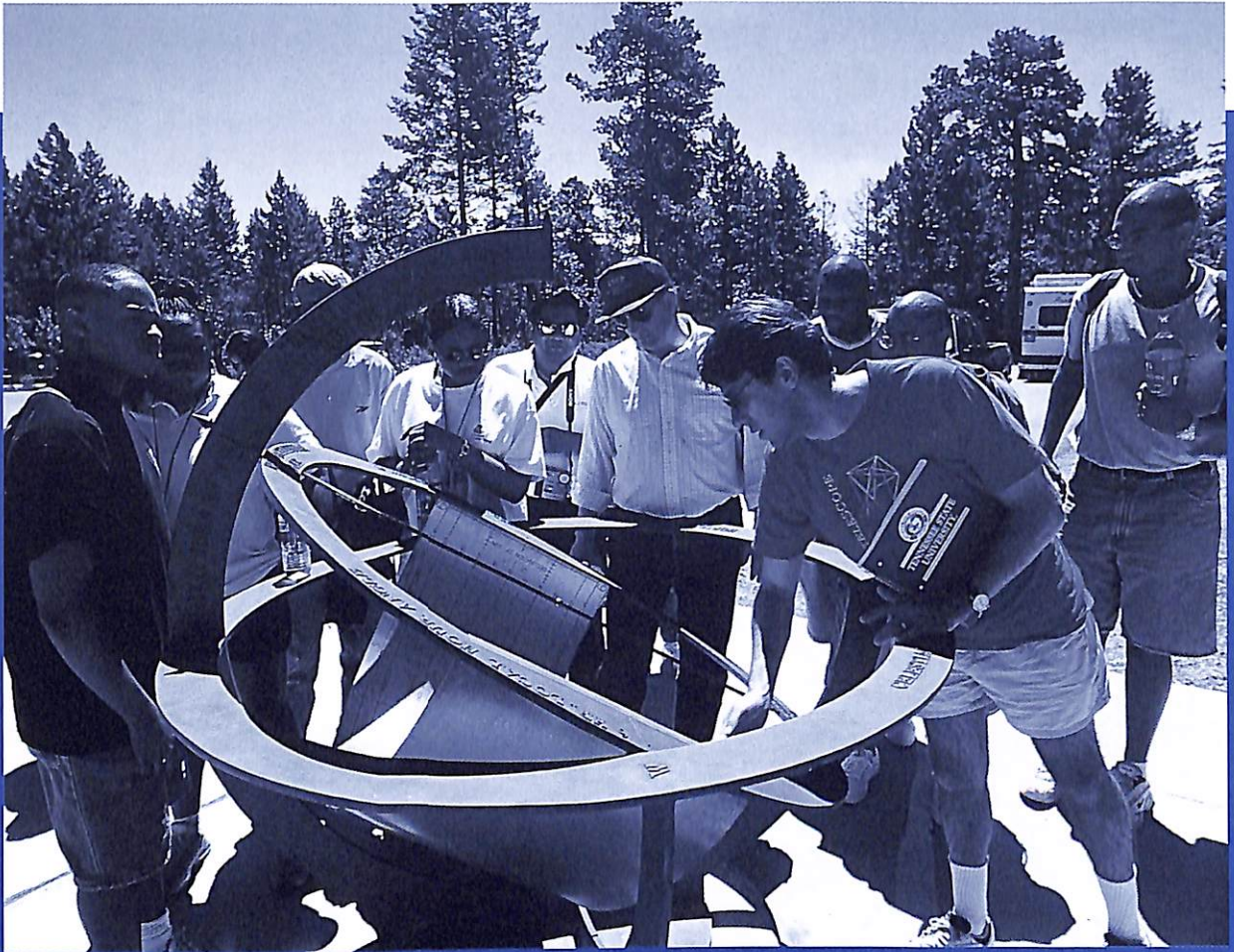


ACCENT

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Center of Automated Space Science (CASS) Astronomer Geoff Burks explains the workings of a time dial at the National Solar Observatory in Sunspot, N. M. The observatory was one of the sites visited by staff members of the CASS program and TSU students when they traveled to southern Arizona to monitor the progress of telescopes the University operates by remote in Nashville.

 **TENNESSEE**
STATE *University*

IN THIS ISSUE: Recap of the Governor's School for Hospitality and Tourism . . . how TSU is helping African-American women fight breast cancer . . . the president's visit to Nigeria for Olusegun Obasanjo's inauguration . . . new fraternities on campus

ACCENT

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SERVING UP OPPORTUNITIES

If you were a high school student with aspirations for a marketing career in the entertainment field, a management position with a major hotel conglomerate, or a partnership in a multi-million-dollar catering company, wouldn't you jump at the chance to share your ideas with some of the top executives in your industry?

Fifty rising high school juniors and seniors from throughout the state did just that at Tennessee State University's Governor's School for Hospitality and Tourism, held in Nashville in June. They devised and introduced their plans to local executives from three successful organizations in the industry: the Country Music Hall of Fame, a headline attraction; Marriott Hotels, representative of lodging interests; and TomKats, food-caterers for the entertainment industry. Before the students' work began, they saw and learned about the inner workings of the organizations, which not only contributed funding but also loaned executives and provided

TSU's
Governor's
School for
Hospitality and
Tourism a
"career-paver"
for
students

accommodations for the 50 students and accompanying faculty.

