

ACCENT

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Tennessee State University has a new sign at Nashville International Airport, featuring the College of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science on its 50th anniversary. Standing with the sign are TSU President James A. Hefner; Augustus Bankhead, vice president for academic affairs; Raul Regalado, president of the Airport Authority; and Decatur Rogers, dean of the College of Engineering.



IN THIS ISSUE: tremendous growth in research ... KUDOS to TSU employees ... commencement speakers ... Founders' Day ... update on consent decree issues ... THEC's response to budget shortfall ... recap of guest lecturers ... news about faculty, staff, students and alumni

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Funding for research increases 22 percent to nearly \$31 million at Tennessee State University

Funding for sponsored research at Tennessee State University has increased to \$30.83 million in 2001. The figure reflects an increase of 22 percent over funding for 2000; over the past ten years, annual funding has increased from \$8.76 million to \$30.83 million.

Maurice Mills, director of sponsored research at Tennessee State University, believes the marked growth is directly attributable to the institution's unique research model: a partnership-based approach.

"During this period of growth and expansion, more than 75 percent of Tennessee State University's multi-million-dollar research programs were derived from collaborations, partnerships, and alliances," Mills said. "The synergy of partnerships sponsored by the National Science Foundation, NASA, the Department of Energy, and other federal agencies has empowered TSU to engage in educational reform at the forefront of knowledge and on the leading edge of research in science, engineering, and technology."

Most recently, Tennessee State University's Center of Excellence for Research and Policy on Basic Skills successfully competed with such research universities as Johns Hopkins, Vanderbilt, and UCLA for a \$10 million grant from the National Science Foundation. It will be used to measure student trajectory in acquiring scientific and mathematical knowledge and abilities and to improve student outcomes in K-12 classrooms in large urban and multilingual schools.

The award comes on the heels of a multi-million-dollar, multi-year

award to the center to develop programs for more than 4,000 elementary school teachers to improve science education and enable Tennessee to implement the National Science Education standards. The center is also providing key research and program design in child care and human resource management.

Other notable awards to the university have been a grant to the College of Arts and Sciences by the National Science Foundation, which provides scholarships to African-American students for computer science, engineering, and mathematics instruction, and a project funded by the Boeing Company for assessing airplane cockpits. The College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science has developed PC-based software that can determine if a cockpit will accommodate the desired number of pilots. Boeing and TSU have filed for a joint patent for the application, which has potential uses in all modes of transportation.

On an international level, TSU is providing research and training to corporate partners and institutions from South Africa, Botswana, Ghana, Ukraine, Malawi, and Indonesia. According to JoVita

Wells, associate director of sponsored research, this indicates TSU's heightened presence worldwide.

"Not only is TSU making strides in work-force development and social services in the local community," she said, "the university is making strides on the national and international level as well."

Tennessee State is second in sponsored research by a slight margin among the 46 institutions of the Tennessee Board of Regents system.



\$31 million

Brigadier General and alumna to address 9 a.m. graduates

Brigadier General Toreaser A. Steele, an alumna of Tennessee State University, will address the graduating class of 2002 on May 11 during the 9 a.m. commencement exercises, which include graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education and Institute of Government.



Toreaser A. Steele

Steele is director of personnel resources, director of the Air Force Personnel Operations Agency, and deputy chief of staff for personnel for U.S. Air Force headquarters in Washington, D.C. She received a bachelor of science degree in home economics education from Tennessee State University in 1974. While at TSU, the general was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC program and entered the Air Force as a personnel officer. Steele received her master of science degree in guidance and counseling from Central Michigan University.

As a brigadier general, Steele is responsible for developing and coordinating military end-strength and providing support on operations, analysis, and systems for personnel matters to the Air Force and air staff secretary. She oversees a staff that analyzes and implements personnel policy and programs in compensation, entitlements, accessions, retention, promotions, education, training, utilization, retirements, and separations. Steele's appointment went into effect April 2001.

Steele's major awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, and National Defense Service Medal.

PHOTO OP



The TSU concert band performs, in preparation for a performance for MENC, the National Association for Music Education.

TSU alumnus gives guidelines for success at Founders' Day Celebration

Delbert Wesley Mullens, a 1968 graduate of Tennessee State University, was the keynote speaker at the university's annual Founders' Day Convocation held on March 26. Mullens is the president and CEO of Wesley Industries, Inc., and he fittingly reminisced on his days at TSU.



Delbert Wesley Mullens

Although Mullens admitted to being nervous as he gazed into an audience that included his peers and former professors, he confidently began a lecture titled "Bridge Builders of Change." As he described what the university and communication capabilities were when he walked the halls of TSU, he pointed out how remarkably technology allows our messages today to take five seconds to be delivered via e-mail instead of days via regular mail. On the essence of change, Mullens posed the question, "What are we doing, not just to create change, but to enhance change?" He said students, alumni, professors and administrators "are part of the catalysts of our change."

