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Gold Award-Winning Newsletter,
Tennessee College Public Relations Association

Volume 29, No. 5 • Published March 17, 2000



These young dancers from the Nashville community led the processional opening the Martin Luther King Day celebration at the university. Bernice King, activist, author and daughter of the late civil rights leader, lectured on the TSU campus in late February. See related stories, pages 1 and 4.

 **TENNESSEE**
STATE *University*

IN THIS ISSUE: update on NCAA certification and sanctions . . . new chancellor of Tennessee Board of Regents . . . College of Agriculture and College of Business's teamwork with entrepreneurs . . . features on recent speakers . . . College of Education's national rankings

ACCENT

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Learning from the stones

"Let's spend the next few minutes in class, since we're on a college campus," said the Rev. Dr. George T. Brooks Sr., to an estimated 3,500 listeners in TSU's Gentry Center for the annual Martin Luther King Day convocation. Brooks's keynote address followed a city-wide march of thousands down Jefferson Street to Tennessee State University.

Nashville's Martin Luther King Day celebration is reputed to be among the largest, most highly attended in the nation. Festivities began with a breakfast at Cleveland Street Baptist Church on Jan. 1 and ended with a banquet on Jan. 20 in TSU's Kean Hall.

Residents from throughout Middle Tennessee participated in Nashville's march. Little did they realize it would lead them to a "classroom" while schools were closed for the holiday.

"Though we're on a college campus and there are many professors here to teach us, let's not take our lesson from them," Brooks said. "Instead, let's call forth some stones to teach us our lesson."

Brooks then read from biblical scripture of the Israelites' crossing of the Jordan River centuries ago. As the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the water, it "piled up in a heap" behind them, allowing the Israelites to cross on dry land. A member of each tribe was directed to pick up a stone from the riverbed and use it to build an altar on the other side. The purpose? To provide a reminder to future generations that Israel had crossed the river on dry ground.

Brooks explained that Americans today have stones they can behold from 1968, the year Martin Luther King Jr. died in his quest for civil rights. First, he said, the stones showed God is a miracle-worker. "He parted the waters for Israel. And he performed miracles for this nation through a black preacher named Martin Luther King."

Second, Brooks said, the stones showed that God helps the helpless. The Israelites could not have crossed the Jordan without God's help,

and black Americans could not have realized their civil rights without God's use of King and other brave Americans.

Third, God's patience was demonstrated in the stones—and in Martin Luther King Jr. "We must also have patience in our continuing struggles. Don't forget, God has eternity on his side, and he has time to remove the hinderers from his way," Brooks said.

Fourth, "God holds special blessings in store for his children and he keeps his children for the blessings," Brooks said. The incident at the Jordan River followed the Israelites' 40-year wandering in the desert. Just as God

prepared the Promised Land for those who remained faithful to the end, God prepared blessings for the children of the faithful in the civil rights movement. "Forty years ago, we swept the floors at Coca-Cola. Now a black woman is vice president at Coca-Cola."

The fifth lesson the stones teach us, Brooks said, is that the word of God opens the way for new levels of living. As the Israelites crossed the riverbed, they passed the priests holding the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Ten Commandments. Today, Brooks said, victory belongs to those who uphold the word of God. "If you want to continue the legacy left by

Martin Luther King Jr., you must remember that the battle is not a matter of justice and equality—it's a spiritual battle."

And last, the stones teach us that God's works are worth remembering. "That's why we're here today," Brooks said.

Also highlighting the convocation was the reading of a proclamation by Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, and a presentation by the Rev. Marcel Kellar, who presented scholarships from the College Trust Fund to representatives from Nashville's four historically black colleges and universities. "I love TSU. I love TSU," he said, explaining that an aunt, his wife, and a daughter had all graduated from Tennessee State University. More

important, his brother lost his life in the pond once located where Holland Hall stands today.

TSU President James Hefner told the audience that he hoped the spirit of the day's celebration would endure.

"It is our responsibility to live up to the dream of Dr. King and the other visionaries who came before us. We should enjoy today's activities but remember, as the national theme says, it is "a day on—not a day off."

"You must remember that the battle is not a matter of justice and equality—it's a spiritual battle."

-George Brooks, MLK Day speaker



Above: Nashville Vice Mayor Ronnie Steine (left), TSU President James Hefner, and Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell lead the procession to Gentry Center for the MLK Day convocation.



The Rev. Dr. George T. Brooks "teaches" his lesson to students and citizens, who took "A Day On, Not a Day Off."

In the background: Following tradition, marchers converge on the TSU campus after walking down Jefferson Street.

University responds to NCAA decision

Tennessee State University has accepted the penalties imposed by the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions to address violations committed by the university, many of which support TSU's own initiative in self-penalization.

The penalties place the university on probation for three years effective Jan. 5, reduce grants-in-aid for various sports programs at the university, and decrease the number of official paid visits for football for the next two academic years to 36. TSU had previously decreased the number of official paid visits to 38 and made initial reductions in grants-in-aid. While the penalties also prohibited L.C. Cole from making off-campus recruiting visits, they will not affect James Reese, the new head football coach who succeeded Cole when he took the head coaching position at Alabama State University Jan. 13. (See related story below.)

