Alumni life
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS
Vol. 12, No. 1

President
GLENDA BASKIN GLOVER
New Century, New Direction for Excellence

TSU
HISTORY ACROSS THE AIRWAVES
Don Whitehead opens doors for African-Americans

JOHN CROSS:
“Eye of the Tiger”
Dear Fellow Alumni:

What a great time to be a graduate of Tennessee State University! Alumni remain the most important resource to the University and the one true constant in TSU’s lifeline. I have spent the first few months of my tenure visiting with chapters across the country reiterating to members how vital alumni are to the success of TSU, especially in recruiting and retaining quality students and faculty. Cutting-edge research, credentialed professors, quality programs, and academic scholarships continue to attract the best and brightest to our beloved Tennessee State.

The TSU Alumni Association has had a productive year with 48 chapters dedicated to the President’s Challenge, a new scholarship program created in January of this year. One of my first acts as president was to continue my support of the University by contributing $50,000 to this challenge. Without hesitation, your respective chapters have stepped up to the plate and made financial commitments to help us reach and hopefully exceed our goal of $5 million through 2015.

I ask that you continue to attend TSU events in your community, recruit promising students, and make a contribution to enable others to attend TSU. Together, we can make a meaningful and lasting impact on our great institution and the lives of the students who follow in our footsteps. We are Tennessee State University: A New Century, A New Direction, A New TSU!

Glenda Baskin Glover
President
Tennessee State University
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Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am excited to return to Tennessee State University and embark upon a new era in the history of our institution. I offer my sincere gratitude to you for your support, and applaud you for your efforts as you continue to promote and advance TSU.

TSU is a very special place, built upon a strong legacy of pride, perseverance, progressiveness and, most importantly, educational achievement. In many cases, our students lack the financial resources to continue their education. In fact, in the Fall 2012 semester, more than 300 students did not return to TSU due to unavailability of funds to register. This is a clear example of the level of need for our students to continue their academic matriculation.

On January 7, 2013, I demonstrated my commitment as an alumnus, as president, and a lead-by-example administrator, when I contributed $50,000 to TSU. I challenge all alumni chapters to match this contribution. Small chapters are encouraged to cluster in an effort to achieve this goal.

We recognize the important role that you, as alumni have played in establishing a profound TSU legacy. We now ask you to expand that role even more as we meet the financial and other challenges facing our students.

The Office of Alumni Relations is available to facilitate your participation. The office number is (615) 963-5763 or visit www.tnstate.edu/givenow.

Please join me in ensuring that all of our students have the opportunity to fulfill their dreams – just as we did!

Glenda Glover
President
Tennessee State University

"On behalf of the National Alumni Association, I fully endorse and support the President’s Challenge. I encourage each graduate, alumni chapter and friend to embrace this initiative with solidarity as we strive to secure a brighter future for generations to come. Let’s rally with our president to ensure the success of our beloved alma mater – Tennessee State University."

Tony Wells, President
TSU National Alumni Association
The men of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated showed up strong for big blue when they gathered for Tennessee State University’s 100-year celebration to establish the Alpha Theta Network Endowment Fund.

Theo Maxey (’76), a 1971 initiate and life member, said the whole idea of the scholarship fund came together during the fraternity’s Alpha Theta Chapter 75th anniversary in 2006.

“We’ve always had a pretty good network,” Maxey said. “We only meet once a year during Homecoming and we set a goal to raise $100,000, which we felt would be a very bold, dynamic and positive expression of Kappa Alpha Psi.”

Stephen Harvey (’77), a 1972 initiate and president of the Alpha Theta Network, said while the idea originated in 2006, it was not until the 2011 Homecoming that the alumni chapter became aggressive in its fundraising efforts. Ultimately, the Alpha Theta Network surpassed its goal raising $155,206 making it one of the largest endowments of the university and that of an alumni chapter.

“We really got things going at that point,” Harvey said. “It took 10 months to get the money raised. Because our members are spread out all over the country, we leaned heavily on sending e-mails two to three times a week, which was a lot, but we had a short period of time to raise money.”

Harvey said the Alpha Theta Network, with a membership hovering nearly 200 members, makes it the second largest affinity chapter affiliated with the Tennessee State University National Alumni Association. In an effort to meet their goals, individual members were asked to donate a minimum of $500 while group lines were asked to contribute $5,000.

Although the economic climate prevented some members from contributing at the $500 level, Harvey said members were encouraged to give what they could within their financial means. More than 218 members contributed overall.

