

## Meter Editor Meets President Clinton

*Graduating senior Nadine Bewry attends College Media Day at the White House and hears the latest on important issues*

Nadine Bewry, editor-in-chief of *The Meter*, Tennessee State University's student newspaper, was invited to the White House March 23 to participate in College Media Day.

Bewry, along with 150 other college newspaper editors and their sponsors, attended a news conference with President Clinton in his official press room. Flanked by Donna Shalala, secretary of health and human services, Richard Riley, secretary of education, and Press Secretary Mike McCurry, the President fielded questions from the editors, which ranged from the future funding of higher education and his working relationship with the Congress to affirmative action and the role of diversity in today's America.

When asked how he plans to stop Congress from capping direct loans, cutting Pell grants or requiring students to pay interest on their loans while they are in college, the President hailed the recent passing of the bipartisan unfunded mandates bill, which, he said, "limits the ability of Congress to pass laws that require state and



*Nadine Bewry, editor-in-chief of TSU's Meter student newspaper, had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet the President of the United States and hear his answers to questions concerning education and other relevant issues. Bewry is a graduating senior, majoring in biology.*

local governments to raise taxes or otherwise pay for things that we require."

President Clinton added, "I also believe that this government should invest in your future and in your capacity to contribute and live up to the fullest of your abilities. Therefore, I support more investments in education and technology and training and empowering people to make the most of their own

lives."

When asked for his thoughts on the review of the nation's affirmative action policy, the President reminded the college editors of the range of programs affected by the mandates of affirmative action, including admissions to colleges, availability of financial aid to schools, admissions to work-

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## NASA's Kennedy Space Center Explores Research Possibilities at TSU

Officials from NASA's Kennedy Space Center recently visited students and faculty in Tennessee State University's College of Engineering and Technology. The NASA staff spent a day on campus talking with students about the Center's activities and learning about the College's progressive research programs, in hopes of finding ways to develop research partnerships with the University.



*Jay Honeycutt (right), director of NASA's Kennedy Space Center, and his staff recently visited TSU's College of Engineering and Technology to explore potential research and employment venues. With him is Decatur Rogers, dean of the College.*

Jay Honeycutt, director of the space center, said he and his staff will try to support TSU by offering faculty and students research opportunities and selecting students for cooperative education programs and employment. Honeycutt said the staff would return to Florida and "go back to our front-line directors to match their problems with TSU's capabilities."

"We have listened to presentations on your research program. You certainly have great capabilities. If they match with our needs, we will pursue funding for research projects."

According to Decatur Rogers, dean of TSU's College

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### Quotable Quotes

*"I don't believe we need to trade in our future for what is a pitiful amount on the deficit, but will have an enormous negative symbolic and substantive impact on what we're trying to do in this country."*

-President Bill Clinton, discussing the emphases of the Administration and the Republican-majority Congress at College Media Day

*"The key to excellence is hard work."*

-Veterinarian and former Miss America Debbye Turner, at Research Day

*"When you do things out of your heart, you're not expecting any kind of praise."*

-Former faculty member Rubye Torrey, founder of TSU's University-wide Research Day

*"We are spiritual beings practicing to be human, not human beings attempting to become spiritual. Most people are not at that point, where they pay as much attention to their spiritual selves as they do their physical selves."*

-His Grace, The Most Reverend George A. Stallings Jr., archbishop and founder, Imani Temple, at the Africana Studies Grand Opening



**Andree Layton Roaf**, the first African-American woman to be appointed as associate justice on the Arkansas Supreme Court, will speak to a record number of graduates during Spring Commencement 1995. See story, page 4.

## In This Issue: A look at the TSU Honors Program, plus a review of year-end events.



*Pictured above with Sandra Holt (third from left), director of the TSU Honors Program, are honors students Kim Wall, Lee Ritscher, Hoang Nguyen, Fred Higgs and Henry Noye. Their stories and other information on honors programs appear on pages 2, 3 and 7.*



## When Fred Higgs came to TSU, he broke a family tradition. *Most of*

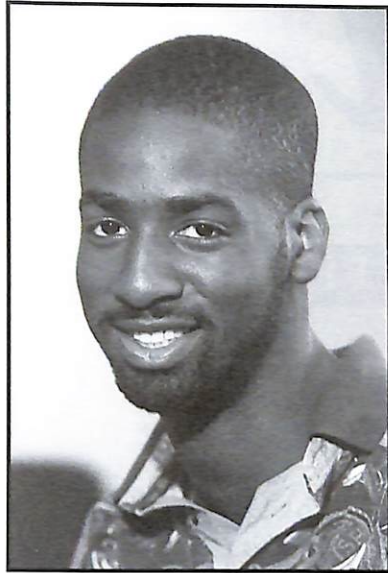
Higgs' family attended Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Fla., his hometown. In fact, Higgs graduated from the FAMU high school, but when it came time to decide on a college, he chose to go northwest about 500 miles to Tennessee State University.

Higgs had met Decatur Rogers, now dean of TSU's College of Engineering and Technology, while in high school. Higgs followed Rogers, his mentor, to TSU.

"He's constantly hard on me," said Higgs. "All my lowest marks came from him, because he was trying to get the best out of me."

After graduating with a degree in mechanical engineering this May, Higgs will head for graduate school. He has already received a fellowship from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute but has not decided exactly where he will continue his studies. Higgs wants to earn his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering and work in industry, probably in research and development. Eventually, he wants to teach at a historically black college or university (HBCU) and own his own motivational speaking business. Higgs was the winner of the 1993 Robert N. Murrell Oratorical Contest.