"We are pleased that the NCAA was largely satisfied with the corrective action TSU already has taken to strengthen the infrastructure that supports our student-athletes," said TSU President James A. Hefner.

The decision completes a two-year process of investigation and self-reporting launched by NCAA inquiries. In June 1999, university officials submitted a comprehensive response to the NCAA, indicating violations it had discovered and steps taken to correct them. The NCAA accepted those actions and imposed additional restrictions by the Committee on Infractions. The NCAA report cites violations of regulations governing financial aid, recruiting, extra benefits, institutional control, and ethical conduct.

To strengthen institutional control, the university placed the athletics department directly under the auspices of the president's office for several months. Additionally, the university will continue to develop and implement a comprehensive education program on NCAA legislation and submit periodic reports to the

NCAA. The reduced grants-in-aid affect the university's men's golf program through the 2000-01 academic year, men's tennis through 2001-02, and football through 2002-03. The TSU football program did not incur any additional penalties from the NCAA beyond those self-imposed by the university.

"Obviously, if we had not fully and honestly reported problems in our athletics program, many of them would not have surfaced, and it is likely that, when revealed, the NCAA's sanctions would have been more severe," said Hefner. "The fact that we so thoroughly reviewed our program and took extensive measures to enhance its areas of weakness demonstrates that we, indeed, have established a strong, effective system for monitoring and maintaining strict accountability of our athletics program."

"The fact that we self-reported violations and implemented our own corrective actions and sanctions strengthens the idea that we have an effective system of institutional control in place."

"The penalties taken by the university were extensive," said Jack Friedenthal, professor of law at George Washington University and chair of the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions, during an NCAA telephone news conference. "[TSU] did a thorough job...[and] took a number of substantial corrective actions."

James Smith, TSU's director of athletics, suggested that the overall team effort that has led to improvements in the athletics program can translate into the entire university community.

"What have we learned?" Smith asked. "The lesson is, if you plan, organize and work together, then Tennessee State University is going to be just fine. Yes, it's going to be tough, but if we're going to be a great university, it's time to pull together for the betterment of all."

NCAA grants TSU certification

In another recent, yet separate, process, the NCAA has fully certified TSU. According to the NCAA officials, the purpose of the certification program is "to ensure integrity in the institution's athletics operations and to assist athletics departments in improving their programs," and indicates that an institution operates its athletics program in "substantial conformity" with NCAA Division I principles.

The certification program is separate from the NCAA's enforcement program, which "investigates that member institutions have violated NCAA rules." Being certified "does not exempt an institution from concurrent or subsequent enforcement proceedings," according to a statement released by the intercollegiate association. The certification program "examines the athletics department's governance and commitment to rules compliance, academic and fiscal integrity and commitment to equity." It begins with an institutional self-study, followed by a peer evaluation. Peer administrators report to the NCAA Committee of Athletics Certification, which renders a final decision.

"I cannot emphasize how rare it is for the NCAA to fully certify an institution on the first visit," said TSU President James A. Hefner. "TSU may be one of the few institutions in the United States, certainly within the Ohio Valley Conference, to be certified without conditions."

REESE NAMED HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

James Reese, a member of Tennessee State University's football coaching staff since 1991, was named head football coach Jan. 20. He replaces L.C. Cole, who accepted the head coaching position at Alabama State University Jan. 13.

"It is a dream come true," said Reese at a news conference officially announcing his appointment. "I am going to do the best I can to carry on the rich tradition that TSU already has established." That tradition includes the team's No. 1 national ranking in NCAA Division I-AA to end the 1999 regular season and its second consecutive Ohio Valley Conference championship.

"There have been a lot of people who have laid the tracks here before me and I believe I'm up to the challenge of keeping this program at a very high level," Reese said. He has worked under three TSU football coaches in his career: Joe Gilliam Sr., Bill Davis and L.C. Cole. He shared that from Gilliam, he learned "the importance of strong hands and expecting nothing but the best." From Davis, he learned "the importance of

getting out into the community and talking to people." And from Cole, he learned "how to be a leader and be strong enough to surround yourself with other good people."

Reese served as the Tigers' offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for the 1999 season. A native Nashvillian, Reese began his coaching career at TSU as a graduate assistant. From 1992 to 1998, he served as running backs coach. He also has played a primary role in recruiting, serving as the recruiting coordinator from 1994 to 1995 and from 1997 to 1999. While a student at TSU, he lettered in football for three years, from 1988 to 1990, as a fullback.

"James Reese offers a unique selling point to recruits, showing them you can come to TSU and be successful as a student-athlete and later professionally as a coach," said Smith. "He will do an outstanding job of carrying the torch of the TSU football program."

Reese graduated from Nashville's Whites Creek High School. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from TSU in 1991 and his master's degree in educational administration and supervision in 1995.



James Reese, a member of the TSU football coaching staff, now wears the hat of head coach.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

FEATURED IN NATIONAL REPORT

TSU's College of Education is a top producer of African-American graduates at the master's and doctoral levels, according to rankings released by *Black Issues in Higher Education*.

