

Tennessee State University and Metropolitan Historical Commission



Friday, February 10, 2012

Tennessee State University, Avon Williams Campus

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| 8:30 | Registration begins |
| 9:00 | Welcome and Opening Remarks
Mr. Tim Walker, Executive Director, Metropolitan Historical Commission
Mrs. Linda T. Wynn, Conference Co-Chair |
| 9:20 | A Touch of Greatness: History of Tennessee State University, 1909-2010
Dr. Bobby L. Lovett, retired Professor of History, Tennessee State University |
| 9:40 | Women Administrators at Tennessee State University
Dr. Gloria C. Johnson, Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Tennessee State University |
| 10:00 | The Symbiotic Relationship between the West Tennessee Education Congress and TSU
Dr. Dorothy Granberry, retired Professor of Psychology, Tennessee State University |
| 10:40 | Break |
| 11:00 | Remarks
Mr. Howard Gentry, Criminal Court Clerk, Metropolitan Nashville & Davidson County
Dr. Portia Holmes Shields, President, Tennessee State University |
| 11:30 | Musical Performance
Professor James Sexton, Tennessee State University Jazz Ensemble |
| 12:00 | Lunch |
| 1:30 | Musical Performance
Tennessee State University Meistersingers
Dr. Darryl Nettles, Director |
| 2:00 | A Will to Win: How TSU Sports Led to Academic Excellence
Dwight Lewis, Retired Editor and Columnist, <i>The Tennessean</i> |
| 2:30 | Twenty-five Years of Student Leadership and Student Life at TSU, 1965-1990
Mrs. Barbara C. Murrell, Executive Director, RealSports Leadership Academy, Inc. |
| 3:00 | Scholarship, Service, and Steppin': An Exploration of TSU's Black Greek-Lettered Fraternities and Sororities
Dr. Crystal deGregory and Dr. Learotha Williams, Jr.,
Department of History, Geography and Political Science, Tennessee State University |
| 3:30 | Closing Remarks
Dr. Reavis L. Mitchell, Jr. Conference Co-Chair |
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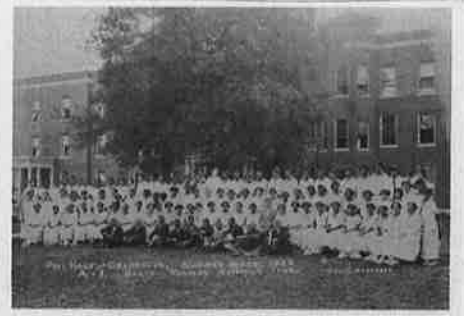
Sharon Hull Smith, *Tennessee State University*

Learotha Williams, Jr., *Tennessee State University*

Be sure to visit the art exhibit,
celebrating the work of
Tennessee State University faculty and students,
curated by Michael McBride,
on display throughout the day's events.

Notes from the sessions:

Profiles of *African Americans* in Tennessee



Tennessee State University at the Centennial (1912-2012)

Nashville and Tennessee African-American leaders had bemoaned the lack of a publicly-funded higher education system for black students as early as 1880, but it was not until 1912 that a state-funded college for African-American students joined the private colleges of Roger Williams, Walden, Fisk, and Meharry to offer higher education for the state's African-Americans. In 1909, the Tennessee General Assembly authorized the state to establish public normal schools for teacher training, one in each Grand Division for whites, and another for African-Americans. Nashville's African-American elite quickly mobilized, led by Benjamin Carr, and lobbied for the school to be located in Nashville.

In January 1911, the State Education Board awarded the Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State Normal School for Negroes to Davidson County, and the State purchased thirty-three acres of land that had been part of the Hadley plantation, and an additional sixty-seven acres adjacent, north of downtown Nashville, for the school's campus. Carr promoted this location to the governor, and stated that manual and agricultural training would be the basis of "the curriculum for former slaves and their descendants" at the new school. The building of a campus commenced and by 1912, two dormitories, a main building for offices and classrooms, and several small farm buildings had been constructed. The first classes at Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial Normal School for Negroes were held on June 21, 1912; the fall term opened on September 20, 1912, with 247 students enrolled. Formal dedication ceremonies were held in January 1913; Booker T. Washington visited the school in March of that year.