Mullens, who is an automotive industry entrepreneur, also gave several guidelines for success:

1. Believe in yourself. If you think you're a winner, you'll act that way. Some need role models to help them.
2. See the positive. First focus on positive aspects; that will help you avoid the negative.
3. Learn from your mistakes. Thomas Edison learned 1,800 ways not to build a light bulb.
4. Don't fall in love with ideas, so you will be free to look at new ones.
5. Give yourself a whack on the side of the head. Disrupt your thought processes. Jolt your routine; for example, eat ice cream for breakfast.
6. Fight for it. ("Do, or do not. There is no try."—Yoda, from *Star Wars*)
7. Be wary of positive affirmations. Questions asked of the mind are far more powerful than statements that are tacked onto the mind.

THEC prepares for funding shortfall

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission has developed 11 proposals to make the state's colleges and universities operate effectively in the face of reduced state funding. (THEC reports that the state is expecting a shortfall of \$350 million to \$400 million next fiscal year.)

The proposals include limiting enrollment at universities to 3 percent above current levels, phasing out state funding for remedial education at all schools and developmental education at universities, tightening criteria for establishing new programs and satellite campuses, phasing out state funding for athletics and redirecting it to academic

needs, and having out-of-state professors evaluate all programs in agriculture and engineering, areas in which there might be duplication.

If THEC decides to phase out funding for athletics—\$25 million—it is likely that students will have to pay an athletic fee. For 2000-01, Tennessee State University received 4.1 percent of its budget, or \$3.467 million, from the state in support of athletics. Based on that figure, an estimated athletic fee for a full-time TSU student would be \$445 per year.

The state's colleges and universities and their governing agencies have until June 1 to respond to THEC's proposals. The commission will review the responses at its July quarterly meeting, or at an earlier called meeting, if necessary.

Source: Tennessee Higher Education Commission web site: www.state.tn.us/thec and The Tennessean

Consultants' probe yields positive observations and suggested improvements for key student services

Consultants hired to assess the infrastructure of the Bursar's Office, Financial Aid Office and Office of Admissions and Records have filed their preliminary findings with the university. Their report shows areas of strength and weakness, with recommended improvements for weaknesses.

Bell and Trice Enterprises, Inc. (BTE), conducted a study of more than 140 individuals, including traditional and non-traditional students, faculty, staff and administrators. During interviews with the participants BTE learned that they like the on-line registration process, think that the Office of Admissions and Records has improved greatly over the last seven years, and appreciate the proposed changes in Financial Aid, whereby students may complete key processes via the world wide web. In the Bursar's Office, students soon will be able to make check payments by telephone or on line, and in the Records Office, plans to store and transmit records electronically are under way.

According to the participants, one area needing improvement is the "counter culture," i.e., the behavior of staff who interact with students, faculty, staff and administrators. At the same time, supervisors must reward and recognize excellent work. Other areas for improvement include training on computer-based services, having one-stop service for key registration activities, posting financial aid to students' accounts in a timely fashion, and tracking individuals from the point of their first contact with TSU.

The report reveals seven goals, developed by BTE, that appear to reflect some consensus on the direction the university should take:

1. A 25 percent increase in enrollment, to 10,500 by 2006
2. An increased ability for students to earn degrees through weekend and evening classes
3. One-stop service
4. An enrollment management program
5. An improved positive image, that is, a more positive perception of TSU by the Nashville community.
6. A significant base of outstanding students

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BRIEFS

7. A proactive problem-solving process to resolve students' registration issues

BTE will submit a plan of action to implement these goals and other objectives to the university by May 31.

Freedom Trek III comes to TSU

On June 8, in the TSU amphitheater, Booker T. Washington—in the person of Joseph Bundy—will re-enact the speech he made in Nashville for the city's 1896 centennial celebration. The event is part of Freedom Trek, an annual event honoring the life of Washington by having people travel the paths Washington took or may have taken on his journeys. This year's trek, the third, goes from his offices when he was president of Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Alabama to his home in Malden, W.Va. It begins in Tuskegee on May 31 and ends in Malden on June 20.

Law school negotiations on hold; endowment established

Officials at the Nashville School of Law (NSOL) have suspended negotiations with TSU and the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) to merge into a law school that would earn accreditation from the American Bar Association. Tom Cone, chairman of the board of NSOL, said the trustees did not want to merge with TSU because of the state's severe budget shortfalls. (Under the consent decree of the desegregation lawsuit, the State of Tennessee would provide \$20 million for the establishment of a public law school; start-up costs would require an additional \$10 million.)