The magazine's annual special report, "Top 100 Degree Producers," highlights those institutions which grant the most degrees to African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans and Hispanic Americans. In the 1999 report, TSU shares a 10th-place ranking with Harvard for the number of doctoral degrees in education awarded to African Americans; TSU ranks 26th for the number of master's degrees awarded to African Americans.

"Since 1992, the total number of degrees conferred at U.S. institutions has increased by about 25 percent. During this same time period, the number of degrees conferred [on] minorities has almost doubled," said Victor M.H. Borden, director of information management and institutional research at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, who compiled the data for the report. Borden based the report on data from the 1996-97 academic year, provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

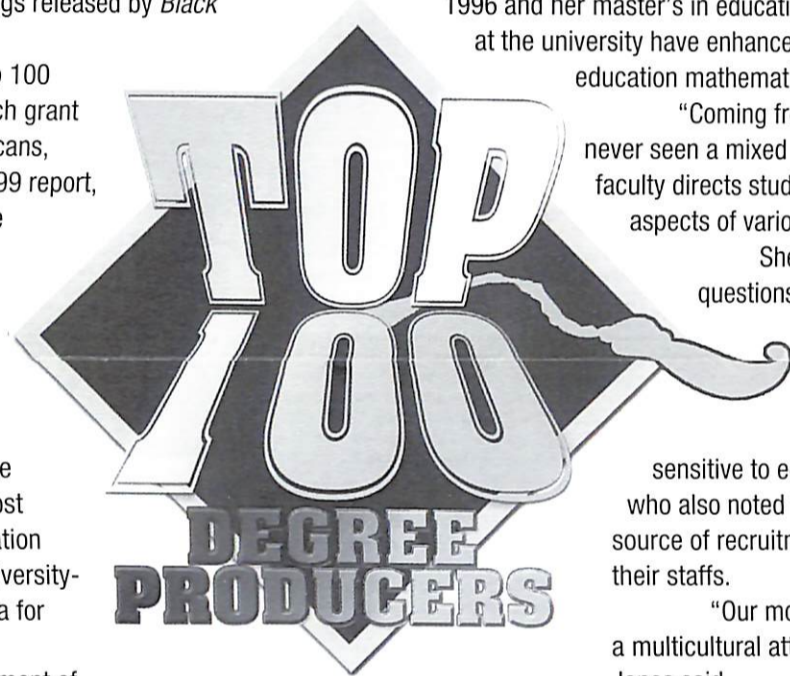
What factors have contributed to TSU's success in graduating African-American educators? According to Franklin Jones, dean of the College of Education, an outstanding reputation, commitment to multiculturalism, and dedication to the development of talented teachers have been key to preparing qualified educators and educational administrators for careers.

"We enjoy a reputation for producing high-quality teachers. We have highly credentialed faculty, who are very visible in their profession. Our professors are widely published and have a reputation for being highly competent," Jones said. He added that the professors in TSU's College of Education remain engaged in the lives of their students and active in professional organizations, where they form relationships critical to the recruitment of students to the university and of graduates into key positions in America's schools.

In his sixth annual State of American Education address, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley noted the importance of dynamic faculty in colleges of education and of developing curricula that reflect the input of other areas of the academy.

"The 21st century . . . will be an education century, of that I am sure. Our colleges of education can no longer be the sleepy backwaters that many of them have been. There must be greater collaboration [with the colleges] from all parts of the university community," Riley said.

In his more recent seventh annual address (Feb. 22), Riley said, "The challenge of the modern classroom is its increasing diversity and the skills that this diversity requires of teachers." According to Jones, the TSU campus environment, with its overall diverse population, complements the college's multicultural perspective. "We offer a strong diversity component," he said, noting that global education, or "education for global activities," is becoming "more distinct as a discipline."



Lisa Currie, who received her bachelor's degree in education from TSU in 1996 and her master's in education in 1997, said that her multicultural experiences at the university have enhanced her teaching career. She now teaches special education mathematics at Nashville's Isaac Litton Middle School.

"Coming from Gary, Ind., which is predominantly black, I had never seen a mixed classroom before," Currie said, adding that the faculty directs students in developing lesson plans that include aspects of various cultures.

She also said, "The faculty was open to answering questions and made me feel very comfortable. Classes were structured, but not rigid. The program left a lot of room for my daily life. It taught me things I need to know."

"We reach out to minorities, and we are sensitive to economics and gender issues as well," said Jones, who also noted that the TSU College of Education has "become a source of recruitment" for schools seeking minority graduates to join their staffs.

"Our motto is 'Caring and competent professionals with a multicultural attitude.' People pick up on that caring attitude," Jones said.

PHOTO OP



Evelyn Fancher (seated, center) and TSU First Lady Edwina Hefner (standing, left) of the Nashville Chapter of LINKS, Inc., present scholarship awards to undergraduate education students Rayna Robinson (seated, left) and Kelly Morgan (seated, right). Joining them are Franklin Jones (standing, center) dean of the College of Education, and Evelyn White, associate dean. TSU ranks high nationally among the top 100 producers of African-American graduates in education at the master's and doctoral levels.

New chancellor for TBR system

The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) has named Charles Manning the sixth chancellor of the TBR higher education system. He succeeds Charles Smith, who retired from the post in January.

