

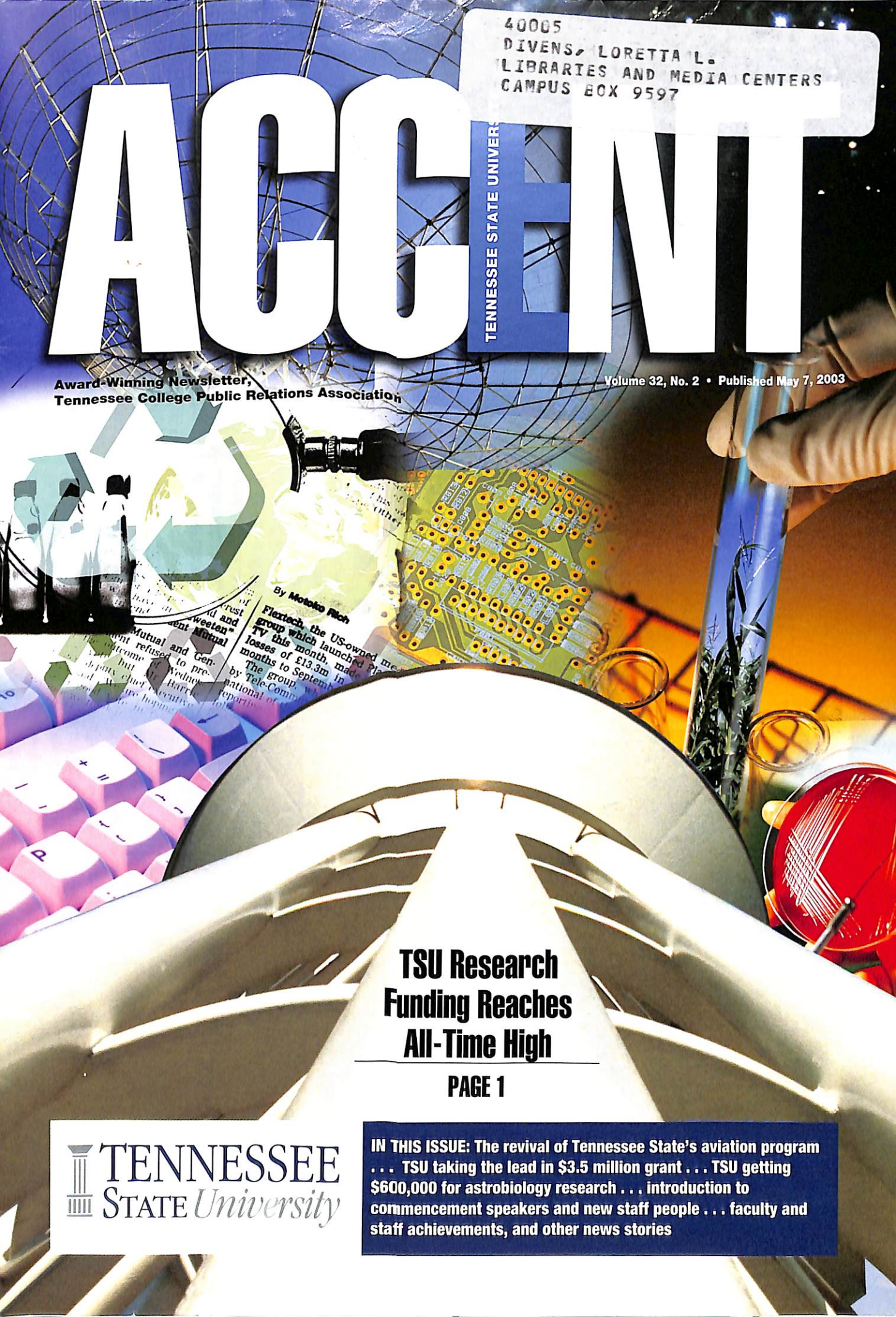
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TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

# ACCENT

Award-Winning Newsletter,  
Tennessee College Public Relations Association

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By Motoko Fitch  
Flextech, the US-owned group which launched TV this month, made losses of £13.3m in months to September. The group, by Tele-Comm, a national of reports...

## TSU Research Funding Reaches All-Time High

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 **TENNESSEE**  
STATE *University*

**IN THIS ISSUE:** The revival of Tennessee State's aviation program . . . TSU taking the lead in \$3.5 million grant . . . TSU getting \$600,000 for astrobiology research . . . introduction to commencement speakers and new staff people . . . faculty and staff achievements, and other news stories



# ACCENT

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

## RESEARCH AT TSU REACHES \$41 MILLION

Funding for research at Tennessee State University reached \$41.42 million in 2002, up from \$7 million in 1992, according to the Office of Sponsored Research. That figure represents one third of the Tennessee Board of Regents total funds for research received for its 46 institutions.

"TSU continues to perform at a high-caliber level in the research arena," said TSU president James A. Hefner. "Our faculty garner more and more support for their cutting-edge work and the more they produce, the more agencies want to fund them. I am proud of what they have accomplished in recent years."

The university celebrated its success in research during the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual University-wide Research Symposium March 24-27. What began as a day of presentations has evolved into four days of poster presentations and brief research lectures from approximately 100 faculty members and students. The symposium also featured a luncheon with keynote speaker Baruch Blumberg, Nobel Laureate, and a dinner for the newly formed Million Dollar Research Club. Their stories follow.

### Nobel Laureate lauds TSU researchers during presentation at university

The man who won the Nobel Prize for discovering the hepatitis B virus complimented the work of Tennessee State University researchers during a recent visit to campus as TSU celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Research Symposium.

Nobel Laureate Baruch S. Blumberg addressed the Tennessee State University community Tuesday, March 25. His talk focused on his work with NASA and how historically minority institutions—in particular TSU—have impacted the research arena. In describing the founding of the NASA Astrobiology Institute, Blumberg described TSU's role as being crucial to the extension of the program with the university's diverse wealth of knowledge, and as one of the trailblazers in the involvement of minority institutions with the Institute.

"We have a mandate from NASA to include historical minority institutions in our program, but initially we weren't ready," Blumberg said. "We had to get the institute up and running. I instructed the lead universities to look into their community and identify minority institution with whom they could collaborate, and that happened quickly with Tennessee State." Blumberg explained that TSU was one of the first places visited by staff of the Astrobiology Institute. Karen Bradford, an executive assistant with the institute, who came to last year's research symposium, said upon her return, "Barry, you've got to go see TSU. It's really a mind-blowing place," according to Blumberg. "I'm going to call her up tomorrow and confirm that's absolutely the case."



Nobel laureate Baruch S. Blumberg

Blumberg currently is a scientist at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia and university professor of medicine and anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia. From May 1999 to October 2002, he served as the first director of the NASA Astrobiology Institute headquartered at Ames Research Center in California. TSU conducts

astrobiological research through its Institute for Understanding *Biological Systems*, through which TSU scientists are studying how life survives and thrives in extreme circumstances. The research could play a key role in understanding how life developed on Earth and how life could develop on other worlds, despite extreme environmental conditions. One of the goals of the program is to have a NASA/TSU greenhouse on Mars by 2012. The institute receives funding through NASA via the university's Center of Excellence in Information Systems Engineering and Management.

Blumberg said TSU researchers were about the business of the "first-hand experience of new discovery." He told students that "training in research is trying to find out something the teacher doesn't know" versus learning something from the teacher and repeating it back to him or her.