“We are proud and grateful for all donations, both large and small. We had contributions ranging from $25 all the way up to $15,000 with several exceeding that,” he said, adding that major contributions came from members such as Dr. T.B. Boyd (’63), Amos Otis (’61), Alvin Crawford (’59), and the 1990 line with a donation of $17,000, which helped to take the chapter goal over the top.

“The vast majority of donations came from personal checks,” he said.

“Michael Dunn (’74) served as our treasurer and took $95,000 in donations of personal checks that came to his mailbox. Every single penny we received went to the TSU Foundation. Believe it or not, the checks just kept coming. We even received a $5,000 check the day of Homecoming.”

Harvey said the contribution made during the university’s centennial celebration is not a one-time deal.

“In years to come we need to double that and triple that,” he said. “We see this as an ongoing endowment.”
Martha Lupai loves braids…any kind of braids. From cornrows, micro braids, box braids, Senegalese twists to “Africa” braids…you name it, she loves them all.

After all, Lupai, a native of Africa with Ethiopian and South Sudanese parentage, grew up with braids. Braids have also made her a household name and a fixture in the Jefferson Street business community in Nashville, Tenn.

The business is S&E African Hair Braiding, which specializes in hair braiding and weaving and hair care products on the corner of Jefferson Street and 28th Avenue, where Lupai said the business also attracts clientele from all parts of the United States.

“I feel very blessed and fortunate for the level of support I get for my business,” Lupai said. “We have clients from Indiana, Illinois, Texas, California and other places who either fly or drive in to get their hair done.”

Lupai said “outstanding customer service and good people skills” have been the driving force behind the success of her business.

D’Aundriya McAdoo has been a customer at S&E African Hair Braiding for nearly three years, and agrees that Lupai takes good care of her.

“Before coming here, I was going from place to place to get my hair done. But there were just excuses everyday for changing my appointments and that was just too frustrating,” said McAdoo, a Nashville native. “But these people are reliable. They are always ready for me when I show up for my appointment. I like the dependability.”

The success of Lupai’s hair-braiding business and her sense of industry has resulted in other ventures paying great dividends. For years she relied on fellow competitors and outside sources for materials and supplies for her business but, last year, Lupai changed course. Nearly eight months ago, she developed her own independent product line, Neta’s Natural, for her business, as well as to distribute to competitors and other vendors in the hair-braiding industry. Ultimately, she plans to expand the product line to include shampoo and bath soaps, all with raw, natural material from Africa.

“I get the raw material like Shea butter from Ghana, mix it up with different natural ingredients like cocoa bean and mango butter for different smells and aroma, and package them for distribution,” she said. “We also developed essential oils and hair and body spray with flavors like peppermint, lemon grass, sweet orange and lavender for massaging.”

Lupai, who earned a bachelor’s degree in social work from TSU in 2000, and worked for several years in the field before starting S&E African Hair Braiding seven years ago, credits her training as a counselor with understanding the needs of customers.

“As a social worker, you are trained to care for people, understand their needs and help them meet those needs,” she said. “We apply the same concept in trying to meet the needs of our customers. People invest a lot into how they want to look, and as a service provider, you must understand that.”
After earning a Bachelor in Speech and Drama at Tennessee State University in 1971, Dr. Sandra Holt soon found her way back into the classroom after one of her former professors and mentors, Dr. Troy Jones, decided to leave his post to pursue local politics. Dr. Thomas Poag, who chaired the department at the time, asked Holt if she would take on Jones’ Speech and Drama classes that summer of 1972, beginning a professional career in education that would span more than 40 years.

In 2013, Holt officially retired from her beloved alma mater Jan. 31, but has plans to remain involved. She looks forward to helping with the transitional process for the University Honors Program, which she led 21 years as its director, and the Women’s Center, another full-time post she inherited in 2012. She will also remain engaged in a grant study entitled “Cultural Roadmaps,” which will focus on ways to encourage more cultural sensitivity among faculty and students.

“My blood runs true blue,” Holt said. “Even in retirement, I am dedicated to helping TSU students become the best they can be.”

Holt’s time at TSU has been active and productive. She has offered her time and talents to the Freedom Riders, Centennial, Women of Legend and Merit and Homecoming planning committees, and has been a consistent giver at the President’s Society level since its inception in 2007. Further, she participated as a class agent co-chair, a designation reserved for alumni who are holders of a degree from the institution 40 years or more.