Manning has served for the last 10 years as chief executive officer of the University System of West Virginia, the flagship system of higher education in West Virginia. As its first chancellor, Manning has



Charles Manning

increased the resource base for the system substantially, selected presidents for each university in the system, and guided the board into becoming an effective leadership engine.

Under Manning's leadership, West Virginia rose to 13th among the states in public investment in higher education per capita. He also has served as executive vice chancellor of the

Oklahoma higher education system and deputy director for the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

Manning earned his bachelor of arts degree in chemistry from Western Maryland College and his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Maryland. He also has completed post-doctoral work in chemistry at the Institute für Anorganische und Kernchemie, Johannes Gutenberg Universität.

"The Tennessee Board of Regents' system plays a large role in improving the lives and opportunities of Tennesseans across the entire state. I am eager to have the opportunity to lead the system to levels of even greater service to the State of Tennessee and its people," Manning said.

Manning will join the TBR on April 1. Until then Sidney McPhee, vice chancellor for academic affairs, is serving as acting chancellor.

An unconditional mandate

"I have an assignment today. I am here today on a mandate from God."

-The Rev.
Bernice King

The Rev. Bernice King, daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., visited Tennessee State University Feb. 22, addressing a standing-room-only audience in Thomas E. Poag Auditorium as part of the 1999-2000 Distinguished Lecture Series sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs and Title III. The author and civil rights activist held her listeners rapt with each word.

"You've all heard that 'a mind is a terrible thing to waste,' but I say that a heart is a terrible thing to waste; a spirit is a terrible thing to waste. I say that because you are more than a mind; you are mind, you are heart, and you are spirit," King said.

King then explained that unconditional love was the one ingredient that would feed all three units of a human being.

"Until we grasp the notion of God as the God of unconditional love, we will continue to suffer as a society," King said.

In her father's day, King said, there were three ills threatening America: poverty, racism, and war (or violence). She believes those threats continue today, thriving on the work of three "vicious spirits": a spirit of elitism, a spirit of materialism or greed, and a spirit of selfishness or fear. Unconditional love, she said, would defeat these spirits.

King said elitism was behind all racism, classism, sexism, and tribalistic conflict worldwide. "It is that spirit," she said, "that says, 'I am better than you.'" It implies that one entity is better than another, and it leads to feelings of superiority—and inferiority.



"I know what I'm talking about," King said. "I have been around the world. I have met Nelson Mandela. I have been in the White House. And I still struggle with an inferiority complex. It started when I was a little girl and saw the only thing my people were good for in the history books was slavery.

"I am for integration, but not at the sake of equal exchange. Until we have equal exchange between the races, we do not have integration. And let me set the record straight today at Tennessee State University: my father understood this. He was not a sell-out."

King said the spirit of greed and materialism killed her father.

"My father wasn't killed because he wanted black people and white people to hold hands and get along. He was killed because he understood the need for a redistribution of wealth," King said. Money-worship has power over America, she said, and it is slowly killing our country like a cancer. Children don't see their parents because they're on a treadmill chasing the dollar. King also said materialism, not altruism, is behind the angry music played on the airwaves. "Money isn't supposed to work you; you're supposed to work it," she said.

The spirit of selfishness is really the spirit of fear, King explained.

"Most of us are afraid to let go and share and care for others because we're afraid we'll have to give up something we're really wedded to.

"My father understood the spirit of selflessness. He could have been at an Ivy League school or a big suburban church. But he knew true love seeks not its own. When selflessness rules the heart, you don't lose. You gain."

King closed with a story of selflessness, which recounts a visitor's journey through heaven. An angel showed two sumptuous banquets. At one table, despite the plentiful, exotic foods before them, the guests sat starving, longing to eat. At the other table, everyone was joyful, eating and feasting happily. The angel explained the difference between the two feasts: everyone had to eat using "heavenly utensils"—which were ten feet long. The satisfied banqueters were using the long forks and spoons to feed their fellow banqueters across the table and no one went without.

"If you understand unconditional love," King said, "you won't suffer from low self-esteem. You won't go hungry. Everyone will be taken care of.

"Feed one another, children.

"Walk together, children.

"Don't get weary, children. Then we will all be free at last; thank God almighty, we'll be free at last."

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
SACS
REAFFIRMATION
VISIT

APRIL 17-20, 2000

A committee appointed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools will be on campus to evaluate the university for continued accreditation.

Agribusiness OUTREACH

They are family farms, mom-and-pop stores and the perfect places for Sunday afternoon drives. They are America's rural towns, rich with history and in need of new ways to grow economically. Several individuals from Tennessee State University are trying to make sure that happens for some communities in Tennessee and Mississippi.

"As we enter the 21st century, the economic environment of rural communities is rapidly changing. Rural communities are struggling for survival. If they are to remain productive contributors to the U.S. economy, they must implement programs to promote and encourage business development," said Ruthie Reynolds, Frist professor of entrepreneurship in TSU's College of Business.

Reynolds and Surendra Singh, professor of agribusiness and researcher in the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program, are leading TSU's efforts to stimulate the development of small businesses in traditionally agricultural and other natural resources-dependent communities. Singh and Reynolds have implemented programs funded by a \$100,000 grant for rural business and cooperative service from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, awarded for 1998-99. They, along with other faculty, staff members and graduate assistants, have been conducting research and providing training and consultation for citizens interested in establishing and operating their own small businesses. The program is continuing with a renewed grant from the USDA for \$200,000.