"Research introduces students to the idea that nature writes in detail and details lead to the big conclusions," he said.

Blumberg's research has covered many areas, including clinical research, epidemiology, virology, genetics, and anthropology. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1976. In 1993, he and his co-inventor, Dr. Irving Millman, were

elected to the National Inventors Hall of Fame for their invention of the Hepatitis B vaccine and the diagnostic test for Hepatitis B. He has lectured and taught widely, in India, Singapore, New Zealand and throughout the United States.

From October 2000 to October 2001, Blumberg was senior advisor to the administrator of NASA based in Washington, D.C. He was Master of Balliol College, Oxford University, from 1989 to 1994, and, prior to that, associate director for clinical research at Fox Chase from 1964 to 1989. He was on the staff of the National Institutes of Health from 1957 to 1964. He earned an M.D. degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, in 1951, and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Oxford University in 1957.

### A million minimum to get in

Tennessee State University's Office of Sponsored Research inaugurated a Million Dollar Research Club Monday, March 24, with the induction of its first 14 members. The elite organization celebrates researchers at Tennessee State who have garnered projects of at least \$1 million.

The purpose of the Million Dollar Research Club is to honor faculty, staff, and research associates who "are dedicated to advancing the research



# Research agent addresses afternoon graduates

Jean Flagg-Newton addresses graduates in the College of Business, College of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science, School of Agriculture, School of Allied Health Professions and School of Nursing during the 2 p.m. exercises May 10.

Flagg-Newton is chief of the Office of Health Disparities Research at the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD). The mission of the office is to develop a research agenda that advances: 1) an understanding of the mechanisms by which the human experience—environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural—

promotes an increased susceptibility to disease and illness, and 2) the development of diagnostics and therapies that prevent, delay the onset of, or reduce the complications of disease and illness in health disparity populations. She previously served as the interim deputy director, NCMHD, and deputy director and coordinator for the Minority Health Initiative with the former Office of Research on Minority Health at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. The Minority Health



Jean Flagg-Newton

Initiative (MHI) was a comprehensive program with a focus on developing and testing interventions aimed at reducing the disproportionate burden of disease among minority populations and developing successful strategies to promote healthy behaviors across the life span.

Flagg-Newton holds a bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University in zoology (1971). She earned a Ph.D. in physiology from Harvard University and pursued additional postdoctoral studies at the University of Miami School of Medicine. Flagg-Newton began her career as a research associate and later became an assistant professor at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. In 1988, she joined the National Institute of General Medical Science, National Institutes of Health. After a brief period with Directorate of Environmental Engineering, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, she returned to the NIH, as a scientific review administrator with the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Flagg-Newton transferred to the Fogarty International Center, NIH, in 1995 and while at Fogarty, served as the director of the Minority International Research Training Program, a program that enables U.S. colleges and universities to support international training and research opportunities for U.S. underrepresented minorities in the scientific professions.

Flagg-Newton has received numerous awards including the NIH Director's Award, for leadership, initiative, and enthusiasm in promoting excellence in elementary school science education through the Science Alliance Program, and the Director's Award for meritorious performance. She is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

## TSU to receive part of \$3.5 million grant

Tennessee State University will serve as the lead campus of a consortium of Tennessee universities that have received a five-year grant of nearly \$3.5 million for the National Science Foundation's (NSF's) Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program. TSU will share the grant with Vanderbilt University, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, the University of Memphis, LeMoyné-Owen College and Middle Tennessee State University. The five schools will partner to form the Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (TLSAMP).

The goal of the TLSAMP is to increase the number of the underrepresented science, mathematics, engineering, and technology students by 100 percent at the end of the five-year period. The objectives to support the goal of the alliance are: 1) to recruit underrepresented students to pursue science or engineering as a career, 2) to improve the quality of the learning environment for underrepresented science and engineering students at all schools, and 3) to ensure that a larger number of undergraduate students are prepared to enter graduate programs.

The alliance will emphasize collaborative learning approaches; mentoring activities via faculty, staff, and upper-level students; and hands-on research and internship experiences. Using this approach, three project areas have been chosen as critical focal points for achieving the qualitative and quantitative goals of the project. These project areas utilize strategies with demonstrable effectiveness in the retention of underrepresented students in science and engineering. All project areas will involve faculty, staff, or students during the design phase as well as the continuous quality improvement phase.

"TSU is proud to take the lead in a dynamic project that will encourage more minorities to pursue higher education and expand their opportunities for success," said TSU president James A. Hefner.

Hefner is chair of the advisory board; Lonnie Sharpe, TSU Massie Professor of Environmental Engineering, will serve as alliance associate executive director. Sharpe will assist with the development of strategies for effectively coordinating all TLSAMP activities.

"NSF has done an excellent job to increase the awareness of minority issues in the science, mathematics, engineering, and technology disciplines. TSU and our partnering institutions are excited about participating in their Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program to increase the nation's technical human resource needs by increasing the total BS degrees awarded at our colleges and universities," said Sharpe.

## Two TSU students receive GEM fellowships

Tennessee State University seniors Tokunbo Adeshiyan and Damyon Thompson have received fellowships from the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science, Inc. (GEM), a scholarship program sponsored in part by IBM.

Statistics show that minorities represent less than five percent of the recipients of advanced degrees in engineering or science. GEM, a nonprofit organization, was formed in 1976 to address this problem. Specifically, GEM exists to increase the number of American Indians, African Americans, and Latino, Puerto Rican,



GEM fellows Tokunbo Adeshiyan (left) and Damyon Thompson

and other Hispanic Americans pursuing graduate degrees in engineering, physical science and natural science disciplines. GEM fellows also obtain practical work experience through summer internships at GEM employer work sites.

Bill Lawrence, IBM Senior Diversity Program Manager, said, "The IBM-GEM relationship will support the students' graduate level academic pursuits, in addition to providing two summer employment positions while in graduate school."

Adeshiyan, a native of Huntsville, Ala., is majoring in computer science and intends to earn a master's degree in computer science as well. "I have applied to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Vanderbilt," said Adeshiyan. While at TSU, Adeshiyan has been active with community service through organizations such as Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Thompson is a graduating senior computer science major from San Jose, Calif. He plans to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the fall. "This is a great opportunity and I am proud to represent TSU," said Thompson. "I believe that Tennessee State University has prepared me for this experience and I plan to do well." Among other commitments while he was a student, Thompson served as the 2001-2002 president of the TSU Student Government Association.



# BRIEFS

Each fellowship recipient receives a full scholarship, which covers tuition, room and board, and book expenses at a GEM member university. The consortium's member universities are those with renowned engineering and science graduate programs, including those in the 2003 *U.S. News and World Report's* "Guide to America's Best Graduate Schools."

In addition to the scholarship, Adeshiyan and Thompson will receive \$12,000 stipends, paid summer internships, and positions at IBM, their corporate sponsor. Along with IBM, there are more than 70 GEM employer sponsors such as Motorola, Boeing Aircraft, and BP Amoco.