Although Higgs is not officially part of the Honors curriculum, he is considered a "friend of honors" because of his academic achievement. Higgs is captain of TSU's Honda Bowl team. The Honda Bowl is a program through which HBCUs compete in four regional knowledge bowls. Locally, students from various campus organizations compete and the top students comprise the TSU team. The team then competes in the regionals and winning teams from four regions battle it out for the national title. Higgs



*Fred Higgs chose TSU for its engineering program. During his undergraduate career, he has excelled as both scholar and orator.*

was one of two TSU team members to score in the top 10 for the region.

Higgs believes participation in extracurricular activities creates a welcome balance to a student's life.

"In engineering, it's easy to get isolated from the community," said Higgs, who serves as vice president of the student chapter of the NAACP and avidly reads *USA Today* and other publications to keep up with current events.

Of course, when he is buried in the halls of the Torrence Engineering Building, he has conducted cutting-edge research. For example, together with mechanical engineering faculty, he has worked on projects for NASA involving probabilistic design. He also was named a winner in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' regional technical paper contest.

## Lee Ritscher made a promise that when her daughter Carol was able to go back to school, she would, too. *Carol, her second child, was born sick and had a disability,*

so Ritscher chose to stay home with her. Lee Ritscher will complete her undergraduate degree in May, carrying a 3.97 grade-point average, having earned numerous honors, and well on her way toward becoming a college English professor. This fall, she will enter the University of Notre Dame to begin her graduate studies.

In 1979, Ritscher dropped out of high school with just six weeks to go "because it was so boring." But at her mother's urging, she earned her GED and four years ago, she chose to work on her bachelor's degree.

"I recommend TSU to anyone who wants to return to school," Ritscher said. "When I entered, I had a problem with self-esteem, being a high school dropout, but TSU has given me confidence in my own abilities."

Besides being president of the Literary Guild, vice president of the Golden Key Honor Society, and a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Ritscher also was named the University's undergraduate researcher of the year for her studies of women in literature who follow Shakespeare's Miranda archetype.

Ritscher is interested in women's studies and in Shakespeare. Among her role models are Portia from Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, "for taking on a male-dominated society and winning." She cherishes her grandmother, now deceased, for teaching her "perseverance and courage in the face of obstacles."

Ritscher names Wilma Rudolph as one of her heroes — and a big influence on her decision to come to TSU. On campus, she has benefitted from the support of Sandra Holt, director of the



*Once a high school dropout, Lee Ritscher has soared to the top at TSU. She will enroll in graduate school this fall, in her pursuit of becoming an English professor. She stands beside the Phi Kappa Phi banner.*

Honors Program, Gloria Johnson, head of the Department of Languages, Literature and Philosophy, and Elizabeth McClain, assistant professor of history. "Ms. McClain told me to get out there and get involved. I think I listened too much!"

"But I can focus on one thing for hours with the house falling down around me. The problem is, the house falls down around me."

Although Ritscher has to manage her time like an expert, she gets support from her children and husband Paul, who is a printer and artist. Ritscher said, "I think sometimes, in the darkest hour, we lose sight of the big picture. It's important to keep your eyes on your goal."

"It helps to remember that when you're up at two o'clock in the morning studying or working on a paper."

## "TSU is what I envisioned school to be," said honors student **Kim Wall** of Lima, Ohio. She had intended to enroll in another historically black university but visited

Tennessee State University and saw the campus she had always pictured college to be like. She wanted to attend an institution that promoted academic excellence and she saw that TSU was that place. And, after talking with several faculty members, she was convinced that TSU was where she belonged. Wall was accepted for admission to the University within a week and was selected to be an honors scholar through the TSU Foundation. Her track record has grown throughout her undergraduate career, culminating in her being chosen as the outstanding senior initiate of Golden Key Honor Society.

Wall, a graduating senior majoring in speech communication and theater, with a minor in criminal justice, plans to attend law school next year. She wants to become a civil arbitrator or practice international law. TSU has helped Wall grow into her readiness for such a broad-based career.

"Until I came to TSU, I was the only black girl in my honors classes [in high

school]," Wall said. "I had to get accustomed to it. I didn't even know who Malcolm X was."

Besides learning about African-American world leaders at TSU and exploring the works of such African-American writers as Toni Morrison, Wall has found a few role models of her own at the University. She said her advisor, Lawrence James, "taught me to always do my best, even if no one asks for it." She proclaims Sandra Holt, director of the Honors program, to be her "mother away from home."

Wall said, "We [Dr. Holt and I] work out together. She listens to my problems. She was the person who said to me, 'Okay, Kim, you need to get yourself together spiritually.'"

"I love her as a teacher most. Many professors [seem to say] 'I lecture, you listen.' But Dr. Holt is willing to let us learn other things. She learns from us. She makes you want to go to her class."

One thing Wall has learned at TSU that should prove invaluable to her in her



*Kim Wall (right) found exactly what she was looking for at Tennessee State University. Wall has excelled in her studies and plans to pursue a career in law. She counts Sandra Holt (left), director of the Honors Program, as one of the mentors who have encouraged her. The two are relaxing in the newly remodeled Honors lounge.*

quest to become a successful attorney is that she must investigate people and situations and form her opinions based on her experiences.

"If I listen to what everyone else says, I might miss out on a wonderful experience," said Wall. "I'm willing to be open minded in all situations."

For instance, Wall has grown to appreciate the Honors Program more and

more.

"My first two years, it was nothing more than 'Kim's in the Honors Program,'" she said. "But I became prouder and more involved. Now I live over here [in the Honors Center]. I'm proud to promote it."

And TSU is proud of Wall and what she has accomplished in the last four years.



***“TSU is on the verge of another academic dawning,”*** said graduating political science major **Henry Noye**. Noye, one of the University's first under-

graduate inductees into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, has participated in Tennessee State University's quest to reach its potential as a leading academic institution.

Last summer, Noye interned with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in Washington, D.C. There were thousands of applicants and Noye was one of only 33 selected and only one of two students from a historically black college or university chosen. Noye was also elected to speak at the welcoming reception for the program.

