

# Legendary White House correspondent Sarah McClendon addresses students

WITH snapping blue eyes, which nearly matched the brightness of her suit, and enough Washington wisdom to fill 50 books, Sarah McClendon, dean of the White House press corps, entered the President's Dining Room December 3 already in gear. With no hesitation, she gathered an impromptu audience around her with her animated stories of the national political arena.

Taking the stage, McClendon's ability to move effortlessly from one interesting story to another was remarkable. Her sometimes spicy dialogue provided an insight into such topics as her opinion of the CIA, White House administrations, press corps, Kennedy assassination and women's rights.

She detailed her method of firing questions to presidents, "I try to ask something I think you would want to ask" and for garnering the attention of congress members, "Don't let 'em catch that plane until they've answered your questions."

She strongly expressed her distaste for political secrecy and provided several pieces of advice for students, "Watch the White House, study history, watch congress every day to see what they write into laws, have the nerve to protest and run for congress. You shouldn't assume we can't do anything about government . . . you've got to be a part of it"

The audience chuckled as she recounted her advice to a government official on spending, "What you need is a housewife with a good black pencil to work on that budget" she declared.

"Sarah McClendon does not have to climb a fence at the White House . . . to get the attention of a President. They have been answering her questions, although warily at times, for many years."

— Hillary Rodham Clinton

In her legendary role as White House correspondent, McClendon has fired pointed questions at 11 different presidents since 1944. Her career has

included countless assignments as newspaper reporter, White House, Congressional and Defense Department correspondent, radio and television broadcaster and analyst.



SARAH McCLENDON  
dean of White House press corps

She is the author of *Sarah McClendon's Washington*, a syndicated column, and *Sarah McClendon's Washington Report*, a biweekly newsletter on people and events in Washington. McClendon has lectured, recently authored the book, *My Eight Presidents — With a Capital Cast of Thousands* (Wynden Books, 1978) and had articles published in multiple magazines from *Esquire* to *Stars and Stripes*.

Her appearances on countless talk shows include *Meet the Press*, *Today Show*, *Tonight Show*, and *Phil Donahue*. Within the last two months she appeared on both *Face the Nation* and *Late Night With David Letterman*.

McClendon's honors include induction into the Society of Professional Journalists Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C. and the receipt of the first Presidential Award for covering the capital.

Born in Tyler, Texas on July 8, 1910, McClendon graduated from Tyler Junior College and the University of Missouri, School of Journalism. She served her country as an Army Public Affairs Officer and a First Lieutenant in the WACS.

Recipient of first Presidential Award for covering nation's capitol

Advises students to become a part of government

## 1996-97 Statistical Information

Number of students enrolled	
First year students	345
Sophomores	135
Juniors	138
Seniors	128
Total	746
Virginia	37%
North Carolina (41 counties)	35%
Maryland	5%
Florida	4%
New York	4%
All other states (19)	12%
International (6 countries)	3%
National White	74%
National Black	19%
National Hispanic	2%
National Asian-American	1%
Native American	1%
International	3%
Residential	82%
Fulltime Faculty	62
Faculty/Student ratio	1:12
Employees	198
Monthly Payroll	\$410,000
Plant Assets	\$10,570,554
Endowment	\$10,081,855
Operating Budget	\$14,301,126
Campus acres	289
Library volumes	95,874
Major buildings on campus	16

## Four-Year Degree Programs

Applied Science (B.A.S.)  
 Art (B.A. or B.S.)  
   Graphic Design  
   Studio  
 Biology (B.A.)  
   Allied Health/Laboratory Technology  
   Environmental Biology  
 Business Administration (B.S.)  
   Accounting  
   Information Systems  
   Management  
   Marketing  
   Small Business  
 Elementary Education (B.S.)  
 English (B.A.)  
 English Education (B.A.)  
 History (B.A. or B.S.)  
 Liberal Studies (B.A.)  
 Mathematics (B.A.)  
 Mathematics Education (B.S.)  
 Music (B.A. or B.S.)  
 Physical Education (B.S.)  
   Athletic Training  
   Sport Management  
   Sport Science  
   Teacher Licensure  
 Physical Science (B.S.)  
 Printing Production & Imaging Tech. (B.S.)  
 Psychology (B.A.)  
 Religion (B.A.)

## Collegiate Athletics NCAA Division III

Men's  
 Varsity Football  
 Soccer  
 Varsity & JV  
   Basketball  
 Varsity & JV  
   Baseball  
 Tennis  
 Golf  
 Women's  
 Varsity  
   Basketball  
 Volleyball  
 Soccer  
 Tennis  
 Softball  
 Co-ed  
 Cheerleading  
 Squad