## TSU gets \$600,000 grant for astrobiology research

NASA's Ames Research Center has awarded TSU's Institute for Understanding Biological Systems a three-year, \$600,000 grant for research in astrobiology, which explores how organisms developed on Earth and how they might grow in outer space and on other planets. Scientists from the Center of Excellence in Information Systems Engineering and Management and Department of Biological Sciences are collaborating on the research. Currently, Todd Gary, the institute's interim director, and others are studying ways to regenerate plants in a medium other than soil. Eventually, they hope to be able to replicate the same thing with food crops. Along the way, they're studying extremophiles—plants growing in hostile environments such as those frozen for 20,000 years in a glacier. Such harsh conditions are similar to ones that could exist in outer space and on distant planets. The research in the institute has the capability of reproducing the plants that heal, fight and stop bacterial compounds, diseases and other ailments. The healing plants are reproduced continuously, giving people an



Todd Gary in the lab

"...they're studying extremophiles—plants growing in hostile environments ... such harsh conditions ... similar to ones that could exist on distant planets."

endless supply of effective medicine.

"You don't have to take the whole medicine cabinet with you all the time," said Gary.

Researchers are analyzing all forms of bacteria from Mars' and Earth's volcanoes, meteorites and other places where they have found bacteria. From studying the bacteria, researchers are able to discover how to get the bacteria to live in new environments—like other planets—and survive. The researchers ask first, where the life came from, and, second, how to get it to live somewhere else. In 1996, researchers found a pre-historic bacterium on Mars and are trying to determine whether it could survive in different conditions. In the year 2012, TSU and NASA project they will have a greenhouse on Mars that will be the first form of life on that planet. Because the pressure is so high on Mars, the biologists have to discover a plant that is able to handle the pressure, so the plant will not explode.

"Who would have thought that a Mars greenhouse could come from research done at TSU?" said Gary.

## Partnership forged between TSU and Howard Industries

Howard Industries, the largest transformer manufacturing division in the United States, is providing cooperative education assignments to Tennessee State University students and actively recruiting TSU engineering graduates.

"We can help them with their commitment to innovation, and they can help us by providing students and faculty opportunities to work with a successful assembly operation," said Decatur Rogers, dean of the College of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science. "TSU has a history of successful applied research and we'd love a chance to work on some of Howard Industries' projects." Rogers and his faculty are reviewing possible research projects for Howard Industries as topics for senior undergraduate projects, as well as for master's and doctoral projects.

Billy and Linda Howard founded their \$450 million electrical products company more than 30 years ago. Today, Howard Industries' transformer division is the No. 1 producer of distribution transformers in the United States and is housed in the largest transformer plant in the world, measuring 1.6 million square feet. The company also owns a ballast manufacturing division (one of the five largest in the country), a computer assembly division, and a national trucking division.

"Howard is proud to have formed a strategic partnership with Tennessee State University—one of the leading technical universities in the country," said Billy Howard. "Tennessee State University attracts top students from across the country, and we look forward to working with their students and their faculty on leading-edge technology. This partnership should also provide Howard an edge in hiring their graduates."

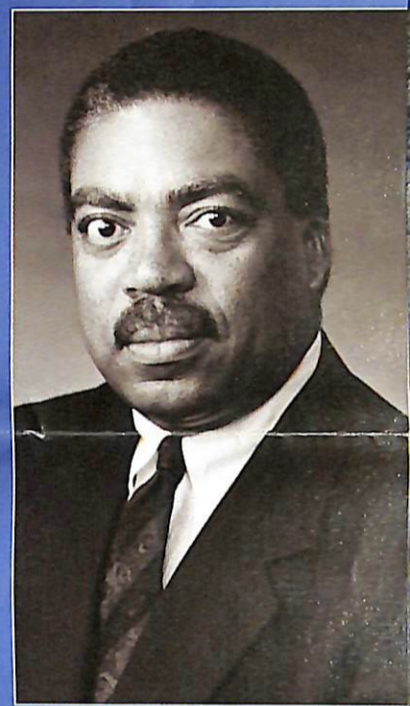
## Noted attorney addresses morning graduates

Tennessee State University alumnus Shirley Cunningham, managing partner of Cunningham & Grundy Law Group of Lexington, Ky., is the morning commencement speaker May 10. Students from the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education and Institute of Government will graduate during the 10 a.m. exercises.

Cunningham earned his bachelor of science degree in rural development from TSU in 1976. He earned his master's of science in agricultural development from the University of Missouri-Columbia and his juris doctorate from the University of Kentucky in 1979. His academic honors and activities included serving as president of the TSU Student Government Association and the University of Kentucky Student Bar Association, receiving the University of Kentucky Law School Faculty Award, and being inducted into Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society.

Cunningham is a member of the American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Kentucky Bar Association, Association of Trial Lawyers of America and other similar organizations. His extensive community service includes serving on the boards of directors of the American Cancer Society of Fayette County, Florida A&M University, Lexington-Fayette County Fair Housing Coalition, and Habitat for Humanity. Cunningham also is active with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and serves as chairman of the board of the Shirley Allen Cunningham Jr. Family Foundation. He also has produced and hosted a television talk show in Lexington.

Cunningham has been a partner or principal in his law firm since 1987, with offices in Lexington, Kentucky. Prior to that, he served as vice president and general counsel to Citizens Union National Bank & Trust Company, assistant county attorney for Fayette County, and assistant professor of agricultural economics at the University of Kentucky, all in Lexington.



Shirley Cunningham



# AVIATION STUDENTS TAKE WING

*What happens  
when students back  
the aviation  
program at  
Tennessee State  
University?  
It soars.*



Like Phoenix rising from the ashes, TSU's aviation program is climbing to new heights, thanks to the industry of its students and the leadership of program director Bill Annesley. The program was all but dead until TSU President James A. Hefner brought Annesley on board to revive it.

"Dr. Hefner wanted the program to return to the glory days of Tuskegee airman Cecil Ryan, who established it in the '60s, complete with TSU-owned airplanes," said Annesley. "He would be pleased to see that today TSU has revived the program in full, this time with flight simulators, and the FAA has conferred an Air Agency Certificate that recognizes TSU as a pilot ground-training academy."

What makes the designation especially impressive is that from curriculum design to implementation to graduation of students who have already earned their private pilot licenses has been a short 24 months. Student enrollment has jumped from 34 to 115.

Of the 90,000 commercial airline pilots in the United States today, only 750 are African American—a remarkably small percentage in a \$900 billion industry.\*

What explains the shortage?

"Lack of training opportunities," said Annesley. "There are 400 universities and community colleges in the United States with aviation programs. Only five of them are HBCUs [historically black colleges and universities], and TSU is one of only three offering flight training.

"Of course, one can always go to the local airport and take flying lessons, but if someone wants a degree that prepares him/herself for a

**No need to fasten your seatbelt...this plane is staying on the ground. William Annesley, director of the Department of Aeronautical and Industrial Technology, instructs Keli Wade on Tennessee State University's PCATD—personal computer-aided training device—so she can earn her private pilot's license. Wade, a sophomore in the ROTC program at TSU, is "making history," she said, by being the first female to graduate from Tennessee State with an AIT degree in aviation flight. She is deciding between a career as a fighter pilot in the Air Force or an astronaut.**

career in the industry, a college degree with Part-141 training is the way to go," he said.

Such is Tennessee State's designation—a Part 141-approved ground training facility—and there are only three in Tennessee: another at Middle Tennessee State University and a third at a private college. Graduates of the program qualify as commercial pilots with an instrument rating license as well as flight instructors.

"Ninety-two percent of our students have passed the FAA airmen written exam the first time with an average written test score of 83 percent," Annesley said. He said that nationally 30 percent of those who take the exam fail it the first time.

