



SOME TRADITIONS ARE FOREVER

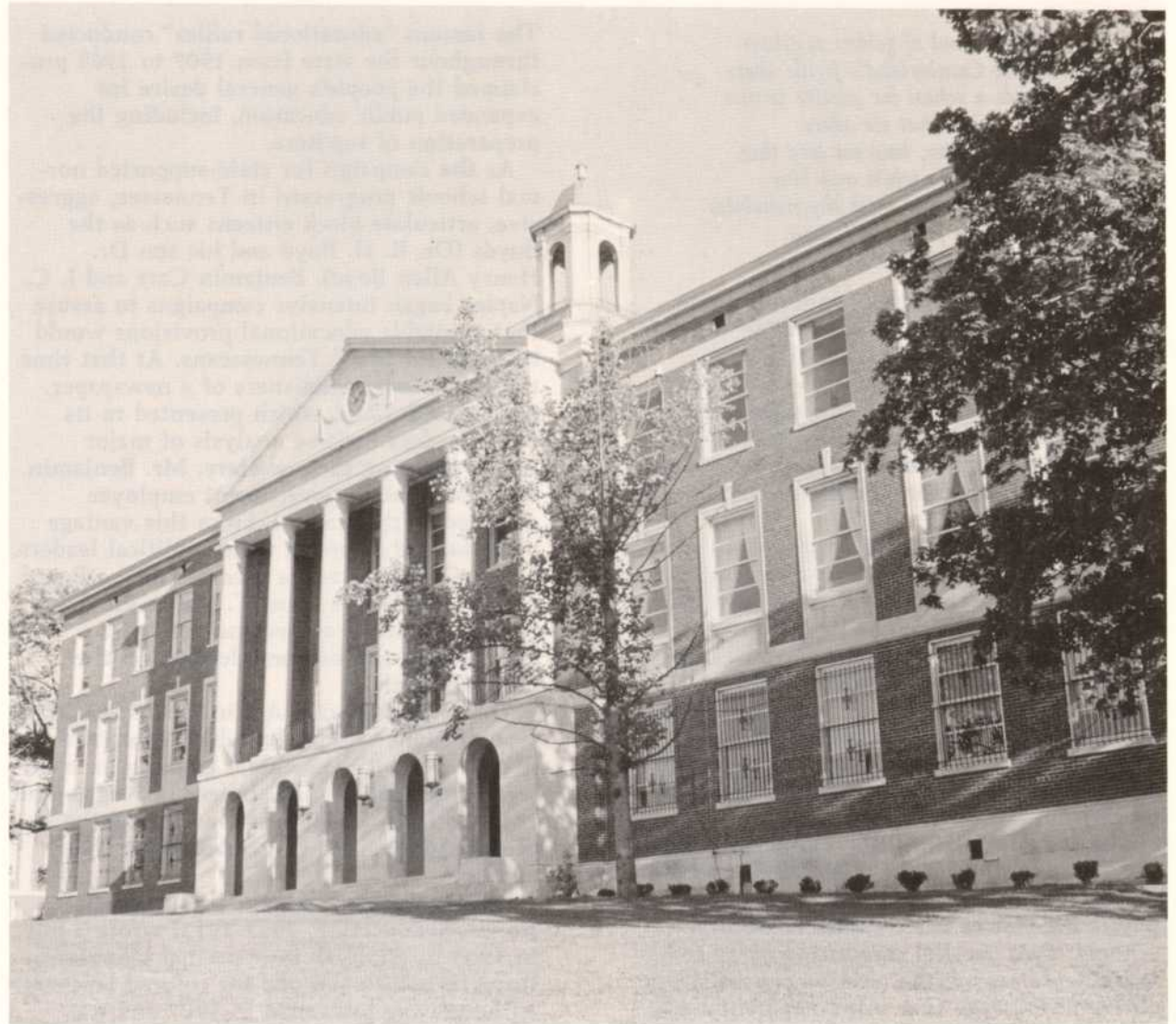
Introduction

Tennessee State University has come a long way since June 1912 when the doors first opened at the Tennessee State Agricultural and Industrial State Normal School for Negroes.

The institution has grown from normal school to college, to university. In 1987, as it celebrates its 75th anniversary, the university exists as a multi-campus, multi-racial educational institution with great hope for achieving its goal of serving Nashville and the mid-state as an urban university.

The history is rich with people and events that have contributed to the University's present status. This brochure seeks only to highlight major events and contributors to that history. The authors have drawn upon a variety of resources to present a sketch of the university's progress during three 25 year periods.

As we celebrate the past, we also acknowledge the present and look toward the future in this 75th Anniversary Commemorative Brochure.



Tennessee State University—The First 25 Years

*In the land of golden sunshine
By the Cumberland's fertile shore
Stands a school for greater service
One that we adore,
Alma Mater, how we love thee,
Love thy white and blue
May we strive to meet thy mandates
With faith that's true.
—Laura M. Averitte*

The first stanza of the Tennessee State University "Alma Mater," as quoted above is typical of college songs. The lofty pronouncement of commitment to service and adoration is not in any way unique among the hymns of Tennessee's universities. Yet, historically, Tennessee State University has not been typical among public universities in this state.

This university, located in the northwest section of Nashville on a 450-acre campus with the Cumberland River as one boundary, is one of six public senior institutions of higher education administered by the Tennessee State Board of Regents. Unlike all other public institutions of higher education in Tennessee, Tennessee State University was originally established to serve only one ethnic segment of the population, the black citizens.

The state legislators who roamed through the Tennessee Capitol during the year 1909 did not have to conjecture about the level of public interest in the creation of normal schools. Two parallel convincing grass roots movements among the citizens constituted a powerful message that could not be ignored.

The famous "educational rallies" conducted throughout the state from 1907 to 1909 proclaimed the people's general desire for expanded public education, including the preparation of teachers.

As the campaign for state-supported normal schools progressed in Tennessee, aggressive, articulate black citizens such as the Boyds (Dr. R. H. Boyd and his son Dr. Henry Allen Boyd), Benjamin Carr and J. C. Napier began intensive campaigns to assure that equitable educational provisions would be made for black Tennesseans. At that time the Boyds were publishers of a newspaper, *The Nashville Globe*, which presented to its black readers incisive analysis of major issues affecting their welfare. Mr. Benjamin Carr was a state government employee assigned to the Capitol. From this vantage point he had access to major political leaders. Mr. J. C. Napier was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Anna T. Jeanes Fund, a position which provided contacts with government and business leaders on the national level.

The second Morrill Act in 1890 specified a type of higher education which combined liberal arts with vocational training on a college level in the establishment of Negro land grant colleges. Tennessee was among the last of the southern states to implement this mandate.

Professor P. P. Claxton (U.S. Commissioner of Education, 1911-1912) wrote a bill in 1906 to establish four normal schools—three for white and one for colored teachers. Although the bill failed in 1907 and was

heatedly contested in 1909 based on the reluctance to establish a Negro normal school, a compromise was reached when the combined name "Agricultural and Industrial State Normal School for Negroes" was proposed, and officially designated as the state land grant college for Negroes as well as the normal school for Negroes.

The school thus authorized to serve the black citizens was unique in that it would perform industrial and agricultural educational functions as well as teacher education functions. It was also unique in that it had to be established and maintained with one-half the amount of money that was available to each of the institutions authorized at the time to serve the white citizens. Even with this limitation, the black leaders viewed the authorization as a major triumph. Indeed, it was. The headline of the April 23, 1909, issue of Dr. Boyd's *Nashville Globe* clearly reflected this view; "A great victory achieved; General Education Bill Passes Senate; Carries an Appropriation for Negro School." However, *The Nashville Globe* stated very pointedly that black citizens had received only "half of a loaf."

