



*Academic Excellence  
and  
Civil Rights Era  
1965 - 1969*

*Levi Watkins Jr. - 1965-1966*

*Obie McKenzie - 1967-1966*

*James Vincent Montgomery - 1967 – 1968*

*William Choctaw - 1968 - 1969*

# 1965 - 1966



Levi Watkins, Jr.  
President



Dorothy Grandberry  
Vice-President



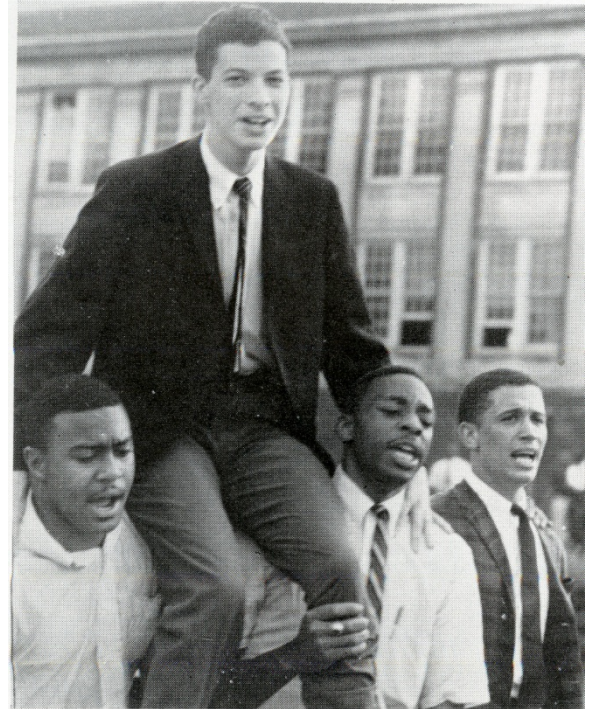
# Election Activities

Candidate for SC Prexy, Levi Watkins, espouces promises.



Students drum up steam for their favorite candidates for student council President, Vice-President and Miss TSU.

"The Winnah!" Student Council President elect is carried on the shoulders of some of his followers and well-wishers







# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE





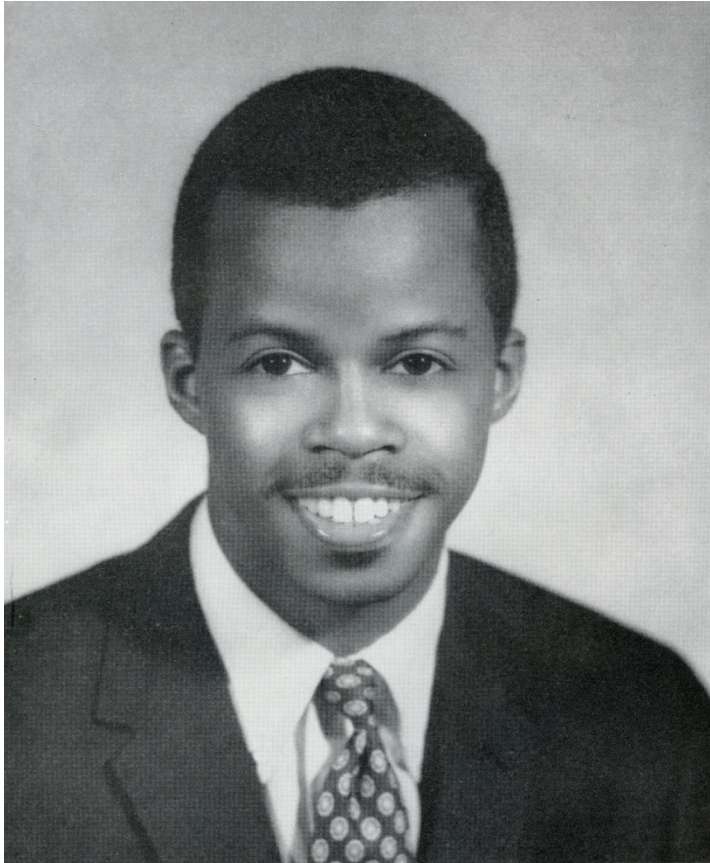
# Student Council

Seated, left to right: Dorothy Granberry, LeRoy White, Vorry Moon, Charles Maxwell, Wilma Shaw. Standing: Joseph Askew, Don Lowry, Levi Watkins, Jr., Wilburn Smith, Jr.





