

# ACCENT

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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*Coordinator Sandra Wright "crowns" a young attendee helped to the stage by Augustus Bankhead, vice president for academic affairs, at April's opening of the TSU/TVA weekend Academy. The academy brings private enterprise and education together to stimulate a love of learning in children grades three through six. See "Computers, camping and canoes," page 1.*

 **TENNESSEE**  
STATE *University*

**IN THIS ISSUE:** Learning-made-fun at Weekend Academy . . . introduction of Homecoming honoree and grand marshal . . . overview of speech pathology and audiology clinic . . . tribute to the late John McLendon . . . new college ring . . . partnership with First American and Comdata



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## Computers, camping and canoes

"Clap once if you can hear my voice." (*Clap*) "Clap twice if you're ready to listen." (*Clap, clap*)

And with that, a spirited, curious, wiggly group of children came to an alert stop to await their teacher's instructions. They were the third-, fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students in the Tennessee State University/Tennessee Valley Authority Weekend Academy, a year-round Saturday school for inner-city children.

There are about 30 students in the Weekend Academy, a drop-out prevention program. It was conceived in 1995 by former TVA director Bill Kennoy, who launched academies first in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Memphis. Each academy is a cooperative effort by businesses and local schools. In Nashville, TVA has coordinated with Tennessee State University, the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County School System, and Nashville Electric Service.

The students meet every other Saturday at TSU's Avon Williams campus. On one Saturday, students wrote newspaper articles and typed them on computers. Field trips they had taken together provided plenty of material. So far, the students have been to the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere, the movie *Tarzan*, Camp Easter Seal, the Cumberland Science Museum, and the Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park.

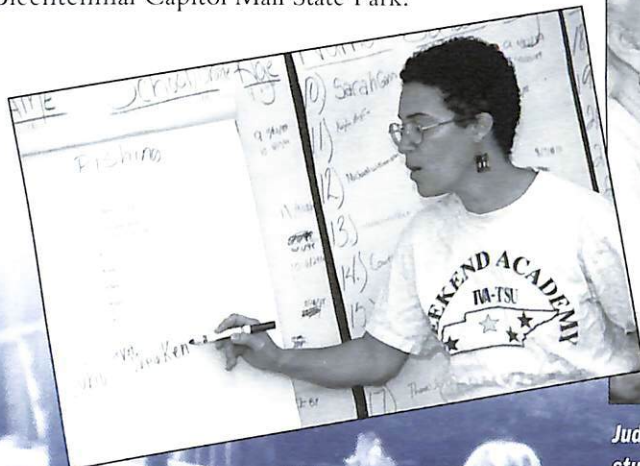
"We think it's important that the students experience their city and state," said Judy Edwards, one of two teachers at the Nashville Weekend Academy.

"The children were excited to stand on the map of Tennessee [at the Bicentennial Mall]. They associated it for the first time with the little map they'd seen in their books, you see, and they began to realize we live in a big world." Edwards's eyes glittered as she recounted how excited she was to go to the big city when she herself was a child, and how, she believed, in an instant, anyone within earshot of the students at the mall was longing to be a child again—and enrolled in the Weekend Academy.

Edwards is a full-time teacher with Metro schools, teaching English as a Second Language at Lockeland Middle School. At times, it's difficult to distinguish her and her colleague, Roxine Ross, from their students. Both are excited about learning and energetic about teaching. Wearing Weekend Academy T-shirts and jeans, they drift among the students, encouraging one child here, laughing freely with another there.

Edwards has more than 20 years' experience in the classroom and Ross more than 18. Ross teaches first grade at Napier Elementary School. Along the way, she also has picked up unofficial teaching credit by raising six children of her own.