The work required during the intensive three-week school in hospitality and tourism is comparable to college-level course work. Admission is selective and extended only once to qualified applicants. According to school officials, TSU's Governor's School for Hospitality and Tourism is the only one of its kind in the nation. Other Tennessee governor's schools cover the arts, humanities, health care, teaching, manufacturing, math and science, international studies, and Tennessee heritage.

"The Governor's School is a wonderful initiative," said Karen Forester, marketing director for the Country Music Hall of Fame. "First, it dispels the myth that tourism is about low-entry desk clerk jobs. And second, it introduces kids to a whole new range of opportunities they didn't know existed before."

continued on page 2



Shannon Bowles (center), manager of the Airport Marriott Hotel; Erma Choate, chief executive officer of the Tennessee Hotel and Motel Association; and Phil Coffey, Tennessee marketing director for Marriott hotels; display their Organization of Leadership Distinction Award, given by Kristina Miller of Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro (left) and Helene Stadler of Dyersburg High School.



Keith Wright (left), marketing manager and special events director for the Country Music Hall of Fame, and Karen Forester, marketing director for the Hall of Fame, receive an Organization of Leadership Distinction Award from Governor's School participants Kelly Coppock of David Crockett High School in Jonesborough and Erin Luster of Central High School in Memphis.



Tom "Moose" Morales (right), owner of TomKats Catering, accepts his award from Leah Gordon of Giles County High School. Also pictured are Chip Harris, Governor's School director, and Stacey Phurrough of Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro.

SERVING UP OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

"I told the kids I envied them. When I was in school there wasn't a field of study called 'hospitality and tourism,' and I just sort of fell into it. It meant a lot to hear them say they had no idea how broad the opportunities are in my industry. Still more, it meant a lot when some of the girls said they wanted a career just like mine."

Forester and other staff members of the Country Music Hall of Fame took the students to historical Hatch Showprint, which still prints posters and promotional items with a manual press; RCA Studio B, Nashville's oldest operating recording studio; the Country Music Hall of Fame; and the new site of the Hall of Fame now under construction. The day was additionally packed with lectures by Forester and other representatives.

Marriott and TomKats put the students through equally grueling paces, and, though free time was worked into the schedule, the remainder of the week was devoted to team meetings and computer training in PowerPoint presentations. The teams' assignment: create a marketing plan to attract teens to the Country Music Hall of Fame.

"Our judges are decision-makers in the industry, and they are usually quite impressed by the students'



Gracie Lewis (standing), a culinary arts instructor at Nashville's Maplewood High School, assists Krystal Kent (left) and Chelsey Davis with an assignment.

poise and imagination," said Chip Harris, director of TSU's governor's school.

"There is a crying need for qualified graduates in hospitality and tourism, so TSU is stepping forth to meet that need. The Governor's School dovetails nicely with our stated objectives," Harris said.

"As an educator I really benefit from the Governor's School," said Gracie Lewis, culinary arts

instructor at Maplewood High School in Nashville and one of six chaperones from high schools across the state. "It exposes me to what's current in the industry, which is so important for my classroom. What TSU is doing is wonderful. Education needs to partner with industry to prepare our future work force."

According to the Governor's School web site, hospitality actually is the world's largest industry, comprised of 15 segments, including lodging, transportation, cruise lines, travel agencies, sports complexes, meeting and convention centers, and commercial and institutional food service. Together, these segments account for more jobs, sales and tax revenue than any other industry. Combining the expertise of industry professionals with the enthusiasm of students seeking careers in hospitality and tourism benefits everyone.

"The Governor's School is a perfect blend of education and private enterprise," Harris said. "Businesses like to participate because it's a chance to show all they have to offer to our best students. The students see what a terrific career-paver it is. And Tennessee State University loves the networking opportunities it presents.

"I'd call it a win-win-win situation."

FRATERNITIES OFFER TSU MEN NEW OPTIONS

When male students arrive on campus this fall, they will have two new fraternities to consider when deciding whether or not to pledge.

The TSU chapter of Sigma Pi, a predominantly white international fraternity, received its charter last spring and inducted 18 members. Currently considered a colony, it is expected to achieve full fraternity status in the next seven to 13 months. Sigma Pi has 120 active chapters with 75,000 members in the United States and Canada. Officers of the TSU chapter include Eric Parker, president; Jayse Sanders, vice president; Josh Denison, secretary; Evan McCasland, treasurer; Eric Rucker, parliamentarian; and Seth Goodowens, historian. A chapter of Iota Phi Theta, a predominantly black national fraternity, was chartered on the TSU campus last spring and has nine members. Iota Phi Theta's inaugural officers are Don Holloman, president; Keith Caine, vice president; Brad Edmonston, secretary; Jimmy Greer, treasurer; Detric Williams, historian; and Derrick Turner, parliamentarian. Iota Phi Theta was founded in 1963 at Morgan State University in Baltimore.

"It's time for a change, time to make a new tradition," said Holloman about the reason he and other Iota Phi Theta brothers decided to initiate a new fraternity. "Our national motto is 'building a tradition, not resting upon one.'"

Sigma Pi's Parker said his brother, who had had a positive fraternity experience in college, encouraged him to join a fraternity. He not only investigated the existing historically black fraternities on campus, he and other fellow charter members also contacted the National Interfraternity Council, which governs 66 traditionally white associations.