Noye said TSU has many opportunities for serious students. He himself was not always serious about his studies.

“As a young man, I was content to underachieve,” he said. “My experience in the military helped me develop an attitude of competitiveness and the desire to maximize my talents.”

After serving four-and-a-half years in the Navy, Noye returned to school. His outstanding grades have earned him a seat in the Rutgers and Temple schools of law. Noye also hopes to be accepted by the University of Pennsylvania. He plans to practice civil rights law.

“It’s a passion of mine,” said Noye. “I’m interested in the political complexion of the nation. Those who are under-represented or marginalized need to have a voice.”

“I want to continue the work of Thurgood Marshall and speak for those who can’t speak for themselves. We need a real commitment to civil rights,



*Henry Noye will use his academic talents and public speaking skills as he prepares for a career in civil rights law.*

making sure people really get helped.”

Noye dreams of someday revitalizing the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund. He plans to carry out his ambitions in the same way his mentors and role models did. He said Sandra Holt, director of the Honors Program, and TSU President James Hefner were instrumental in his success.

“I’m thankful,” said Noye. “I will definitely give back to the institution because it gave to me. The people here are extremely helpful; I can’t say enough about it.”

“TSU has a special place in my heart. I’m proud to see its academic reputation growing.”

***After spending eight years in a North Vietnamese prison, Hoang Nguyen found majoring in his most difficult subject wasn’t so bad after all.*** Nguyen is getting ready to graduate Phi Kappa Phi,



*Considered a below-average student in chemistry during high school, Hoang Nguyen accepted his wife’s challenge to major in chemistry at TSU. He has excelled in the subject and plans to continue his studies in graduate school.*

with nearly a 3.9 grade-point average. He has majored in chemistry, a subject in which he received the mark “very weak” on his report card at the French high school he attended in Vietnam.

“My strong field is French, but I asked my wife to study English and she found it hard, so I said, ‘If you have patience, you’ll make it.’”

Soon after saying that, Nguyen and his wife, My-Dung, were meeting with Don Page, professor of communications and their landlord, about getting Nguyen back in school. When Page asked Nguyen what he wanted to study, his wife repeated his own advice back to him and piped in, “Let me choose for him.”

“And she looked at my records in high school and chose the hardest thing for me.”

Born under a tree in 1946 in a village his mother evacuated to during the civil war, Nguyen felt the painful conse-

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***Pearl Gore Dansby was raised on academic excellence, for it was her father, George Gore, who founded Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. What started at Tennessee State University in 1937***

with a core of six historically black institutions has grown into a body of approximately 76 chapters nationwide and a more diverse membership, including some historically white universities.

Pearl Gore Dansby said the impetus for her father’s founding of Alpha Kappa Mu came 18 years earlier, when he was at DePauw University in Indiana.

“He was a first-rank student,” she said, “but he was not recognized by any honor society. And there was no Phi Beta Kappa or similar society on any of the black campuses, so my father developed Alpha Kappa Mu.”

“In my father’s vision for Alpha Kappa Mu, he made two distinct departures from Phi Beta Kappa. First, the society is generic and not only for liberal

academic affairs. Following his tenure here, he served as president of Florida A&M University. Dansby said her father kept busy even after retiring from that post. She said, “He served as interim president of Fisk University, part-time professor at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University and book review editor for the *Nashville Banner*.” Gore died in 1982.

Gore served as national executive secretary of Alpha Kappa Mu from its inception until 1974. His daughter followed in his footsteps: Dansby came to TSU to teach in 1964 and has worked with Alpha Kappa Mu ever since. Joining her as key advisors for the organization are Arthur Washington, Gloria Johnson and Helen Houston.

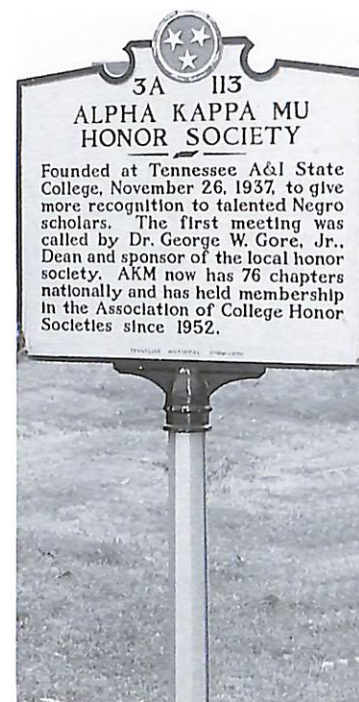


*TSU psychology professor Pearl Gore Dansby is the daughter of George Gore (pictured to her left), founder of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. The Gore/Dansby legacy continues for the third generation: Dansby’s daughter, Artelia, is a senior at the University.*

arts majors. Second, Alpha Kappa Mu is unique in that it does not permit voting on members. If you are academically qualified for membership, you are invited to join.”

Just as Alpha Kappa Mu has broadened its scope, so did DePauw open its arms wider to embrace Gore. At his 25th anniversary of graduation, DePauw gave Gore an honorary doctorate. And, at his 50th anniversary, Gore was selected by his classmates as guest of honor. At the event, Vernon Jordan, former president of the National Urban League, was DePauw’s first African-American speaker for commencement.

Gore served Tennessee State University for 27 years and is most well remembered as the University’s dean of



*The Alpha Kappa Mu marker was placed on the Tennessee State University campus in 1987 by the State of Tennessee to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the organization.*





## TSU Graduates Record Number

Members of the largest graduating class in the history of Tennessee State University are scheduled to receive their diplomas during Spring Commencement, May 6. More than 900 students earning associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees are expected to graduate during the May 6 ceremonies.

"We have more than 750 undergraduate students and almost 200 graduate students slated to earn their degrees this spring," said John Cade, TSU dean of admissions and records. "We are excited about these figures, especially when many university enrollments around the country appear to be shrinking."