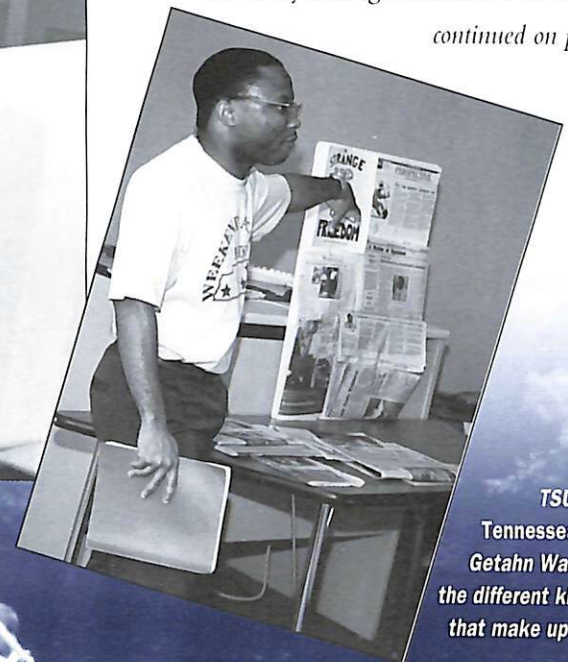
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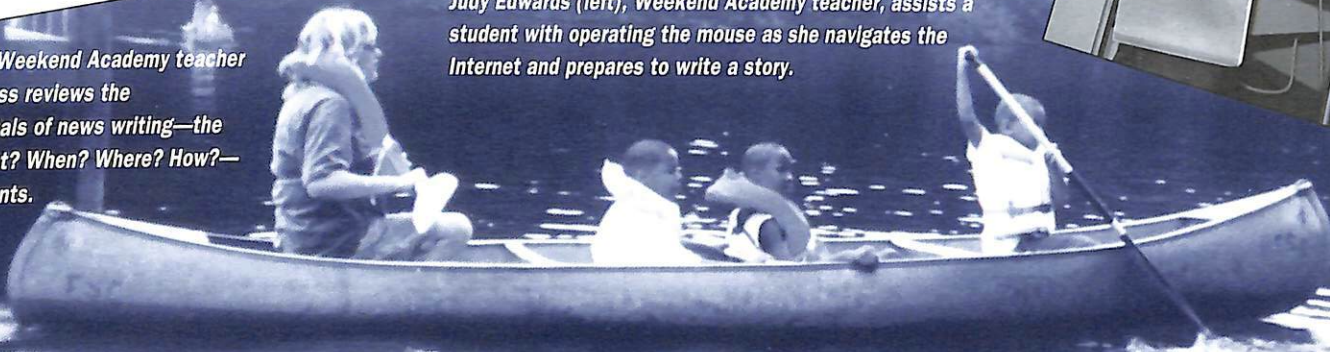
TSU/TVA Weekend Academy teacher Roxine Ross reviews the fundamentals of news writing—the Who? What? When? Where? How?—with students.



Judy Edwards (left), Weekend Academy teacher, assists a student with operating the mouse as she navigates the Internet and prepares to write a story.



TSU alumnus and Tennessean staff writer Getahn Ward talks about the different kinds of stories that make up a newspaper.





# Computers, camping and canoes...continued

Gentle though they are, Edwards and Ross are in charge in the classroom. In fact, good behavior habits are as much a part of the academy's curriculum as English and math skills.

"These children are motivated to be here. They don't have to come," Ross said. "Our hope is that the skills and behaviors they learn here will transfer to the classroom."

And transfer to the lifelong learning process. The academy is for students in grades three through six; Metro offers a similar program for students through the eighth grade. The hope is that such students will remain in school, get their diplomas and proceed on to college. Tennessee State's visibility in the program exposes the children to the possibilities of higher education.

Sandra Wright, PC support specialist for TSU's College of Business, coordinates the Nashville Weekend Academy.

"Many of these students have never been away from the bricks and concrete of the inner city," she said, "and some of our activities are firsts for the parents as well. There were entire families on our camping trip who had never seen a lake before."

Wright is the point of contact for the supporters of the Weekend Academy. She coordinates with Metro Schools, TSU's Cooperative Extension Program (which develops the curriculum

and provides van pick-up for the children each session),

TVA, and officials at

the field-trip sites. For

example, she and Tonia

Jones, who also

works in the College of

Business, worked

out logistics for students and parents to spend the weekend at Camp Easter Seal. Campers enjoyed fishing, canoeing, square-dancing, walking on a nature trail, and climbing on a low-level ropes course.

The weekend was made possible by NatureLink, a program of the National Wildlife Federation. Coordinated in Tennessee by the Tennessee Conservation League, NatureLink enables whole families to experience the outdoor world through hands-on activities. And true to the Weekend Academy tradition, each fun activity was a learning activity. The fishing expedition was more than sitting on the bank throwing a line. Children first learned the anatomy of fish, what their habitats and habits are, how to bait their hooks, and how to leave the fishing site cleaner than they found it.

The children loved it. So did the parents.

"They really look forward to coming each week," said Casey Smith, who has three sons in the academy. "I really like the campus atmosphere. I can see that they're getting a lot out of the program."

Smith's sons are also active in sports, but even when the basketball season starts, adding to an already busy schedule, she will make sure her sons don't miss their Saturdays at TSU.

"It's been good for them. They're with friends here and other families in the neighborhood. We're making Weekend Academy a priority."

## What Weekend Academy students are writing about their experiences

The following excerpts came from an assignment on writing news stories.