The TBR has approved a juris doctorate program at TSU, should the university decide to implement a law school; however, "if the merger does not materialize, we have the go-ahead to establish a high-profile, high-demand graduate program that is beneficial to Tennessee State

University and the Nashville citizenry," said TSU President James Hefner.

The consent decree also provided for an Endowment for Educational Excellence. To fund it, TSU will receive \$1 million per year for 10 years from the State of Tennessee and one-to-one matching funds up to another \$1 million per year from the state, for a total of up to \$30 million. The university recently received its first \$1 million contribution from the state.

TSU engineering celebrates 50 years of service

Tennessee State University observed a half-century of service in engineering this semester. The week-long activities included a poster display, lectures, student awards, and the culminating event of the 50th anniversary dinner.

The College of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science developed through successive changes rooted in industrial arts technology. Other names for the college have been School of Industrial Technology and School of Industrial Engineering. The School of Engineering was officially named in 1951; it became the College of Engineering and Technology in 1992.

Tennessee State University is one of only five black colleges and universities nationwide to have full engineering programs that began in the early '50s. The other institutions are Howard University in Washington, D.C., North Carolina A & T in Greensboro, N.C., Prairie View A & M in Prairie View, Texas, and Southern University in Baton Rouge, La.

In the past 12 years, 10 TSU engineering graduates have earned awards in various categories through the Black Engineer of the Year program sponsored by *U.S. Black Engineer* magazine. TSU has been listed consistently by *Black Issues in Higher Education* as a distinguished leader in producing engineering graduates. Current engineering degree-granting departments are architectural, civil and environmental, electrical, and mechanical engineering. Aeronautical technology is also a part of the college and computer science was added in 1999.

State Commissioner brings message to TSU graduates

Anne B. Pope will address graduating students from the College of Business, College of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science, School of Agriculture and Family and Consumer Sciences, School of Allied Health Professions and School of Nursing May 11 during the 2 p.m. commencement exercises.



Anne B. Pope

Gov. Don Sundquist appointed Pope commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Insurance on November 1, 1999. Pope has served Tennessee as a member of Gov. Sundquist's 1996 Commission on Practical Government, his 1997 Council on Excellence for Higher Education and more recently as the executive director for the Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music Commission.

A native of Kingsport, Tenn., Pope earned degrees from Vanderbilt University and the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. Following law school, she clerked for U.S. District Judge James D. Todd in Jackson, Tenn. She is admitted to practice law in Tennessee and the District of Columbia. Pope's past private sector experience as a businesswoman and attorney includes being president/chief executive officer and vice president/chief financial officer for the Parks-Belk Company, president of Proffitts of the Tri-Cities and associate attorney for the Washington, D.C., firm Webster, Chamberlain & Bean.

An active member of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, Pope is one of four zone chairpersons and she co-chairs the functional regulation working group. She is a member of the board of directors for the Bank of Tennessee. She also is past-president of the Arts Council of Greater Kingsport, a previous member of the board of directors for the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce and chairwoman of the 1997 Business Hall of Fame for Junior Achievement.

TSU holds 24th Research Symposium

The 24th Annual University-Wide Research Symposium, "Environmental Sustainability through Research, Literacy and Outreach," took place on Tennessee State University's main campus March 19 and 20.

Calvin Mackie was the keynote speaker. Mackie, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Tulane University in New Orleans, is also the co-founder of Channel ZerO, an educational and motivational consulting company. With the organization as a pilot, he and the members of Channel ZerO use unique strategies and methodologies to motivate and inspire students dedicated to the learning experience.

Although he only scored 800 on his SAT, Mackie went on to receive a bachelor of mechanical engineering degree from Georgia Tech and a bachelor of science in mathematics from Morehouse College. In addition to receiving his dual degrees in 1992, he earned a master of science degree in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech. Mackie is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Tau Sigma and Tau Beta Pi national honor societies. He also devotes time to such organizations as the High School Outreach Program, Big Brothers and Sisters and the 100 Black Men of Metro New Orleans.

This accomplished educator and motivator has been awarded countless accolades for his achievements, including the 2002 Black Engineer of the Year

Award for college-level educators and the Pi Tau Sigma/ASME Excellence in Teaching Award in Mechanical Engineering for 1999-2000. Mackie also has been awarded a patent on a device to retrofit luggage stowbins on 737 and 757 Boeing commercial airliners.