William Jasper Hale (1874-1944) of Chattanooga was chosen at the school's first principal; he oversaw the initial construction of the campus buildings, and hand-selected the faculty from graduates of Atlanta, Fisk, and Howard. Although an outsider, he married a local woman, Hattie Hodgkins, in 1913 and quickly gained acceptance among Nashville's elite African-American community. Hale was a shrewd advocate for Tennessee A&I, promoting the school's manual, agricultural, and industrial education programs among white politicians and patrons. The school's motto "Enter to Learn; Go Forth to Serve" and the words on the school's seal "Think, Work, Serve" were interpreted differently by white patrons and black students and faculty. For example, Hale and the faculty developed a course called "Industrial Education with emphasis on Negro Problems," which in actuality was the college's first African-American history class. Hale served as president for the first three decades of the school's history, a time of great expansion in the school's student body, physical plant, and academic offerings. By 1927, the size of the campus had doubled, with the construction of a library, a science building, a social science building, and new dormitories; enrollment had increased from 247 in 1912 to almost 2000 students enrolled in 1927-28. Additional campus buildings were constructed in 1932, and athletic facilities including a football field, field house, and tennis courts were added in 1935 under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration. The school's name was changed to Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial College in 1935. Hale's children were all distinguished graduates of Tennessee A&I: William Jasper,

Jr. (1931), Gwendolyn Claire (1939), and Edward Harned (1941). By Hale's resignation year of 1943, A&I added a graduate school and had awarded its first master's degree. Hale resigned under pressure from white state officials in 1943, and he died in New York the next year.

Tennessee A&I initially offered elementary and secondary education courses and a high school diploma, in a state where African-American students rarely finished sixth grade. With the publicly-funded school, suddenly education at all levels was much more readily available for the state's African-American students, and enrollment quickly grew. Students paid approximately \$100 a year for books, room, board, and fees, and students also worked a required two hours a day on campus. Simultaneously to the growth of A&I, the Anna T. Jeannes Fund and the Julius Rosenwald Fund was working throughout the state to improve education for African-American children, and Tennessee A&I was able to end its elementary and high school divisions in the 1930s.

Walter S. Davis (1905-1979) succeeded William Hale as president of the school in 1943, and presided over the next twenty-five years of growth and success at Tennessee A&I. A 1931 graduate of Tennessee A&I, Davis had served as the school's first football coach in the 1930s, and on the agricultural faculty prior to his appointment as president. In September 1951, the school received university accreditation, and the name was changed to Tennessee A&I State University. During Davis's presidency, the school's enrollment grew to over 6,000, and the faculty to some 250. Several other campus buildings were added, including the Graduate Building, Clay Hall, Lawson Hall, Home Economics, and new dormitories. Also during Davis's presidency, the school's athletic achievements became legendary: the basketball team won the NAIA championship in three consecutive years; the football team won the Grantland Rice Bowl Classic four times, and the women's track team, the Tigerbelles, achieved international recognition under Coach Ed Temple, who led the US Olympic Track Teams in 1960 and 1964. In 1968, the year of Davis's retirement, the school's name was once again changed, to Tennessee State University.

As at the neighboring schools of American Baptist, Fisk, and Meharry, TSU students participated in the nonviolent activism in the struggle for civil rights. Nashville students organized and participated in a wide-spread campaign of civil disobedience, both in Nashville and throughout the south. Fourteen TSU

students who participated in the Freedom Rides of 1961 were expelled from the university. In recognition of their leadership and sacrifice, TSU awarded them honorary doctoral degrees in 2008.

In recent decades, Tennessee State University has continued to grow. As the result of a landmark desegregation case, TSU merged with the University of Tennessee's Nashville campus in 1979, and renamed that campus the Avon Williams Campus. New campus buildings added in the 1970s and 1980s included the Gentry Physical Education Complex, the School of Business, a new library, and an engineering building. By 2000, the student enrollment had reached over 8,600 students, and the alumni of TSU have come from fifty-one nations and forty states. TSU is the sixth largest historically African-American university. A list of notable TSU alumni reads like a Who's Who among the sports, entertainment, science, and educational worlds, and includes television personality Oprah Winfrey; artist Gregory Ridley, actor Moses Gunn; football players Joe Gilliam and Richard Dent; Olympic track and field coach Ed Temple and numerous Olympians, including Wilma Rudolph, Ralph Boston, and Chandra Cheeseborough; gospel music great Bobby Jones; communications pioneer Jesse Russell; and surgeons Dr. Levi Watkins and Dr. Edith Peterson-Mitchell.