### About best friends, by Shawniqua Collins

*My best friend is Cassandra! She goes to my school and is a nice person. And we go skating together and we go to the movies together. She is my best friend in the world. I like her for a friend. The end.*



### Bicentennial Mall, by Sara M. Gann

*I went to the Bicentennial Mall with the Weekend Academy in the summer of '99. At the Bicentennial Mall there is a big map of Tennessee on the ground. While we were looking at the map, Mrs. Sandra, one of our teachers, found where she is from. I really had fun there, and I hope we go there again.*

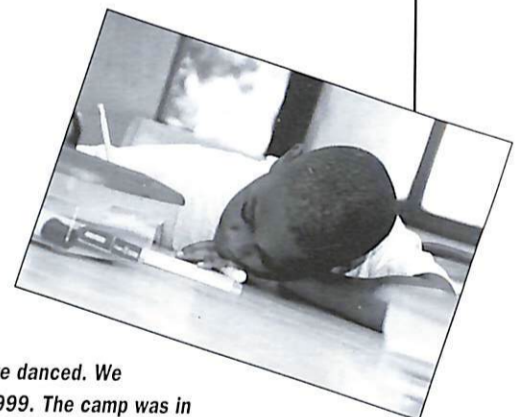
### Bicentennial Mall, by Kayla Anglin

*We saw carved animals like snakes, frogs, and fish. The path had rocks and some of the rocks were gold. After we came back we baked some chocolate oatmeal cookies. When they cooled off we ate them and took some home. That day it was hot so we kept the cookies in a cool place and wrapped them up. It was very fun.*



### Camping, by Dominisha Black

*I went camping with the Weekend Academy. Most of the Weekend Academy students attended. The people who attended had fun. We went fishing and we square danced. We went on September 11, 1999. The camp was in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. We took this trip because we needed to know each other better and we wanted to learn about camping. My sister Yolanda, my grandmother Laura and I attended. I enjoyed it and I hope I go camping again.*



### Tarzan, by Elisha Bowens

*I went to the movies with the Weekend Academy. We saw Tarzan and it was a good movie. Tarzan was a hero. The Weekend Academy takes us to interesting places and helps us learn new things. I like the Weekend Academy.*



The 1999-2000 Weekend Academy crew.



# Honoring Andrew Bond

Andrew Bond, the first dean of the Tennessee State University School of Allied Health Professions, retired Sept. 30, after serving his alma mater during five decades.

Bond's relationship with Tennessee State University began 55 years ago. He came to TSU from Brownsville, Tenn., to enroll as a freshman; his roommate was Homer Wheaton, who now is interim vice president for university relations and development at the university. The two became lifelong friends.

"We graduated in 1948, and shortly after, both he and I left to take teaching jobs in the state," Wheaton said. "I came back to Tennessee A&I to do a master's. He went into the Army, then came back and did a master's here. Then, he and I started to work here. I was in animal science and he was in agronomy."

Bond, who earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Minnesota, went on to serve TSU as curriculum coordinator in biochemistry, director of summer sessions, and dean of special academic programs. His concern for and commitment to students who need educational resources prompted him to secure a grant which established the TRIO programs (Upward Bound, Talent Search and Student Special Services, now known as the Academic Success Program) at the university and establish the Health Careers Opportunity Program, aimed at providing rising high school seniors, recent high school graduates, and college freshmen and sophomores an overview of the job market and activities to strengthen their academic skills.



**Andrew Bond (right) receives a plaque from Peggy Valentine of the National AIDS Minority Information and Education program, which awarded a grant to the TSU School of Allied Health Professions.**



**Valerie Matlock (left) of the TSU Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology shares her warm congratulations with Andrew Bond.**



**Marian Patton (right), department head of dental hygiene, celebrates with her dean and mentor.**

In 1974, TSU, together with Meharry Medical College, established a School of Allied Health Professions, naming Bond as head. Under his leadership, the academic unit has grown from three programs (nursing, dental hygiene and health care administration) to eight of the "front-line" allied health professions: cardio-respiratory care sciences, dental hygiene, health care administration and planning, health information management, medical technology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech pathology and audiology. (TSU established a separate School of Nursing in 1979.) In 1974, the school's enrollment was 60; in the spring of 1999, enrollment reached 881, with 100 graduates. Bond's influence in his field is equally impressive: He is a founding member of the National Society of Allied Health and has served on a number of accreditation committees for programs at peer institutions.

"Andrew Bond left the university with a strong allied health school and a commitment to excellence," Wheaton said. "He demanded a first-class function. He had a lot of pride in what he did and he tried to instill that pride in the folks he touched."

"During my early years as acting department head and eventually department head, he has served as a mentor in many ways," said Marian Patton of dental hygiene.

"He handpicked good students," Wheaton added. "His pursuit of truth was unwavering; he just made a real contribution."

## TSU introduces new college ring

Tennessee State University alumni and students interested in an official TSU college ring soon will be able to see and acquire one.

University administrators have announced an unveiling of the new ring during Homecoming festivities, scheduled for Friday, Nov. 5, during the noon pep rally in the amphitheater on the main campus. A committee comprised of representatives from the TSU community decided on a design incorporating the cupola of the former administration building, which now serves as the humanities building.