"These initiatives will energize entrepreneurs and those with a dream of owning a business," said Reynolds. "We are providing practical solutions for common problems."

In cooperation with local chambers of commerce and other organizations, TSU personnel are conducting town meetings, seminars and workshops that address community needs and assist in identifying resources available at state and federal levels—all in an effort "to facilitate bringing diverse individuals and groups together to create cooperative solutions for problems and to promote dynamic business environments."

Participants in the program have received information on such topics as development of business plans, management, marketing, accounting, finance, taxes, computers and technology. Leaders provide individual consultation for those with specific concerns. With the help of David Seivers, state director, and Lee Loveless, rural business specialist, of the USDA's Rural Development office, Reynolds and Singh have identified counties that could benefit from initiating and preserving quality enterprises. Thus far, the TSU team has been serving the towns of Bolivar and Whiteville in

Hardeman County, Morristown in Hamblen County, and communities in Grundy County, Tenn., and West Point in Clay County, Miss. Among the many success stories resulting from the program's launch is a woman in Bolivar's initiation of a restaurant-type venture. She continues to receive support from TSU experts.

"Our service is unique; we hand-carry our clients through the system," said Reynolds, who added that the rural business cooperative is expanding from these areas into satellite locations. Having spent the fall 1999 semester planning, the TSU staff now is initiating new activities and building on existing programs.

Reynolds said that plans include establishing peer-lending programs, where aspiring entrepreneurs can receive "micro-loans," allowing "people in communities to manage money themselves"—

for the benefit of all parties involved in the process. Another new component the USDA funding will support in the new year is a program for youth in the rural areas surrounding Nashville, whereby TSU representatives will go into schools and encourage and support ongoing entrepreneurial activities.

Several individuals from local-government and civic agencies have assisted the TSU team in its outreach effort.

"Town meetings and workshops would not have been as successful if it had not been for the enthusiasm and support of local organizations," said Reynolds. "Each county liaison was helpful in identifying and promoting entrepreneurs. The mission of the USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service is to enhance the quality of life for rural Americans by providing leadership in building competitive businesses. Our current and continued relationships with community leaders in rural areas are exemplary of that mission."

Serving as county liaisons are Carol Gill of the Hardeman Chamber of Commerce, Jammie Foster of the Tennessee Technology Center in Whiteville. Henry Berry of the North Mississippi Center for Higher

Educational Advancement, Anita Ricker of Walters State Community College in Morristown, Toby Pearson Douglas of the Cherokee Economic Authority, and Don Woods of the East Tennessee Development District. Other participants from TSU include Martha Cowan, Gladys Jones, Yosief Sebhatu, Godwin Udo and Jerry Plummer.

"The most promising aspect of this project was the commitment of all who were involved," Singh said. "So many different organizations were involved, but their common goal was to strengthen their communities. I am hopeful that more partnerships between urban and rural areas will be established."



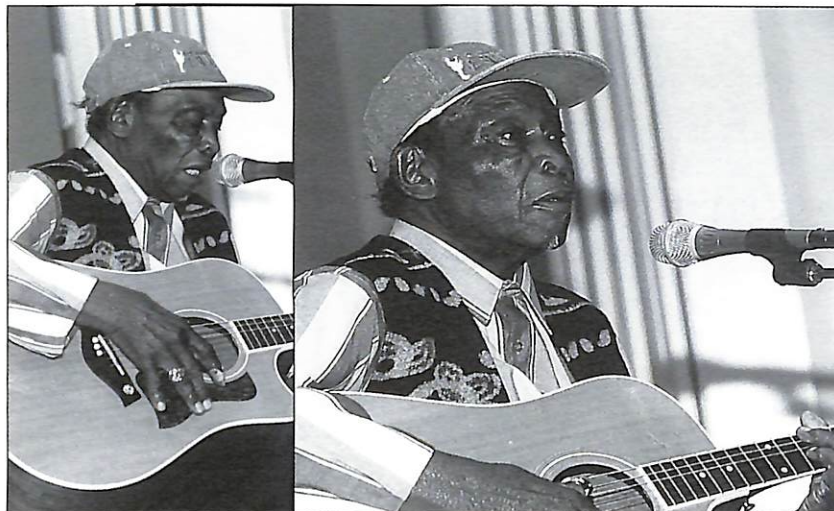
Potential entrepreneurs in a meeting in Bolivar, Tenn., sponsored by TSU and the Hardeman County Chamber of Commerce.



Bolivar, Tennessee, residents chat about the business of starting a business.

PHOTO OP

An evening with David "Honeyboy" Edwards



*Legendary blues recording artist David "Honeyboy" Edwards performed at TSU Feb. 18. Edwards, who has played in concert with Muddy Waters, Dizzy Gillespie, Van Morrison, Foghat and other musical stars, published *The World Don't Owe Me Nothing: The Life and Times of Delta Bluesman Honeyboy Edwards* in 1997. The event was sponsored by the TSU Department of Music and Music City Blues, a local organization designed to promote, preserve and advance the culture and tradition of blues music.*

FOLLOWING THE FIRE

Vincent Harding, author, educator, civil rights activist, and co-chair of the Center for the Study of Religion and Democratic Renewal at the University of Denver, opened his remarks at TSU Feb. 1 by noting he had deliberately chosen the date for his lecture. His was the fifth in the university's 1999-2000 Distinguished Lecture Series, sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs and Title III.