This year's speaker for commencement exercises is Andree Layton Roaf. Before her appointment to the Arkansas Supreme Court, Roaf was a partner with the Arkansas law firm of Walker, Roaf, Campbell, Ivory and Dunklin. The Nashville native has taught classes at the School of Law at the University of

Arkansas at Little Rock and has served as a biologist with the National Center for Toxicological Research. In addition, Roaf was staff assistant with the Pine Bluff Urban Renewal Agency, a research biologist for the Food and Drug Administration, and a bacteriologist with the Michigan State Department of Health.

In anticipation of commencement, TSU President James Hefner said, "This large graduating class is evidence that Tennessee State University is continuing to widen its circles of influence, emerging as a center for academic excellence and exploration."

"Our continued commitment to a quality educational experience, our growing number of innovative programs and the personal service we are striving to provide are making the University attractive to people from all walks of life."

### Editor meets President, from cover

places, promotional policies within the workplace and access to contracts in the public — and sometimes, private — sector.

Arguing against the notion that affirmative action allows for the hiring of unqualified people in underserved areas, the President said, "There are actually a lot of restrictions on how far affirmative action can go in giving preferences to people based on race or gender."

He also said, "We have made a lot of progress because we tried to take action to open up more opportunities to people without regard to their race or gender. And all of us, including white males, are better off because of that."

President Clinton continued, "I'm against discrimination; I'm against giving people opportunities who are unqualified. But we all have an interest . . . in developing the capacities of all of us to relate to one another — because our economy will grow quicker, it'll be stronger, and in a global society, our diversity is our greatest asset."

"We must not let this debate be another cheap political wedge issue to divide the American electorate. We can use this to come together, and that's what we ought to do."

The President said he has focused on initiatives that would provide broad-based opportunities to all Americans, including the creation of more jobs and,

in the educational arena, "increasing everything from Head Start programs to college loans."

President Clinton said he had tried to "demonstrate that you could have diversity and excellence at the same time" and "emphasize the importance of uniting the American people around shared values."

Perhaps the President articulated his views best when he said, "I wouldn't be standing here today — no way in the world would I be standing here today — if it hadn't been for the opportunities America gave me through education."



*Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, director of the Tennessee State University Bureau of Public Relations, accompanied Nadine Bewry on her trip to Washington, D.C. Special thanks to American Airlines for assisting the University with travel arrangements.*

## Recent Gifts and Grants: \$300,000+ to Engineering

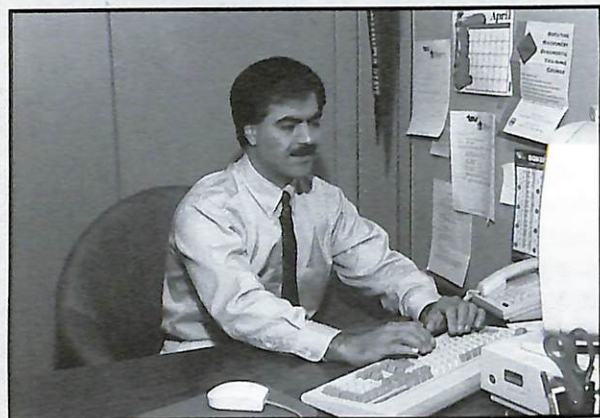
Mechanical Engineering students will soon have greater opportunities to learn the techniques of manufacturing engineering, thanks to the generosity of the U.S. Navy.

The Office of Naval Research has awarded \$317,232 to the Mechanical Engineering Department for a project to explore the concepts of concurrent manufacturing engineering. Assistant professor Amir Shirkhodaie will serve as principal investigator of the project, designed to develop knowledge-based mechanistic models which integrate computers and flexible manufacturing systems.

Shirkhodaie sought the funding by

responding to a Department of Defense announcement for applications to the "Infrastructure Support Program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions." The grant will allow the University to enhance its research capabilities so that, in turn, the University may attract, educate and retain underrepresented minorities in the engineering field.

Rear Admiral Marc Pelaez, chief of Naval Research, said, "I look forward to a productive relationship as Tennessee State University and the Office of Naval Research pursue objectives of mutual interest."



*Amir Shirkhodaie, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, will direct research efforts funded by the U.S. Office of Naval Research.*

## USDA Funds Extension Forums

The Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension Program is presenting a series of nursery forums through August 1995. The forums are funded by a \$188,160 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Horticulturist Ricardo Gomez of the USDA manages the grant, which is directed by Joseph Morris, a member of TSU's extension faculty.

Gomez said, "With the possibility of

additional funding, TSU will have new opportunities to assist operators of small farms, focus on the changing needs of the nursery industry, and increase the technical capability of extension faculty and staff to deal with diversification as growers add ornamental and new or different crops to the traditional woody plants now being grown."

## Fall '95 Admissions Update

(as of April 23, 1995)

**Undergraduates Accepted: 2,273**

*Note: A significant number of those accepted are honors students (presidential scholars, national merit scholars, national achievement scholars, academic work scholars and other honors students).*

**Graduate Students Accepted: 233**

**Reports also indicate that the Office of Admissions and Records is 66 percent ahead of last year in processing undergraduate applications and 48 percent ahead in processing graduate applications.**

## Other Events and Accomplishments

\***Tennessee State University and the PENCIL Foundation** have, for the ninth year, coordinated the Service Merchandise Student Writers' Showcase, which awards area high school students in categories ranging from short stories to newspaper editorials to song writing. Last year, over 1,500 contestants from 80 Metro Nashville/Davidson County schools entered the competition.

\***The Tennessee Historical Commission** has approved a historical marker for Tennessee State University's Air Force ROTC program, which is one of the oldest in the region.