"We wanted a ring that would represent the traditions of the university and appeal to everyone," said Everette Freeman, TSU's executive assistant to the president. Freeman chaired the committee charged with initiating the new college ring design. Other committee members included John Cade, dean of admissions and records; Helen Barrett, dean of the graduate school;



Margaret Whitfield, director of alumni relations; Wilson Lee, director of financial aid; Ron Myles, director of student activities; Reginald Shareef, president of the Student Government Association; Carl Pillow, assistant director of athletics for development; Michelle Viera, assistant director of alumni relations; Lora Springer, coordinator of career employment; Dollie Hodges, graduation analyst for the graduate school; Gloria Ivy, administrative assistant to the president; and Patricia Clayton, administrative assistant for university relations and development.

"We chose the cupola to be a primary part of the official college ring design because alumni and future graduates recognize it and it can continue to represent the spirit of the university for generations to come," Freeman said.

Joe Graham, recognition and affiliation specialist with Jostens, the company which has designed and is manufacturing the official TSU college ring, said, "Before the 1960s, colleges traditionally had one custom ring design. Over the past three decades, the trend in the market for college rings went toward a wider selection of rings, with a number of designs, shapes and stone colors. Now, institutions like TSU are moving back toward re-establishing an official ring."

Graham said representatives from Jostens will be available after the Homecoming pep rally and unveiling ceremony to answer questions and accept orders. Those interested in the new TSU ring may also call Jostens at 800-424-1494 or visit their web site at <http://www.jostens.com>.



# Speech pathology and audiology clinic serves the community

The National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities estimates that communication disorders, including speech, language and hearing disorders, affect one out of every 10 people in the United States. The Tennessee State University speech pathology and audiology clinic is working hard within the Nashville community to help reduce that number. From hearing aid consultation and evaluation to accent reduction, the full-service speech and hearing clinic offers an array of services to clients as young as two years old to those well into their 90s. In addition, the clinic gives hands-on experience to graduate students who work in the clinic.

"The clinical program is designed to achieve dual goals," said James Cantrell, acting chair of the department of speech pathology and audiology. "One is to train our students in working with children and adults. The other is to provide clinical services to the community. All of our services are provided under the supervision of clinicians who are licensed by the state of Tennessee and are certified in speech language, pathology and audiology by the American Speech Language and Hearing Association. We are very proud that we provide top-quality, state-of-the-art services in speech pathology and audiology, and we also train professionals to work in schools, hospitals, clinics and various clinical settings in the community."

In speech and language services, the clinic offers accent reduction, early intervention, and therapy for dysphagia (difficulty in swallowing), articulation, stuttering, and language development. The clinic also meets the special needs of children with autism, mental retardation, and auditory processing disorders. Audiology services include hearing screenings, diagnostic testing, electrophysiological testing, and aural rehabilitation, including hearing aid consultation and evaluations. The clinic is geared toward serving those who do not have insurance or cannot afford to go to a hospital or consult specialists.

"There are so many people who do not have insurance and often they don't receive services," said clinic coordinator Brenda McClellan. "We are about the business of serving the community. We might get people who are on TennCare or simply do not have any insurance or means to pay for it, so we try to work with them." Furthermore, Tennessee State University employees, their families, TSU students, state of Tennessee employees and Meharry Medical College employees and students are not charged for services at the clinic.

Cantrell said that because the clinic is a university program and a training institution, the services it provides are very affordable compared to those of a specialist or hospital. The cost of a whole semester's worth of services is about the same as the

cost of going to another clinic for just one visit. Last summer, the clinic had more than 400 visits from nearly 60 clients. Last school year, audiology clinicians went to three school systems in Middle Tennessee and screened approximately 5,000 children.

Florence Taylor has been bringing her nine-year-old daughter, Amelia, to the clinic for speech therapy since the beginning of the semester.

The clinician at her daughter's school referred her to the clinic.

"She loves coming here," Taylor said. "We have been coming only a short time but I believe the therapy is going to make a big difference."

"The children are excited about coming," said Carmen Gilmore, a first-year student in the speech pathology graduate program and a clinician who works with two adolescent clients. She values the experience the clinic provides.

"I feel very comfortable working with my clients, and the parents are very helpful and follow up on the things that we work on in our sessions," said Gilmore.

Reba Boyd, a student graduating from the program this December, says she has seen vast developments in the clinic since she started the program.

"The clinic has come a long way," said Boyd, a licensed practical nurse since 1982 who helped design the clinic's web page. "We do a lot of things that people would not think about unless they were familiar with our clinic. In terms of the clinic location and what we have to offer, it has just really grown."