"Twelve of the [Interfraternity Council] fraternities responded to our inquiries. Then Sigma Pi representatives offered to come to campus to meet with us, and we really were impressed with the expansion director. He had been through the experience of starting a chapter at his alma mater



Among those who met to initiate Sigma Pi were (left to right) John Kitch, alumni advisor to the TSU Chapter; Thomas Martin, vice president for student affairs; Eric Parker, president of TSU's chapter; and John Norton, director of expansion for Sigma Pi International.

and could offer a lot of advice to help us get started and grow our membership," Parker said, noting several qualities of Sigma Pi that appealed to the organizational group.

"We really liked that Sigma Pi requires members to attend the meetings," Parker said. "Scholarship is a huge issue in Sigma Pi. Really huge. Next is community service. Sigma Pi members serve four hours every week. And we also believe you should always look out for your brother."

Many of the positive actions Iota Phi Theta members are taking involve public service. For example, last spring, they initiated a big brother program with boys from the nearby McKissack school.

"We met with them one or two times a week, just being a role model," said Holloman. "We also gave Iota tours, where we were tour guides for high school students, giving them TSU history and showing them the campus." Among the fraternity's fall plans are landscaping and cleaning at the Hadley Park Senior Center, located near the periphery of the main campus, and hosting a teen summit, modeled after that of Black Entertainment Television, at a local church.

Sigma Pi also is preparing for fall and will get the word out to prospective fraternity brothers when they come to campus this fall. Meanwhile, Parker and his brothers appreciate the acceptance shown by members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

"They've been our biggest supporters," Parker said. "They invite us to their parties, greet us on campus. They love us, and we love them. Ms. [Sara] Curp, our advisor, has also been a great encouragement.

"We're trying to offer an alternative to the other fraternities on campus. We had to get approval by the University and the Student Government Association before we could get started. We hope to gain acceptance across the board."

Controlling a Killer

Did you know that cancer is among the leading causes of death among African Americans? That breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among African-American women?

TSU launches mammography program through Center for Health Research

Recent statistics issued by the American Cancer Society reveal some facts that may startle some, but they also offer hope: The survival rate for women whose breast cancer is diagnosed early, while it is confined to the breast, is 96.8 percent. Still, African-American women die from breast cancer more often than white women. It's not because black women get breast cancer more than white women do. In fact, fewer black women contract the disease every year, but they are more likely to die from it. Why is that? TSU's Center for Health Research has an answer.

"African-American women are less likely than white women to have mammograms or perform breast self-examinations," said Baqar Husaini, the center's director. He and his staff want to change that trend. They have launched a mammography program that aims to educate black women on breast cancer detection and prevention. So far, they're pleased with the participation.

"Approximately 200 women have gone through the program since it started in April," said Husaini. "We have funding for about 300 women."

The Center for Health Research received \$252,250 from the federal Health Care Financing Administration to implement the program, which reaches women through their local churches. "We chose churches as our avenue of communication because, historically, the church has been the instrument of change and also because it's a trusted source of information," Husaini said. So far, the Center has held initial group meetings at 15 churches, as well as in two public housing projects.

The program stresses education, showing videos to participants and giving them the opportunity to practice what they've learned on a "breast vest," which has hidden lumps in artificial breasts for women to locate during a test self-examination.

"As they [women in meetings] watch the women in the video, they see 'If she can do it, I can do it, too,'" said Deborah Pitts, 1999 TSU graduate and field supervisor for the mammography program. "You see ladies come in and get nervous when they hear that African-American women die from cancer more often than white women. You see their eyes open wide. But they are very receptive. Some ladies give a testimony relating their experiences with breast cancer."

"One life-changing experience that has made it all worthwhile happened with one participant from the James Cayce Homes. Here she was alone, surrounded by the memory of women who had died of breast cancer—her neighbors, family, friends.

She was terrified of examining her breasts, afraid of what she would find. The home-health educator who met with her shared her personal experience with breast cancer. After visiting one-on-one with her, the participant did a breast self-exam for the first time."

Participants in the TSU mammography program receive Kroger gift certificates following a one-on-one in-home assessment and consultation and at the completion of two private follow-up visits. The lay-health educators

who meet with participants in their homes give them a canvas tote bag, which contains publications about how mammography works and how to perform breast self-examinations. Some women are eligible for free mammograms at the Matthew Walker Health Center and Metro General Hospital, thanks to the American Cancer Society and the Tennessee Department of Health, partners with the Center for Health Research on the program.

"The American Cancer Society and the State, which are performing similar programs at this time, are reaching women through public housing and other avenues, and we are helping link them with women in the African-American community who can benefit from their services," Husaini said.

Of course, the most desired outcome of the TSU mammography program is an increase in the number of African-American women who get mammograms. The Center's preliminary analysis of data from 100 participants revealed that 60 percent of them had a mammogram last year. Two-thirds of them had a clinical breast exam. The primary barrier to their getting mammograms was fear of finding cancer—an issue at the forefront of follow-up visits with participants, because mammography becomes increasingly more critical to breast cancer survival as women age.

"We would love to be able to say we're having an impact on lowering the death rate of African-American women due to breast cancer," Husaini said. "but if we can say we've increased the number of women performing exams, undergoing mammograms, and seeing their doctors for clinical exams, we'll call our program a success."



Deborah Pitts (left) and Baqar Husaini of the TSU Center for Health Research show some of the materials they are using in the University's mammography program.