\***TSU Sports Information Director Johnny "Ballpark" Franks** recently was honored for his work on publications for athletics. The University's 1994 football media guide was ranked eighth best nationally for NCAA

Division I-AA schools by the College Sports Information Directors of America. The football game program he produced was judged best in district four among I-AA schools for the second consecutive year and the fourth time in six years.

\***Sara Curp** has been named the University's new director of minority student affairs. She previously served TSU as tutor-mentor coordinator in the Academic Intervention Center.



*Johnny Franks*



*Sara Curp*



# Tennessee State University Spring Events Summary

## University-wide Research Day

*Top researchers noted; former Miss America Debbye Turner tells how she became successful*

Tennessee State University held its 15th Annual University-wide Research Day on March 28. Throughout the day, undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members presented the results and summaries of research ranging from the arts and sciences to engineering and technology, from agriculture to health professions.

At day's end, those receiving top honors for their work were Lee Ritscher, senior English major, who was named undergraduate researcher of the year and presented the undergraduate humanities award, and Jeffrey Jackson of the College of Education, who was named graduate researcher of the year. Nadine Bewry won first place for undergraduate research in science and engineering, while Keith Nolin took first place among the graduate students. Jimmy Scott Jr. and Sheryl Bert each received a Writing Excellence Award.

block and assume that since our limitations have gotten us once, they will always get us.

"We look at our limitations as permanent and live with them. But as humans, we can remove them. The key to excellence is hard work."

To succeed, Turner said she had to move past the internal and external messages: "You're not smart enough." "You're not pretty enough." "You don't have enough money." "You don't come from the right family." When she decided to try for the Miss America crown, Turner, who was raised by a single parent (her mother) in a lower middle class home, was told, "You can't do it. You're too short. Your talent (playing the marimba) is too different."

Turner said, "If I had listened to any of those people, I wouldn't be here today." She went on to add that "the biggest block to research is to close your



*Patricia Wyatt (center) of the Center of Excellence for Research in Basic Skills with Lee Ritscher (left), undergraduate researcher of the year, and Jeffrey Jackson, graduate researcher of the year.*

Earlier, during the plenary session, the University recognized Rubye Torrey, assistant vice president for research and professor of chemistry at Tennessee Technological University. Torrey, a former TSU faculty member, initiated Research Day at the University.

Debbye Turner, veterinarian and former Miss America, gave the keynote address at Research Day. In her remarks, she mentioned how the laws of physics apply to the way she conducts her life.

"Work is movement through time," she said. "And you do not move until you apply force."

Turner also talked about how she overcame the voices that said "You can't" in her quest for Miss America, which afforded her the opportunity to attend veterinary school.

"There is only so far you can go in your existence until you meet resistance," she said. "We run into a road-

mind to the possibilities," reminding the audience that Einstein was four years old before he could speak . . . that Churchill failed the sixth grade . . . that Walt Disney once was fired by a newspaper editor because he didn't have any good ideas.

"They didn't believe the indictment against them," said Turner. "Your character is who you are in the dark. And who you are will determine what you do."

"The most important ingredient in success is sacrifice. The only way to get from A to Z is B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, and Y."



*Standing with veterinarian/former Miss America Debbye Turner (second from right) are (l-r) Carolyn Caudle, TSU's chairperson for Research Day 1995; Rubye Torrey, founder of Research Day; and Helen Barrett, chair, Department of Psychology.*

## Stars Shine at Arts Spectrum

*Dancer/Choreographer/ "Uncola Man" Geoffrey Holder and the Nashville Symphony dazzle TSU with their entertaining talents*

The TSU Cultural Affairs Committee closed out its season of events with an Arts Spectrum, which brought local and international artists to campus to perform. Among those visiting the University were the Nashville

Symphony, under the direction of Kenneth Schermerhorn, and the multi-talented Geoffrey Holder, an actor, painter, dancer, choreographer and author.

The Nashville Symphony performed at TSU as part of its "Kicked-back Classics" series. During the concert, symphony members entertained the audience with familiar works, including soloist Nan Gurley's medley from "Tin Pan Alley."

Best known as the Uncola Man for his award-winning acting in popular 7-Up commercials, Geoffrey Holder held his audience captive for nearly three hours with his performance, "One-Man Instant Theater."

During the evening, Holder talked about his worldwide travels, his performances in New York (where he met his wife, Carmen de Lavallade, also a dancer, actress and choreographer) and his life in his native Trinidad. Holder involved the audience in a number of ways, highlighted when he got everyone in the audience — including University administrators — on their feet to dance.



*Geoffrey Holder, world-famous actor and artist, captivated a TSU audience with his theatrical gifts and charm.*



*Kenneth Schermerhorn, musical director and principal conductor of the Nashville Symphony, shares about the works the musicians performed during the concert.*



# TSU Foundation Dinner/Concert

Event raises \$100,000 for student scholarships

The Tennessee State University Foundation Dinner/Concert, held April 6, raised more than \$100,000 in scholarship funds for honors students.

With a guest list of well over 200, the event gave contributors the opportunity to meet some of the students whom their donations have helped. The Foundation's scholarships assist students in meeting such costs as tuition and fees, books and room and board.

Francis S. Guess, executive director of the Danner Foundation, chaired the event



Lady Jackson, chair of the TSU Foundation Board of Trustees.

and Deborah Scott Ensley, interim president of Citizens Bank, served as co-chair. Lady Jackson, director of Metropolitan Economic Development in Nashville's Office of the Mayor, chairs the TSU Foundation Board of Trustees and Mark Thompson, president of the Kroger Company's Nashville marketing area, chairs the board's fund-raising committee.

Thompson said, "Not finding financial resources for attending college may block some of the brightest students and corporate leaders of the 21st century from fulfilling their educational goals. We want to make sure that every student who wants to go to college gets the chance for a quality education."