One of the unique services the clinic offers is accent reduction. Because Tennessee State University has such a diverse faculty and student body, many clients come to the clinic to learn how to eliminate accents from certain regional or international origins. Cantrell says the clinic also has a multicultural program in which graduate students are trained to work with children from a number of diverse populations.

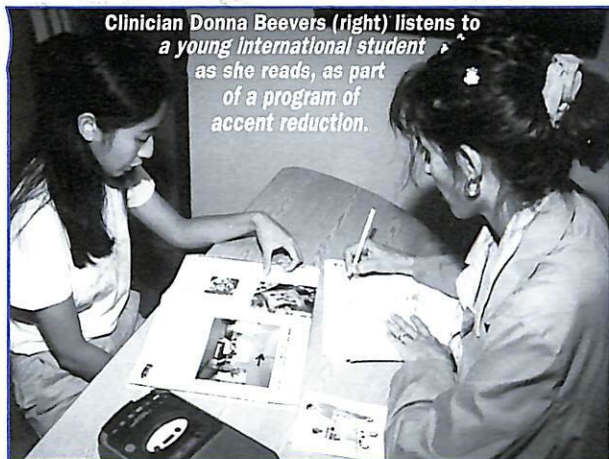
In order to complete the clinical requirements of the graduate program, students must work 375 clinical hours in at least three different settings and gain a number of competencies with children, as well as adults.

"By the time they get through the program they are well trained to work with children and adults with different problems and in different settings and provide appropriate diagnostic therapy and clinical services," said Cantrell.

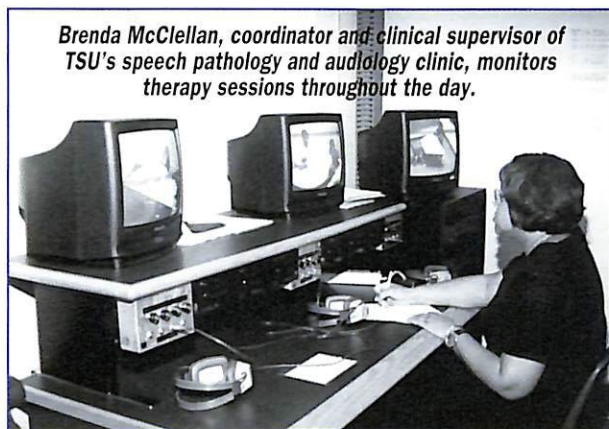
For more information about the clinic, call (615) 963-7072, or visit the TSU speech pathology and audiology department's web site at <http://duke.tnstate.edu/speechpath/>.



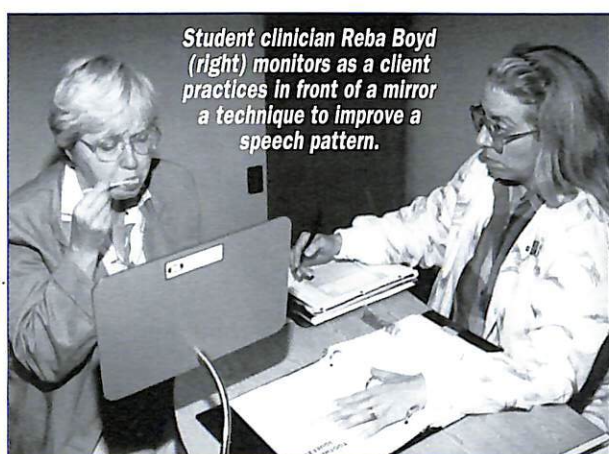
**Tangela Grimes (left) plays a phonetic game of concentration with a young client.**



**Clinician Donna Beevers (right) listens to a young international student as she reads, as part of a program of accent reduction.**



**Brenda McClellan, coordinator and clinical supervisor of TSU's speech pathology and audiology clinic, monitors therapy sessions throughout the day.**



**Student clinician Reba Boyd (right) monitors as a client practices in front of a mirror a technique to improve a speech pattern.**



# Why I chose to be a Blue Tiger

After receiving all of the college pamphlets, view books, and invitations to visit . . . Tennessee State University stood out. The rich history, beautiful campus, and positive comments from alumni about this school made TSU quickly move to my number one choice.



While attending school here I plan to be involved in the many aspects of the Blue Tiger family. During orientation, the peer counselors and SGA leaders . . . set a good example for incoming freshmen about what it takes to be involved.

The success of the graduates, where they have gone and what they are doing now, has inspired me . . . Tennessee State University is a school I am very proud to call my own. I want to be successful and say I am a graduate of that wonderful school in the land of golden sunshine—Tennessee State University. No matter where I go or what I do, I will always and forever be a Blue Tiger.

