



# Jarvis Christian College

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- News Release -

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Office of Public Relations

April 30, 2009

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## DR. DOUGLAS SKINNER TO SPEAK AT JARVIS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE'S COMMENCEMENT

Family, friends, faculty and staff will gather on the Jarvis Christian College campus, Saturday, May 2 to attend Commencement services. Dr. Douglas Skinner, senior minister of the Northway Christian Church of Dallas, will speak to the 61 graduates, attendees and special guests as he delivers the 2009 commencement address. Commencement will begin at 10 a.m. and will be held in the Anthony Robinson Varsity Gymnasium of the E. W. Rand Health, Physical Education and Recreation Center.

Born in Los Angeles, California, in 1953, Douglas Byron Skinner graduated with honors from Northwest Christian College in Eugene, Oregon, with a degree in Biblical Studies in 1975 where he was the Student Body President. After a semester at the School of World Mission at Fuller Theological, he earned his Master of Divinity degree from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in 1979 where he was the Moderator of the Student Body. In 1995, he earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. His doctoral integrative project was on the theology of obedience and ordinance in the thinking of Alexander Campbell, one of the founders of the Christian Church (*Disciples of Christ*). In 2006, he completed the School for Spiritual Direction at the Pecos Benedictine Monastery in New Mexico and has now become an oblate of that community.

Ordained to the ministry of the Christian Church (*Disciples of Christ*) at the Central Christian Church of Melissa, Texas, in 1979, he has served Texas congregations in Lubbock, Plainview, Houston and Amarillo over the past 25 years. Dr. Skinner has been the Senior Minister of the Northway Christian Church in Dallas, Texas since 1997.

Top graduates, Ramicia DeClues and Clara Rayos, are recognized as the 2009 Summa Cum Laude graduates. Ms. DeClues is an EC-4 Elementary Education major from Houston, Texas. Ms. Rayos is an All-Level Kinesiology education majors. DeClues was, also, the 2008-2009 campus queen, holding the title of Miss Jarvis Christian College.

Following the degree-granting ceremony, honorary doctorate degrees from Jarvis Christian College will be awarded to Dr. Douglas Skinner. During the graduation ceremonies, recognition and plaques will be given to 50-year graduates Mr. Bobby Coleman, Dr. Lorene Holmes and Dr. Frank Perry, posthumously.

Mr. Bobby D. Coleman received the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in mathematics. Later, he earned the Master of Arts degree from Prairie View A&M University. Mr. Coleman spent three years in the United States Army. He then pursued a career in education in Dallas, Texas, where he remained until retirement. He is very active in his community and is a member of Denley Drive Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He has served as a mentor and role model as an effective Scoutmaster in Dallas.

Dr. Lorene Barnes Holmes received the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in business education. Further study at the University of North Texas (formerly North Texas State University) resulted in earning the Master of Business Education degree and the Doctor of Education degree. Dr. Holmes was very active in student life while enrolled at the College. She was elected to serve as the editor of the school newspaper and Miss Jarvis in 1958-59. Additionally, she played basketball, was a member of the Debate team and graduated with honors. Dr. Holmes holds memberships on professional, civic and social organizations. She holds life membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She is a member of Bethlehem United Methodist Church and has served as a lay speaker within the denomination.

Dr. Frank Perry (Posthumously) received the Bachelor of Art degree with a major in music. Later he earned the Master of Education degree from Midwestern State University in the area of music. As a student at Jarvis, he was active in the church, the concert choir and played basketball. He pursued further study at the Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University) and earned the Doctor of Art degree. He also studied at Julliard School of Music in New York.

Dr. Perry was an active member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and was a certified minister of music in the denomination. He served as director of the Jarvis Christian College Concert Choir and served as a faculty member. Following his career at Jarvis, he was employed by Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina.

Jarvis Christian College, a private, liberal-arts college, offers coursework in various disciplines leading to the baccalaureate degree. Located in Hawkins, Texas and founded in 1912, the College has been providing higher education opportunities for 97 years.