## Hoang Nguyen, from page 3

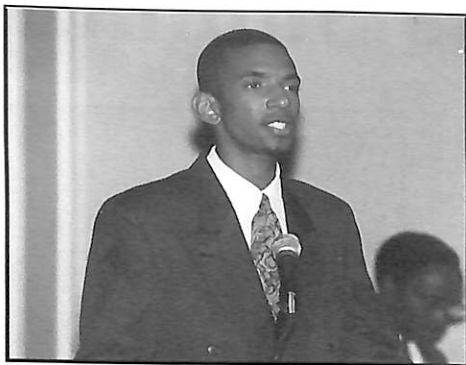
quences of the civil war in his country. His father was killed by the Vietminh, his brother tortured and killed by communists. As a child, he also fought for his life through a long-term illness. ("My grandfather bought a coffin for me because he had no hope," Nguyen said.)

Left alone to raise her son, Nguyen's mom sent him away to live and be schooled at an orphanage. Nguyen attended school until he left to serve in the Vietnam conflict as an intelligence officer for the South Vietnamese. He was captured a month before Saigon surrendered, but he survived his prison experiences by upholding his strong beliefs and ideals.

Nguyen said, "If you are committed to your country, you know that when you succeed you will enjoy something. But you also know that if you fail, you will enjoy something, too."

"So for a Vietnamese officer like myself, I had committed myself to the war, so no matter how they treated me, I just smiled."

Even after leaving the prison, Nguyen was restricted to his home. Again, he kept his positive attitude and used his time to study. He even translated several American novels — including James Michener's



Foundation Honors Scholar Marlin Jones, a sophomore majoring in history, said, "Getting a TSU Honors Scholarship has lifted the burden of financing my college education which has plagued me since my senior year of high school."



Alesha Kloft, a junior majoring in health education and sports medicine, is one of the Foundation Honors Scholars. She said, "My scholarship meant an opportunity for higher education because I was turned down for financial aid and my parents could not afford to send me to college. I cannot imagine my life without a college education."

Hawaii and Sidney Sheldon's *Windmills of the Gods* — into Vietnamese.

"That's one thing about me during that time when I was released: They restricted me at home, but they couldn't restrict my mind," said Nguyen.

While he was transcribing all those books, Nguyen ran across the name Nashville. Little did he know that in 1991, he and his family would call Nashville home.

Sponsored by Nashville's Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Nguyens — Hoang and My-Dung and their daughters, Phuong and Bich-Lien — moved into a house owned by Page. Another member of the church provided Nguyen with a car so he would have transportation to TSU and someone else gave him a number of books, which Nguyen has read voraciously.

Nguyen has plowed through some pretty tough textbooks during his three years at TSU and values what he has learned as if the knowledge were a priceless gem. His next goal is earning his graduate degree in chemistry. And along the way, he will continue to encourage his daughters to study and learn all they can.

"I tell them, 'You have to study. Then you'll know more than me and you will teach me!'" Nguyen said.

# Founder's Day

TSU celebrates its heritage

Tennessee State University hosted its 83rd Annual Founder's Day Celebration April 6. Tennessee State Sen. John Ford, a TSU alumnus, substituted for his brother, U.S. Rep. Harold Ford, a TSU alumnus and the first and only African-American Tennesseean ever to be elected to Congress.

State Sen. Ford reminisced in his remarks, saying, "I remember my days on this campus, right here in Kean Hall, where I stood as I campaigned for president of the Student Government Association. Tennessee State University has changed a lot since I was here and the campus looks great. The fine teachers and the programs I had here made an impression on me and the members of my family who attended here."

During the convocation, as part of Honors Week, the University also recognized those students who excelled academically.

Another TSU alumnus, Attorney Richard Sinkfield of Atlanta, gave the keynote address at the Founder's Day Banquet. Sinkfield received his law degree from Vanderbilt University and is a member of Vanderbilt's Board of Trust.

In his remarks, Sinkfield espoused his version of affirmative action: Supporting young people in developing their minds and solid values.

"The man that I am is nothing more than a product of affirmative action — somebody else's affirmative action," said Sinkfield. "My mother read to me a lot. She took me to work with her and taught me how to work."

Of the current debate in Congress over affirmative action laws, Sinkfield hailed their continuing as a way of "taking positive steps to correct historical wrongs by lowering the barriers to equal opportunity." Sinkfield recalled being told as a child, "You can be as good as anybody and twice as good as somebody."

Honored for their good works at Tennessee State University were retirees Hattie Brown, secretary in the Department of Communications; Rosa Mitchell, assistant in the library; Ada Willoughby, assistant professor of teaching and learning; and Arthur Fox, housing supervisor.

In celebrating the University and its people, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends remembered the growth of TSU through successive stages, develop-



Attorney Richard Sinkfield (center), guest speaker for the Founder's Day Banquet, with President Hefner and Robert J. Hudson, retired TSU faculty member and chair of the University Convocations Committee.

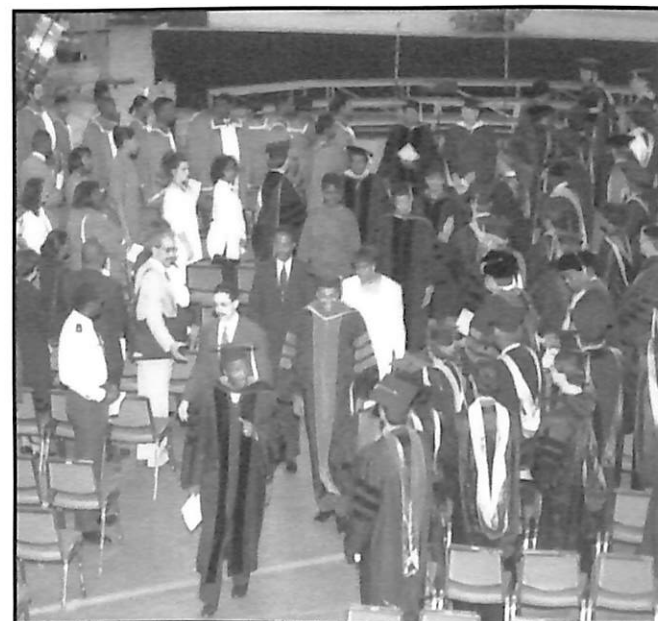
ing from a "normal school for Negroes" to its current status.

The Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State Normal School was created and opened its doors to students on June 19, 1912. In 1922 the institution was raised to the status of a teachers' college and empowered to grant the bachelor's degree. The first degrees were granted in June 1924. During the same year, the institution became known as the Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State Normal College, and in 1927, the word "normal" was dropped from the name.

The General Assembly of 1941 authorized the State Board of Education to upgrade substantially the educational program of the college, which included the establishment of graduate studies leading to the master's degree. The first master's degree was awarded by the college in 1944.

In August 1951, the institution was granted university status. The University was elevated to a full-fledged land-grant university in 1958. In 1979, Tennessee State University merged with the University of Tennessee at Nashville.

The present-day Tennessee State University is a comprehensive, urban, land-grant university which offers 42 bachelor's degrees and 21 master's degrees. Doctoral degrees are offered in four areas: public administration, administration and supervision, curriculum and instruction and psychology. Enrollment for the 1994 fall semester reached 8,180 students.



Robert Boone, associate vice president for academic affairs, leads State Sen. John Ford, TSU President James Hefner, student leaders and faculty as they recess after the Founders' Day Convocation.



## Rowan-Winfrey Lectures

A panel of distinguished news editors, reporters, anchors and executives highlighted Tennessee State University's Second Annual Rowan-Winfrey Lecture Series. The April 6 event was filled with panel discussions, lectures and the Writing Excellence Luncheon.

The jam-packed day also included a meeting of the Youth Journalism Congress, the first of its kind to be held in the nation. The youth congress is an outreach program designed to get feedback from young people on their perceptions of the future of newspapers and how newspapers can better serve the youth market.

\* Demetria Kalodimos, Emmy award-winning news anchor of The Channel 4 News;

\* Managing editors Pat Embry of the *Nashville Banner* and David Green of *The Tennessean*;

\* Irby Simpkins, publisher and co-owner of the *Nashville Banner*;

\* Authors and historians Jim Summerville and Tommie Morton-Young;

\* Susan Thomas, investigative reporter for *The Tennessean* and recipient of Gannett's 1993 Outstanding Individual Achievement Award;

\* Dwight Lewis, regional editor and



Reginald Stuart, national president of the Society of Professional Journalists, addresses a group of high school and college students and colleagues at the Writing Excellence Luncheon, part of the Second Annual Rowan-Winfrey Lecture Series. To his right are Harriette Insignares, TSU professor of communications, and Pamela Hirst, president of the TSU chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

TSU alumnus Reginald Stuart, national president of the Society of Professional Journalists, was keynote speaker for the Writing Excellence Awards Luncheon. In his "Appeal to Journalists," he challenged both fledgling and seasoned journalists, saying, "How about a lot more steak and a lot less sizzle? How about a sense of responsibility to the public while we're exercising our rights of a free press?"

"... What happened to reporting facts versus every rumor imaginable? What happened to measured responses and balanced coverage versus 'Get all that you can — fast!'"

Several local journalists and authors served as panelists for the event:

editorial board member of *The Tennessean*;

\* Gail McKnight-Kerr, political staff writer with *The Tennessean*; and

\* Attorney Michael Grant, formerly of WLAC Radio, now a motivational consultant.

The lecture series is named for Carl Rowan and Oprah Winfrey, two Tennessee State University alumni who both have made a great impact on the field of journalism. The event is sponsored by the TSU chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. The organization invites regional high school and college students to campus each spring to meet successful communicators.

## Miss TSU Appears in EBONY

Angela Carroll, who represented the University during 1994-95 as Miss Tennessee State University, was featured prominently in the April issue of *EBONY* magazine, which spotlighted campus queens. Carroll, a senior, wants to become a licensed architect. She is a member of the National Society of Architectural Engineers and the National Society of Black Engineers.

**EBONY**  
April 1995

Black College  
Queens 1995

Educated, dedicated and prepared  
to contribute to America's future



## Honors Week

A week of activities to highlight honors students and stress the importance of academic achievement took place April 3 through 7 at Tennessee State University. Honors Week included lectures and panel discussions on a variety of topics, an art show, a "bring your own poetry" reading, Shadow Day for honors students at McKissack Middle School, a banquet and an Honors Gala saluting the members of Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key and Alpha Kappa Mu honor societies.



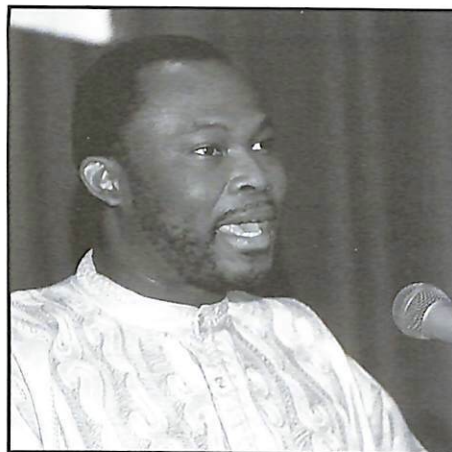
Students from McKissack Middle School enjoy poetry by a TSU student (standing beside drummer) during Shadow Day. The event was sponsored by Golden Key Honor Society.