Good thing for TSU students, because pilots are sorely needed. According to the July 2000 issue of *Monthly Labor Review*, the turnover in airline pilots and navigators will be 173 percent between the years 2003 and '08 because of the aging pilot population. The impact of the baby-boomers upon aviation and the mandatory retirement age of 60 has indicated an upcoming shortage of qualified pilots.

\*the impact of civil aviation upon the U.S. economy in 2000 according to the General Aviation Manufacturers Association



# They were born to fly

Not only that, Annesley says, 9/11 and the new Transportation Security Administration have generated a flurry of hiring activity in a virtually new "sub"-industry: aviation safety, baggage inspection, private aircraft production, etc. Many companies that hadn't been able to decide whether or not to purchase private planes now opt for the expense. They need pilots to fly their planes.

"And don't forget the turnover of air-traffic controllers caused by the crisis of the '80s," Annesley added.

Two years—not a long time to rebuild an aviation program. But Tennessee State has also been designated by the Federal Aviation Administration as an Aviation Education Resource Center, the first one established by the agency in 10 years. TSU has memberships in the Tennessee Aviation Authority, the University Aviation Association, the National Association of Industrial Technology, and the Council on Aviation Accreditation. *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine has already listed TSU as one of its top "Aerospace/Aeronautical Engineering Schools" (Oct. 9, 2000). Alpha Eta Rho, the society for aviation scholars, has re-instituted TSU's chapter. FedEx, UPS, and the FAA are launching student internships at TSU.

Most would wonder how one man could accomplish so much, but Annesley has the pedigree to do it: he holds FAA certifications as an airline transport pilot (airplane multi-engine land), commercial pilot (airplane single-engine and multi-engine land and sea), Gold Seal flight instructor (airplane single-engine, multi-engine, and instrument), ground instructor (base, advanced, and instrument), and aircraft dispatcher. He has logged more than 11,000 flight instruction hours.

The teaching is what he loves best. Though he's qualified to evaluate aviation programs and has 28 years of experience both on the ground and in the air at top-flight aviation academies, he warms to the classroom experience. No doubt about it, he says, aviation students are the best.

"Aviation students are motivated; they want to learn, and I love helping them learn," said the flight instructor, who holds Ph.D. and master's degrees in aeronautical science and a bachelor's in business administration.

"I couldn't ask for a more impressive, dedicated group of students," Annesley said.

Tennessee State offers a bachelor of science degree in aeronautical and industrial technology in three concentrations, industrial electronics technology, aviation flight, and aviation management.

## Correction

*Accent* ran a story last issue that Tennessee State University, through the Tennessee Board of Regents, was offering a master's degree program in education online, based on information released by TBR. In fact, that program will not be available until fall 2003, when students will be able to work toward their master's of advanced studies in teaching and learning through the Regents Online Degree Program. *Accent* is happy to correct the error.

Lossie Williams was 12 the first time he flew in an airplane. Once the plane left the rainy ground and rose above the towering, moonlit clouds, he had it for life—the aviation bug.

Rhonda Lyons knew from the sixth grade that she wanted to fly and signed up for the military, gaining management and maintenance experience—on the ground. Coming to Tennessee State enabled her to acquire her private pilot's license, and soon she will have her instrument ratings license as well. Williams also will soon be licensed.

Since the aviation program "took off" again two years ago, fourteen graduates have earned their licenses and are now in the aviation industry in jobs ranging from Autocad designer to logistics engineer to aircraft acquisition supervisor. They work for everyone from Lucent Technologies to the Federal Aviation Administration to Raytheon Missile Systems. They're everywhere from Arizona to Michigan to New Jersey.

Their average salary is \$47,500.

Williams and Lyons are exceptional in several ways. They're both excellent students, appearing on the dean's list with regularity. They're both non-traditional students; Lyons has come to Tennessee State after service in the military, and Williams graduated from TSU two years ago. And, above all, they're zealous. They love flying, they love airplanes, they love school.



**Lossie Williams and Rhonda Lyons**



Clayton McWhorter (left), chairman of the board of the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority, and Raul Regalado (right), president, present a check for \$21,000 to Hollis Price, executive assistant to the president, Tennessee State University, and Delorse Lewis, director of development for TSU. The funds were raised by the annual "MNAA Aviation Classic," a golf tournament benefiting Middle-Tennessee-area aviation programs. The MNAA has contributed approximately \$150,000 to TSU's program since 1996.

Unfortunately, the options for those so infected are few. Both Williams and Lyons were resolved to alternative careers—until TSU's aviation program was renewed.

Williams's story is that, upon graduating from high school and seeing the cost of university degrees with flight instruction—\$70- to \$80,000—he put his dream aside and studied engineering at Tennessee State, a school he had always wanted to attend. Then, his last year at TSU, he learned the aviation program was being revived; and, though it wouldn't be up and running for another two years, he was determined to graduate, wait a year, then return for a second degree.

That's what the aviation bug does to people; Williams is back and nearly finished with a second degree, and he's just a few hours shy of obtaining his pilot's license (he's already passed his written examination).

Lyons's story is similar. She had an associate of science degree in aviation technology which she earned while in the army and had nearly completed a bachelor's degree in biology at Tennessee State when the aviation program fired up again at TSU. She changed majors at great sacrifice, which, like Williams, she doesn't regret. Ignoring obstacles is nothing

new for her: all of her coursework has been performed while working full-time for the military, regardless of where she's been posted, Korea or the States. For six years she was a crew chief on an Apache helicopter maintenance crew. She has her pilot's license and her powerplant license, which authorizes her to work in aircraft maintenance.

A Nashville native, Lyons hopes to earn a master's degree after graduating from Tennessee State and enter aviation management or flight safety for the Federal Aviation Administration or the National Transportation Safety Board. Williams, who is from Indianapolis, hopes to become a commercial airline pilot.

Both will have earned aviation degrees not at a cost of \$80,000 but at \$20,000. TSU's program is the country's third least expensive because it contracts with John C. Tune Airport and the use of its Zellar aircraft, escaping the cost of fleet management.

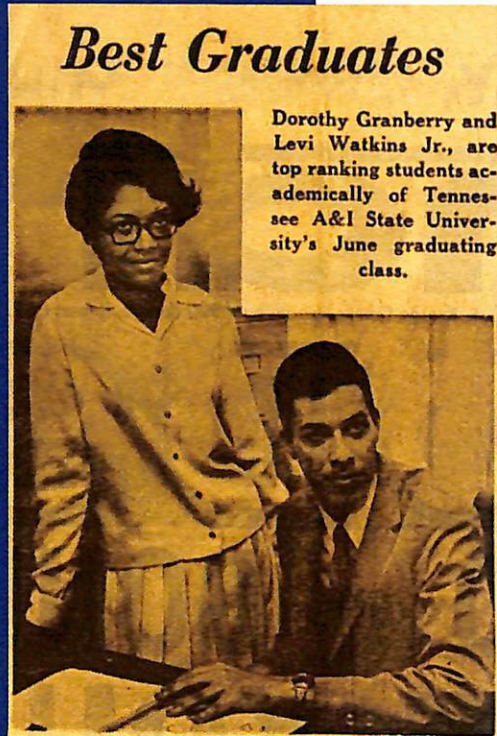
The aviation bug. Aviators say one either hates flying or loves it; few fall in between. Williams and Lyons know where they stand: they're certified.

FAA certified aviators at Tennessee State University.