# Obie McKenzie 1966-1967



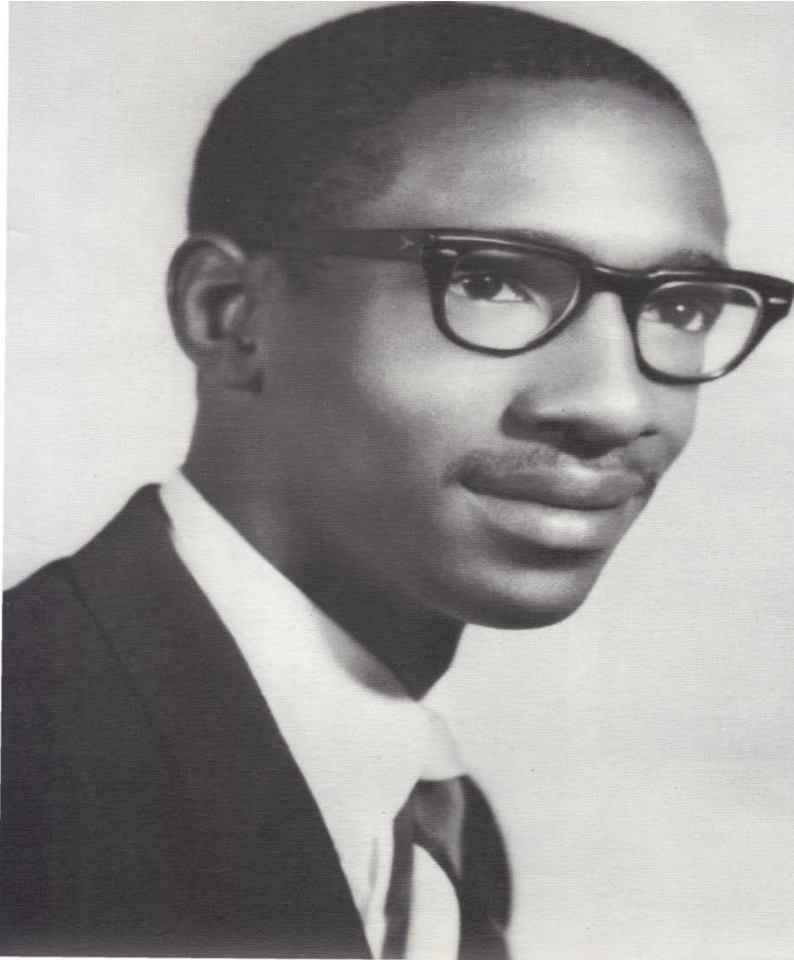
STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