Associate Supreme Court Justice speaks to summer graduates

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama and Tennessee State University alumnus Ralph D. Cook is addressing more than 300 students receiving their undergraduate and graduate degrees during summer commencement Aug. 7. The University traditionally invites an alumnus to speak on the occasion, which also honors the Vintagers, alumni who are celebrating the 40th and 50th anniversaries of their graduation.



Cook was appointed associate justice in 1993 and elected to that position in 1994.

In 1981, he was appointed circuit judge in the Bessemer (Ala.) Division of the Tenth Judicial Circuit by Gov. Fob James and was twice elected. Justice Cook served in the domestic relations division of the court until 1984 and in the civil division until 1993. Prior to his appointment to the circuit court, he was elected district court judge and served more than four years in the Family Court of Jefferson County, Bessemer Division.

In 1976, Cook was appointed dean of Miles Law School in Birmingham, Ala., and remained in that position until 1990. He continues to serve as a professor in the law school. He also has taught at San Jose (Calif.) State University's Cabrillo College and Miles College in Birmingham. Additionally, Justice Cook served as an assistant district attorney in Bessemer, Ala., and was engaged in the private practice of law.

Cook has been recognized for his work by community organizations, colleges and churches throughout Alabama. He is a member of the Alabama State Bar Association, California State Bar, National Bar Association, Birmingham Bar Association and Bessemer Bar Association. He served as president of the Alabama Lawyers Association from 1992 to 1993 and is an elected member of the American Law Institute.

Cook earned his bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University and his juris doctor from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.

A planning **PRO**

For some of us, hosting a dinner for 10 is an overwhelming task: Will everyone like the food? Are the invitations acceptable? What if the musicians don't arrive on time? Imagine hosting 800 such parties a year—many of them with hundreds of guests—and you have the day-in, day-out responsibilities of Cathy Robinson, director of conferences and special events.

Robinson is the one you call when you want to host a party or hold a conference at TSU. She not only helps you write the budget, she also creates the menu, orders the decorations, provides the entertainment, and manages every other physical detail you may or may not think of to make your event a success. All told, 150,000 guests a year are served by TSU conferences and special events: That's almost 20 times our student population.

Robinson got the skills for her job growing up on a dairy farm near Crossville, Tenn. She got the knowledge she needed working summers at an upscale resort near her hometown that was frequented by executives. And she got the recognition she deserves this July from Meeting Professionals International. She has been selected Meeting Planner of the Year from a pool of 170 in the state of Tennessee.

How do a dairy farm and a business retreat center work together to create an award-winning meeting planner?

"You don't keep 200 cows healthy and producing milk without some good planning," Robinson says. She remembers feeding and milking cows, rain or shine, cold or hot, 365 days a year. At the resort, she learned how to host events for such notables as the Democratic National Women's Conference, the Republican National Women's Conference, the Southeast Outdoor Press Association, and the American Cancer Society's board of directors. It was a 32-bed resort with all the amenities. She learned everything from taking

reservations to keeping wait staff happy to ordering plane deliveries of seafood twice a week. At one time she had the moniker "ZIP Code Queen" because she handled mailings to as many as 25,000 homes and businesses, two to three times per month.

Since childhood, Robinson has been a list-writer. She also writes goals: personal, professional, and spiritual ones. Such wisdom she learned from her late father, who also taught her, she adds with a grin, not to trust a man wearing both a belt and suspenders—he's insecure. He tested her once by showing up at her house in both. She was appropriately shocked, so she passed with flying colors.

Cathy Robinson has planned events for hundreds of thousands of people.

How do a dairy farm and a business retreat center work together to create an award-winning meeting planner?



From her mother, who was an Army nurse in World War II, Robinson learned, "God has a sense of humor; just look at the zebra and giraffe," and, "Everything is a memory—good or bad—and in a week you'll be telling a funny story about it." With such a colorful legacy, it's no wonder Robinson is colorful herself. There's never a dull moment in her office, which may oversee five or more TSU functions simultaneously.

According to Robinson, a sense of humor is necessary equipment for the job. She remembers, for example, hosting about 400 architects at an event at the Avon Williams campus. Most were seated, waiting for the event to begin, when someone hesitantly approached her at the registration table. There seemed to be "a little steam" coming from the vents in the auditorium. She entered the room and literally could not see the stage through a dense cloud of steam. Yet everyone was seated in the fog, waiting patiently for instructions. When she heard the speaker's voice say, "Oh, great, my slides are coming apart," she took it upon herself to announce an evacuation.

"I don't remember what caused it, some switch failure or something; there was a logical explanation. But those architects sitting in that steam as though it was part of our building design—I'll never understand that!" Robinson said.

Robinson has worked in higher education since 1973, when she joined the staff of UT-Nashville. At the time of the merger with TSU, she had the option of moving, but she was a new mother at the time, 1979, and had put down roots, so she decided to accept an offer to become director of conferences and institutes. In 1992, President James Hefner appointed her director of conferences and special events.

Becoming part of the TSU family was an easy transition, thanks to Georgia Reynolds of the physical plant and Lena Pearl Farrell, whom she considers her surrogate mothers. She also speaks fondly of Jim Farrell and John Crothers, administrators in extension and public service. She said of them, "I was lucky enough to have two great mentors in my time."

What is the one thing people at TSU don't know about her and her staff?

"I don't think people realize the volume of work coming from our office," Robinson says. Believe it or not, those 800 events serving 150,000 guests are all overseen by just Robinson, one secretary, who works for another office as well, and a part-timer working 20 hours a week. At least 70 percent of those requesting assistance from her department are unfamiliar with hosting events and don't know where to begin—nor how much an event costs.