# Tennessee State University: Remembering the past

Dorothy Granberry and Levi Watkins Jr., were touted as the "smartest" students on TSU's campus. As Robert Churchwell reported in the Nashville Banner in May 1966, "The two leaders in student government at Tennessee A&I State University are also top-ranking students academically in the June graduating class, Dr. Walter S. Davis, A&I president, announced today. Dorothy Granberry, first woman student named Student Council vice president, has a 3.9 grade average and Levi Watkins Jr., council president, has a 3.7 average."



# Levi Watkins:

*Show me whatcha working with*

TSU alumnus Levi Watkins may be a cultured, educated, and sophisticated cardiac surgeon at Johns Hopkins, the world's foremost medical center, but he's also a compassionate man who can reduce a lesson to its simplest terms: "Show me whatcha got."

The first to implant the automatic defibrillator for the heart—a procedure that has saved more than 100,000 lives since he performed the surgery in 1980—Watkins addressed students, faculty, and friends of Tennessee State University Tuesday, April 15, at this year's Founders Day Convocation. His lecture also served as the closing event in the 2002-03 Student Development

professionals everywhere. You are a gold mine of professionals."

Watkins recognized two audience members, Mrs. Robert N. Murrell and Mrs. John Mollette, whose late husbands had been important figures for him during his matriculation at Tennessee State. He also mentioned Dorothy Granberry, director of Title III programs at TSU, who had been vice president during his tenure as president of the student body.

"She had the better grades, and I had more votes," he said.

TSU President James Hefner recognized Dr. George C. Hill in the audience. Dr. Hill is the Levi Watkins Jr. Professor and Associate Dean for Diversity, a position that was created by Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in honor of Watkins, who earned his medical degree there in 1970. Vanderbilt has also developed an annual lecture

series in Watkins's name and established the Levi Watkins Award, which is presented annually to a faculty or staff member who has fostered opportunities for under-represented minorities.

Watkins credited Tennessee State for his ability to break the color barrier at Vanderbilt, becoming the first black to be admitted to and graduated from Vanderbilt's School of Medicine.

"I watched you grow as I grew," he said. "You grew from a little school called Tennessee A&I to a major national education and research institution. I urge you not to let your national stature sabotage what you did best in my day. You paid individual attention to

individual students like me. You took students who weren't born with silver spoons in their mouths and transformed them into men and women who used their degrees to make silver."

Levi Watkins has more than 500 honors to his credit; however, those that mean the most to him have been the production of a documentary on his life by national public television called, "The Dream Fulfilled"; being recognized as "Man of the Year" by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1987; inclusion as one of "America's Top 15 Black Physicians" by *Black Enterprise* magazine in 1989; and honorary degrees from Spelman College, Sojourner-Douglass College, and Meharry Medical College.

"The greatest event in my life has not been the implantation of the automatic defibrillator," Watkins said. "It was the opportunity to hold my own father's heart in my hands, cut it open, and put it back together so he could live two more years."

Levi Watkins is a 1966 graduate of Tennessee State University. Currently, he is the associate dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a full professor of cardiac surgery.



Levi Watkins (left), Edwina Hefner, James A. Hefner

Presentation and Symposium Series.

"I wonder if you've heard of the rapper Mystikal?" he asked, catching the attention of younger audience members. "Shake it fast. Watch yourself! Show me whatcha working with. Mystikal may well have had something else in mind when he said those lyrics, but I'm saying to you today, Tennessee State University, I want you to show me what you're working with."

He then challenged listeners to find the "brave, startling truths" about themselves, as renowned poet Maya Angelou had challenged him. He urged them to use their degrees and research to make positive differences in society.

He mourned the plight of poverty among our nation's children, particularly the high rate of violence, noting that 14,000 5- to 19-year-olds are killed by gunfire every year—more than five times the number of murdered children in the world's 25 other industrialized nations. His second driving issue is the lingering racial divide. He remarked that even when African Americans and the elderly have the same insurance, the same education, and the same economic status they are 30 percent less likely to have a catheterization, 40 percent less likely to have an angioplasty, and 50

percent less likely to have the operation he performs. "We must do something about these discrepancies," Watkins said. "The heart has only one color."

He told listeners how they could help.

"We need many, many more minority health care workers. We need many more minorities in public health, in pharmacies, in law school—we need many more minority



Dorothy Granberry and Levi Watkins

# Saluting the present

Dorothy Granberry, professor of psychology and director of Title III programs, and Levi Watkins, associate dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and full professor of cardiac surgery, reunite on the TSU campus. Watkins was the keynote speaker at the TSU Founders Day Convocation and Student Development Symposium and Presentation Series on April 15. In acknowledging Granberry, Watkins said, "Dorothy was the smartest but I got the most votes."



# Cy Alexander

## named TSU men's basketball coach

Cy Alexander has been named head men's basketball coach at Tennessee State University.

Alexander comes to TSU to rebuild a tradition-rich Tiger program after serving as head coach at South Carolina State for 16 seasons. He led the Bulldogs to five appearances in the NCAA Tournament, including four trips to the tournament in the past eight years.

"I am excited to have someone of Cy's experience and integrity to become our men's basketball coach," said Teresa Phillips, TSU's director of athletics. "He brings immediate credibility to our program because of how successful and how well-respected he is in the college basketball community. We are delighted to have him become a part of the TSU family."

"I think Tennessee State has an unlimited potential as an academic institution, as well as athletically," Alexander said. "The basketball program is down, but South Carolina State was down when I came."

Alexander took over a South Carolina State program that had suffered nine straight losing seasons, leading the team to a winning record his first year, followed by a 25-8 record his second season, the most wins in school history. He compiled an overall record of 277-202 and 191-79 in the MEAC, leading the Bulldogs to five MEAC tournament titles. This past

season, the

Bulldogs were 20-11 overall and 15-3

in the MEAC regular season. Alexander was named MEAC Coach of the Year for the third time, and the Bulldogs played top seed Oklahoma in the opening round of the NCAA East Region Tournament.

"I'm just a no-nonsense kind of guy when it comes to the court," said Alexander. "On the basketball court, I expect you to do the right thing. You'll never not know where Cy is coming from because I'm going to tell you. TSU's basketball team will compete next year harder than any TSU team has in a long time."

A native of Winston-Salem, N.C., Alexander was an assistant coach at Howard University in Washington, D.C., for 11 years before moving to S.C. State. Alexander is a member of the Black Coaches Association, and the National Association of Basketball Coaches, serving on the Recruiting Committee. He also serves on the NCAA Basketball Tournament East Regional Advisory Committee, and is a member of several organizations, including Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Catawba College and earned a master's degree in education from Howard University.

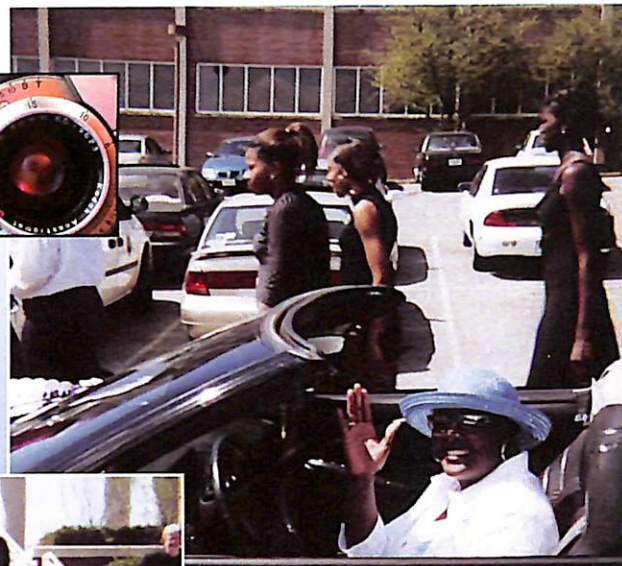


Cy Alexander



PHOTO OP

Tigerbelle Day at TSU



TSU honored its OVC-indoor-track-champion Tigerbelles with a special day and parade April 3. The event also spotlighted Coach Chandra Cheeseborough for being named Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year. Watch for more Tigerbelle news in the next issue of Accent.







