this year's recipient is

### MARGARET VIRDEN HANDWERKER

For 25 years, Margaret Handwerker has served Rhodes College as the administrative assistant to five academic deans and one provost. If this were a "Profiles in Courage Award," Margaret certainly would be the recipient.

Margaret is an exemplary liaison between faculty and administration. She is gracious, composed, diligent in her work, yet with a wonderful sense of humor that never fails her—or us.

As one faculty member has said, "In her relationship with faculty, Margaret is not only efficient and helpful, but also a friend to many and a constant source of support. She takes a proprietary interest in her work, going well beyond a mere carrying out of delegated tasks. She gives a sense of confidence and hope to everyone she meets. She represents solid service."

Her service extends beyond academic affairs. Margaret has worked alongside students in Souper Contact, the student-run soup kitchen. She has also traveled with students to Rhodes' alternative spring break service trip at the Texas-Mexican border, building a playground for the children there.

With deep appreciation for her selfless service to the college, it is my pleasure to recognize Margaret Handwerker as the non-student Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award recipient for the academic year of 2006-2007.

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William E. Troutt, President  
May 12, 2007

## THE ALGERNON SYDNEY SULLIVAN AWARD

The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award is presented annually to one female student who has given selflessly to the college and to others. The senior woman selected to receive the award this year is

### MEREDITH KENDALL HUDDLESTON

“A true scholar of exceptional integrity and personal conviction, Meredith Huddleston demonstrates the qualities and illustrates the character of Algernon Sydney Sullivan,” writes one student nominator. Meredith is as comfortable tutoring first-year economics students in the residence halls as she is in fellowship with homeless guests at Manna House.

Meredith is academically accomplished; she received the sophomore Seidman Award in Economics. She has served as the lead economics tutor for the past two years and as student teaching assistant and tutor for a new first-year economics learning community, not an easy task. Her study sessions were well-attended, and Meredith’s passion for economics and dedication to student learning contributed heavily to the learning community’s success.

She is recognized for her leadership in several programs of the Chaplain’s Office; Meredith serves on the Peer Ministry Council and holds a leadership role with Tuesday Fellowship. She has had a leadership position with the Rhodes College chapter of Habitat for Humanity for the past three years, and has been an enthusiastic participant in Meals-on-Wheels.

Another student organization nominator said it best in describing Meredith as “a good listener, an earnest friend, and a humble and quiet worker,” and that “Meredith serves Rhodes, Memphis, and the people she comes in contact with in a quiet but beautiful way.” It is my pleasure to recognize Meredith Huddleston as the female Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award recipient for the class of 2007.

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William E. Troutt, President  
May 12, 2007

## THE ALGERNON SYDNEY SULLIVAN AWARD

The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award is presented annually to one male student who has given selflessly to the college and to others. The senior man selected to receive the award this year is

### ANDREW THOMAS GREER

“Andy Greer is the epitome of what a Rhodes College student should be,” wrote one student organization in its nomination for this award. Andy has served Rhodes College through his involvement with Rhodes Student Government the past four years. He is visionary as student body president, and his work serves as a reminder of the ideals of student governance. Andy has spearheaded plans for a renovation of the Lynx Lair, which takes place this summer, and developed a partnership between students and the Development Office in the college’s fundraising efforts. He also led a student government attrition study, possibly the only student-led initiative of its kind.

Serving as a three-year philanthropy chair for his fraternity, Andy has been involved in the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood, which is located near the college. He also served as a weekly visitor to a local retirement home’s “happy hour.”

Not only does Andy serve others through serious discussions and actions, he is particularly adept at using humor to motivate and bring out the fun side of us all. From donning a Cat-in-the-Hat suit for The First Book’s speed-reading event to interviewing Dr. Troutt and his sock puppets for Lynx TV (of which Andy is the founder), Andy and his cheerful optimism will be long remembered.

Another student organization writes, “The work Andy has done will stay behind at Rhodes for years to come, and he has left plans and foundations for future students to build upon.” Through his service to the College and the greater community, Andy embodies the spirit of Algernon Sydney Sullivan. It is my pleasure to recognize Andy Greer as the male Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award recipient for the class of 2007.