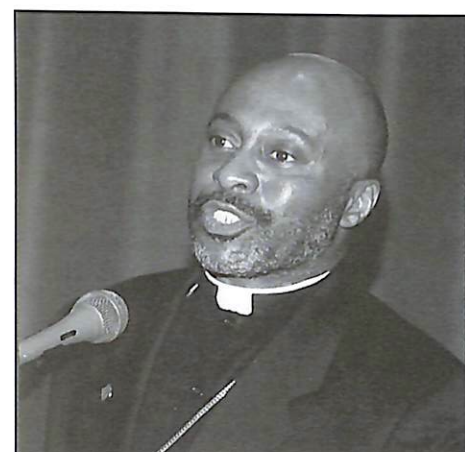
TSU President James A. Hefner (at podium) with the new faculty inductees into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society: Chinyere Onwubiko, Dolores Ashley Harris, Marion Anema, Helen Barrett, Ruby Martin, Robert Newkirk, Prem Kahlon, Satinderpaul Devgan and Franklin Jones.

## Africana Studies Grand Opening and Conference

The Africana Studies Department celebrated its Grand Opening with a host of events during a two-day conference, April 7 through 8. The Great Debate, dramatic presentations; plenary sessions, workshops and a concert of African-American works were among a full two days of activities. Topics explored included "Will the Real Black Man and Black Woman Please Stand Up?" and "The African Self and the African Diaspora." Speakers included His Excellency, Ekwow Spio-Garbrah, ambassador of Ghana to the United States and The Most Reverend George A. Stallings Jr., archbishop and founder of Imani Temple, the African-American Catholic Church.



**His Excellency Ekwow Spio-Garbrah**  
"It is in America's own self-interest to know and understand the continent of origin of 12.5 percent of its population, whose presence is an eloquent reminder of the kinship between the two continents."



**The Most Rev. George A. Stallings**  
"Before spirituality was Christian, it was African... We are spiritual beings practicing to become human, not human beings attempting to become spiritual... In the context of Christianity I can find my Africinity."



## Blue-White Game Showcases Strong Tiger Team



Tailback Arcenae Broome (#7) tries to stay ahead of defensive tackle Jim Lackey (#56) and defensive end James Johnson (#55).

The Tennessee State University football team wrapped up spring practice on April 8 with its annual Blue-White game in Hale Stadium. With a crowd of over 2,000 Big Blue fans enjoying the festivities, the Blue squad, which included the first-team offense and defense, defeated the White squad 23-0.

"I think we had a real good spring," said Head Coach Bill Davis. "I thought our kids played well. I was really happy with the adjustments made by the offense during the spring. Also, the defense performed well the last three weeks."

The Blue squad generated 277 yards of total offense, with 163 yards coming on the ground. The team's rushing game was led by sophomore Mike Lacey, who had 63 yards on eight carries and a 30-

yard touchdown run, and redshirt freshman Jarrick Hillery, who had 61 yards rushing with TD runs of 21 yards and one yard.

Senior quarterback Darryl Williams led the Blue passing game by completing seven of 13 passes for 79 yards. Senior wide receiver Lawrence Segree had four catches for 63 yards.

Despite the team's spring performance, Davis said, "We will have to work hard in August to be ready to play this fall."

TSU will open its 1995 season on Saturday, September 2, against Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Fans are encouraged to purchase tickets for the game, so TSU's fans will outnumber MTSU's.

### NASA, from front cover

of Engineering and Technology, research conducted by several of the College's faculty would complement the Kennedy Space Center's research mission of not only correcting problems in the space shuttles' hardware, but also transferring their technology for use in other industries.

Currently, engineering faculty members are conducting an array of research with potential for technology transfer. Research in the area of probabilistic design — basically, introducing possible elements which may affect the performance of a machine — already is being funded by NASA's Lewis Center. Researchers in TSU's Center for Neural Engineering have developed robotic joints and similar designs as part of another NASA project to benefit small businesses.

Ken Poinboeuf, NASA program manager for technology programs and commercialization, said the staff at Kennedy

Space Center is interested in research on materials, corrosion and robotics, as well as structural research, computer simulations of processes and environmental engineering.

Because the space center is located on approximately 120,000 acres of land in a wildlife refuge, NASA staff members must monitor air quality and ground water, maintain soil remediation and conduct other activities that might be enhanced by TSU's research in environmental engineering.

Although NASA will not know for certain what kind of budget it will have until October, Jay Diggs, director of the space center's Equal Opportunity Program, said "We are committed to supporting HBCUs and serving them through employment, co-op and research opportunities."

The Kennedy Space Center is the NASA center responsible for processing and launching hardware for space shuttles and monitoring related experiments. The Center employs 16,000 people.

# 1 9 9 5

## Season Tickets Available

Season tickets for the 1995 football season are ready.

**Enjoy games against OVC foes  
and traditional rivals.**

Costs: \$42.00 for four home games at Hale Stadium; \$60 for the four home games at Hale Stadium and the Jackson State game in Memphis.

For more information, call the  
TSU Ticket Office at 963-5841.

## GO TIGERS!

## TSU 1995 Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sept. 2	Middle Tennessee State	Murfreesboro, TN	6:00 p.m. CDT
9	Jackson State	Memphis, TN (Liberty Bowl)	7:00 p.m. CDT
23	Florida A&M	Orlando, FL (Citrus Bowl)	2:00 p.m. EDT
30	South Carolina State	Atlanta, GA (Georgia Dome)	4:00 p.m. EDT
Oct. 7	Morehead State	Nashville, TN (Hale Stadium)	6:00 p.m. CDT
14	UT-Martin	Martin, TN	7:00 p.m. CDT
21	Austin Peay State	Clarksville, TN	1:30 p.m. CDT
28	Eastern Kentucky	Nashville, TN (Hale Stadium)	6:00 p.m. CDT
Nov. 4	Tennessee Tech HOMECOMING	Nashville, TN (Hale Stadium)	6:00 p.m. CST
11	Murray State	Nashville, TN (Hale Stadium)	1:30 p.m. CST
18	Southeast Missouri St.	Cape Girardeau, MO	2:00 p.m. CST

Times and dates are subject to change.



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