# President Hefner enters his teen years at TSU

TSU President James A. Hefner began his 13th year at the helm of the university on April 1. Since coming to TSU from Jackson State University in 1991, Hefner has experienced some major accomplishments, including quadrupling the amount of funding received for sponsored research to over \$41 million and the listing of TSU among national universities in U.S. News & World Report's "Guide to America's Best Colleges" for nine consecutive years.

"Enrollment has increased by 20 percent and we've launched two new doctoral programs," Hefner said of the growth of the university. "We've won the Ohio Valley Conference academic banner for achievements of athletes in the classroom, and a chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, the most prestigious honor society encompassing scholars from all academic disciplines, has been established at TSU. There has also been the establishment of three faculty chairs."

There have been other non-academic accomplishments also, including the university being ranked in Yahoo's "100 Most Wired Campuses," the completion of eight new buildings on campus, including the new Performing Arts Center, and the renovation of virtually every existing facility on campus. On the athletic front, Hefner is proud of the department's success over the years.

"The achievements include our athletic programs winning Ohio Valley Conference championships: two men's basketball, two women's basketball, four women's track and two football, which was ranked #1 nationally in Division I-AA at the end of regular season play in 1999."

When asked what are the three most important elements for a good day, Hefner said "Having lunch with students, recruiting academic and athletic students, and receiving large sums of money for TSU."

But Hefner is not resting on his past achievements. His eyes are firmly planted on the future growth of TSU.

"My goals include getting a law school at the university," he said. "And raising the enrollment by recruiting more graduate and non-traditional students. I also want to increase the endowment by three or four times."

Hefner, who spends his leisure time reading, still remembers the nicest thing ever done for him. "When two college presidents—Hugh Gloster of Morehouse and Stephen Wright of Fisk—recommended me for college presidency. Also Vivian Henderson, president of Clark College, recommended me for my first chairmanship of an economics department. They saw something in me I didn't see in myself at the time."

## Q and A

Following are some questions and answers from an interview Dr. Hefner did with The City Paper this spring.

**What are your passions?**  
Communicating with students, helping them become the best they can be. Reading, especially Dean Koontz, Stephen King, Tom Clancy, John Grisham, Robert Ludlum, Walter Mosley and Toni Morrison.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?**  
That I love to fly-fish, that both my grandfathers were Baptist ministers (I am now an Episcopalian), and that my father played baseball (center field) in the Negro Baseball League for several teams, including the New York Black Yankees and the Asheville Blues, and in Canada.

**What talent do you wish you had?** To be able to hit a curve ball like my father.

**Who or what are your biggest influences?**  
My wife, Edwina, and my college mentor, Dr. Juanita Tate.



2000-President Hefner congratulates TSU track legend Ralph Boston during a ceremony honoring TSU track stars as the TSU Tigerbells look on.

2001-Tennessee Titans owner K.S. "Bud" Adams presents President Hefner a check for \$100,000 at the annual TSU Foundation Dinner.

2002-President Hefner poses with Tim Caboni (second from left) of Vanderbilt University and a delegation of administrative professionals from universities in South Africa.



# Williams campus undergoes changes

## Nettles in charge of improvements



**Evelyn Nettles**

Tennessee State University has added Evelyn Nettles to its administrative staff. Her oversight of the Avon Williams Campus is a direct result of improvements brought about by the Consent Decree, which was finalized in 2000.

Nettles, who has been named associate vice president for academic affairs, is implementing new programs for non-traditional students and directing the refurbishing of the downtown campus.

Nettles comes to Tennessee State from South Carolina State University, where she was assistant vice president for extended studies. There she managed the academic and student support services for both traditional and non-traditional students. Traditional students are those who attend college directly upon graduation from high school; non-traditional students are typically older and have already entered the workforce and are seeking to enhance their careers or build a foundation for a change in career goals.

Nettles is particularly focusing on the anywhere-anytime learning available to non-traditional students via the Internet and various other media. She and staff are developing program offerings now, as well as publicizing existing programs.

"My immediate goals are to prepare for the building's renovation, evaluate student-support services needs, expand the distance education program we have at Tennessee State, and finalize new program offerings for the downtown campus," Nettles said.

To that end, Nettles has finished the application for scholarships for non-traditional students for the fall 2003 semester. She has met with the Geier oversight subcommittee from the Tennessee Board of Regents, which has approved the exploration of new programs, including a bachelor of science in health sciences and an e-business concentration with two tracks—supply-chain management and information technology—that will go before the Board of Regents for approval in June and, if approved, will be implemented in fall 2003.

Nettles has hired two recruiters to assist with bolstering programs on the Avon Williams campus, one for undergraduates and one for graduate students. She currently is advertising for a Student Support Services director and a counselor who is cross trained to provide admissions, records and financial aid services—all part of "one-stop shop" service that will be a hallmark of the Avon Williams campus come fall 2003.

Nettles also has begun to develop partnerships with the Nashville community to further distance education opportunities for Nashville citizens. For instance, she has worked to establish on-line courses with Nashville Public Television this summer. Additionally, she has forged partnerships with Metro Schools, particularly community education outreach with Hunters Lane High School and a revitalization of efforts with McGavock High School, where TSU will set up courses for fall 2003. Furthermore, TSU has set up a recruitment site at Nashville State Technical Community College.

Finally, Nettles is working to certify more students in e-business (Java, Lotus, Unix, and the like) through non-credit courses and to train more faculty members in developing distance education courses.



TSU students aid local youth at Cockrill Elementary in the Write With Me! program. The program, now in its fourth year, teams volunteers with elementary students and their parents to help improve the writing skills of Cockrill students. Cockrill is the only Metro Nashville school with this program. After the first year of the program, the school's writing test score improved by more than 50 percentage points, with students in the program scoring nearly 20 points higher than other Cockrill students in the latest tests.

TSU students (back row, l. to r.): Kimberly Griffey, Terri Tory, Ashley Bestor, Martinez Chatman, Isaac Addae, Natasha Gossett, Nicole Driggins, Bryan Green.

Cockrill students (front, l. to r.): Samy Jean, Senquoia Miles, Dontez Franklin, Antonique Dotson, Tiffany Harris, Kinisha Holt, Ernesha Carter.

PHOTO OP

# Research at TSU

continued from page 1

status of TSU and creating for students a competitive learning environment based on didactic materials, innovations in the field, effective research methods, and practical training experiences." Inductees who continue to generate million-dollar grants are nominated for the Million Dollar Research Club Hall of Fame.