"That's O.K.," she says. "I like my job—even when it's not clicking."

You can be sure, though, with Cathy Robinson on the job, your event will click. Just as smoothly as a well run dairy or world-class resort.

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY 1999 VOLLEYBALL HOME SCHEDULE

All matches will take place in Kean Hall. Admission is free.

SEPT. 1	BELMONT.....	7 P.M.
SEPT. 2	TREVECCA NAZARENE	7 P.M.
SEPT. 7	*TENNESSEE TECH	7 P.M.
SEPT. 24	*EASTERN ILLINOIS.....	7 P.M.
SEPT. 25	*SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE.....	1 P.M.
SEPT. 28	*AUSTIN PEAY STATE	7 P.M.
OCT. 1	ALABAMA STATE	7 P.M.
OCT. 8	*MURRAY STATE.....	7 P.M.
OCT. 12	*TENNESSEE-MARTIN.....	7 P.M.
OCT. 15	*MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE	7 P.M.
OCT. 22	*MOREHEAD STATE.....	7 P.M.
OCT. 23	*EASTERN KENTUCKY.....	1 P.M.

*Ohio Valley Conference match

All times and dates are subject to change.

Also of note: The TSU netters will take on Belmont at Belmont at 7 p.m. Oct. 4.

The Ohio Valley Conference tournament takes place Nov. 19 through 21; time and place are to be announced.

WESTERN EXPOSURE

Tennessee State University faculty and students head to Arizona to observe the telescopes they operate by remote from TSU's downtown campus.

"Welcome to Tucson, Arizona," the flight attendant said. "Today's forecast calls for sunny and clear skies. The current temperature is 106 degrees."

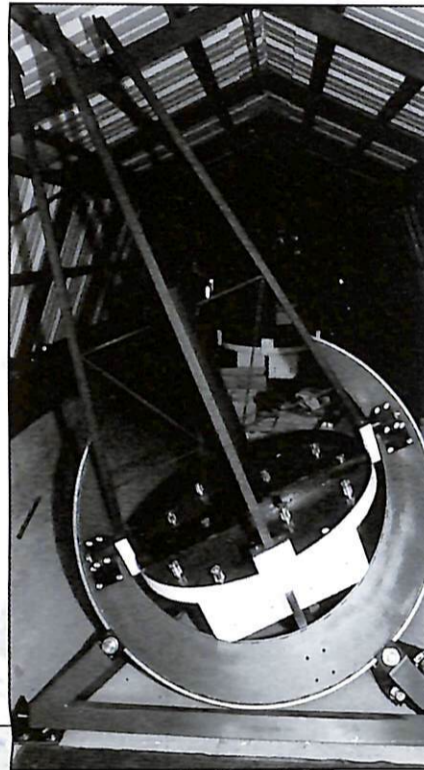
High and dry were the environmental ingredients needed when Tennessee State University started building telescopes in the mountains of southern Arizona—where, in some places, a 16-ounce container of bottled water is worth more than its weight in gold. As they traveled up the Patagonia Mountains, with nothing between them and the beaming sun but brimmed hats, sunglasses and layers of sunscreen, staff members of the TSU Center for Automated Space Science (CASS) and TSU students traveled to Mt. Wilson, Ariz., this summer to monitor the progress of telescopes the University operates from computers in Nashville. Currently, Tennessee State University operates more robotic telescopes at one location than any other institution in the world. Students got an opportunity to see these telescopes and explore in person what they are controlling by remote from nearly 2,000 miles away.

This year's CASS group poses at Kitt Peak National Optical Astronomy Observatory in Tucson, Ariz.

"When students work in the center during the year, they see a lot of work that goes on, especially in astronomy. When you see photographs on the Internet, that's one thing. But to actually come to the site and see the size of the equipment and where the equipment is located, I think it's really instructive," said Michael Busby, director of the Center of Excellence for Information Systems Engineering and Management, which administers the grant that funds the students' work.

Lou Boyd, director of the Fairborn Observatory, where the TSU telescopes are located, said the telescopes are designed for photometry, the measurement of the brightness of objects through different filters. Boyd, often seen with his trusty parrot perched on his shoulder, builds and designs the telescopes and monitors the operations of the site. TSU currently is building a new spectroscope, designed by Joel Eaton, center professor and researcher. Boyd said that when it is completed and installed, the \$2.3 million telescope will be the largest controlled by any institution in the southeastern United States. Spectroscopic telescopes explore sun-like stars and perform long-term studies on a number of these illuminating bodies to get information about the evolution of the sun.

Tobi Brown, a computer science major who is graduating this summer, has made the trip up to Washington Camp, home to the telescopes, three of the last four summers.



TSU has installed eight telescopes, including this one, at its Washington Camp facility in Arizona.

"The trips to Arizona give you an opportunity to see what the center is all about," said Brown. "The first year we came, the telescopes weren't ready and the year after that we saw more things happening. Now, they are actually built. It's really been an exciting experience."

Sophomore Shawn Vaughns is a newcomer to the CASS program.

"This is my first time out of the South," he said. "Coming to Arizona to see the telescopes has been very interesting. We've learned about the atmosphere, the sun, the stars—it's been fun. Hot, but fun."