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William E. Troutt, President  
May 12, 2007

## MIKE CURB

Mike Curb is one of the most prominent figures in the entertainment world today. His remarkable career spans more than 40 years, earning success as a songwriter, producer and record company executive. The founder and chairman of Curb Records, he has written more than 400 songs—250 of them have been No. 1 hits—produced 25 gold- or platinum-selling records and received countless music industry awards. In 2006, he received the lifetime achievement award at the annual Los Angeles Music Awards, and this year he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

In addition to his music, Mike Curb has had a distinguished career in public service. During the 1970s, he served as co-chair of the Ronald Reagan California Campaign for President. He was elected California's lieutenant governor and served as acting governor of California. He has chaired both the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors and the Republican National Finance Committee.

There is one other group he chairs—The Mike Curb Family Foundation, which supports music education and works to preserve America's music heritage. Mike and his wife, Linda, have set a pace-setting example with their philanthropy which reflects their core values and deep beliefs about the importance of higher education.

Most of the foundation's good works to date have benefited Nashville area institutions, but last fall the foundation made a major commitment here at Rhodes to address the impact of our region's music and its contributions to the world. The Mike Curb Institute for Music creates a musical lens through which to study this area's culture, history, and economy. Students and faculty from a wide range of academic disciplines will join with artists, archivists and community leaders to provide exceptional research opportunities. The institute exemplifies how Rhodes seeks to connect students with the very best of our region in life-changing ways.

In gratitude for his incredible ability to inspire and lift the human spirit through his music, his public service, and his philanthropy, I am pleased to award Mike Curb the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

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William E. Troutt, President  
May 12, 2007

## THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

The Distinguished Service Medal is bestowed upon those who exemplify able and selfless service to the college. This medal expresses the appreciation of Rhodes and pays tribute to high ideals, commitment and hard work. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the recipient of this tribute for 2007 is

### ROBERT WALLER

The Distinguished Service Medal is bestowed upon those individuals who exemplify able and selfless service to our college. The medal expresses the appreciation of Rhodes and pays tribute to individuals whose hard work and commitment have made a significant difference in the life of our college. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the recipient of this tribute for 2007 is Dr. Robert Waller.

We are so fortunate to honor today someone who has contributed so much to Rhodes and to the world of healthcare. Dr. Bob Waller is synonymous with international efforts to improve healthcare quality. He currently chairs the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, a non-profit organization based in Cambridge, Massachusetts dedicated to improving patient care worldwide. During his distinguished tenure as president of Mayo Clinic, Mayo grew dramatically in the number of patients and communities served and doubled its investment in education and research. In his induction into the Healthcare Hall of Fame in 2003, it was noted that during Mayo's rapid growth, the level of patient care remained unparalleled in America.

Dr. Waller's contributions to improving the quality of healthcare have been recognized by many organizations from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to the American Society for Quality. Today we at Rhodes express our appreciation for his exceptional service to Rhodes as a trustee. He is a Duke alumnus with the wisdom and good fortune to marry the former Sarah Pickens, a loyal alumna of our college. His service to Rhodes reflects his commitment to liberal arts education and his devotion to Sarah.

His service to Rhodes also reflects his remarkable gifts for bringing people together. As a fellow Institute for Healthcare Improvement board member says, "Bob Waller has the unique ability to offer civil invitations about important priorities and as a result diverse parties come to a common table."

Dr. Waller led our board in an intensive study of trustee governance asking the fundamental question of how Rhodes Trustees can best provide leadership in advancing our vision of the college. Through his skillful leadership and personal relationships with trustee leaders at Wellesley, Rice, and Stanford, Rhodes now has a trustee governance structure that allows trustees to give their very best. The new Rhodes framework for trustee leadership is a model for other national liberal arts colleges.

As former Vice-President Walter Mondale has said of Bob Waller, "He is a great doctor and a superb administrator who always leads with vision." Rhodes is indeed fortunate to have the benefit of his visionary leadership, his remarkable gifts and his exemplary service.