The inaugural members of the club are:

★ **Michael Busby**, director of the Center of Excellence in Information Systems Engineering and Management

★ **Satinderpaul Devgan**, professor and head of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

★ **Baqar Husaini**, professor of sociology and director of the Center for Health Research

★ **Prem Kahlon**, professor of biological sciences and director of the Minority Access to Research Careers Program

★ **Lee Hyun Keel**, professor in the Center of Excellence in Information Systems Engineering and Management

★ **Mary Love**, assistant professor of mathematics and director of TRIO programs in the Division of Student Affairs

★ **Mohan Malkani**, professor of electrical engineering and associate dean of College of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science

★ **Robert Newkirk**, professor of biological sciences and former director of the Office of Sponsored Research

★ **Barbara Nye**, executive director and senior research scientist for the Center of Excellence for Research and Policy on Basic Skills

★ **Chinyere Onwubiko**, former professor and head of the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Department, now retired

★ **Edward Risby**, formerly head of the Department of Biological Sciences, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, and director of the Office of Sponsored Research, now retired

★ **Decatur Rogers**, dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science

★ **Lonnie Sharpe**, professor and holder of Samuel Massie Chair of Excellence in Environmental Engineering

★ **Willard Smith**, former professor of computer science in the Center of Excellence in Information Systems Engineering and Management, now retired.



**Michael Busby**



**Satinderpaul Devgan**



**Baqar Husaini**



**Prem Kahlon**



**Lee Hyun Keel**



**Mary Love**



**Mohan Malkani**



**Robert Newkirk**



**Barbara Nye**



**Edward Risby**



**Decatur Rogers**



**Lonnie Sharpe**



**Willard Smith**



## Gifts, grants and resources

Havertys Furniture recently presented a contribution to the university in support of **College of Business** scholarship programs as part of its retail furnishings seminar at the university March 17. More than 50 students attended the program, which offered insights into careers in furniture sales and marketing. Participants (pictured below, left to right) included **Diana Scales**, TSU professor of business administration; Jay Slater, retired Havertys CEO; Jerry Hohman, Havertys human resources vice president; **Augustus Bankhead**, TSU vice president for academic affairs; Keith Fields, Havertys regional manager; **Tilden Curry**, dean of the TSU College of Business; and **Millicent Lownes-Jackson**, associate dean of the TSU College of Business.



NASA Glenn Research Center has awarded the **College of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science** an additional \$82,400 (for a total of \$247,200) for "TSU Research Projects for Increasing the Pool of Minority Engineers" and \$29,574 for the College Bound program. **Decatur Rogers**, dean, is principal investigator for both projects.

**Gary Linn**, professor of nursing, has received a grant of \$205,809 from the Department of Health and Human Services for the project, "An HIV Prevention Intervention for Homeless Mentally Ill African-American Adult Males."

At a meeting of the Nashville Hotel and Lodging Association, **Wayne Guyette**, department head of hospitality and tourism administration, presented an Award of Appreciation to Marriott Hotels for giving \$10,000 in scholarships, and **Brian Franklin**, **Michelle Singh**, and **Siphiwe Chokani** were recognized as scholarship winners. Also recognized was **Chad Henderson**, who was presented a \$500 scholarship from the Tennessee Hotel and Lodging Association. At a Skat International meeting of tourism executives, Guyette presented an Award of Appreciation for their scholarship support, and **Qiana Smith** was recognized as a \$1,000 recipient. **Brandon Tisdal** received one of only 18 national awards from Hyatt Hotel Corporation to attend a hotel conference in New York.

## Research, presentations and publications

A book by **Deborah Burris Kitchen**, associate professor of sociology and criminal justice, *Short Rage:*



**Deborah Burris Kitchen**

*An Autobiographical Look at Heightism in America*, was published recently by Fithian Press of Santa Barbara, Calif.

**Sandria Godwin**, professor of family and consumer sciences, presented a two-day workshop, "Designing your own consumer testing," at Kasensart University in Bangkok, Thailand. She also presented seminars, "Sensory consumer analysis in the r & d process" at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and "Elderly



**Sandria Godwin**

consistent in use of descriptive terms to describe portions of commonly eaten foods" at the Fifth International Dietary Assessment Methods Conference in Chiang Rai, Thailand.

**Arie Halachmi**, professor of public administration, was the main presenter in a seminar that was sponsored by the comptroller general of Spain. He also published "A Brief Note on the Methodology of Measuring Productivity of Services at the Local Level" in Vol. 5 (3/4) of the *International Journal of Organization Theory and Behavior* and "Performance Measurement: A Look at Some Possible Dysfunctions" in Vol. 51 (5) of the international journal *Work Study*.

**Margaret T. Mmbaga**, research plant pathologist and research assistant professor with Tennessee State University's Cooperative Agricultural Research Program (CARP), published a research paper in the *Annals of Applied Biology*, an international journal in plant biology, titled "Ascocarp formation and survival and primary inoculum production in *Erysiphe* (sect. *Microsphaera*) *pulchra* in dogwood powdery mildew." The flowering dogwood is an important ornamental tree to the nursery industry in Tennessee. She and **Hongyan Sheng**, also a CARP research assistant, published "Evaluation of Biorational Products for Powdery Mildew Management in Cornus, Florida," in the *Journal of Environmental Horticulture*.

**Erik Schmeller**, assistant professor of history, presented a paper, "William Wells Brown's Travel Writing: Defining National Identity," at "Black Travel Writing: The Howard University Symposium" in Washington, D.C., the world's first professional meeting dedicated to black travel writing.



**Suping Zhou**

"Identification of a Cell Wall Peroxidase in Red Calli of *prunus incise* Thunb," in *Plant Cell Report*. Zhou and Sauve also published a research paper, "Use of Fluorescent-Amplified Length Polymorphism for Species Identification in the Genus *Pulmonaria*," in the *Journal of Environmental Horticulture*.



**Cosmas Okoro**

**Cosmas Okoro**, assistant professor of chemistry, published an article, "Conformational Analysis and Molecular Properties of N-(Substituted Phenylcarbonylamino)-4-(1-Hydroxymethylphenyl)-1,2,3,6-Tetrahydropyridines," in *Current Medicinal Chemistry* volume 10(4), 313-320 (2003).

**Franklin Jones**, dean of the College of Education, presented a paper, "The Effect of Standardized Testing (PRAXIS) upon the Quality of Teacher



**Franklin Jones**

Education Programs," at the National Social Science Association's National Technology and Social Science Conference in April. **Pamela Harquail**, assistant professor of administration and supervision, and **Roger**



**Roger Wiemers**

**Wiemers**, assistant professor of educational administration, presented a paper, "Technology and Accreditation Visits," at the conference.

**Bobby L. Lovett**, professor of history, has a chapter, "James Carroll Napier (1845-1940): From Plantation to City," in *The Southern Elite and Social Change Essays in Honor of Willard B. Gatewood Jr.* The new book was compiled by former Ph.D. students (including Lovett) in honor of their former (now retired) professor, Willard B. Gatewood Jr., who occupied the Distinguished Professor Chair at the University of Arkansas.

**Adebayo Oyejade**, associate professor of history, recently published two book chapters:

"Radical Nationalism and Ward of Liberation," in Toyin Falola, ed., *Africa Vol. 4: The End of Colonial Rule: Nationalism and Decolonization* (Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2002) and "The Role of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in the Nigerian Civil War," in Toyin Falola, ed., *Nigeria in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2002).



**Adebayo Oyejade**



**Jun Rivera**

**Jun Rivera**, director of the National Student Exchange Program, had two books published recently: *Practical Guide to Thesis and Dissertation Writing* and *Dissertation and Thesis Writing Manual*.