—Terrica Smith

*TSU's Vice President for Academic Affairs gave the class of 2003 a writing assignment during orientation: Write an essay on the topic "Why I chose to be a Blue Tiger." Here are excerpts from the top five, which students read at Fall Convocation.*

While attending Tennessee State University we will consistently see our motto implemented. Let us start to take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself to us. If the door of opportunity is closed or the window is shut, let us use our resources wisely to make intelligent decisions that will take the door off the hinges and break the glass from the pane.



Ten years from now, where do see yourself? You may see yourself as a preacher, educator, physician, engineer, or parent. The point is, do you see yourself? We need to have some direction and purpose in our lives to become successful individuals, and to that goal I am committed. I am committed to achieve

and obtain the best this life has to offer . . . I am only and forever will be committed to excellence. I challenge you to be a Blue Tiger. Go forth, keeping God first as you Think, Work and Serve.

—Amaris L. Johnson

Ten years from now, it is my goal to have graduated from this prestigious university which was only the beginning of doors being opened up for me. All of the lessons learned here will be registered in my heart, put to use, and never forgotten. In 10 years, I want to be able to glance back and admire all of the students who are in what was [once] my same position. Giving them the confidence that they will need in order to make the most efficient use of their collegiate experience is what will be necessary [for] gaining all of the values that will be useful in life.



I am eagerly waiting to engulf myself in all of the positive sides of college life. This includes a quest for independent thinking, hard work, and [serving] others for the betterment of myself, my family, and my college alma mater, Tennessee State University. I vow to remain loyal to the Blue Tigers.

—Angela R. Frierson

Many colleges and universities characterize themselves with exceptionalism . . . However, upon extensive research, personal interviews, and a campus visit, it

became apparent to me that I wanted to be a "Blue Tiger." I can honestly say that Tennessee State goes beyond exceptionalism . . . The staff is never hesitant to remind and inform you of Tennessee State's distinguished



graduates who have gone on to make remarkable accomplishments. These reminders serve as an incentive to drive you to be a positive leader.

It is my goal to make my dreams a tangible reality. Ten years from now, I would like to proclaim that I have been and will continue to be a positive force in this ever changing world. Just as those before me have made a permanent imprint for the betterment of this world and society, I too shall cement my values . . . I challenge myself to carry the torch of success.

—Leah S. Allen

Here, at TSU, I will accept all my challenges, successes, and failures. I know that failure only takes you one step closer to perfection . . . Some of my encouragement comes from this university giving me hope for my future.



With that I can say, "I can! I will be a leader! I will extend my hand to help another!" I will wear my blue stripes with the encouragement that the tutelage given to me was of the highest value . . . encouragement that the additional values instilled by this institution give me the right to walk with my head held high. Since 1912 [TSU] has given the same opportunity to innumerable . . . persons.

The inextinguishable torch of excellence has been bequeathed to me . . . It will recall to my memory those three words, which by themselves have meaning, but together have strength: Think. Work. Serve.

—Derrick Hayes



# Tennessee State University is first in Regents system to implement ca\$hless service for students

As the world moves toward conducting all of its financial transactions by computer and paper and metal currency become relics of the past, Tennessee State University is helping students keep stride with the latest developments of this virtually cashless society.

Tennessee State University, in partnership with Comdata Corporation and First American National Bank, is the first institution in the Tennessee Board of Regents system to use student identification cards as ATM/debit cards, enabling students to make cashless financial transactions on campus.

"This is another avenue that we are developing for students to streamline the process in which they use book vouchers to purchase their books," said TSU president James A. Hefner. "With the Comchek debit card, students will be able to buy books and supplies and save time in making their purchases."

Comdata and First American are using Tennessee State as the pilot institution for the college market. Comdata, based in Brentwood, Tenn., is a provider of financial services, allowing those who do not have bank accounts to gain access to their finances. Recently the company has expanded its services to songwriters and composers, multi-level marketing firms, restaurants and retailers. Tennessee State University is a long-time customer of

First American and has been working with the bank to find an innovative way to develop additional functions for the student identification cards to eliminate paper book vouchers and refund checks.

"The students have been very receptive to TSU's approach to delivering their book allowances and financial aid refunds on an electronic platform," said

Carole Forde, vice president of business payment services at Comdata. "Parents of students will soon receive instructions on how they may transfer money onto the Comchek card for student use on and off campus."

"It makes sense that we bring this innovative form of banking to a college campus," said First American senior vice president Bobbi Dozier. "It streamlines the process of delivering student aid and we believe students will find it a convenient way to transact business."

"We are excited about being among the first institutions of higher education to administer this new debit system used by Comdata," said H. Clay Harkleroad, vice president for business and finance. "At TSU students matter most, and we want to give them every possible advantage to excel in their academics and

have a positive experience at the university. This system, which will allow students to get their class material in a more timely manner, is a step in that direction."



