

**Resolution
in Celebration of the Life of
Winthrop D. Jordan**

Whereas, Winthrop Donaldson Jordan was born on November 11, 1931, in Worcester, Massachusetts, the son of Henry Donaldson Jordan, a professor of history at Clark University, and Lucretia Mott Churchill, a great-great-granddaughter of the abolitionists James and Lucretia Mott, and died in Oxford, Mississippi, on February 23, 2007, and

Whereas, he earned his A. B. degree at Harvard University in 1953, his M. A. in Colonial American history at Clark University in 1957, and his Ph.D. in history at Brown University in 1960, and

Whereas, he followed in the footsteps of his father, a member of the history faculty at Clark University and his grandfather, a member of the medical faculty at the University of Chicago, when he joined the faculty of the University of California, Berkeley in 1963, and

Whereas, he rose from assistant professor to professor at Berkeley, and was also Associate Dean for Minority Group Affairs Graduate Division from 1968 to 1970, and in 1982 moved to the University of Mississippi as Professor of History and African-American Studies, and

Whereas, his scholarly achievements brought him recognition as a Fellow of the Institute for Early American History and Culture in Williamsburg, Virginia, as a Fellow of the Charles Warren Center for the Study of American History at Harvard University and as a Fellow of the Center for Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, and

Whereas, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Social Science Research Council Fellowship, and his principal publications have played a major role in setting the scholarly agenda for our understanding of the role race has played in shaping American culture, and

Whereas, his magisterial *White over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro, 1550-1812*, received four major awards in 1968-69 including the **National Book Award** for history and biography, the **Bancroft Prize**, awarded by Columbia University for the best books of the year in American history and international relations, the **Francis Parkman Prize**, and the **Ralph Waldo Emerson Award**, and the book remains today the starting point for the study of race relations in the United States, and

Whereas, his *Tumult and Silence at Second Creek: An Inquiry into a Civil War Slave Conspiracy*, has been recognized for its eloquent and masterful description of a slave rebellion in Adams County, Mississippi earning him an unprecedented second **Bancroft Prize**, and

Whereas, his other books include *The White Man's Burden: Historical Origins of Racism in the United States* and, with the historian Leon F. Litwack, *The United States*, a college textbook, and

Whereas, at both the University of California and University of Mississippi, Professor Jordan was one of the pioneers in bringing the history of the African-American experience to successive generations of students, and through his scholarship and teaching he tirelessly worked to promote racial harmony in our culture, and

Whereas, he was named the first **William F. Winter Professor of History and African American Studies** in 1993, and in 1998, the University conferred upon him its highest honor by naming him **Frederick A. P. Barnard Professor of History**, and

Whereas, in 2000, Brown University's Alumni Magazine identified Winthrop Jordan as one of the one hundred Brown Alumni who have made the most significant contributions to American development in the 20th century, and

Whereas, as a scholar of international renown, he never hesitated to undertake the responsibilities of university citizenship, and at the conclusion of his forty-one year career, continued to exemplify the highest ideals of scholarship, teaching and service, and

Whereas, after his retirement in 2004, his former students edited and contributed essays as a tribute to the career of one of America's great thinkers and perhaps the most influential American historian of his generation, *Affect and Power: Essays on Sex, Slavery, Race, and Religion in Appreciation of Winthrop D. Jordan*, and

Whereas, Professor Jordan was posthumously awarded the Mississippi Historical Society's highest honor, the **B.L.C. Wailes Award** for national distinction in the field of history in March, 2007, and

Whereas, at his death, Chancellor Robert Khayat stated, "Through the years, no faculty person has achieved greater distinction at Ole Miss than Winthrop Jordan. Historians across the world are aware of his work, his colleagues respected him without reservation and he was much admired by his students. Although we have lost him, his legacy lives on," therefore be it

Resolved, that the faculty of the University of Mississippi at its meeting on May 9, 2008 recognizes the many contributions of Winthrop D. Jordan to the University, its faculty and students, and to the scholarly community at large, and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be entered among the minutes of the faculty and that a copy be forwarded to his family.