In addition to Mackie, several student and faculty researchers presented their work. Following are the first-place winners of the Research Symposium:

Undergraduate Computer Science, Engineering and Math
Allison Cutts and Yvette Rankin

Graduate Computer Science, Engineering and Math
D. Agyemang and Akindeji Ojetola

Undergraduate Sciences
Mark Owusu

Graduate Sciences
Roderick L. Rolle

Undergraduate Social Sciences
Cynthia Jackson

Poster—Undergraduate Sciences
Timothy Udoji

Poster—Graduate Sciences
Sabah Ghazi

SPEAKERS

Attallah Shabazz

The daughter of El Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X) addressed a roomful of TSU faculty, staff and students as part of the Black Think Tank event, "having seen so much being fought for."

Shabazz talked of not being able to "sit here in this abundance without some part" of what proceeded African Americans.

"Are you really ready to understand the bounty of the diaspora?" Shabazz asked. "Wherever there is room on the map, we exist," she said, acknowledging that we live in a "melting pot mainstream," where we are "walking around all these cultures and don't even know it."

"Keep your minds open," Shabazz said. "We cannot afford to knock one another. We need to study the people around us. Them. Us. Shouldn't we have the right to be both? [They] expect you to check one box [on the form] and forsake the others. I'm a world child. My parents were world children."

Shabazz spoke of "God and the ancestral energy," saying her parents were examples of righteousness and excellence, who taught her to "like, love, know yourself" and that "it was not O.K. not to be nice."

"If you want to be respected, you've got to respect the next person," she said. "Anytime someone says something negative about you, check their agenda."

Ed. note: Accent does not have a photograph of Attallah Shabazz out of respect for her request that no pictures be taken during her lecture.

Alice Randall

Alice Randall wrote *The Wind Done Gone*, a parody of Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*.

"I wrote my book because words on paper matter to me," she said. "Words matter and words make distinction." Randall talked about how her father was

labeled in Alabama during a time in American history when it was "dangerous for a Negro to 'speak up' to a white man." (Her father had bought a car and asked for it to be fixed or get a refund.)

"Speak up, you're not down South" is something her father told her repeatedly. Randall also told the story of June 22, 1937, when her parents were invited by their white neighbors to listen to a Joe Lewis fight. The white people were mad that Lewis had won the world championship, so the African Americans had to leave to celebrate.

"*Gone with the Wind* is more about 1937 than 1837," Randall said. She said Mitchell's portrayal of black women in the book is "damaging," one in which "all black women are ugly and lacking in higher thinking skills." Randall's main character is a

"smart, loving black mother."

Of *The Wind Done Gone*, Randall said, "I wrote my book as a literary hip-hop criticism. It is a postmodern structuralist novel; let it teach you how to read it. Pay attention to homonyms, where alliteration leads you." Randall called writing "a speaking up and being silent" and said people should "attend to language carefully." She said writing the parody of Mitchell took courage, "taking action despite fear" and that "we" does not mean black people, but "people of conscience."

"Are you one of the ones who are putting shackles on or taking shackles off?" asked Randall.



Alice Randall

@TSU

Myrlie Evers Williams

"Colored. Negro. Black. Afro American. African American: We keep evolving," said Myrlie Evers Williams, widow of Medgar Evers and speaker for the Distinguished Lecture Series. "We are willing to reach out to others who believe in justice and equality. I am of African descent and for that I will be forever grateful."

"Be a part of positive change," said Evers Williams, recalling her grandmother's prayer "Make me a blessing." You have opportunities to change what it is you do not like. Are you committed enough in doing so?

"I have never had a plan. I have been moved by the forces around me."

Evers Williams encouraged the audience to take advantage of opportunities to grow and to "look for the good," that true revenge is turning a negative into a positive. "If you conduct yourself with respect and give of yourself, you will be positive," she said, noting two times she felt patriotic: when Medgar Evers was buried in Arlington Cemetery and after the events of Sept. 11.

"Look for the good and the strength in everything that comes your way," Evers Williams said.



Myrlie Evers Williams

Michael Eric Dyson

Michael Eric Dyson, pastor, author and historian, rattled off up-to-date rap lyrics during the Distinguished Lecture Series, immediately catching the attention of the younger students in the audience. His renditions of rapper Jay-Z's song "Girls, Girls, Girls" and other songs piqued the interest of those in the audience who perhaps had never heard the lyrics before. That was precisely Dyson's tactic that intertwined with his topic: bridging the gap between older African Americans and the contemporary generation.

According to Dyson, we, as a society, "live in the 'United States of Amnesia.'"

"We are addicted to forgetfulness," said Dyson, and this is especially true when it is too painful to confront past events. It applies to the citizenry, he said, because a guilty conscience may haunt us with some of the wrongs we have committed as a nation. However, said Dyson, "There can be no true birth of consciousness without pain."