**Moinuddin Sarkar**, associate professor of physics, had an X-ray diffraction paper on Cyclotribenzylene hexapargonate (C75H116O12) liquid crystals accepted for publication in the international journal *Powder Diffraction File*. He received the editor-in-chief's award for significant contributions to the journal. Additionally, he has been named to Who's Who in America.

## Departmental and organizational news

The **Office of Alumni Relations** has been selected as a Special Merit Award recipient in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District III's Advancement Awards Program in the alumni relations projects category. District III is comprised of seven southeastern states. The **Office of Public Relations** won a Special Merit Award from CASE District III for *Accent*.

## Honors, awards and achievements

**Peggy Earnest**, director of residence life and associate dean of students, was nominated for the Athena Award, given to an outstanding professional woman in Nashville who uses her "vision and persistence to



# NOTABLES

excel while reaching out and opening the way for others.”

**Sue Fuller**, professor of psychology, is serving on the board of directors for the National Association for Multicultural Education. She is director for Region 4, which includes most of the southeastern states. She also is serving as a member of National Association for Accreditation of Teacher Education's Unit Accreditation Board.



Sue Fuller

Two TSU professors were selected for the U.S. Fulbright Scholar Program for 2002-2003. **Daniel Gibran**, professor of history, lectured in international relations and comparative politics at the Kazakh State University of International Relations and World Languages in Almaty, Kazakhstan. **Clayton Reeve**, retired associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of English, lectured in American literature at the University of Silesia in Sosnowiec, Poland.



Helen Barrett

**Helen Barrett**, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, and **Ken Looney**, associate vice president for academic affairs, have been appointed to serve on the Tennessee Board of Regents' On-line Degree Programs Strategic Planning



Ken Looney

Committee. The group will meet periodically to review operations of the program and analyze needs for on-line courses offered through it.

Two TSU-affiliated women have had literary awards named for them by the Bordeaux Library in Nashville. **Margaret Beach**, an alumna, has had the Margaret Beach Award for Dedication to Poetry named for her, and **Harriette Insignares**, professor of communications, has had the Harriette Insignares Award for Achievement in Poetry named for her. The awards were named after the two for their life-long contributions in literature.

**Yildiz Binkley**, director of libraries and media centers, is a member of the Tennessee Library Association board and chairperson of the bylaws committee. She also was a visiting member of the re-accreditation committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to Grambling State University.

**Debbie Edmondson**, associate professor of physical therapy, received the Distinguished Toastmaster Award and **Marsha Merrimon**, secretary II of College of Arts and Sciences Title III, received the Spirit of Success Award from the newly chartered Toasting Tigers Toastmasters Club at TSU.



Enefiok Ekanem

**Enefiok Ekanem**, researcher in the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program, has been nominated to serve on the editorial council of the *Review of Agricultural Economics*, a refereed journal published by the American Agricultural Economics Association. He also has been chosen to serve on the poster selection committee for the Southern Agricultural

Economics Association. The committee reviews and selects posters for presentation at the association's annual meetings.

**Janet Finch**, associate professor of educational administration, was named by TSU President James Hefner as Tennessee State University's institutional representative to Women in Higher Education in Tennessee (WHET).



Janet Finch

Finch also was appointed to the executive board of WHET.



Howard Gentry

**Howard Gentry**, associate vice president for technology and administrative services, has been elected to the board of trustees of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts.

**Joshua Idassi**, extension forestry specialist, has been elected president of the Middle Tennessee chapter of the Tennessee/Kentucky Society of American Foresters.



Joshua Idassi

## Alumni news

**David Mills**, class of 1987, has joined Vanderbilt University's Office of Community, Neighborhood and Government Relations as assistant director for state policy and legislative affairs.

**Iris Padilla**, a 2002 graduate (MSN), was awarded a full fellowship in the doctorate of nursing program at the University of Tennessee-Memphis.

**David Vincent**, class of 1952, received the John C. Tune Public Service Award from the Nashville Bar Association, the highest award bestowed by the organization.

## Student news

**James Raybeck**, a doctoral student in public administration, was appointed to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition for a three-year term. He currently is a fiscal analyst for the Women's, Infants' and Children's Program for the Tennessee Department of Health.

**Tracy Thomas** was recognized as the winning graduate student in the HIV/AIDS category at the Second Biennial RIMI (Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions) Symposium for the presentation "Reaching Impaired Populations with HIV Prevention Programs: A Clinical Trial for Homeless Mentally Ill Men."

**Mercy Udoji**, a senior member of the Tigerbelle cross country and track teams, has been named one of six Ohio Valley Conference scholar-athletes. The OVC chose six students out of 16 finalists. The award is the highest individual academic/athletic honor that the OVC awards.



Mercy Udoji

## New faculty and staff, new appointments

**Clifford Bell** has been named coordinator/trainer in the Office of Human Resources.

**Kina Cleveland** has been named media representative in the Office of Public Relations.



Kina Cleveland

**Carlyle Johnson** has been named assistant professor of art and chairman of the department.

**Rhonda Jones** recently was promoted from executive aide to office manager in the Center for Extended Education in the Office of the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs on the Avon Williams Campus.



Angie Keeling-Jefferson

**Angie Keeling-Jefferson** has been appointed coordinator of new student orientation in the University Counseling Center.

**Belinda Lee** has been named assistant director of the University Counseling Center. She previously had been a counselor in the center.



Belinda Lee

**Donella Marsh** has been named assistant director for student placement in the Office of International Business Programs.

**Nels Pearson** has been named assistant professor of English.

**Daciena Perry** has been named college recruiter for the TSU Center for Extended Education and Public Service.

**Sharon Peters** has been named college recruiter for the TSU Center for Extended Education and Public Service and the School of Graduate Studies. Peters also is currently employed at TSU in the sociology department as an adjunct faculty member.



Marjorie Seward

**Marjorie Seward** recently was promoted from assistant to the director of Title III programs to associate director of Title III undergraduate programs.

**Nontombi Tutu** has been named associate director of the Office of International Affairs and Programs. She is the daughter of Bishop Desmond Tutu.

**Dewayne Wright** has been named associate director of public relations. He previously was assistant director for creative services in the Department of Marketing Services at Indiana University.



Dewayne Wright

## We remember

**Samuel Shannon**, professor of history, died April 15. He had a 30-year teaching career at TSU, where he taught American history and founded the distinguished lecture series for the Department of History, Geography and Political Science. In 1998, TSU gave Shannon its Distinguished University Service Award.

**Neal McAlpin Sr.**, a professor in the School of Agriculture and Home Economics, died April 25. He was a member of the Agriculture and Home Economics Hall of Fame.



# Quotable QUOTES

**W**ho would have thought that a Mars greenhouse could come from research done at TSU?

—**Todd Gary**  
interim director of the  
Institute for Understanding  
Biological Systems, on TSU's research  
in astrobiology

**R**esearch introduces students to the idea that nature writes in detail and details lead to the big conclusions.

—**Baruch S. Blumberg**  
Nobel laureate and keynote speaker for the  
University-wide Research Symposium

**D**orothy was the smartest but I got the most votes.

—**Levi Watkins**  
Distinguished Lecture Series speaker,  
about classmate Dorothy Granberry,  
director of Title III programs (both were student  
body officers at TSU)

**T**hey want to learn, and I love helping them learn.

—**William Annesley**  
director of the aviation program at TSU, talking  
about his students

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## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Ancient Kemet Studies Conference and Ninth Annual Africana Studies Conference



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