"I came today not because of the Titans' Music City Miracle," he said, drawing applause for his reference to Tennessee's near-win in Superbowl XXXIV. "I came because I remember the past." Forty years before—to the day—in Greensboro, N.C., four freshmen from North Carolina A&T State University decided to defy Woolworth's institutionalized system of segregation by ordering food at a whites-only lunch counter.

"It was a system that said, 'You are less-than-full men and women, so you're not going to sit next to us and occupy the same human spaces.' Their action was not about hamburgers. It was about human dignity."

Harding applauded the students' decision to "say no to the U.S.-approved system of desegregation, to a nation schizophrenic about democracy." He said that the young people who participated knew they had chosen a dangerous course but also knew they could take none other because "inside them burned a fire."

"And this is what happens when people follow the fire of integrity within them: they get cleansed." He quoted Franklin McCain, one of the

original protesters of Feb. 1, 1960: "If it's possible to know what it's like to have your soul cleansed, that's what I felt that day."

The cleansing fire spread all over the South, including, of course, Nashville, and through students from TSU and other historically black institutions in the city. Students prepared for action, taking "workshops on humiliation," learning beforehand what it was like to be spat upon and cursed without striking back. They risked their careers, their very lives, to be spat upon at a white lunch counter.

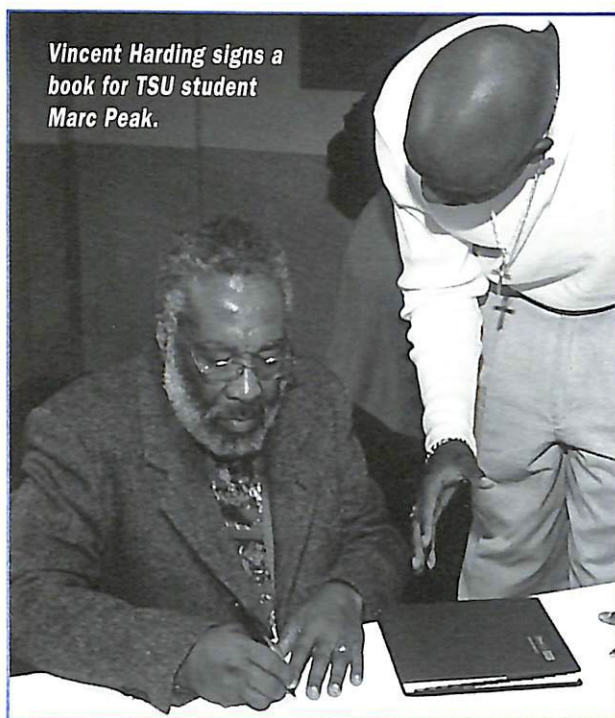
"The students of February 1960 did that *for us*. For their children, their grandchildren, and their great-grandchildren. They took the bloody beatings and went to jail *for us* because inside them burned a fire.

"And because they sat at a lunch counter 40 years ago, we sit here today. Because of what they did in 1960, Steve McNair was a quarterback in the Superbowl in 2000. Forty years ago, if someone had said there'd be a black quarterback in the

NFL, we would have said it was absolutely impossible!

"It wasn't the great colleges and universities of America that made this transformation, but it was your mamas and aunties and uncles and people you don't even know who had a fire burning within them."

He added, "We need more African Americans in service organizations like the Peace Corps and Teach for America. Service should be integral to the community. I assure you, serve and you will discover the fire."



Alumni establish *Margaret C. Whitfield* Endowment Fund

Tennessee State University, in conjunction with the TSU National Alumni Association, has initiated the Margaret C. Whitfield Endowment Fund. Whitfield recently retired as director of alumni relations at the university after nine years of service.

Robert Smith, president of the Tennessee State University Alumni Association, calls Whitfield "a lifesaver," who gave the alumni relations office "direction, cohesion, and organization in the programs and activities for the alumni."

"Her leadership elevated the role of alumni relations and galvanized the National Alumni Association as well as the university," he said.

"The fund is a great tribute for what she has done for Tennessee State University and its alumni," said Michelle Viera, interim associate director of alumni relations. "Students have benefited from her guidance and teaching for several years. An endowment in her name is just another way students will continue to benefit for years to come."



Whitfield graduated from Tennessee State University in 1955. After teaching Spanish in Mississippi for two years, Whitfield returned to Nashville and began teaching Spanish and English at Meigs School. In 1960, she returned to TSU to earn a master's in Spanish and became one of the first black teachers at Antioch High School. Over the years, she held various positions with the TSU Alumni Association, including two terms as executive secretary. She retired from teaching in 1988 and in 1990 she became director of alumni relations.