While out west, students visited Kitt Peak, the world's largest collection of optical telescopes. They also traveled to Sunspot, N.M. (a cooler place than the name suggests), to visit the National

Solar and Apache Point observatories. At the National Solar Observatory, astronomers research the ever-changing characteristics of the sun. The two coronagraphs (instruments used to study the sun's corona) there are the largest in the United States and the best designed in the world.

Montanez Wade, instructor of computer engineering and administrator in the CASS program, said, "There are only a handful of black astronomers in the nation, so it is our goal to expose students to this science in which they have not historically been involved. We bring them to our site where they can learn about the planetary sciences and who knows, they might pick it up as a hobby, if not a major, but the main objective is exposure."

In the background; students climb to the top of one of the telescopes at Apache Point Observatory. At National Solar Observatory, students learned about the operations of a coronagraph, an instrument used to study the sun's corona.



Lou Boyd (right), director of Fairborn Observatory, monitors the telescopes operated by the University—with a little help from his parrot. At left is TSU's Michael Busby.

Celebrating A NEW DAWN OF DEMOCRACY

TSU President James A. Hefner reflects on visiting Nigeria for the inauguration of President-elect Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo as a guest of Hassan Adamu, Nigerian ambassador to the United States.

Earlier this summer, my wife Edwina and I watched Olusegun Obasanjo, the new democratically elected president of Nigeria, take the oath of office in Abuja. We were the guests of Hassan Adamu, Nigeria's ambassador to the United States, who has contributed funds to establish the Hassan Adamu Distinguished Professorship for Tennessee State University's College of Business.

Heralded by fireworks the night before, the inaugural ceremony took place in Eagle Square, a sports arena with a seating capacity of 35,000. Britain's Prince Charles, South Africa's President Nelson Mandela, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater, Andrew Young, Jesse Jackson, and at least 25 heads of state were among the special guests, joined by thousands of others inside the arena and what easily could have been 100,000 in the streets outside. As I watched the event unfold, I could not help thinking back to Nigeria's 15 years of military rule, especially the last five years when Gen. Sani Abacha was in power.

Analysts have indicated that under the Abacha regime, at least \$5 billion was stolen from the public purse and that the Nigerian people have been robbed of an estimated \$30 billion in the past 28 years, practically all of which remains in European and American banks. In his inaugural address, President Obasanjo, who relinquished the presidency 20 years earlier, promised to change Nigeria and fight corruption, an extraordinary exit from military governance, which set the stage for a "new dawn" of democracy.

The Nigeria Obasanjo is leading has an abundance of natural resources, including plenty of fertile land and large reserves of oil that generate \$10 billion in revenues annually. Nigeria also has more than 230 universities.

So why is 95 percent of the Nigerian population of 110 million (one-sixth of the African population) poor far beyond any American manifestation of poverty? Why can't a country with billions in oil revenues supply millions of its people fuel? Why are universities scraping for survival dollars? How did the infrastructure crumble?

In his inaugural address, President Obasanjo noted his country's endowment of human and material resources but blamed the Abacha administration for failing to improve the quality of life for its people. He said, "One of the greatest tragedies of military rule in recent times is that corruption was allowed to grow unchallenged and unchecked, even when it was glaring for everybody to see. The rules and regulations for doing official business were deliberately ignored, set aside or by-passed to facilitate corrupt practices." Indeed, it was excruciating to witness the evidence of a nation exploited by its own people.

The world community hopes that Obasanjo will address cultism in educational institutions and examine its macro-economic policies in relation to supplying water and energy to citizens, distributing petroleum products, managing national debt, and countering organized fraud, including the sweeping expenditures made by the preceding regime in a few

weeks that virtually eliminated financial reserves. To that end, Obasanjo has been conducting a complete evaluation of Nigeria's overall economy and fiscal policy. Additionally, I anticipate the emergence of a middle class to ease the blatant polarity between rich and poor and the improvement of the squalid living conditions of the poor, which saddened me to see.

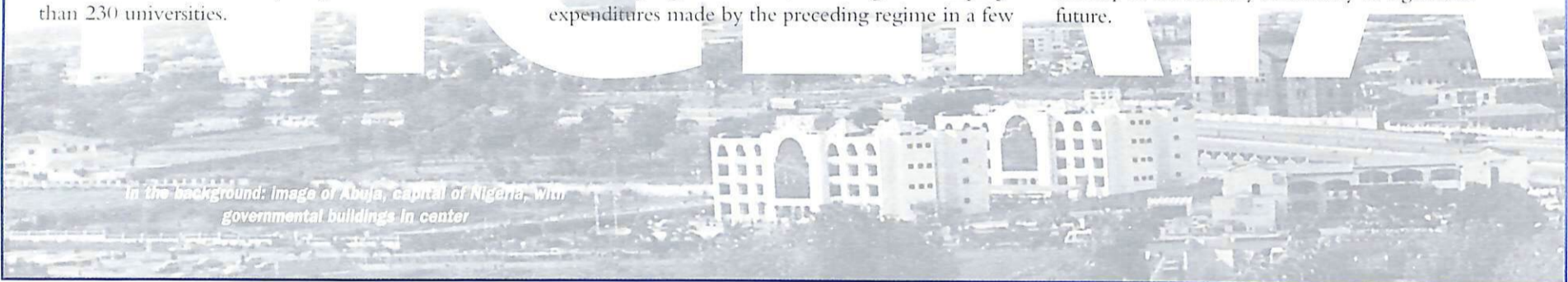
What can we do? American colleges and universities should support Nigeria with partnerships in business, education, agriculture, engineering, health and other areas. At Tennessee State University, we already are working with Ambassador Adamu to link students from Yola University in Adamawa with our students and look forward to deepening our relationship with Nigeria. We must offer our expertise and resources to help create positive change

within Nigeria, change Obasanjo said would emerge clearly in the first year of his presidency. The new president promised, "I shall quickly ascertain the true state of our finances and ... in light of the resources available, I shall concentrate on those issues that require urgent attention and can bring urgent beneficial relief to our people."

