

Milligan jazz concert honors Don and Clarinda Jeanes

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The Milligan College Jazz Ensemble will present "The Sounds of Mardi Gras: A tribute to the music of New Orleans" on Monday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. in Milligan's Mary Margaret Martin Auditorium in the Senger Memorial Chapel.

The concert will celebrate the success of Milligan's retiring President and First Lady, Don and Clarinda Jeanes, and will feature nationally acclaimed woodwind artist Dr. Phil Thompson. It is free and open to the public.

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"We have a very special evening planned to honor the Jeanes' tenure at Milligan," said Rick Simerly, director of the jazz ensemble and associate professor of music at Milligan. "The concert will consist of songs associated with New Orleans. In addition to jazz ensemble arrangements of this music, we will have several small group performances in the style of New Orleans traditional jazz bands."

The 24-piece Milligan Jazz Ensemble consists of Milligan students, as well as students and adults from throughout the region.

"The concert will be a fast-paced evening of songs featuring several soloists within the ensemble and small groups," Simerly said. "Add to that the virtuosity of Phil Thompson, and we will have quite an event on April 18."

Thompson is professor of music at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C., where he teaches woodwinds and directs the jazz program. He earned his doctor of musical arts de-

gree in multiple woodwind performance at the University of North Texas and has performed throughout the United States with jazz greats Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Goodman, Clark Terry, Sarah Vaughan, Nancy Wilson, Ray Charles, Harry Connick Jr., Natalie Cole, Lou Rawls and numerous others.

After 14 years as president of Milligan, Jeanes announced last October that he will retire from the presidency on July 15, 2011.

For more information about the concert, call 423.461.8723 or email music@milligan.edu.



Don and Clarinda Jeanes