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JSU Announces Commencement Speaker, Honorary Degree Recipients

(JACKSON, Miss.) — Melphine Evans, controller for BP's Global Refining business, will be the speaker for the 2007 Spring Commencement Exercises scheduled for 8 a.m. Saturday, May 12 at the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium in Jackson.

Evans, who attended Jackson State in 1980, holds a master of science degree from Carnegie-Mellon University. She is responsible for all finance, accounting and control activities for the refining business, which has approximately 12,000 employees and 15 refineries across the globe.

Evans and Leland R. Speed, chair of EastGroup Properties, will both receive honorary degrees during the May commencement.

As chairman of JSU's Development Foundation, Speed has contributed to the growth of the university as well as its students. Most recently, Speed was Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority, the state's lead economic development agency.

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