Soon after the General Assembly passed the Act which made the establishment of a normal school for Negroes possible, Prof. W. J. Hale, then principal of St. Elmo High School, Chattanooga, got a subscription list from the colored teachers and citizens of Hamilton County so that the school could be located in Chattanooga. Later the County Court of Hamilton County voted an appropriation of \$75,000. Stimulated by their lead,



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1. W. J. Hale was married to the former Hattie E. Hodgkins in 1913. Pictured are Mr. and Mrs. Hale and their daughter. They also had two sons.

2. William Jasper Hale was named president of the Tennessee State Agricultural and Industrial State Normal School for Negroes in 1911. He served as president for 32 years. He died in 1944.

3. President Hale and the school's first faculty.

4. The University seal continues to bear the motto of "Think, Work, Serve."



4.

the city of Nashville became interested and made an appropriation of \$80,000. This appropriation, together with the accumulation of the state fund for two years, constituted the building fund. A site was secured just outside the city limits, on a hill located on the Cumberland River, just beyond northwest Nashville. An administration building and two dormitories were erected.

Upon the recommendation of Prof. R. L. Jones, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Prof. W. J. Hale was elected as principal of the institution in 1911 and authorized to visit similar Negro institutions as preparation for his duties as head of the newly created institution.

On June 19, 1912, the college first opened its doors to admit 247 students. The staff consisted of fifteen young instructors drawn from the leading colleges and universities in the United States. Eager and expectant, they assembled in the college auditorium in the Administration Building to begin a new era in Negro education. Out of loyalty to President Hale, a large delegation from Chattanooga was in attendance.

Despite the handicaps of 1912, when each student was compelled to carry his chair from classroom to classroom and even to the dining hall, had to get his own water from a spring, slept in crowded rooms, in halls, or on stairway landings, the institution drew ever-increasing numbers and launched optimistically on its educational career with its motto, "Think, Work and Serve."

During the early years, the instruction was primarily on an upper elementary and high school level, although the junior and senior

normal classes were of collegiate grade. The scarcity of Negro high schools forced the institution to concentrate on secondary education during the first decade of its existence. The academic progress was slow but firm. The institution did not desert its clientele but rather developed it to the desired levels and then went higher.

The major building addition of the period was the erection of a gymnasium as an addition to the heating plant and shop. Students directed by teachers did the work.

The World War [I] period came while the institution was still in its swaddling clothes. However, at least twenty-five of its student body went overseas and its gold star flag contained four stars. The school singers took active part in patriotic celebrations and aided in various war stamp campaigns and other war aid drives. The post-War period, when the S.A.T.C. was quartered on the campus, was one of the most hectic and trying periods in the school's history.

President Hale was the storm center and, at the risk of his future, dared to stand for the ideals of the institution and to defy the most powerful interests that were bent on using the school as a political football. The Tennessee State Board of Education sustained the President, gave him a vote of confidence and replied to an ultimatum from the War Department that the soldiers would have to leave A. and I. State Normal if remaining was to be had at the expense of the resignation of President Hale. Powerful men and women throughout the State came to the defense of President Hale and his policy.

Student organizations began to be formed early in the history of the school. The first of the group was the Billy Hale Junior Club, founded in October, 1915, by David Anderson. The name was in honor of the newborn son of Pres. and Mrs. W. J. Hale—a symbol of innocence, vitality, hope, promise for the future. This organization was followed in 1919 by the Supreme Circle Club with T. McHarris as its founder. Especially significant as an indication of the growing intellectual maturity of the institution was the establishment of the Sais Society in 1919 by Dean C. H. Harper as an honorary scholarship society. The organization emphasized high scholarship and marked the beginning of secret organizations with elaborate rituals and initiations. The history and influence of Sais for the ten years of its existence was most notable.

The year 1922 marked the beginning of the institution as a senior college although the name was not officially changed to Agricultural and Industrial College until 1925. In the fall of 1920, the first graduating class entered as college freshmen to begin the first year of a four-year program. The formative years had laid a foundation for a super-structure. Innovations were now in order. A new dining hall was erected and a cafeteria system was inaugurated. In this venture the institution was a pioneer among Negro colleges. By 1924, both students and faculty were successfully using the cafeteria system as a matter of routine.

An expanded curriculum was evolving. More and better prepared teachers were added to the staff. Administrative officers

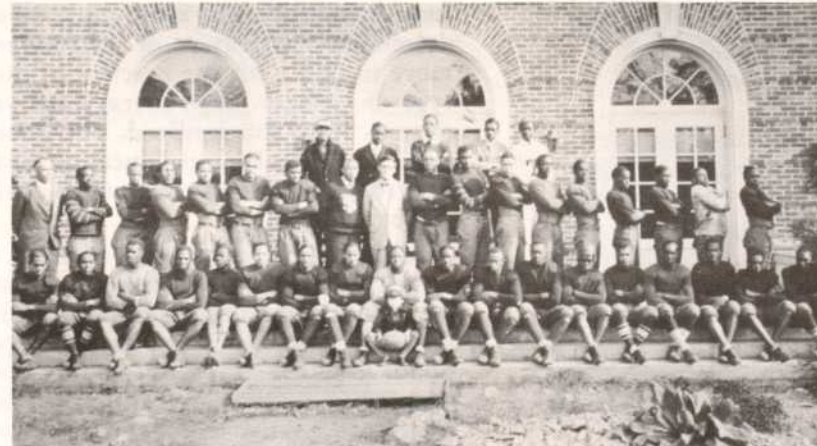


5. The first college class was graduated in 1924. The class included seven men and one woman. Seven of the graduates were Tennesseans; the eighth graduate was from Mobile, Alabama.

6. David Anderson is credited with founding one of the first student organizations for young men. Originally named the Billy Hale Jr. Club (in honor of the president's son), the club was renamed the Anderson-Billy Hale Club following Anderson's sudden death Christmas Day, 1915.

7. A variety of social, religious, trade-oriented, literary and musical organizations were formed by students early in the University's history. Pictured is an orchestral group.

8. Football was a favorite sport early in the school's history. This team picture was taken in 1928.



were beginning to be needed. A dean-registrar was appointed to oversee the academic instruction. Departmental heads were being named. College traditions were being evolved. The student body was outgrowing its secondary school habits.

Commencement 1924 marked the graduation of the first college class, which contained seven men and one woman. They received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Agricultural and Industrial State Normal School—the only class to receive this degree. Subsequent classes received the Bachelor of Science degree.

In 1925-26, the General Education Board of New York City became impressed with the work of the college and offered a gift of \$100,000 for buildings provided that \$230,000 were given to make a total fund of \$330,000. President Hale guaranteed \$65,000 from the colored citizens and influenced the General Assembly to appropriate \$165,000. As a result of this effort, the Science Hall, the Women's Residence Hall, Memorial Library, and the heating plant were erected.

The Printing Department and classes in Journalism made the college more articulate. *The Bulletin* became the official organ of the college and was circulated widely among the alumni and students. In 1925, *The Radio*, first yearbook of the college, was issued. It was followed by a subsequent issue in 1926. From this period on periodicals of various kinds were sponsored by the institution and organizations.