Revised and expanded by
Tara Mitchell Mielnik,
from the 1984 *Profile* by
Lois McDougald and Bobby Lovett

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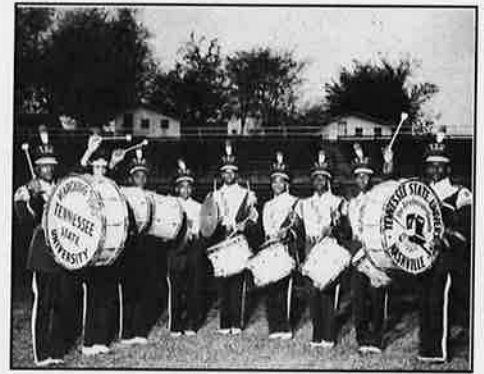
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Profiles of *African Americans* in Tennessee



Tennessee State University's Aristocrat of Bands

As early as 1928, Professor Clearance Hayden Wilson, the author of the music (lyrics by Laura M. Averitte) of the Tennessee State Alma Mater, laid the groundwork for a music program at Tennessee A. & I. State College. It was not until 1946, when President Walter Strother Davis inaugurated an instrumental music and band program, that a formal music program made available the opportunity for formal training, structured educational courses in music, and planned curricular experience and application to high school graduates who qualified for scholarships. With the scholarship students as a nucleus, students whose primary academic disciplines were in other areas augmented the band program. The instrumental program developed and expanded qualitatively and quantitatively.

In 1946 President Davis selected Jordan Douglas (Chick) Chavis as band director. A native of Greensboro, North Carolina, he attended Tennessee State and was graduated from Fisk University. Bandmaster at Washington Junior High School and Pearl Senior High School, he served in the United States Navy as assistant leader of the Black Naval Band at the Great Lakes Naval Station and later at the Seattle, Washington Navy Base.

Chavis began the organization with 100 pieces. After more than a few weeks of practice the band marched onto the field. In addition to the 100-piece marching band, Chavis also directed a 60-piece concert band, and a 17-piece orchestra. However, the marching band captured the heart and soul of the football team's fans and spectators. Originally known as the Marching 100, the Aristocrat of Bands has had four band directors. In addition to Chavis, Jr., who served from 1946 to 1951, other directors include Frank Terry Greer (1951 to 1972); Clifford Watkins (1972 to 1979); and Edward L. Graves (1979 to the present).

Under Chavis' leadership, the marching band grew and developed into a premier university band that gave extraordinary performances in parades and half-time shows at football games. In 1947 and 1948, the marching band performed in the Washington Classic in Washington, D.C., where top historically black colleges and universities competed for national championship or as stated by Chavis, "the black Super Bowl of that era." The band participated in a large parade and furnished the half-time show each year. Three years after the Marching 100 appeared in Washington, D.C., Chavis' term as band director ended in 1951. Again, President Davis was interested in further developing the band into a show band and again he tapped one of the university's former students, Frank T. Greer. Greer attended the university for two years; however, because of the diminished financial resources he left the school. A music major, Greer later completed his education at West Virginia State College (B.A. 1948; he later earned a M.A. from Marshall State University in 1954) and became a band director at a West Virginia high school band. Davis read about Greer's West Virginia band and asked him to join the faculty and become director of bands in 1951, where he remained until his retirement in 1979.

Soon after taking the baton as director of bands, Greer brought in Anceo Francisco as his assistant band director. Under Greer's leadership the band made extraordinary advances, both in numbers and musical excellence. He transformed the marching pattern, taking on the Michigan influence of quick steps, high bent knees, and pointed toe. Colleges and high schools across the nation emulated this marching form for more than two decades. Four years after Greer began his tenure as director, the band was invited to perform during the half-time show of the Chicago Bears and Los Angeles

Rams professional football game. The performance was the first of a series of nationally televised half-time shows for the band. It was also the first time that a historically black university band appeared on national television.