Michael Eric Dyson

Kudos

to TSU employees, retirees and alumni

On April 18, Tennessee State University President James A. Hefner recognized 70 employees, retirees and alumni for distinguished service during the 10th Annual Kudos Celebration. Marking milestones in their TSU careers were 59 faculty and staff with at least 20 years of service, going in increments of five years up to 45 years, for which Mary Love, director of TRIO programs, was the sole celebrant. Close behind her with 40 years were Richard Miller of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and Vernella K. Smith of the Office of Admissions and Records.

Three employees—William Annesley, Barry Gresham and Timothy Quain—earned Distinguished University Service Awards, which recognize *exceptional service to Tennessee State University*, “exceeding the level of regular responsibilities” and having a “significant impact on students, programs, the university and related professions.”

Annesley developed bachelor of science degree programs in aviation management and flight training. He secured approval from the Federal Aviation Administration for eight pilot ground training courses, and he established TSU as an FAA-designated Aviation Education Resource Center.

Gresham, a two-time nominee for “Station Manager of the Year” at the Black College Radio Conference, orchestrated tremendous improvements to TSU Campus Radio’s signal transmission and technological upgrade and was instrumental in creating TSU Campus Radio’s new identity and involvement on campus and in the community, including creation of the Big Blue Sports Network for live student broadcasts of TSU football, basketball, softball and intramural championships. The TSU radio station won “Station of the Year” this year at the Black College Radio Conference.

Quain re-established the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action and established the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research. He directed the last two institutional self-studies for reaffirmation of accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and serves as

a member of reaffirmation teams and consulting teams for universities throughout the southern region.

Two employees—David Padgett and Sam Polk—earned Distinguished Public Service Awards, presented to persons whose community service has made an impact at the local or state level, whether related or unrelated to regular university responsibilities.

Since 2001, Padgett has had several students under his supervision serving as research assistants in the Geographic Information Sciences Laboratory. He is TSU’s point of contact for the GLOBE (Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment) Program, a federally supported effort to link K-12 science teachers with college

JWW Ministries Committee and participates in the volunteer ministry at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Campbell is currently a member of the Tennessee Juvenile Court Services Association’s (TJCSA’s) board of trust, minority issues committee and legislative committee. He is a past recipient of the President’s Award from the Nashville Chapter of the TSU National Alumni Association and from the TJCSA. He influenced the establishment of four \$15,000 scholarship endowments (one for TSU) by the TJCSA.

Coleman earned Principal of the Year honors from the Tennessee Association of Secondary School Principals. He has served as president of the Vanderbilt-Peabody Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa and of the Metro Teachers Credit Union. He is a deacon and superintendent of Sunday School at Spruce Street Baptist Church.

In 1989, Lee was the only African American in the Small Business Administration to earn status in the Million Dollar Club, which recognizes recovery of at least \$1 million from failed businesses that had acquired loans from the SBA. In 1990, he was Employee of the Year at the Tennessee District Office of the SBA. In 1999 head football coach L.C. Cole established the Fred Lee Award, given to senior

football players for team spirit. Lee has been employed at Jimmy Kelly’s restaurant for 31 years, the longest of any employee.

McFarland-Merriwether has been the executive secretary for the TSU National Alumni Association since 1996. She has received numerous awards for service, including speaking awards, in the 4-H Club and Girls’ State. She is a member of Zeta Phi Beta sorority. She had her first book of poetry published in 2001.

For several years, Wheaton has served on the board of directors of the Bethlehem Centers of Nashville. She works to implement numerous community activities through such organizations as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Hendersonville Area Chapter of the Links, Inc., and 100 Black Women of Middle Tennessee. She helped coordinate activities for a “Totally ArtCentric 9” fund raiser in Nashville, and she works in partnership with the Greater Charlotte Hot Lunch Cooperative. Wheaton is a member of Clark Memorial United Methodist Church.



Fu-Ming Chen, professor of chemistry, receives his Distinguished University Longevity Award, in recognition of his 50 years of service.

Mary Love, director of TRIO programs, receives her award for 45 years of service to TSU.

Barry Gresham, director of the campus radio station, receives his Distinguished Service Award.

faculty. He also had a front-page article published in *Black Enterprise* magazine, “The Best Cities for African Americans.”

Polk was recognized for increasing campus-wide customer satisfaction of facilities services, developing emergency response procedures, installing an outdoor warning system on campus and being the first African American to serve as president of the Southeastern Regional Association of Physical Plant Administrators of Universities and Colleges for 2001-2002.

TSU honored alumni and retirees—Shirley Jackson Calvin, Charles Campbell, Alfred E. Coleman, Fred L. Lee, Janet McFarland-Merriwether and Vesta Rhodes Wheaton—for remaining an integral part of the TSU mission and demonstrating continued dedication to students, the university and the community.