The social life of the campus was sponsored by a group of clubs for men, for

women and for both sexes. The annual "affairs" of the major groups were often elaborate and unique in their staging. Special days and weeks in chapel, including programs at Vesper Service and in the dining hall, were in vogue. Such campus fixtures as the Fountain in front of the Old Main Building, given by the Delta Tau Iota Club, and stone benches given by the Alba Rosa Club, are a part of this tradition.

As a result of the building program of 1927, the campus skyline was greatly changed. The college community became a real city indeed. A network of asphalt roads were built, concrete sidewalks connected all buildings, the campus received the professional services of a landscape gardener, Mr. D. A. Williston. A miracle was performed on the once barren hill.

The impetus incident to securing an adequate physical plant also had its effects on the instructional side of the college. Curriculum revision became most purposeful and searching. The pattern of instruction became more in line with the practice in the best type of colleges. Both literary and vocational courses were standardized. The Rosenwald Fund and the General Education Board generously lent their experts as advisors on the curriculum.

Beginning with the class of 1928, students were listed on the commencement program by departments, both vocational and literary. By 1930, graduates were listed as "pass" or honor graduates. A quality point system was adopted to supplement the letter-grade system. Both quality and quantity were required for graduation. Performance distinctly above

average was required in the student's major field. In 1932, the institution began requiring the successful passing of a senior final comprehensive examination as a requirement for the bachelor's degree. In 1930 the institution discontinued the issuance of any intermediate diplomas and granted only the B.S. degree as the goal for the four year course.

In 1930 chapters of Greek letter organizations were formed among campus groups. Phi Beta Tau, a Greek letter scholarship fraternity, was established in 1931 and admitted to its membership only students whose quality points would allow them to be graduated with honors. This organization was a direct outgrowth of the Sais Society, but patterned after the well-known Phi Beta Kappa fraternity.

In 1933 the college was formally admitted into membership and fully accredited by the American Association of Teachers Colleges, the only professional accrediting association for colleges which prepare teachers.

In athletics the institution began to make itself felt. Practically all of the colleges in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Kentucky were on its schedule. Thanksgiving football battles with Fisk University held the stage for three years. In 1931 the institution was admitted into the Mid-Western Athletic Conference and in 1934 tied with Kentucky State College for the Gridiron Championship. Basketball had been developed primarily as an intramural sport. Some attention was given to baseball, track, and tennis. The new swimming pool turned the attention of the student body to swim-



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9. The college was visited periodically by representatives of the State Board of Education. Dean George W. Gore and President Hale (center) are shown with board representatives.

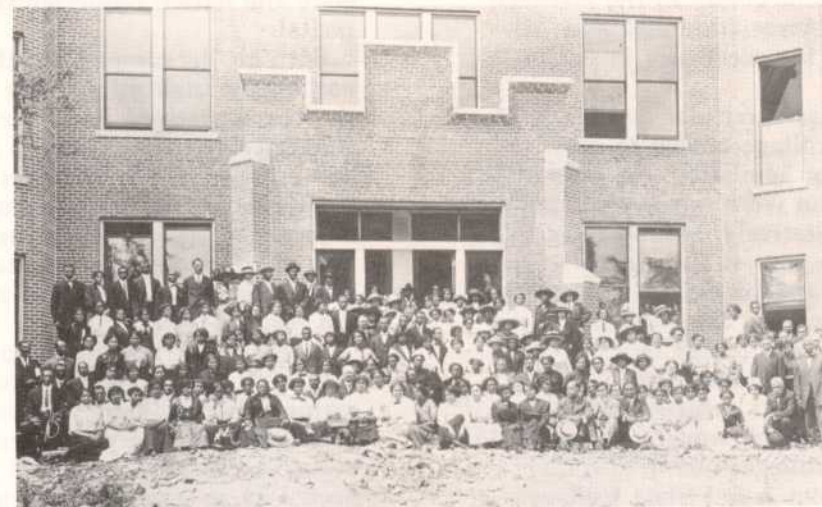
10. Mr. D. A. Williston was recruited by President Hale to landscape the campus as part of a 1927 building program.

11. The Concert Singers were popular during the early 1930s. In addition to performing for radio broadcasts and at the Century of Progress Exposition, the Concert Singers were asked to sing for President and Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

12. In the early years of the school, faculty, staff and students gathered for group photographs.



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ming and diving.

In 1932-33 extension instruction was given in various local communities in Middle and West Tennessee. This work supplemented the work already being done by the extension department using the facilities of the Rosenwald School Bus.

The Concert Singers placed the institution before the general public in a way unparalleled in the history of the college. Within a period of three years; such rapid strides were made by this group that they were broadcast over the National Broadcast System (WMC at Memphis) on a Commercial-Appeal broadcast to Admiral Byrd in Little America and sang on the Theatre Floating on the Lagoon at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago.

In the field of journalism, *Ayeni*, the yearbook, in both its 1930 and its 1931 editions, was elected to membership in the National Scholastic Press Association and won All-American rating for excellence in yearbook publications.

Both in its extra-curricular and its curricula aspects, the college tended to come of age. Standards for admission, for promotion, and for graduation were raised both qualitatively and quantitatively. Faculty members were required to possess the master's degree as a minimum standard. Summer graduate study was encouraged. The standard of the Summer Quarter was placed on a par with that of the regular academic year. Many post-graduate students returned to do advanced or specialized work. College graduates from other colleges qualified for a second degree from A & I State College.

During 1928-1934, progress was most rapid. Despite the depression, the enrollment continued to climb. Truly the students came in order to "Enter to Learn-Depart to Serve."

The academic year 1934-35 began with a physical plant, perhaps, unsurpassed among Negro institutions. The faculty was the best prepared in the school's history. Major divisions of instruction were headed by holders of the doctor's degree or the equivalent.

In the headlines of the day's news one found the Concert Singers. President and Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt asked them to sing "Hand Me Down The Silver Trumpet, Gabriel," on the occasion of their Nashville visit and invited them to appear in the White House. The Columbia Broadcasting System assigned them on a weekly coast-to-coast broadcast, entitled "Song Time in Tennessee." Practically all sections of the state and nation requested them to appear in recital.

