

2001 has already been a busy year for First Lady Melanie Musgrove. Chairing a successful women's conference, hosting Spanish royalty, traveling the state reading to children, and promoting breast cancer awareness are just a few of her recent endeavors.

The success of the sixth annual "Power of One" Mississippi Women's Conference can be measured by the attendance of over 650 participants. Women from across the region attended the conference that included informative speakers, educational workshops, exhibit booths, and networking opportunities. In addition to the morning workshops, participants attended a luncheon session featuring entertainment by Miss Mississippi 2000 Christy May, the 2001 "Power of One" Honoree ceremony, and a keynote address by native Mississippian Alyce C. Alston, publisher and vice president of *W Magazine*.

To celebrate the opening of the world-class Majesty of Spain exhibition, Mississippi was honored with a royal visit from the King and Queen of Spain. King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia were the distinguished guests of the Governor and First Lady on March 31 for a day of whirlwind activities. Upon arrival, their majesties were greeted with fanfare at the Jackson International Airport. A traditional luncheon, exhibition viewing, legislative address, and evening reception at the Governor's Mansion followed. The King and Queen were impressed with Mississippi and expressed their gratitude for a warm welcome.

"*See the World, Read a Book*" is the theme that the First Lady is dedicated to sharing with Mississippi's school children. Her personal goal is to visit every school district in Mississippi within the next three years and she is well on her way to making that dream a reality. Since January, the First Lady has visited schools in Natchez, Cleveland, Mound Bayou, Merigold, Lumberton, Horn Lake, Brandon, Carthage, Clinton, Laurel, Flowood, Kossuth, Corinth, Iuka, Puckett, Columbus, Sumrall, Seminary, Macon, Shuqualak, and Purvis.

The First Lady is also dedicated to her many volunteer efforts including the upcoming Susan G. Komen "Race for the Cure" in May. As honorary chair of the event, the First Lady has been involved in preparing for the race and promoting breast cancer awareness. She has lent her support to this event and encourages every woman in Mississippi to take a stand against breast cancer.