Calvin holds life memberships in the TSU National Alumni Association and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., for which she has served as an officer, and she serves on the

university notables

Gifts, grants and resources

Todd Gary, director of the Institute for Understanding Biological Systems, affiliated with the Center of Excellence for Information Systems Engineering and Management and Department of Biological Sciences, was awarded a \$50,000 Eisenhower Professional Development Grant to implement "Understanding Life: Strengthening Middle and High School Teachers' Background in Molecular Biology" for the 2002 academic year.

The **Center of Excellence for Information Systems Engineering and Management** has received an additional \$10,000 for the NASA/TSU Minority Universities Information Network for Research and Education project, for a total of \$375,321. **Willard Smith** is principal investigator.

The **Department of Hospitality and Tourism Administration** has received \$1,000 in scholarship funding from the SKAL Club of Nashville.

Consumer advocate and 2000 Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader has donated 13 books to the **Brown-Daniel Library**, including *Civics for Democracy* and *Time Dollars*.

Departmental and organizational news

The **Department of Physical Therapy** has received "candidate for accreditation" status to sponsor a master's degree program in physical therapy. The granting agency is the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association. Candidate status allows the department to admit students to the professional curriculum. The first class will enter the program in summer 2002. The master's course of study is three years and is designed to begin with the fourth year of undergraduate study.

The American Dental Association has resolved to change the **Department of Dental Hygiene's** accreditation status from "approval with reporting requirements" to "approval without reporting requirements," meaning that the dental hygiene program "achieves or exceeds the basic requirements for accreditation."

The **Department of Academic Enrichment** has received Level I Certification from the College Reading and Learning Association's International Tutor Certification Program. The department's tutorial program includes an evening tutorial; labs in math, reading and English; and the ICAN Center (formerly the Academic Intervention Center). **Monetha Reaves** is director of academic enrichment. Those who worked on the

certification are **Johnanna Grimes, Victoria Batten, Barbara Kannard, Lois Nixon, Freddie Stewart** and **Jeffrey Thompson**.

The **Testing Center** has been approved as a Prometric testing center, authorizing the center to conduct certification exams in Solaris, Java, and other Microsystems information systems products.

The **football coaching staff** participated in Career Awareness Day at West End Middle School March 15.

Research, presentations and publications

Arie Halachmi, professor of public administration, had an article, "Learning from International Approaches to Best Value," appear in a recent edition of *Policy and Politics*.

Franklin Jones, dean of the College of Education, served as a panelist on "Preparing New NCATE Standards for Performance-based Visits: Deans' Perspective" at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education.

Elaine Phillips, assistant professor of English, presented a paper, "Richardson Reads the Renaissance: The Use of Renaissance Narrative in the Novels and Prefaces," at the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies conference at South Padre Island, Texas. Her paper has been accepted for publication in a special edition of *1650-1850: A Journal of Ideas*.

Ann-Marie Rizzo, director of the Institute of Government, had an essay comparing non-profit ethics texts accepted for publication in *Public Integrity*.

Bruce Rogers, professor of public administration, had an article on time series analysis accepted for the new *Encyclopedia of Public Policy and Administration*.

Alex Sekwat, associate professor of public administration, had the article "Coping with Revenue Shortfalls: The Experience of a Rural Southern County" accepted for *Public Administration: Cases in Managerial Role-Playing*, published by Longman Press.

Honors, awards and achievements

TSU First Lady **Edwina Hefner** was a finalist for the Athena Award, given by a coalition of 21 women's organizations to honor women who exemplify leadership, superior performance, commitment to community and unselfish assistance to women.

Bobby Lovett, professor of history, has been involved with a number of activities: being elected to the board

of directors of Citizens Bank, reviewing a book manuscript for the University of Tennessee Press and *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, serving as a consultant to Belle Meade Plantation's "African Americans at Belle Meade," serving on the Nashville Chamber of Commerce's committee for a feasibility study of an African-American museum in Nashville, and serving as a reviewer for historic and architectural assessment of proposed highway projects by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Rosemary Theriot, associate professor of health care administration, has received a Women of Color in Health, Science and Technology Award from Career Communications Group, producers of the "A Salute to Black Achievement" television series, *U.S. Black Engineer and Information Technology* magazine, and other media.

New faculty and staff, new appointments

Venus Allen has been named crime prevention counselor in the TSU Police Department.

Janice Brinson has been named instructor of dental hygiene.

Elizabeth Brown has been named associate investigator in the Center of Excellence for Research and Policy on Basic Skills.

Jake Cabell has been named housing supervisor in the Department of Residence Life.

Fur Chi Chen has been named associate investigator in the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program.

Wei Chen has been named professor of computer science.

Deborah Chisom has been named coordinator of admissions and records in the Graduate School.