The "Aristocrat of Bands," the appellation given to the school's "Marching 100," brought national recognition and distinction to the university when it performed on National Television in 1960 at half time during the Baltimore Colts—Green Bay Packers professional football game in Baltimore, Maryland. Reportedly, TV announcer Lenny Nelson declared that he had never seen stadium spectators remain in their seats amazed and electrified at the performance of the "Aristocrat of Bands," as they went through their 32 intricate steps and drills on the field. Greer's Aristocrats had the unique distinction of combining high quality musicianship with high quality showmanship, never sacrificing their booming symphonic sound regardless of the movements and intricate dance steps. Between 1955 and 1978 the TSU band performed half-time shows at nine professional football games. TSU's Aristocrat of Bands also appeared in the Orange Blossom Classic in Miami, the Blues Bowl in Memphis, and the Grantland Rice Bowl in Wichita Falls, Texas.

In 1961 the band again made history and added another first to its record when it became the only historically black college or university to march in President John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Parade. One of the students who marched in that parade was Edward L. Graves, who later became the band's director. In addition to marching in Kennedy's Inaugural Parade, Greer's band also played for President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson on their visit to Nashville. "The Aristocrat's Aristocrat," a designation given him by Robert Churchwell, Greer passed the baton to Dr. Charles Watkins in 1972, when he resigned as director of the Aristocrat of Bands to become the university's chief recruiter of students. Watkins continued the high quality musicianship and excellent performances of both the Marching and Concert bands. After serving as the band's director for seven years, Watkins was succeeded by Edward L. Graves.

Since taking over as Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music in 1979, Graves has developed a band program that has been acclaimed both within the country's borders and abroad for its amazing musical performance, innovative arrangements and meticulous marching. Under his direction, the band traveled to Japan to perform at halftime in the Mirage Bowl, and the Jazz Ensemble has traveled to Switzerland as part of the Montreaux Jazz Festival and toured Nigeria. In 1993 and 1997 the band performed in the Inaugural Parades of President Bill Clinton. In addition the band

has been featured during numerous television halftime shows and specials.

From 2000 to the present, TSU's famed marching band has added numerous appearances to its credit, including but not limited to: the CBS All American Happy Thanksgiving Day Parade; the American Celebration of Music in China; the Inaugural Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase in Atlanta, Georgia; the CMT Music Awards, with country music stars Big and Rich; *Porgy and Bess* with the Nashville Symphony; and as a featured performer at the Second HBCU National Band Directors Consortium Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2003, the Aristocrat of Bands was named the official spirit band of the National Football League's Tennessee Titans. On August 6, 2011, in Canton, Ohio, when Richard Dent became the first football player from TSU enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the Aristocrat of Bands served as his escort during the Timken Grand Parade.

For over sixty years, audiences have been thoroughly entertained by the band's unique marching style and musical versatility. Recognized by their appellation as the Aristocrat of Bands, TSU's marching band has performed in parades, half-time shows, music videos, movies, and television commercials. The band's majorettes enhance its dynamic style and sound. From 1956 to 1974, the majorettes were under the direction of Carrie Gentry. Later, under the direction of Judy Fenton Gentry, the majorettes were given the appellation Sophisticated Ladies.

Linda T. Wynn

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Profiles of *African Americans* in Tennessee



Coach Ed Temple and the Tigerbelles

Known internationally as a Hall of Fame track coach with a career that spanned over four decades, Coach Ed Temple was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he excelled as an athlete, competing in high school varsity sports in football, basketball, and track. Following his high school graduation, Temple enrolled at Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial College (now Tennessee State University), where his former Pennsylvania neighbor, Tom Harris, had become track coach. Temple ran track and studied Health and Physical Education at Tennessee A&I, and also met an A&I coed, Charlie B. Law, who became his wife. At about the same time, Coach Harris accepted a position at another school and Temple graduated from A&I; President Walter S. Davis then appointed Temple as women's track coach to replace Harris.

In those early coaching years, Coach Temple coached track, worked in the university post office, continued his education, and started a family with his new bride, Charlie B. Temple recalled in an interview that "for a hundred and fifty dollars a month, I coached the women's track team, ran the university post office, and went to graduate school." One of his first runners was Nashvillian Jean Patton, who took first place in the 100 meters at the 1951 Pan American Games. Temple worked with rising track star Mae Faggs, who competed in the 1948 Olympics, and also worked with high school girls who were interested in running track, including Barbara Jones, as the A&I junior team. Faggs and Jones were part of the world-record setting 1952 Olympic gold-medal relay team, along with Catherine Hardy and Janet Moreau. Jones remains the youngest woman to win an Olympic gold medal in track and field.