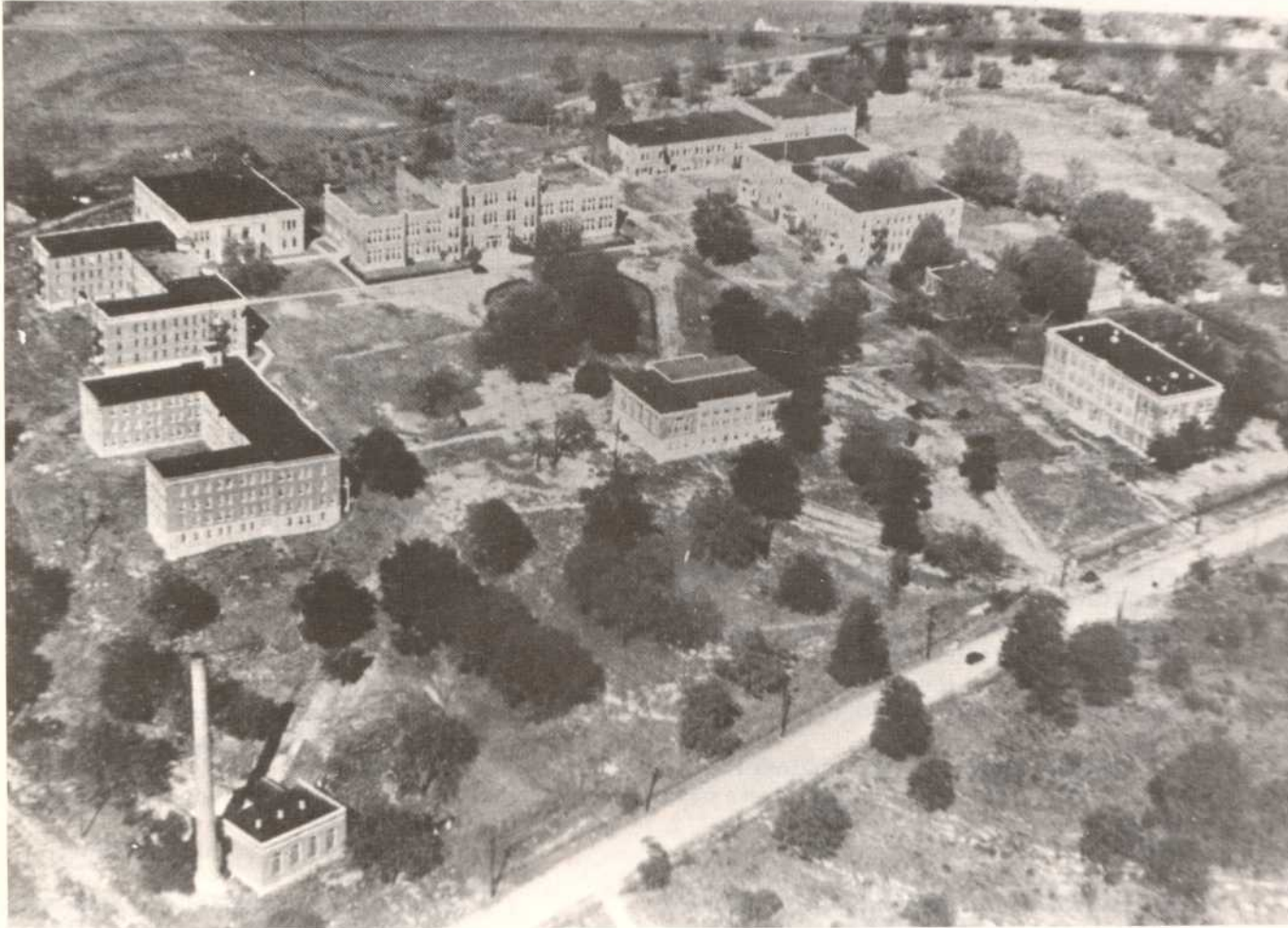
Both on the campus and throughout the nation, the institution made history through its representatives. Faculty representatives were elected to positions of responsibility and prestige in the Mid-Western Athletic Conference. They were members of the Tennessee Association of Teachers in Colored Schools, and the editorial staffs of *The Broadcaster* and the *Quarterly Review of Higher Education Among Negroes*.

In 1935 A & I was a campus with the breath of spring upon it. There were 12 major buildings, four teachers' cottages, the president's residence, a greenhouse, a campus beautified by shrubbery and terracing, connected by an excellent system of roads and

walkways. The view from the Administration Building, down the memorial steps and up the double walkway, to the Memorial Library was unsurpassed. The auditorium was a work of art. The dining hall combined the aesthetic with the practical. The gymnasium with its swimming pool made it the last word in modernity.

The six new buildings—the Science Hall, the Memorial Library, the Women's Residence Hall, the Industrial Arts Building, the Women's Building—combined to complete a plant that was modern, efficient, beautiful, and in keeping with educational economy of administration. They were made possible by the General Education Board, the Rosenwald Fund, the Tennessee General Assembly, and other agencies.

Editor's Note: This section was prepared by Dr. Evelyn P. Fancher, Director of Libraries and Media Centers, Tennessee State University. Included are passages from The Bulletin, Tennessee A & I College, Volume XXIII, April 1935 and Tennessee State University 1912-1974: A History of an Institution. Dissertation, 1975 by Evelyn P. Fancher.



13. An overhead view of the "old campus."

The Next 25 Years, 1937-1962: A Period of Rapid Growth

Editor's Note: The following highlights of the University's progress between 1937-1962 are direct excerpts from *Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State University 1912-1962* by R. Grann Lloyd.

... Indeed, by the institution's twenty-fifth anniversary in 1937 it had grown from a fledgling school with three small buildings, an enrollment of 247 students, and 15 teachers, to a recognized four-year degree-granting teachers college with 50 staff members, an enrollment of 1200 students, and a physical plant which included 15 major buildings valued at more than \$2,000,000.

In November 1935 the federal government allocated \$148,183.00 through the Works Progress Administration, which was combined with \$75,874.39 in local funds, for a building project at the college. The basic elements of the project were to construct a playground, grade, landscape, equip lake, rock garden, build a dam, a battery of 20 tennis courts, field house and stadium for football, grandstand for track, bleachers for baseball diamond, stable and tool house, dairy barn, two residences, repairs to dormitory, and a stone fence along the street car line. This project was executed and resulted in the addition of the aforementioned facilities to the physical plant. The athletic field and stadium and a field house were among the facilities completed in 1937. A Women Teachers Apartment, a farm superintendent's residence, and an outdoor swimming pool were completed in 1939. Then, in 1942, the infirmary was built. This latter facility was remodeled in 1961. . . .

Varsity competition in track on a large scale was started for men in 1946 and for women in 1947. Almost immediately Tennessee State College's speedsters became and have remained, Olympic contenders. In the latter phase of this period, too, swimming became a varsity activity. Students engaged in several other sports during the period but they were not among the institution's major intercollegiate activities. . . .

Meanwhile it was revealed late in 1941 that (1) the entire \$100,000 appropriation from the State for the operation of the institution during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1941 had been turned back to the state treasury; and (2) as a result of economies and savings over a long period of years the College had accumulated to its credit in several bank accounts a reserve fund of about \$316,000. The College indicated that the money in this reserve fund was to be used to finance some projected expansion at the school. It was explained that it was possible to return the full state appropriation to the state treasury because the income from fees charged students, outside allocations such as federal funds, and the profits from various operations was sufficient to operate the school that year.

A lengthy probe by state auditors followed. The findings of the audit were never made public. However, Mr. Hale was relieved of the presidency of Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State College by the State Board of Education on August 27, 1943. At the same time, however, it was announced that the State Board of Education offered to retain Mr. Hale, without any

change in salary, to write the history of the institution he had headed for 32 years, but without any further official connection with it. He did not accept the assignment, but took a position with the United States Treasury Department involving the sale of war bonds. Mr. Hale died in New York City on October 5, 1944. . . .

Dr. Walter Strother Davis, Director of the Department of Agriculture and Smith-Hughes Teacher Training in Agriculture, was elected to serve as Acting President of the College. He assumed his duties on September 1, 1943. Dr. Davis was elected President of the College by the State Board of Education at its November, 1943 meeting. The new President immediately formulated the following goals for the institution:

- (1) To assist the State Board of Education in its efforts to equalize educational opportunities for both racial groups.
- (2) To perfect the nine divisions of the College.
- (3) To secure and maintain a competent faculty.
- (4) To develop and maintain an adequate physical plant.
- (5) To provide and maintain adequate teaching facilities, supplies and materials.
- (6) To secure and maintain a comparable student body.
- (7) To improve the learning-teaching process.
- (8) To develop and maintain a wholesome student-teacher relationship.
- (9) To make maximum contributions to the war effort.



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14. As the campus expanded, the landmarks began to change. The "duck pond" gave way to progress and the erection of the Graduate School Building.