Regina Clark has been named director of developmental opportunities for first-year students in the Division of Student Affairs.

Karen Fowler has been named early childhood parent involvement coordinator for the Bureau of Evaluation and Research Services in the Center of Excellence for Research and Policy on Basic Skills.

Elizabeth Garton has been named prospect research coordinator in the Office of Development/TSU Foundation.

Renuka Kalra has been named research associate for business and economic research.

Brian McCartherenes has been named assistant hall director in the Office of Residence Life.

Nelson Modeste has been named associate professor of economics.

Shawna Norris has been named customer service specialist in the Department of Social Work and Sociology.

Elaine Piper has been named apprenticeship coordinator for the Center of Excellence for Research and Policy on Basic Skills' Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA) program.

Deidre Popovich has been named associate investigator in the Center of Excellence for Research and Policy on Basic Skills.



PHOTO

The TSU choir performs for the Founders' Day Convocation.

SUMMER COMMENCEMENT

August 3, 10 a.m.

Gentry Center

Speaker: Rev. Jim Holley, Ph.D.

Pastor, Little Rock Baptist Church, Detroit, Mich.

Paula Roberts has been named business resources specialist in the Small Business Development Center. **Jarvis Sheffield** has been named media specialist in the media center.

Lee Wilmot has been named assistant athletic director for sports information.

Keno Worthy has been named assistant hall director in the Office of Residence Life.

Alumni news

Kenton Evans, a former TSU quarterback, opened training camp with the Memphis Xplorers, an Arena Football League team, the week of March 18.

John Gilmore, a former TSU basketball player, has signed with the Green Bay Packers as a free agent defensive end. The Packers have allocated Gilmore to the Amsterdam Admirals for the upcoming NFL Europe season.

Student news

The TSU chapter of the **Student Tennessee Education Association (STEA)** received the Thelma Barker Community Service Award and placed third in the outstanding chapter competition at the Tennessee STEA meeting, held in Nashville April 5-6. **Keynon Atchison** was voted Middle Tennessee vice president. **Celia Catchings** received a Don Sahli/Kathy Woodall Scholarship. **Tyisha Martin** was recognized for outstanding leadership as TSU STEA president, and she, **Nyesha Bryant**, **Allison Cutts**, **LaKisha Brinson** and **Alysa Davis** were inducted into the CLASS (Community Learning through America's Students) Honor Society.

The TSU chapter of the **Tennessee Student Nurses Association (TSNA)** received three awards at the state convention: the Legislative Award, for having more than 100 nursing students in attendance at Capitol Hill Day 2001; the Silver Medal Award, for having 46 TSNA members—the second highest number in the state; and the 2001 Outstanding Chapter Award. Officers are **Cindy Thompson**, president; **Candy Casey**, president-elect; **Dawn Woodall**, vice president, main campus; **Debbie Rahn**, vice president, Volunteer State Community College; **Christy Moore**, treasurer; and **Rebecca Albright**, secretary.



TSU nursing students with State Trooper Angie Bain-Silva (front) and some of the teddy bears they collected for the State Highway Patrol to give to children involved in automobile accidents. The students collected more than 100 teddy bears.

TSU's **National Student Exchange Program** had 28 participants in the fall 2001 semester, including 15 students from other schools who attended TSU. TSU students included **Rashaan Byer**, **Marlin Carter**, **Naima Davis**, **Richard Ferguson**, **Shenna Marie Fortner**, **Joni Yvette Franklin**, **Rondrick Jenkins**, **Robin Joy Perkins**, **Alfred Roberts**, **Ladd Michael Wade**, **Remus Whitt**, **Amy Willoughby**, and **Abdul-Latif Yasmeen**.

The **TSU Forensics Team** won seven first-place awards at the Tennessee Intercollegiate Forensic Association's state championship, held at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, Tenn. The team won nine awards at the American Forensics Association National Individual Events Qualifying Tournament at Morehouse College in Atlanta.

LaRissa Thomas, forward for the women's basketball team, was named first-team All-Ohio Valley Conference. **Garrett Richardson** and **Kyle Rolston** of the men's basketball team were named second- and third-team All-OVC, respectively.

We remember

Bill Davis, head football coach at TSU from 1993 to 1995, died the weekend of March 16 from a heart attack. He spent six seasons at South Carolina State and eight seasons at Savannah State. He also coached at Howard. His career record was 124-91-1.

Mai Tu, a 21-year-old junior majoring in computer science, was killed in a motorcycle accident April 14. He attended Hillsboro High School and Nashville State Tech before coming to Tennessee State University.

Norma Yeargin White, class of 1980, died April 20 following a brief illness. She was a journalist for the *Urban Journal* and other Nashville community publications.