Beginning in the 1950s, Coach Temple called his women's track team the "Tigerbelles," an appellation which has remained with the team. Coach Temple and his wife Charlie B. became surrogate parents to the young track stars, ensuring that they continued to achieve both academically as well as athletically. The Temples helped the young women overcome adversity they faced by being both women and African-American athletes. They faced both stereotypes against women athletes and Jim Crow as they traveled to athletic competitions across the country. Coach Temple's Tigerbelles won the 1955 national AAUP track championship, the first time that Tennessee A&I won an integrated national championship in any sport. Temple later recalled that as the team travelled back to Tennessee, they stopped to eat and were told that the restaurant "did not serve colored people," when the bus driver told the restaurant manager that these "young ladies had just won the national championship;" they were permitted to eat.

Coach Temple taught his athletes credos that are applicable to all student athletes:

- "Accept hard work in practice with no exception."
- "Make the champion's choice. Improve or stand still."
- "Make weaknesses work for you by working to correct them."
- "THINK you can win; HOPE to win; TRY to win."
- "Never underestimate your ability. Who knows how far you can go?"
- "Seek perfection. Few attain it, but all who seek it gain."

Under Coach Temple, the Tigerbelles achieved great Olympic success throughout the 1950s and 1960s and beyond. In addition to the gold medalists at the 1952 Olympics, six members of the Tigerbelles returned to the Olympics in 1956. There the entire US 4 x 100 relay team included Tigerbelles Faggs, Wilma Rudolph, Margaret Matthews, and Isabelle Daniels. In a race that featured all three medal teams breaking the existing world record, the US team brought home the bronze medal. Teenage junior member Willye B. White earned a silver medal in long jump, the first time an American had ever received a medal in that event. White became the first American track and field athlete to participate in five Olympic games. Coach Temple was called upon to coach the US Olympic teams in 1960 and 1964, which included several of his Tigerbelles. Wilma Rudolph became the first American female athlete to win three gold medals in a single Olympics in 1960. In 1964, the 4x100 team took the silver medal. Edith McGuire added a gold in the 200 meters and another silver, finishing second to fellow Tigerbelle Wyomia Tyus in the 100 meters. Tyus became the first athlete, male or female, to win back-to-back Olympic gold medals, with her performances in the 100 meters in 1964 and 1968. Also in 1968, Tigerbelle Madeline Manning became the first American woman to win gold in the 800 meters, and at that time was the youngest to ever win. Overall, Coach Temple's Tigerbelles have received over twenty Olympic medals, including current TSU track coach Chandra Cheeseborough, who won silver in the 400 meters and gold in both the 4x100 and 4x400 relays at the 1984 Olympics.

Coach Ed Temple is one of America's all-time greatest coaches in track and field. In addition to his Olympic successes, his Tigerbelles have won thirty-four national team titles, and thirty medals in the PanAmerican Games. In the days of both Jim Crow and the Cold War, he coached the 1958 US Women's track team for the first-ever US-Soviet track meet, and later, the 1975 team for the first ever China-US meet. Coach Temple's honors are too numerous to mention, but include an honorary doctorate from his alma mater; the Nashville's Sports Council's trophy for best local amateur athlete bears his name; and a Nashville street has been named in his honor. He is a member of a number of Halls of Fame, including the

Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame (1972); the Tennessee State University Sports Hall of Fame (1983); the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame (1987); the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame (1989); the Ohio Valley Conference Hall of Fame (1995); and the US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame (1996). He retired in 1993 after forty-three years of coaching at Tennessee State University. The father of two grown children, he now works to provide scholarships for low-income children to attend New Hope Academy in Franklin, Tennessee, through the Ed Temple Fund. He is also a member of the Metropolitan Nashville Sports Authority. Coach Temple opened doors for young African-American women athletes that had previously been closed, and as he led these women, he created a wealth of opportunity for his first athletes and the many hundreds that would follow in their fleet footsteps.

Yildiz Binkley
Reavis Mitchell
Tara Mitchell Mielnik

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