15. Walter Strother Davis became president of Tennessee A & I State College in 1943. Davis retired in 1968. During his 25 year tenure, the institution experienced rapid growth.

16. Faculty and administrators who greeted the freshman class of 1951 included Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Dumas, Mrs. and Dr. A. V. Boswell, R. E. Clay, Mrs. N. S. Davis, George King (student council president), Miss Robinson and Miss Queenie Washington. President Davis is at the microphone.

- (10) To develop and maintain a worthy student activity program.
- (11) To develop and maintain an efficient Alumni Association.
- (12) To efficiently operate the financial business and instructional phases of the College.
- (13) To have the College accepted into membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- (14) To achieve personal professional growth.

The new president set out to accomplish these goals and to make Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State College an "A" class university. Meanwhile, after much ado and considerable delay, graduate instruction was begun at the College during the summer of 1942. In June 1944 President Davis conferred the first Master's degree ever awarded by the institution upon Mrs. Martha Williams Wheeler of Wilmington, North Carolina, and the first Bachelor of Arts degrees granted by the College in 20 years. . . .

The institution was elevated to university status by approval of the State Board of Education in August 1951. At the same time the institution's educational program was reorganized to include (1) a School of Arts and Sciences, (2) a School of Education, (3) a School of Engineering, (4) a Graduate School, and (5) the areas of Agriculture, Business, Home Economics, Extension, and Air Science. Provisions were made, also, for the subsequent establishment of schools of Agriculture, Business, and Home Economics. Each School was headed by a Chairman. . . .

On July 1, 1958 the School of Agriculture and Home Economics was established. A few weeks later, on August 8, 1958, the State Board of Education elevated the Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State University to full-fledged Land-Grant University status. The Land-Grant University program approved by the State Board of Education included: (1) a School of Agriculture and Home Economics, (2) a School of Arts and Sciences, (3) a School of Education, (4) a School of Engineering, (5) a Graduate School, (6) a Division of Business, (7) a Division of Field Services, and (8) a Department of Air Science. Each "School" was now headed by a Dean and each Division by a Director. On December 4, 1958, in regular annual session, the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools granted full membership to the University. . . .

In 1958 the University began offering the Master of Education degree, in addition to the Master of Arts and the Master of Science degrees. Instead of writing a thesis, candidates for this degree were required to complete a "terminal project." The terminal project was supposed to be "unique to the individual needs, interest, and experiences of the student." . . .

As the brief University era has evolved during the past decade enrollment has been erratic from year to year. The low mark of the period was in 1953-54 when 3,098 students enrolled and the high point of the period thus far has been 1959-60's, 3,638 enrollees. The same erratic tendency is apparent in the number of degrees awarded from year to year during the past decade. . . .

As the University grew student organizations multiplied, but not as rapidly as one might have suspected. There were approximately 75 student organizations of varying sorts on the campus when the university period opened. In 1961 there were about 90 such organizations. . . .

Though always formidable competitors in sports, there can be no doubt that the institution's athletic prowess reached its zenith during the 1951-61 era. The Tennessee State Tiger football team won national championships in 1954 and 1956; won the Mid-Western Conference Championship in 1954, 1956, 1959, and 1960; and were Co-Conference champions in 1952 and 1957. The football team compiled a 27-game winning streak during the period extending from October 6, 1952 to December 4, 1954. The University's basketball Tigers won the NAIA National Tournament Championship an unprecedented three consecutive years in 1957, 1958, and 1959; won NAIA District 29 Tournament Championships in 1952, 1953, 1954, 1956, 1957, 1958, and 1960; won Mid-Western Conference Tournament Championships in 1956, 1957, and 1959; and were Mid-Western Conference season play champions in 1958, 1960, and 1961.

During this era, too, the Tiger Sharks swimming team was bringing recognition to the University by winning numerous meets and championships. However, the high point of the University's athletic success came in 1960 when Tennessee A. and I. State University's track stars startled the sports world with their brilliant performances during the 17th Olympiad in Rome, Italy, and brought a



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17. The AFROTC program at Tennessee A & I State University started in 1951. Pictured are a group of A & I cadets who visited Ellington Air Force Base, Texas.

18. Laura Averitte, teacher of English and founder of the Literary Guild, wrote the lyrics of the Alma Mater.

19. Hale Hall was one of the premier buildings on the Tennessee State Campus in the early years. Built at a cost of \$125,000, it served as a girl's dormitory until the late 1960s when a new women's residence center opened. The building was razed in 1986.

20. Student organizations and social clubs hosted a variety of activities at the college. Pictured are the 1944 May Day Queen, King and Court.



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total of seven Olympic gold medals to Tennessee A. and I. State University's campus. Wilma Rudolph, a junior, was America's only triple Olympic gold medalist—winning both the 100 and 200 meter races in record Olympic time and teamed with her school mates Martha Hudson, Barbara Jones, and Lucinda Williams to win the 400 meter relay event. Ralph Boston, a senior, shattered Jesse Owens' near quarter-century world broad jump record three weeks prior to the opening of the Olympic games. He then won a gold medal by taking the broad jump honors in Olympic competition.

The institution's growth was matched by the increase in State appropriations and expansion and improvement of the physical plant. The State appropriation for 1951-52, the institution's first year as a university, was \$1,700,000. During the same year educational fees amounted to \$258,887.66, auxiliary income was \$392,073.18, and federal appropriations to the University totaled \$16,246.10. Hence, during the initial year of university status the institution had \$2,367,206.94 of expendable funds available for use. By 1960-61 the State appropriation reached \$2,100,000. To this amount was added a \$188,180.63 overage allotment for bonuses accruing from the overage on the sale of tobacco, federal appropriations amounting to \$40,707.77, student fees totaling \$780,386.26, and sufficient additional income from various sources to bring the University's total income (and/or expendable funds) to \$4,166,679.10 for 1960-61.

At the beginning of the university period the campus, farm lands, and pastures occu-

pied 267 acres of land. There were more than 30 permanent buildings on the central campus. Since that time six major buildings have been constructed and placed in use on the central campus: (1) Lawson Hall (Agriculture Building)—1954; (2) the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Building—1954; (3) Clement Hall (men's dormitory)—1957; (4) Hankal Hall (women's dormitory)—1957; (5) the Education Building—1958; (6) the Student Union Building—1959. a Chemistry Building, being constructed at a cost of more than \$400,000, is nearing completion as the summer of 1961 ebbs away. Incidentally, the University's campus, farm lands, and pastures expanded to 450 acres of scenic rolling grounds and fertile fields shortly after the university period began. . . .

Whereas the first faculty consisted of 15 persons, by 1961 the instructional staff of the University alone had increased by more than sixteen times that number to 245 members. Most of them had attended, and held degrees and certificates from, some of the world's best colleges and universities. Among them were authors and authorities of national and international repute. In addition there were 21 administrative officers, approximately 15 technicians and extension workers, and a host of clerical, professional and semi-professional, and maintenance workers. . . .

R. Grann Lloyd, was a professor of economics at Tennessee State University.



21. The TSU Tigerbelle Track team earned international recognition during the 1960 Olympic Games. This team picture includes Mae Faggs, Wilma Rudolph, Lucinda Williams, Margaret Matthews, Isabelle Daniels, Willye B. White, and Coach Edward Temple.



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22. Under the direction of Basketball Head Coach John B. McLendon, the TSU basketball teams won three consecutive NAIA national championships—a feat which has not been matched. Pictured are members of the championship teams and coaching staff Richard Mack, McLendon, Harold Hunter and student trainer Carlton Petway.