**TSU President James A. Hefner makes a purchase using the Comchek card, a new cashless way to shop at the university. Ringing up the sale is Steve Treece, bookstore manager.**



**TSU President James A. Hefner shows his TSU identification/debit card. Joining him are Carole Forde, vice president of business payment services at Comdata Corporation, and Tony Holcombe, Comdata president and CEO.**

## JONES, TAYLOR HEADLINERS FOR HOMECOMING

Gospel artist Bobby Jones and retired educator Arthuryne J. Welch Taylor have been tapped as this year's Homecoming parade grand marshal and honoree, respectively.

Jones hosts the weekly television shows "Bobby Jones Gospel" and "Video Gospel" on Black Entertainment Television. He captured the Grammy award for Best Soul Gospel Performance by a Duo or Group in 1984, for his rendition of "I'm So Glad I'm Standing Here Today," recorded with New Life and Barbara Mandrell. Jones also has won two coveted awards in the gospel music industry: a Dove in 1984 and a Stellar in 1985. He began his television career at WTVF-TV in Nashville, with a children's show, "Fun City Five." He later moved to WSMV-TV in Nashville, where he started his acclaimed "Bobby Jones Gospel" show.



**Arthuryne Taylor, Homecoming honoree**



**Bobby Jones, Homecoming grand marshal**

"My goal is to mainstream positive music. That's what gospel is all about," Jones said. "Gospel music brings people together. It makes you feel good about [others], and, more importantly, makes you believe in yourself."

Jones, a native of Paris, Tenn., graduated from high school at age 15 and college at 19. He received his bachelor's and master's of arts degrees from TSU and his doctorate from Vanderbilt. Payne Seminary in Ohio bestowed an honorary doctorate of theology on him in 1991. Jones's career also includes 30 years as an educator, during which he has "tried to get students to realize that learning can be simplified through diligence, discipline, honesty, hard work and having respect for one's self and others."

Taylor, a native Texan, earned degrees from Prairie View State University, Tennessee State University, and George Peabody College for Teachers. She served as associate professor of education at TSU from 1953 to 1969, a tenure which included two years as acting department head for administration, curriculum and instruction. During those years, she spent her summers as a visiting professor at Texas Southern University and Prairie View State.

Taylor moved to Washington, D.C., in 1969 to take a position at Washington Technical Institute (now the University of the District of Columbia) and married Henry L. Taylor, former department head of agricultural education and economics at TSU. She retired in 1986 from the National Education Association, where she had worked as a research specialist for 16 years.

In recent years, Taylor has served in a number of volunteer capacities, including co-president of the American Association of Retired Persons' D.C. Southwest chapter, trustee of Fellowship Baptist Church, and member of the promotion and public relations committee of the D.C. Baptist Convention and the advisory committee of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.





Legendary coach John McLendon

# John McLendon: celebrating a pioneer of basketball

He studied basketball under its inventor and went on to blaze trails of his own in the sport.

John McLendon, who coached Tennessee A&I State University from 1954 to 1959 and led the Tigers to three consecutive National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) championships, died Oct. 8 after a brief battle with cancer.

McLendon, 84, the first African American to graduate from the University of Kansas physical education program, learned basketball from James Naismith, the game's creator. He earned his master's from the University of Iowa and went on to coach at North Carolina Central College (now North Carolina Central University) from 1940 until 1952, where he developed the fast break concept of basketball presently used nationally and internationally, and amassed a record of 246 wins, 60 losses. In 1946, he helped organize the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

In 1950, McLendon helped plan and organize the mechanics for integrating historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) into national non-segregated basketball championships. He served on the National Athletic Steering Committee, which helped Tennessee State and other institutions gain entry into the NAIA basketball tournament. In 1954 his TSU men's basketball team became the first from an HBCU to play in an NAIA national tournament. When the team went to Kansas City to play in the Tip-off Tournament, they integrated downtown

Kansas City by staying at the Hotel Citian. In 1957, TSU became the first team from an HBCU to win a national championship in any sport. But once wasn't good enough: the Tigers captured the title again in 1958 and 1959.

McLendon's record at TSU was 144 wins, 23 losses. He also coached at Hampton Institute (now Hampton University), Kentucky State College (now Kentucky State University), and Cleveland State University. Over his 25-year collegiate coaching career, he compiled a 76 percent winning record, with 523 wins and 165 losses.

McLendon's expertise in the game extended to the professional arena as well. He was the first African-American head coach of a professional basketball team, the Cleveland Pipers of the National Industrial Basketball League and the American Basketball League. The Pipers captured the NIBL and National AAU titles in 1961 and the eastern division NIBL championship in 1962. McLendon coached the Denver franchise of the American Basketball Association in 1962. He also served on the U.S. Olympic Committee from 1966 to 1976, again, being the first African American to do so. McLendon was inducted into 11 halls of fame, including the NAIA Hall of Fame, Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, Helms Athletic Hall of Fame, and the state of Tennessee and TSU halls of fame.