If Obasanjo has his way, all Nigerians will rise to the challenges of democracy, joining hands to steer the ship of the country's economy to a glorious future.



TSU President James Hefner and Edwina Hefner with Edward H. Boohene, founder and executive chairman of the Ghana Stock Exchange, during festivities preceding the inauguration of Olusegun Obasanjo as president of Nigeria.



In the background: image of Abuja, capital of Nigeria, with governmental buildings in center



PHOTO OP

TSU President James A. Hefner and K. S. "Bud" Adams, owner of the NFL's Tennessee Titans, pose in front of the recently unveiled name of the coliseum where the Titans and TSU Tigers will play their home games, beginning this season. The Adelphia Corporation, a national telecommunications company with operations in Tennessee, outbid other competitors for the rights to name the facility.

FALL FACULTY INSTITUTE

**8 A.M., MONDAY, AUGUST 16
AUDITORIUM, AVON WILLIAMS CAMPUS**

**FALL REGISTRATION: AUGUST 17-20
LATE REGISTRATION: AUGUST 23-24
CLASSES BEGIN: AUGUST 23**

university notables

Gifts, grants and resources

State Farm Insurance Company has donated 25 new computers to the University. TSU is one of 25 historically black colleges and universities nationwide selected to receive computers. Mike Gaines, senior agency field consultant for State Farm, said the company "is committed to increasing the knowledge base and quality of life for all students who attend institutions of higher learning."



On hand for the presentation of 25 computers to TSU were, left to right, Margaret Whitfield, director of alumni relations; Anand Padmanabhan, director of communication and information technologies; Tom Clark, State Farm agent; James A. Hefner, TSU president; Reggie Pope, State Farm team manager; Mike Gaines, State Farm senior agency field consultant; and Delorse Lewis, director of development and executive director of the TSU Foundation.

The **Center for Health Research** has received \$1.258 million in funding from the National Institute of Mental Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for its Minority Research Infrastructure Support Program, through which it will train junior faculty and graduate students in methods for conducting research related to mental health issues within minority populations. **Baqar Husaini** serves as principal investigator for the grant, which also is funding a pilot project by psychology faculty members **Elliott Hammer** and **Peter Millet**, who will be studying the effects of racial factors on mental health.

The annual **Frankie Allen** Golf Tournament raised more than \$15,000 for former TSU athletes who have exhausted their eligibility in their sports but are still working to attain their degrees.

The **Nashville Chapter of the TSU National Alumni Association** has contributed ten \$1,000 scholarships for recently graduated high school students in Davidson County who will enter the University this fall.

Honors, awards and achievements

Richard Browning, animal scientist with the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program and the

School of Agriculture and Home Economics, has been named to the editorial board of the *Journal of Animal Science*, the official publication of the American Society of Animal Science. Since earning his Ph.D. in reproductive science from Texas A&M University in 1994, Browning has had six articles published in the *Journal of Animal Science*, with two more currently in press.

Fannie Hyde Perry, director of the University Counseling Center, has been named Outstanding Mental Health Professional of the Year by the Mental Health Association of Tennessee. The association applauded her efforts in pioneering participation by historically black colleges and universities in National Depression Week and Screening Day activities.

Harry Fuchs, Arie Halachmi and **Alex Sekwat**, professors in the Institute of Government, have been appointed to the executive council of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Ralph Simpson, department head and professor of music, is serving on the citizen's music advisory panel for the Tennessee Arts Commission.

TSU President **James A. Hefner** has been appointed to the Tennessee Titans advisory board of directors.

The **Humanities Building** received an honorable mention at the Metropolitan Nashville Historical Commission's annual Architectural Awards program.

Research, presentations and publications

Jane Norman, professor of nursing, has had a series of five articles accepted by Salem Press for publication in a reference book, due for release in 2000. Her articles cover the topics of ageing, retirement, safety, transportation and sensory changes.

Alumni news

Tyrone Butterfield, a 1999 graduate, two-time NCAA Division I-AA All-American and former Ohio Valley Conference Co-Offensive Player of the Year, was signed this summer by the Nashville Kats arena football team.

Fred Higgs, a 1995 graduate, has been selected for two fellowships and a General Electric Faculty for the Future Award for his graduate studies in engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). George Robbins, associate director of graduate academic and enrollment services at RPI, said that Higgs and other TSU engineering graduates who have enrolled at RPI

have shown "exceptional academic prowess, community involvement and strong leadership skills and have favorably impressed everyone that they met."

Olympic medalists and former Tigerbelles **Madeline Manning Mims, Wilma Rudolph, Wyomia Tyus** and **Willye White**, as well as **Ed Temple**, former TSU and Olympic women's track coach, recently were honored as "pioneers of women's track and field" in special ceremonies held by USA Track & Field, the national governing body for track and field.