23. Many distinguished persons have visited Tennessee State University over the years. Pictured here are Dr. Davis, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Dr. W. J. Simmons.

24. Gladys Burgess Adams (far right) was instrumental in organizing the Alumni Association. She and volunteer workers were preparing for 1965 homecoming activities when this photograph was taken.

25. Homecoming has been the university's biggest celebration of the year for a long time. The Homecoming parade has been a highlight of the celebration.

Like a Ship at Sea: Tennessee State University 1962-1987

by H. Leon Prather, Sr., Ph.D.

Like the oceans—at times calm, at times turbulent—so has been the history of Tennessee State University. Thus, the following pages should contain sufficient delineation to justify the title.

During the rigid segregation era, Walter Strother Davis assumed the presidency of the college with a dream and a commitment to the future. He advocated strong academic and athletic programs.

Dr. Davis recommended the recruitment of talented faculty. For he believed that such people brought fame, prestige and enhanced the image of an institution. Among the first of the talented people he recruited was Jerome Hartwell Holland (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania), known in America and abroad as an educator, author and diplomat, to serve as director of the division of political and social science.

Dr. Davis wanted to establish a Speech and Drama curriculum. He was aware that no universities or colleges in this state had such a department. The search resulted in the recruitment of Thomas E. Poag, the first black in America to receive a Ph.D. in theatre from Cornell University. Poag organized the first drama department in the state and the TSU Players Guild, which bears his name.

Poag's players participated in tours to southern colleges and gave USO performances in Newfoundland, Labrador, Greenland and Bermuda in 1960. In 1965 a similar tour allowed TSU to perform in France, Germany and Denmark.

Dr. Davis also believed that athletics contributed to the overall strength of the col-

lege. Under his leadership, winning was a matter of tradition. Without that tradition, make no mistake, TSU today would be a parochial institution. In traveling across the nation, students, alumni, and friends agree that a winning tradition in athletics gives TSU a sense of enthusiasm and pride. And it all began during the Davis years, 1943-1968.

The late Henry A. Kean laid the foundation of TSU's winning legacy in football. The majestic Kean Hall commemorates his name and contributions. The Howard C. Gentry era followed. Coach Gentry recorded a 23-game unbeaten streak from 1955 through 1957. He served as athletic director for many years. The impressive Gentry Complex is named in his honor.

In the summer of 1963, Davis recruited the legendary "Big John" Merritt. The years 1963-83 represent a golden era in football at Tennessee State University. Big John sent a steady flow of players to the professional ranks. By act of the city council, the portion of Centennial Boulevard which runs through the middle of the TSU campus was renamed John A. Merritt Boulevard in 1982.

Dr. Davis' philosophy also included building a great band. Frank Greer, bandmaster from 1951-72, is credited with laying the foundation for the famed Aristocrat of Bands. Noted for a chorus line of beautiful majorettes a big "sonic boom" and special orchestrations, this colorful and fast-stepping organization invaded coast-to-coast television through their performances at professional football games during the early 1960s. Always in demand to perform in gubernatorial inauguration parades in Tennessee, the

Aristocrat of Bands had the unique distinction of being the only historically black college band to play in John F. Kennedy's inaugural parade in the nation's capital.

The musical genius of the late Marie Brooks-Strange has been furthered with the continued development of the Meistersingers choir.

As the tranquil era of the Davis administration neared its sunset, it was disrupted by student demonstrations, which were so prevalent throughout the nation during the late 1960s. Dr. Davis resigned because of ill health in 1968.

He was succeeded by Dr. Andrew P. Torrence. Torrence's five year tenure was filled with the vicissitudes of litigation leading to the merger of Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee at Nashville (UTN).

In 1968, UTN was a non-degree facility, with a predominately white enrollment of 1,700 students, specializing in evening education for working adults. In the above year, two salient developments occurred; both were destined to transform the character of TSU and UTN.

One, the University of Tennessee announced plans to build a multi-million dollar facility for its night school unit in Nashville. Two, plaintiffs, led by Rita Sanders (who is black), filed a law suit in federal court to block the building project. The plaintiffs charged that the expansion "would perpetuate segregation" at TSU and "insure the continued existence of a dual system of public education in the state."



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26. Dr. Andrew P. Torrence (center) became the University's third president in 1968. Pictured with Torrence are his vice-presidents, Arthur Danner, Calvin Atchison, William Jackson and Joseph Payne.

27. Dr. Torrence was involved in a variety of activities during his five year tenure. This photograph was taken during a visit to the Arnold Research Organization Center by Dr. Torrence and Dr. W. J. Carter, dean of the School of Engineering and Technology, in 1972.

28. For 29 years, the university has sponsored the Farm, Home and Minister's Institute. The Institutes were initiated to encourage more agricultural and homemaking achievements among limited resource rural and urban families. This photograph was taken during the eighth annual event.

29. Dr. T. E. Poag achieved widespread recognition for his work in college theatre. Poag and members of the Players Guild participated in two USO tours.

30. Dr. Charles Fancher served as interim president of the university following Dr. Torrence's resignation in 1974.



30.

Succinctly stated, in August 1968 U.S. District Court Judge Frank Gray refused to issue an injunction against the proposed construction project. The UTN facility and program continued to grow, and in less than a decade, it had its own chancellor, a student body exceeding 5,600 (85% white) offered some day classes and was "overcrowding" the \$5 million downtown facility.

Dr. Torrence resigned in 1974 as the stormy legal contest continued. Dr. Charles Fancher served as interim president until a new president was named. In 1975, into such a climate stepped the university's fourth president, Dr. Frederick S. Humphries.

Humphries' early tenure was complicated by severe criticism of the university's retention policy and the late dismissal of students for poor scholarship. In the wake of these difficulties and others, Dr. Humphries was placed on probation by the Tennessee State Board of Regents. After successfully demonstrating that he could identify and correct vital problems affecting the university, Dr. Humphries' probationary status was removed.

To end the dual system of education, in 1977, Judge Gray ordered the merger of UTN into TSU. The merger became effective in 1979.

White enrollment dropped dramatically at the merged institution. A group of plaintiff intervenors went back to court charging that the university was "resegregating."

Meanwhile, the complications of the merger mounted. By 1980 the lengthy history of the original case had assumed the qualities of a large running play, a dramatic epic in which there have been many complex

and ironic shifts and turns. The lawyers for the plaintiffs kept challenging the state to end segregation at the university level.

The new plaintiffs contended it was still possible to identify TSU as a black school by reference to its student body, the racial composition of its teachers and staff, the quality of its school buildings and equipment, and the schedules of its athletic teams.

Federal Judge Thomas Wiseman had assumed responsibilities for the case. Wiseman stated, "The goal of this society, at least since 1954 has been the elimination of state imposed racial segregation. We have been striving for the day when, as Rev. King described it so eloquently, people would be recognized for the content of their character rather than the color of their skin. We must move toward the day when schools are not recognized as 'black schools' or 'white schools' but when the State of Tennessee operates, and the taxpayers of Tennessee fund, just 'schools'—and hopefully, those best we are able to provide."

On September 4, 1984, Wiseman dropped a bombshell by decreeing, through a Stipulation of Settlement (which was agreed upon by all parties except the U.S. Justice Department), that TSU achieve a 50 percent white faculty, administration and white full-time undergraduate enrollment by 1993.