"This is truly a great honor," said Whitfield. "I always say a university is as strong as the alumni who support it. The TSU Alumni Association has always supported me and the activities and programs my office initiated. This endowment will assist students who want to come to TSU, graduate, and continue the rich tradition the alumni have already set forth. I am proud to have my name associated with it."

For information about donating to the Margaret C. Whitfield Endowment Fund, call alumni relations at 615-963-5831.

university notables

Departmental and organizational news

The **Department of History, Geography and Political Science** is hosting the following lectures this semester:

March 22 **Jessie Carney Smith**, author, university librarian, and William and Camille Cosby Professor in the Humanities at Fisk University
"African-American Women Agitators in the Professions and Beyond"

April 12 **John Geer**, professor of political science at Vanderbilt University
"What This Country Needs are More Attack Ads"

Lectures begin at noon in the Hill Chemistry Auditorium of the Boswell Science Complex. They are free and open to the public.

The **Office of International Business Programs** continues its "Windows onto the World" series with "TSU Goes to South Africa," featuring **Sam Comer** and **Surendra Singh**, professors in the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program, who will discuss TSU's collaboration with Technikon Northwest, a higher education institution in South Africa, following a luncheon and video presentation. The event takes place March 22 at noon in Room 320 of the Avon Williams campus. Call 963-7154 for more information.

The **Brown-Daniel Library** is featuring works by local artist R. Lafayette Mitchell in its Art Corner, located on the first floor of the main library. Mitchell's work includes paintings of poet Nikki Giovanni, singer Gladys Knight, entertainer Nat King Cole and comedian Bill Cosby. The exhibit continues through April 1.

Research, presentations and publications

An article by **Millicent Lownes-Jackson**, associate dean of the College of Business, and **Gerda Gallop-Goodman**, "Flying Solo: How to Build a Profitable Enterprise," appears in the January issue of *Black Enterprise* magazine.

Salem Press has selected five articles by **Jane C. Norman**, professor of nursing, for publication in a reference book to be published this year. Topics for the articles pertain to aging and retirement.

Bobby Lovett, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, presented "Historians and Public History" at the Tennessee Historians Conference at the Tennessee State Museum. His book, *The African-American History of Nashville 1780-1930: Elites and Dilemmas*, was published recently.

John Williams, associate professor of education, served as a guest speaker for African-American History Month at North Carolina Wesleyan University. He also conducted a workshop, "Chapter Management of Fraternities and Sororities," at the university.

Honors, awards and achievements

Eric Doss, psychologist, has been appointed to the board of directors of the National Society for Experiential Education.

Marion Anema, dean of the School of Nursing, has been selected by Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society for nursing, to serve as a distinguished writer. In that role, she will conduct workshops and serve as a mentor for nursing educators who want to develop their writing and publishing skills.

Diana Poe, instructor of music and director of the Showstoppers, again served as conductor of the Celebration Chorus, an ensemble of singers from more than three dozen area churches, for the Nashville Symphony's annual Let Freedom Ring Concert, a tribute to the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

TSU President **James A. Hefner**, along with the presidents of Nashville's other historically black institutions, received the Drum Major Award from the city's Interdenominational Ministers' Fellowship, for efforts to enhance educational opportunities for African-American students.

We remember

Clementine O. Hamilton, widow of the late David A. Hamilton, former dean of the TSU School of Agriculture and Home Economics, died Feb. 8 in San Antonio, Texas.

Founders' Day and Academic Awards Convocation

March 30
10 a.m., Kean Hall

Olympian and Tigerbelle Mae Faggs Starr dies

Mae Faggs Starr, the original Tigerbelle of Tennessee State University's famed women's track program, died of cancer Jan. 27 in Cincinnati.

Starr, 67, was the first female track athlete recruited by legendary coach Ed Temple in 1952. By then, Starr had participated in two Olympics and was just 20.

Temple called Starr the "mother of the Tigerbelles" and "the athlete that put the Tigerbelles on the map."

The native of Bayside, N.Y., earned the distinction of being the first woman from the United States to participate in three Olympics: the 1948 games

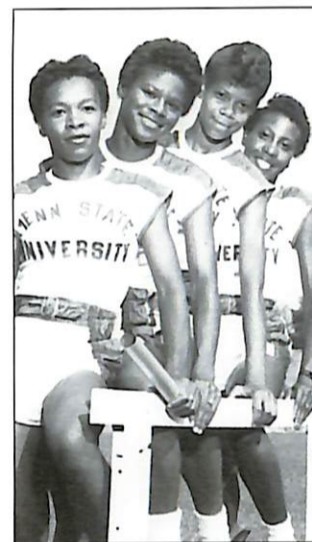
in London, the 1952 games in Helsinki, and the 1956 games in Melbourne. She won a gold medal in the 4x100 relay in Helsinki, setting a world record. She also won a bronze medal in the 4x100 in Melbourne. Starr once said the runners on TSU's women's track team "felt that we were the best. It wasn't cockiness; it was confidence."