"John McLendon achieved legendary status while living his life humbly, capably entering arenas where African Americans had yet to tread. So many of us owe him a considerable debt of gratitude for taking the steps necessary to create avenues of access for



Coach John McLendon (seated) and two colleagues pose with several TSU trophies, including the three national championship awards.

young athletes and students," said TSU President James A. Hefner. "Tennessee State University proudly boasts of its three consecutive national championships under Coach McLendon's leadership, and he stands as steadfast in our hearts as the three banners proclaiming our championships hang proudly over McLendon Court in the Gentry Complex.

"The world will remember John McLendon for his pioneering role in the development of basketball. Tennessee State University will also remember him for the trails he blazed through the hearts and minds of the young men and women whose lives he influenced and helped shape. His standards for success and tenacious initiative serve as benchmarks of excellence for us all."

## "Sharpe" nursing educator retires

Pat Sharpe, a professor and administrator in the TSU School of Nursing for nearly 30 years, retired in September.

Sharpe, who completed her tenure with a decade as director of the associate's degree program in nursing, also served in several other capacities for the school, including a stint as its acting dean.

According to Marion Anema, dean of the School of Nursing, Sharpe was "instrumental in helping to implement the weekend option," a program whereby students can complete their requirements for the associate's degree during weekend hours—a plus for many working individuals who need the convenience of a flexible class schedule. Sharpe initiated a career mobility option in the associate's degree program for licensed practical nurses, enabling them to "challenge," essentially, test out of, the courses for the first year of the associate's degree program and complete it in one year. She also extended the associate's degree program to the campus of Volunteer State Community College, thus improving accessibility for residents in Sumner County and surrounding areas who live closer to that facility than to the TSU campus.

To ensure that students who needed financial assistance to meet their educational expenses received the funding they needed, Sharpe helped secure various federal grants. Anema said that one of Sharpe's "major commitments" was to helping those students.

Prior to her leaving, the university honored Sharpe with a reception. *Accent* is pleased to present this photo collage of Dr. Sharpe and well wishers at the event.





# Quotable QUOTES

**I** am a child of the world.

**-Catherine Brooks**

TSU alumna and one of the Nashville students of the Civil Rights Movement highlighted in David Halberstam's book, *The Children*, during a panel discussion at the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt

**N**ot only is TSU a historically black school, it is a historically excellent school.

**-Doug Pearce**

a TSU minority student, at a forum hosted by *The Tennessean*, held on the university's main campus

**H**e's the reason a guy like me is able to coach at Kentucky.

**-Tubby Smith**

the first African-American head basketball coach at the University of Kentucky, on the influence the late John McLendon, former TSU basketball coach, had on his career

**I** think it's important for TSU to remain what it's always been, and that's been about access. You can only provide access, and let people make up their minds as to what they wish to do.

**-TSU president James A. Hefner**

on the university's efforts to continue attracting a more diverse student population

# university notables

## Departmental and organizational news

Student Support Services has changed its name to the **Academic Success Program** to better reflect the results of the program, which provides academic tutoring, counseling, financial aid advisement, and cultural enrichment activities for students to help them achieve greater academic success. The U.S. Department of Education funds the program, under the leadership of **Mary Love**, director of TRIO Programs, and **Louise Garner**, assistant director of the Academic Success Program.

## Research, presentations and publications

**Carolyn Caudle**, associate professor of biological sciences, has facilitated a cooperative research agreement with the Richard Russell Research Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, in Athens, Ga. The agreement will enable TSU graduate students to conduct research internships at the center and will allow Caudle and **Stephen Kolison**, director of TSU's Cooperative Agricultural Research Program, to collaborate with researchers at the center.

Six TSU students recently made presentations of their work this summer for the USDA Forest Service, a joint effort with the **College of Arts and Sciences**. Biology majors **Shara Mayberry** and **Erin Thompson** catalogued threatened and endangered plant and animal species in the southern section of the Shawnee National Forest. History majors **Erin Thompson** and **Oneka Davis** conducted research on a pre-Civil War black homestead in the Shawnee National Forest. Political science majors **Jymiela Ervin** and **Melanie Wilson** conducted research on an underground railroad site in southern Ohio. These experiences represent an expansion of the USDA Forest Service's traditional role as a contributor to the university's plant and animal science programs.

## Honors, awards and achievements

**Michelle Robinson**, Miss Tennessee State University, captured the Miss National Black College Hall of Fame title in Atlanta in September. She competed against more than 30 other campus queens from historically black institutions.

**D'Angelqueat Warren**, a TSU senior majoring in art, has been selected to serve on the advisory board of the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge. In that capacity, he will help plan the national championship tournament, an academic quiz bowl involving 64 historically black colleges and universities.

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