Notwithstanding the lengthy merger controversy, TSU has made progress. In 1969 the institution was renamed Tennessee State University by the state legislature.

On the main campus a number of multi-million dollar buildings have been erected, namely Lewis Ross Holland Hall (School of

Business), Brown-Daniel Library; the Gentry Complex, and the Andrew P. Torrence Building (School of Engineering). Recently the school has experienced a renaissance in campus beautification.

Other significant developments include adding doctoral programs to the academic curriculum. In 1981, Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) empowered TSU to grant three doctoral degrees in education. And during the summer of 1985, THEC approved a program for the Ph.D. in public administration.

In March 1985, Frederick S. Humphries resigned the presidency to become the president of Florida A & M University. In June, Chancellor Roy Nicks of the State Board of Regents appointed Dr. Roy P. Peterson as interim president. A power struggle erupted between the governing board and constituent groups against the backdrop of the search for a new permanent president.

Peterson's tenure was fraught with protests and criticism. His appointment was characterized by some as part of an overall plan to destroy Tennessee State University's heritage as a historically black institution.

Peterson resigned, following a change in the rules for the presidential selection process, in June 1986.

Following Peterson's resignation, the recently appointed SBR Chancellor, Thomas Garland, named Dr. Otis L. Floyd Jr. interim president. Nine months later, Floyd was unanimously selected for the presidency by the Board of Regents. Floyd's candidacy for the presidency was protested by some students, faculty and alumni.



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31. Dr. Frederick S. Humphries became the fourth president of Tennessee State University in 1975.

32. Dr. Hazael E. Welton established the first endowed student scholarship fund in 1977. The plaza between the Student Union Building and the Administration Building is named in his honor. Shown at the dedication ceremony are Dr. Welton, Dr. Calvin Atchison and President Humphries.

33. Representatives from past administrations were invited to the inaugural ceremonies held for Dr. Humphries. Among the persons attending were Dr. Torrence, a son of the first president, W. J. Hale, Dr. Alger Boswell and Dr. W. S. Davis.

34. The former University of Tennessee at Nashville campus became a part of TSU following the court-ordered merger in 1977. Commonly referred to as the "Downtown Campus," the facility continues to serve as a center for evening programs at the university.



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34.

Permit it to be said in conclusion that Tennessee State University has now reached a watershed. Marked changes will come in the future. Already the ground is shifting beneath our feet.

Faced with the prospect of change, the mood on our campus ranges from great optimism to uneasiness. TSU has long been within the historical forces of inevitable change.

The Egyptians believe in *ma'at*, or the quality of everything being in order. That is the hope here that Tennessee State University will, in the near future, achieve *ma'at* for posterity.

Dr. H. Leon Prather, Sr., is professor of history at Tennessee State University. He is the author of two books, the most recent of which is We Have Taken A City. (Bibliography available upon request to the Public Relations Office.)



36.



35.



37.

35. Former Head Football Coach John Merritt and Dr. Calvin Atchison were co-chairmen of the first annual campus fund drive.

36. Over the years the faculty, staff and student populations at TSU have become more racially and ethnically diverse. Dr. Jamye Williams (sitting) was leader of a diverse faculty in the Department of Communications. Shown with her are W. Dury Cox, Dr. Helen Adams, Dr. Harold Mitchell and Dr. Weldon Stice.

37. The Vintagers Club was founded in 1971 to recognize 40 year graduates of the university. The induction of graduates into the Vintagers Club is held annually during summer commencement. With Dr. Humphries are members of the class of 1931 who were inducted into the organization.



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38. Among the celebrities who have visited the campus is Sammy Davis Jr. Davis is with former Miss TSU Patsey Whitmon.

39. Dr. Humphries presented *Roots* author, Alex Haley, with a plaque during one of Haley's visits to the campus. The library in the Institute of African Affairs is named in Haley's honor.

40. Cab Calloway, noted performer, is another famous visitor to TSU. Calloway's visit was prompted by the graduation of his daughter, Cabella Calloway Langsam, from TSU in 1982.

41. Former Gov. Lamar Alexander (center) lent his full support to getting funds for the new engineering building. Alexander and several members of the State Legislature visited the campus during dedication ceremonies for the A. P. Torrence Engineering Building, which is the newest classroom building on the main campus.



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41.

Looking Ahead to a Century of Service

Many assumptions and expectations underlie the outlook for Tennessee State University over the next 25 years. The environment certainly will be one of change, with ever increasing technological advancements, evolving social and economic concerns, and expanding pressures for new knowledge. The demands for higher education will be greater and more diverse than during any period of our history.

As we stand on the threshold of the next quarter-century of this University's existence, our outlook is overwhelmingly positive. Building upon our rich heritage and proud traditions, TSU is poised to seize the multitude of challenges before her. Initiatives of recent years continue to gain

momentum; we are postured to assume leadership as an urban university without peer.

The present Administration is keenly aware that actions taken at this time will have a measured impact upon the direction of TSU over the next 25 years. We further recognize a number of key factors essential to growth and development: sustained financial support, a sense of common purpose among the extended University family, infusion of new talent and ideas, mutually beneficial partnerships with public and private entities, and meaningful linkages with sister institutions of higher learning. Each factor is essential, all are attainable.

With constant focus on these and other factors, the University will, without ques-

tion, realize its most fundamental mission—to provide accessible, quality higher education opportunities. Steady and determined actions will lead this great institution to the forefront of Tennessee higher education. Diversity—of student interests and faculty expertise—will not only be maintained, but nurtured as a hallmark of TSU.

Otis L. Floyd, Jr.
President

In the next 25 years as Tennessee State University completes its first century of service, I see TSU as a full partner in the growth and development of the Metropolitan Nashville area as TSU refines and pursues its mission as a comprehensive urban university.

There is a strong expectation in the community that the next quarter century will be the best of Nashville's 200 years. That can be so. And it can be so for Tennessee State University. In fact, a community which expects to grow must recognize that all of its parts must be healthy and vibrant and focused on the same point.

For the university to become a central force for good in the Nashville area, TSU,

the State Board of Regents, responsible public officials and community leaders all must acknowledge our common interest in having a whole and active public university in Nashville. A strong partnership must be forged which marks TSU as a full collaborator in the economic progress of Nashville and the Middle Tennessee region.

Tennessee State is ready.

The setting never has been better for the development of strong academic programs which serve the business and cultural needs of the Nashville community as well as the needs of students.

A new Institute of Government has been set in place and has expanded the horizons of the university with a doctoral program in

public administration to address needs of the many governmental enterprises in Middle Tennessee. A quality business school now pursuing accreditation brings greater opportunities for its faculty to offer management expertise to the business community. And Tennessee State can become a place for renewal of teachers through its strengthened education offerings, which include a growing doctoral program.

These and so many other opportunities make the next quarter century a great time to be at Tennessee State University and help make the dream a reality.

Thomas Garland
Chancellor, State Board of Regents



42.



43.



44.

42. The TSU Sports Hall of Fame was organized in 1983. Among the inductees are members of the 1957-59 NAIA Championship Basketball Team. Dick Barnett (far right), who is also a former NBA standout, served as spokesman for the team during Sports Hall of Fame ceremonies held in 1984.

43. Former TSU Basketball Coach Ed Martin, who won more than 500 games during his career, President Humphries and Athletic Director Samuel Whitmon were on hand for the installation of the overhead clock/scoreboard in the Gentry Complex.

44. One of TSU's most well-known personalities was "Big John" Merritt, who was head football coach for 20 years. Merritt is shown cutting the ribbon to mark the opening of John A. Merritt Blvd. in 1982.