Starr was a member of the AAU All-American track team from 1954 to

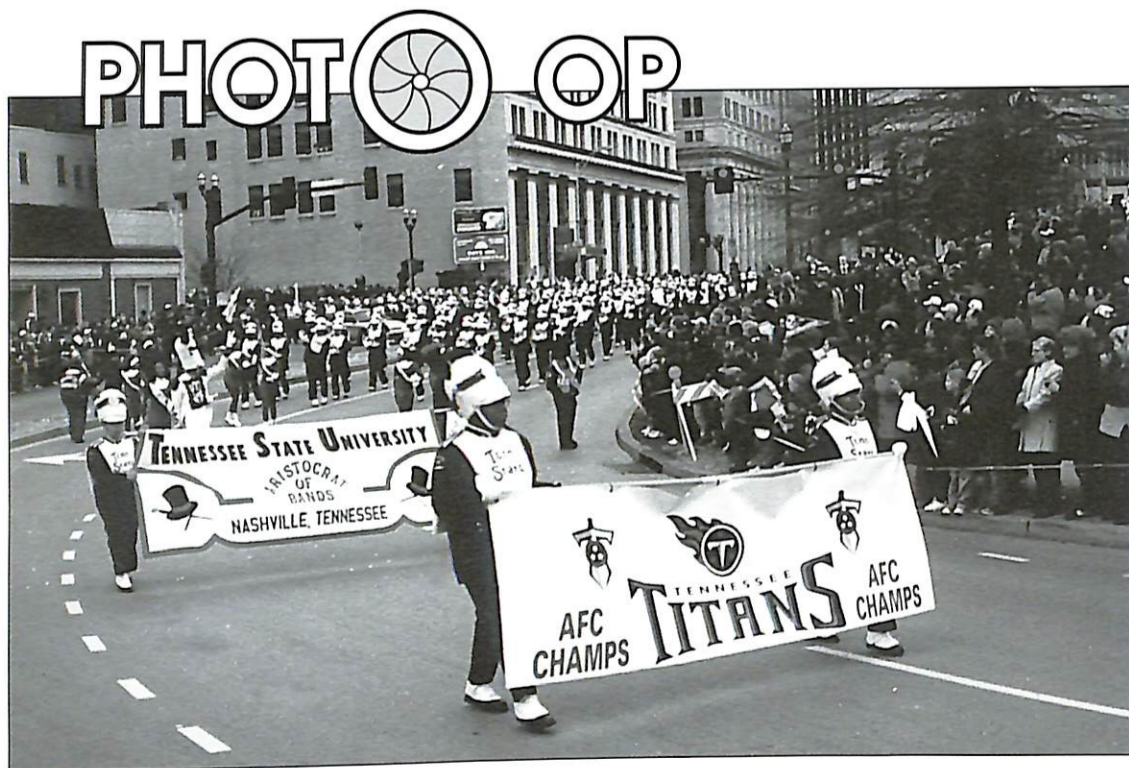
1956. She won the AAU 200-meter dash from 1954 to 1956 and also won an indoor 200-meter AAU title in 1952.

Starr moved to Cincinnati in 1957, beginning her 32-year teaching career at Lockland Wayne High School. She later taught at Robert E. Lucas Intermediate School and Princeton High School. She earned her master's degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1972. In 1989, she coached the Princeton High School women's track team to the Ohio state championship in its division and received state coach of the year honors.

Starr was inducted into the TSU Sports Hall of Fame in 1983 and into the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame in 1996. She was a member of the Lincoln Heights Missionary Baptist Church and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



"Mother Tigerbelle" Mae Faggs Starr (left) with her relay teammates, Isabelle Daniels Holston, Wilma Rudolph and Lucinda Williams Adams.



The Tennessee State Aristocrat of Bands paraded for tens of thousands of Tennessee Titans fans celebrating the AFC-championship season of the NFL team. The city held the parade Feb. 1, two days after the Titans played in Super Bowl XXXIV.

Quotable QUOTES

It's victory over desires and disunity.
-**Amiri YaSin Al-Hadid**
department head, Africana Studies, on Ramadan,
at the celebration of Eid al-Fitr at Tennessee State University,
an event some 4,000 local Muslims attended

Art is the tangible proof of our inner life.
-**Nancy C. Hall**
featured artist in the
Hiram Van Gordon Memorial Art Gallery

The reason we're here today is because we're free.
The problem is a lot of people don't know it.
-**The Rev. George Brooks Sr.**
pastor of St. James Missionary Baptist Church
in Nashville, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day
convocation at TSU

Several told me they didn't believe a woman
could do this job, which is fine; that's their opinion.
But once you get the door open, you can kick it
wide open.
-**Trina Weathersbee**
carpenter in the TSU Physical Plant, from an article
in the Cookeville *Herald-Citizen*

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GRAPHIC DESIGN: David G. Lowry
PRINTING: Ambrose Printing
Publication No. TSU-00-0004(B)-13b-267007

MARCH IS *Women's History Month*



Creation Myth, oil on canvas
Natchez Trace series: Seneca
by Nancy C. Hall
from her recent exhibit in the
Hiram Van Gordon Memorial
Art Gallery

Artist's commentary:

*"This is the story of the
Woman who Fell from the
Sky. The first woman is told
by her husband, the first man,
never to look below the clouds
they inhabit. One day her
curiosity gets the better of her
and she loses her balance and
begins to fall. Creator places
the gift of all life within her
body and she falls into a great
body of water, releasing all life
forms we have today."*