CLASSIC GOLF ADDS TO CLASSIC FOOTBALL

The Inaugural Richard Dent Golf Classic, to benefit athletic scholarships, will be held in conjunction with Tennessee State University's first John Merritt Football Classic during Labor Day weekend. Dent, who was a four-year standout at TSU before enjoying a 15-year career in the National Football League, will serve as a celebrity host for the golf outing, which should become a permanent addition to the John Merritt Football Classic festivities.

Dent was an All-American at TSU in 1980 and 1982, setting the modern-day Tiger record for sacks, with 39 to his credit. The Chicago Bears drafted him in the eighth round in 1983. Dent's NFL highlights include winning the Most Valuable Player award in Super Bowl XX as a member of the Chicago Bears, retiring as one of the NFL leaders in career sacks, and being selected to the Pro Bowl in 1984, 1985 and 1990.

The Hermitage Golf Course is the site for the event, an 18-hole, four-person scramble, slated for Saturday, Sept. 4, with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. On Sunday, Sept. 5, at 6 p.m., the football classic will match the Big Blue with Alabama State University in Adelphia Coliseum. The event also will feature fireworks and performances by bands from both institutions. Game tickets for the John Merritt Classic alone cost \$18 each; however, season tickets for all five home games are \$35 (for the end zone) and \$50 (for sideline).

The cost for entry to the golf classic is \$100 per person, which includes greens fees and half a cart. In addition, sponsorship packages, which include a hole sponsorship and a foursome in the field, are available for \$500. The field is limited to the first 144 players or 36 foursomes.

To purchase football game tickets or to reserve spots in the golf tournament, call the athletic ticket office at 615-963-5841 or toll-free at 888-287-2583.

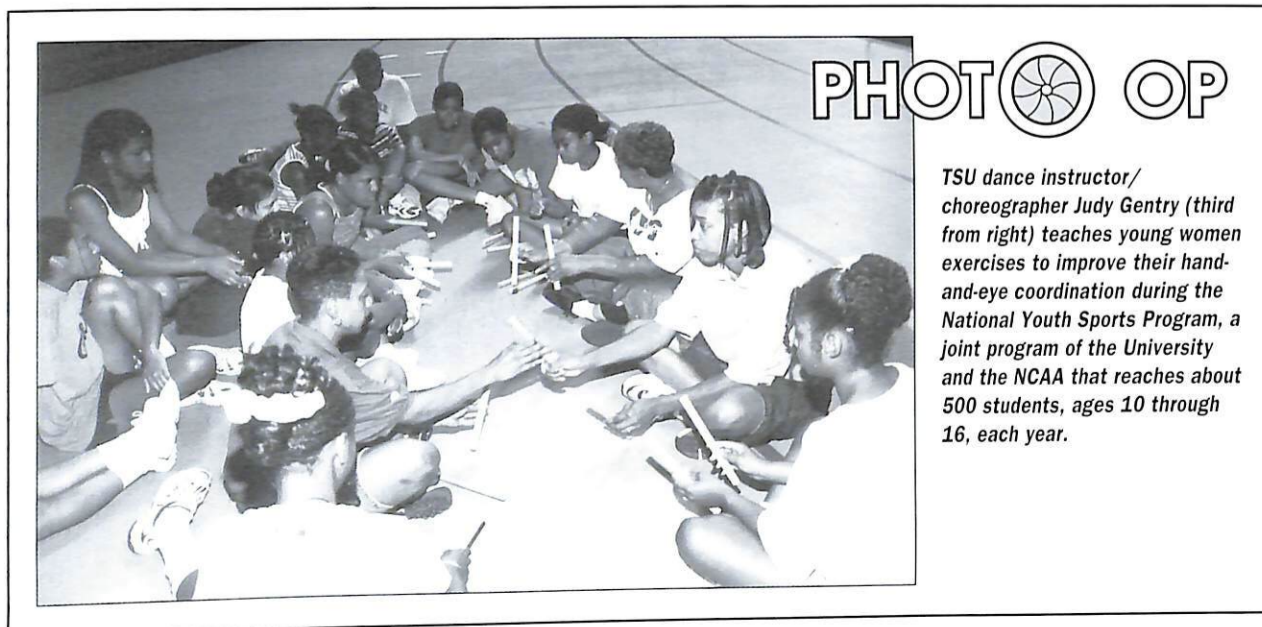


PHOTO OP

TSU dance instructor/choreographer Judy Gentry (third from right) teaches young women exercises to improve their hand-and-eye coordination during the National Youth Sports Program, a joint program of the University and the NCAA that reaches about 500 students, ages 10 through 16, each year.

Quotable QUOTES

I just think I would have fun doing that, and I feel like if you're not going to have fun, there's no reason to do it.

-Jessica Bogus
high school student from Knoxville, on changing her career from law to computer science after participating in a College of Engineering and Technologies "Engineering in the Hood" program

I have taught and been around TSU since 1948. TSU is known to many, but it remains a secret to others. Those of us who know TSU must share the best kept secret in Nashville.

-Nathaniel Crippens
retired faculty member

You don't keep 200 cows healthy and producing milk 365 days a year without some good planning.

-Cathy Robinson
director of conferences and special events, on how working on her family's dairy farm prepared her for her job

What TSU is doing is wonderful. Education needs to partner with industry to prepare our future work force.

-Gracie Lewis
culinary arts instructor at Nashville's Maplewood High School, on TSU's Governor's School for Hospitality and Tourism

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