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## NPR Legend Cokie Roberts

We hung on her every word. Her witty remarks, her intelligent insight and her humorous anecdotes.

I was honored to be asked by WKAR to attend The Governor Blanchard Public Service Forum with special guest, and NPR legend, Cokie Roberts.

Roberts is best known for her work as a political commentator for NPR and ABC News.

The hall at the Wharton Center was filled with people donned in suits and dresses, mingling with Roberts and other high-ups in the MSU and Lansing community.

Throughout the night, I was able to meet Roberts, Governor-elect Gretchen Whitmer and MSU Interim President John Engler.

At dinner, I sat with Communication, Arts and Science Dean Prabu David, WKAR General Manager Susi Elkins and WKAR News Director Reginald Hardwick.

After dinner, we all filed into the Pasant Theatre to hear Former Governor Jim Blanchard interview Roberts.

Roberts and Blanchard are both members of the National Archives Board. They, along with their family members, have crossed paths many times throughout their political lives.

Both of Roberts' parents served in Congress so she has been aware of politics her whole life. She remembers her father working closely with the presidents since Harry Truman. Roberts commented that she remembered Truman's Hawaiian shirts best.

After college, Roberts claimed that she “didn’t decide to have a career in journalism,” but she fell into the position. She was on a public affairs TV program starting at age 21.

Later, Roberts spent time in Greece as a foreign correspondent for CBS News. She said, “it was fascinating.”

When Blanchard asked which presidents Roberts had covered, Roberts laughed and replied, “not since Washington.” She went on to give her opinions on each president since Truman.

The last time Roberts had been to East Lansing, and at the Wharton Center in particular, was during the 1992 last presidential election debate among George Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot.

My favorite quote of the night was when Blanchard asked Roberts about her opinion on Fox News. She responded with, “I don’t watch much television. I’m more of an NPR fan.”

Before ending the forum, Blanchard asked if Roberts cheered for a football team. She responded with the New Orleans Saints, but the discussion lead to the divide between Buckeyes, Spartans and Wolverines.

At one point, Robert worked for a man who was a University of Michigan graduate. They were trying to bring in more diverse employees. Roberts joked, “Why not hire someone from Ohio State?’ And he looked at me as if I had shot him.”

I left the Pasant Theater with a greater knowledge of politics and an overwhelming feeling of joy that I had met NPR legend Cokie Roberts.