Tennessee State University is to be congratulated on its 75th Anniversary. Those of us who have watched this University grow from an Agriculture and Industrial School to a state urban university are indeed proud of its history and accomplishments. It has provided a unique service to higher education for the State of Tennessee by giving special attention to remedial and compensatory education. It has truly been the university that has been opened to "all those who seek higher education." It is with this background we look forward to TSU continuing its lead-

ership role in this community.

The future challenges of TSU are great, if not greater than those it has faced in the past. But in the true spirit of the "Big Blue," those challenges will be met and TSU will emerge as a preeminent school of public higher education in Nashville and Middle Tennessee. The opportunities Nashville faces in the future cannot be met without the existence of a urban public university, the natural role for TSU. This role can be enhanced by TSU's reliance upon its rich heritage and by the desire to broaden its

services to meet the public educational needs of the entire community. At that time, Nashvillians will have better public education from kindergarten to the university level provided by Tennessee State University.

With ever good wish for the future of Tennessee State University, I am

Sincerely,

Richard H. Fulton
Mayor of Nashville

For 75 years our institution has served as a landmark, converting underprivileged, deprived citizens into individuals of great worth. For this reason it is only proper to honor our past.

We have come a long way from the hillside of the Cumberland River, where our forefathers first planned and plowed these hallowed grounds. They laid the foundation for what was to become this great edifice of

higher learning, Tennessee State University.

The students, alumni, family, friends, and all those who are heirs to this great legacy have a tremendous responsibility. Just as our forefathers laid the framework, we must hold the torch of our Alma Mater high. We must keep it ever-burning by promoting the tradition of Tennessee State as a caring institution, a shrine dedicated to providing educational opportunities for all citizens,

especially our black citizens who might not have a chance. This is what Tennessee State was founded for and this is the tradition we must uphold. With your continued help and support we will serve as a beacon of light for another 75 years.

Fred Brown, President
Student Government Association

Tennessee State University has a long history of service to the state, and to the Nashville community in particular. It is on the edge of development that will make it even more important.

TSU is gaining strength and momentum. It is gaining new significance in the entire community, among white citizens as well as black. The enrollment increase this fall was a hopeful sign of things to come.

The university has long been a power on the athletic scene. Now it is gaining new respect and prestige for its academic accomplishments.

TSU has a wonderful opportunity now for a dramatic increase in its stature as an urban university, and to play an evergrowing part in service to the Nashville area and its people. In addition, the greater Nashville community has much to offer TSU and its

students.

Dr. Otis Floyd is the captain of this ship. Let's all help hoist the sails and do our part to further TSU's progress. I am proud that I can make a contribution to its future as chairman of the TSU Foundation.

Jack Gunter
Chairman, TSU Foundation



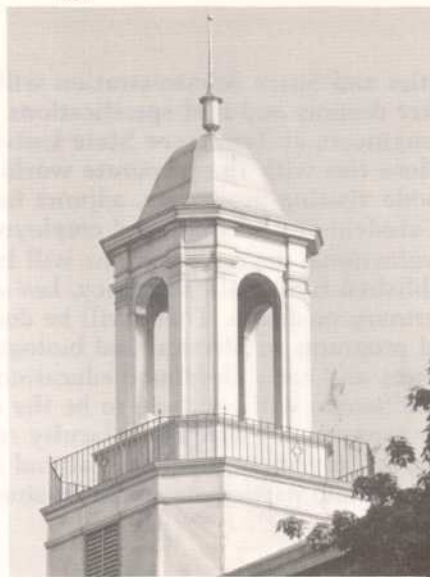
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45. Dr. Roy Peterson (left) served as interim president of TSU during the 1985-86 year. Peterson is pictured with head football coach William Thomas, Nashville Mayor Richard Fulton and track coach Edward Temple during Homecoming halftime ceremonies honoring TSU athletics.

46. Dr. Otis Floyd was named interim president of TSU in June 1986. In March 1987, he was elected fifth president of the university. In September 1986, Dr. Floyd assisted State Sen. Avon N. Williams Jr. with the ribbon-cutting during dedication ceremonies held at the downtown campus. The building was named the Avon N. Williams Jr. Campus during the ceremony.

47. The highlight of the spring 1987 commencement ceremony was the keynote address by alumna Oprah Winfrey. Winfrey received her bachelor's degree in communication and a special recognition award during commencement. At the time Winfrey announced plans to establish the Vernon Winfrey Scholarship Fund at TSU. The fund was established with a \$50,000 donation in August 1987.

48. The cupola atop the Administration Building is a campus landmark. It is a highly recognizable symbol of the university.

I assure you that it is a real honor for me to greet you on behalf of more than 25,000 alumni throughout the United States of America and in foreign countries. We, the sons and daughters of an institution that is 75 years of age and still growing, are challenged to grow with her and to assist in that growth. The University has provided us with the minimum tools, the standards and criteria to grapple head-on with the problems we face as we strive for peaceful and orderly existence.

The institution sheltered and nurtured us in truth and in search for knowledge as a mother protects her young. It is our duty to protect and nurture her now.

The University prepared us not only for

further training in the professions, but to go out and serve in our communities, our states, and the nation. As we have prospered, we want the University to prosper. When we stop for a moment to reflect on the golden opportunity provided by the University, it is terrifying to think what our lives would have been like had the administration and teachers not reached out and reached down to set us on a course that changed our lives and shaped our destiny.

We recognize the great need to support our Alma Mater as she moves toward her 100th birthday. We pledge to support the University with our gifts, our time and talents.

During the next 25 years, we envision a

comprehensive university with dynamic programs and services that are unmatched in the annals of higher education—not only for the State of Tennessee, but the nation. As we look forward to tomorrow, we see problems that need our talents and resources for solution. First, there is the need for greater unity among ourselves and the University. Second, we must work to subdue the hatred that persists among people of this nation who differ because of race, creed, or religion. In the years ahead, we will see things as they are and have the courage and wisdom to change the things we can.

Mary K. Jones

President, National Alumni Association

Twenty-five years from now, I envision Tennessee State University as having become a major, urban university with more than 20,000 students. The University will be stretching its arms to embrace the communities of Tennessee and the world with centers in surrounding counties and on foreign soil; extensive adult education programs and public service projects; and full participation in the World Health Organization. The University will be a thoroughfare for significant learning experiences for all people.

Research in recombinant DNA will have resulted in the awarding of the Nobel Prize for TSU scientists and The National Aero-

navics and Space Administration will use rocket designs and fuel specifications created by engineers at Tennessee State University.

Close ties with the corporate world will provide visiting professors, adjunct faculty and students internships and employment.

Professional degree programs will be established to include pharmacy, law and veterinary medicine. There will be doctoral level programs in physical and biological sciences and early childhood education.

The Senate will continue to be the official body representing faculty in faculty concerns. All representatives will attend regular meetings and participate in the business of

the Senate. The relationship between faculty and administration will be one of mutual respect, generated and sustained by the Senate. Impasses will be handled through moot court in the TSU School of Law.

The quest for knowledge at Tennessee State University will come to mean more than understanding various content areas and bodies of knowledge. It will include sensitivity to all people and their phenomenologies, thus the pursuit of the intrinsic joy of reaching the zenith of one's humaneness.

Anne Mitchell-Hinton
Chair, Faculty Senate

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49. The 75th Anniversary logo was designed by Ted Jones, professor of art, Tennessee State University.

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