Curtis Woodmore, class of 1976, died March 17 from a heart attack. He was director for 12 years of the General Jackson showboat, part of Gaylord Entertainment. Prior to that, he worked for Opryland Hotel.

PHOTO OP



Posing after the Phi Kappa Phi induction are President Hefner; Millicent Lownes-Jackson, chapter president; Wendell McKenzie, national president; Eric Vogel, chapter director; and Sandra Holt, chapter president-elect.



President Hefner, sixth from right, and Tim Caboni, right, from Vanderbilt University, pose with the faculty and staff from South African universities, who visited several Tennessee colleges and universities this spring.

Graham named dean of nursing

Mary Ella Graham has been named dean of the School of Nursing. She took her post March 1.



Mary Ella Graham

Graham comes to TSU from the State University of New York's Downstate Medical Center and College of Nursing in Brooklyn, where she served as dean and professor. Prior to that, she held several positions, most recently assistant dean and chair of the City College of the City of New York School of Nursing. Graham also has served as a curriculum consultant and assistant dean for the School of Nursing at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. During her career, she has implemented distance-learning courses for undergraduate and graduate programs in nursing, interdisciplinary education and a midwifery program.

"While at SUNY, I developed the master of science in nurse anesthesia program in collaboration with Harlem Hospital Center, which was very rewarding," said Graham.

Graham earned her bachelor of science degree in nursing from Long Island University. She earned her M.Ed. degree in nursing, with a concentration in adult health and illness from the Teachers College of Columbia University, where she also earned her Ed.D. degree in curriculum and instruction in nursing education.

Graham said she first became acquainted with Tennessee State University when she visited the university's web site and learned of TSU's listing among national universities in *U.S. News & World Report*. There she read one of the president's messages to students and learned about TSU's commitment to excellence. She also was interested in TSU's being a historically black institution.

Now that she is dean of the School of Nursing, Graham says she plans to "take a critical look at the school in the areas of licensing exam results," with the goal of ensuring that students' test scores make them marketable.

"I would like to develop some new programs here at TSU," said Graham. "In nursing there is a shortage of nurse educators and since we do have a master's program it would be easy to offer a post-masters certificate."

Opening a holistic nursing clinic and going on-line with the holistic nursing program are short-term goals of Graham's, as is "building partnerships with clinical agencies." In the long run, Graham wants to "move the School of Nursing forward to college status" by expanding the school's research agenda. And foremost, she wants "to have the best faculty, the best prepared students and the best prepared nurses."

Quotable QUOTES

Age doesn't bring wisdom; it just brings old age.

— **Sonia Sanchez**
poet, at a reading during
the Black Think Tank

A great opportunity has been bestowed upon us.

— **John Cade**
dean of admissions and records, about a
consultant's initial report on admissions,
recruitment, records, bursar services
and financial aid

You have opportunities to change what it is you do not like.

— **Myrlie Evers Williams**
widow of Medgar Evers,
during a lecture at TSU

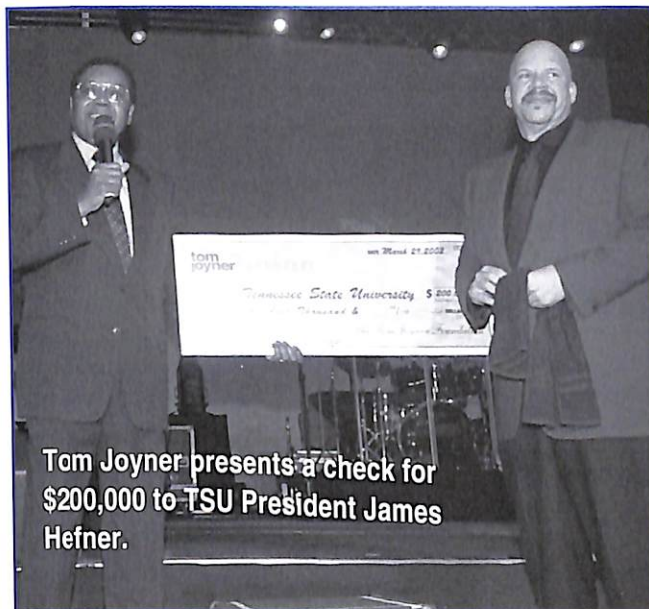
Anytime someone says something negative about you, check their agenda.

— **Attallah Shabazz**
daughter of Malcolm X, at a forum
during the Black Think Tank

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Live from TSU, it's the **Tom Joyner** Morning Show...



Tom Joyner presents a check for \$200,000 to TSU President James Hefner.

...and the **Doug Banks** Morning Show.



Doug Banks (center) poses with the Tiger Gems pom-pom squad.