OBIE McKENZIE of Indianapolis, Indiana



David Rutledge- Vice-President,  
Obie McKenzie - President

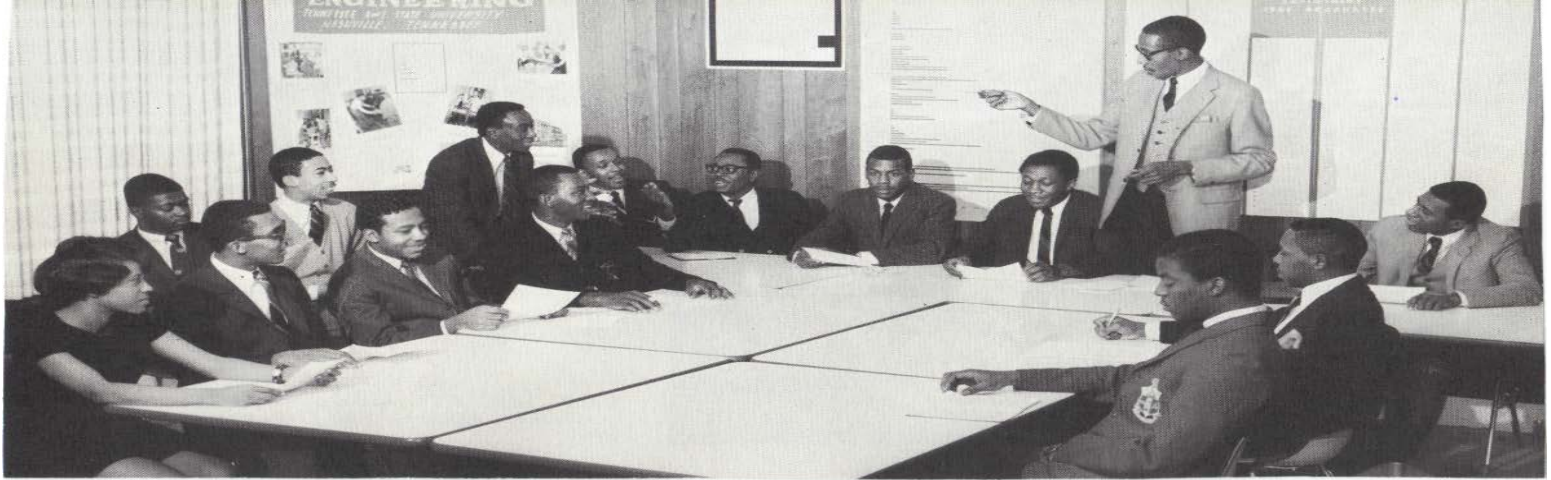
# James V. Montgomery 1967-1968



Ollis Douglas, Vice-President  
James Montgomery-President  
Sylvia Easterling, Ms TSU



# Leadership



# William Choctaw 1968 - 1969

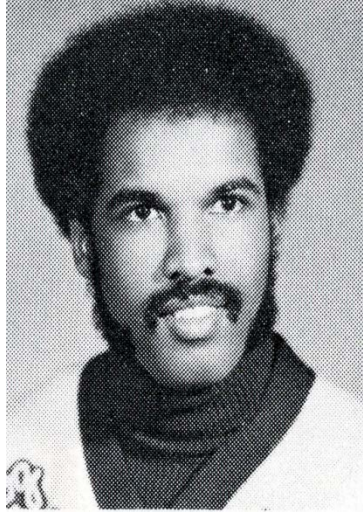




# William Martin 1970-1971



# Bernard Turner – 1973 -1974





# Fred Jackson

## 1981-1982



# Gregory Carr

## 1986-1987

### SGA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Dear Family:

"Some Traditions are Forever."

In the summer of 1986 I doodled those words on a legal pad in my then-new SGA office. I made them the theme for what I hoped would be the year of the revitalization of many of the hopes and dreams of the black people who make up our TSU family and have been fighting the American god of racism for 75 long years. No longer would our students stand being labeled substandard and "non-racially identifiable." No longer would we listen to blacks who dared tell us to be quiet and suffer the indignities that were so easy to succumb to. We would dare to dream.

I had no idea how much of a reality we would make it become.

My administration had spent long hours gathering our facts. We knew that 50% of all black Tennessee students graduate from TSU although 80% go to white schools. We knew that the racist legal minds that wanted TSU to "lose its black identity" wanted the same for all public black institutions. We were the test case, the first battleground — the lead domino. If we lost then Grambling, Southern — all would die a quicker death.

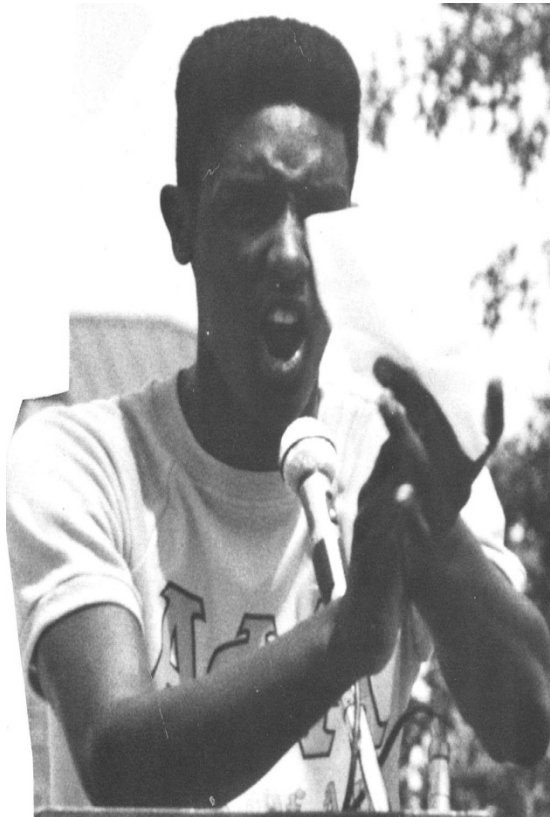
As the year progressed we built and sustained a two-pronged attack. To educate our family to see just how important our existence as a black institution is, we brought back scores of TSU customs. We prayed at chapel; we laughed and cried at players guild programs and Mr. TSU pageants; we argued and then sang our alma mater at countless assemblies, educational forums and mass meetings; we danced at a black cafeteria; in short, we did the things our TSU forefathers had done and realized the magic that a black college can bring.

To educate our ignorant brothers and sisters on the outside we danced before the public eye as no group had ever done. We marched by the hundreds to protest our victimization. We entered alliances with ministers, politicians and alumni and educated them as we sent them to help fight our battle. Our images and ideas were flung across the country via the leading television shows, radio programs and newspapers as we took our plight to the media. Every event became political — whether it was a basketball game where we protested the prostitution of the black athlete at predominately white schools or a pep rally where we chastised "Uncle Tom" black faculty for their help in giving our school away. We dared to publicly endorse a candidate for Governor — and we discussed our concerns in his office regularly after he won.

As the years roll on and Tennessee State still stands as a bastion of black higher education, those who take note of such things will reflect on our efforts and they will be moved. Perhaps they will reflect on me as a brash young captain whose fervor carried him to the brink of disaster, but I think not. Instead, I believe that they will tell their young that at Tennessee State University, black pride and determination are traditions, and

"Some traditions are Forever."

I Love You All,  
Gregory E. Carr  
President  
1986-87 S.G.A.



### "The Wait Is Over — The Excitement Is Back!"

Beginning in the summer of 1986 with activities such as the "Clean Up The Campus Day," the 1986-87 Student Government Association began to fulfill SGA President Greg Carr's promise that "The Wait is Over — The Excitement is Back!" The SGA drew state and nationwide attention through activities such as "The Old School Homecoming Week," "The First Annual Is It Live Week," and a historic march to the state capitol to protest Tennessee's assault on TSU's black identity.

A homecoming concert, spirit bonfires, church services, on campus parties, educational sessions and other programs brought the excitement back to TSU. National leaders such as Jesse Jackson came to the students' call and President Carr granted interviews to such media representatives as the "Today Show," CBS news, "USA Today," the National Black Network, local and state newspapers and television in order to show that TSU's black heritage was a tradition and that, at TSU, that tradition is forever!

Thanks to the tireless work of the student body, the 1986-87 Student Government Association was successful in engineering the most spectacular rebirth of black pride and spirit in the 75 year history of Tennessee State University. "The Excitement is Back!"