An advocate for TSU, Holt has spent her time working to elevate the accomplishments, students and programs of the university. She serves on two national committees: the National Collegiate Honors Council Diversity Committee and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Education Committee. She has received numerous awards including the Greater Nashville Association of Black School Educator’s “Higher Education Professional of the Year” and the “Outstanding Educator Award” from Ambassador Dr. Bobby Jones, a 1959 alumnus and gospel music superstar.

Although Holt is bowing out from full-time work at TSU, she still believes the university’s potential is limitless.

“TSU is poised for greatness,” she said. “We can’t rest on our past; we have to change our image, do self-examination and look at what’s trending in higher education. We cannot be satisfied with just going into a classroom and teaching a subject; we have to touch students. We need competent and committed people in leadership roles and other positions who can make solid, commonsense decisions. We need alumni to wake up and understand they are needed not just for money but for mentoring as well.”
Tennessee State University’s Aristocrat of Bands is known for its high-stepping rhythmic routines accompanied by the sounds of soulful but symphonic horns. But the rigor of the routines often damage band instruments causing dents and breaks.

For the past 13 years, the maintenance, repair and inventory of the horns used by TSU’s marching band has been the sole responsibility of James Pitts, the band’s instrument technician.

Pitts found his way to TSU after Edward Graves, director of university bands, recruited him to bring his expertise in instrument repair. At the time The Band Room, an instrument shop in Hendersonville, Tenn. employed Pitts.

“Professor Graves would bring trunk loads of horns for us to repair,” Pitts said. “He offered me a scholarship to come and do the same work at TSU.”

Pitts accepted Graves offer and began pursuing his college education as a 45 year-old non-traditional student. In 2003, he earned a bachelor’s degree in music graduating summa cum laude.

“I saw it as a challenge and as an opportunity to start something from scratch,” Pitts said. “Initially I used my own tools but now we are equipped to nickel and silver plate horn.”

Pitts was no stranger to band music when he arrived on the TSU campus. He is a retired Marine Gunnery Sergeant and a former member of the United States Marine Corp Band. The world-renowned band was established in 1798 and is often referred to as “The President’s Own.” The band is known for its rigorous auditions process and selecting only the top musicians.

“I have performed for kings and queens, and played everything from classical music to polka,” Pitts said. “I even served one stint as drum major.”

Since his arrival Pitts’ experience has allowed the university to be among only about a dozen institutions in the country with an on-campus repair shop. From his location in Jane Elliott Hall, he also teaches instrument repair to TSU students who are preparing to be band directors, and advises high school band directors in the area on instrument repair as well as teaches summer clinics on band instrument repair for college and high school bandleaders.

“We think it’s important to teach instrument repair to music majors who are aspiring band directors,” Pitts said. “I teach soldering and other skills to help preserve horns because often it is too expensive to replace them.”

His relationship with music instrument stores in Nashville is also a great resource for the university. Music and Arts, a local instrument store, “donates a large number of horns to the university for students to practice repairs,” Pitts said. “The instruments they give us add to our inventory and saves a lot of money.”

“We are fortunate to have Jim on staff,” said Dr. Reginald McDonald, acting director of University Bands. “The skills and techniques he gives our students will be invaluable to them as they enter careers in music.”

Pitts and his wife Yvette, who is also a retired Marine sergeant, moved from Tupelo, Miss. and made Nashville their home more than 20 years ago.

“I enjoy TSU,” said Pitt. “The people are friendly and it’s a good place to work.”
During a time of social injustice and political unrest, one man’s voice of strength could be heard by millions of listeners through the airwaves of WLAC radio. It was the voice of Don Whitehead.

Whitehead’s entry into radio broadcasting at a majority station opened doors for African-Americans at a time when newscasters of his ethnicity were unheard of, even though he never had any intention of being a trailblazer in the field.

“Radio became interested in me, I had no idea I was going to be in radio,” he said.

Whitehead, a Richmond, Ind. native, arrived at then-Tennessee State A&I University; uncertain and unaware that a beginning at Tennessee State would lead to a promising future, where history was in the making.

With a talent for playwriting and theatre, in 1963, he was encouraged to attend TSU where he met the late Dr. Thomas E. Poag, dean of Arts and Sciences, at that time.

“All I could think about was ‘down south,’ Whitehead said. “[This was] where the Civil Rights Movement was televised daily. I was afraid to go! On the way down the highway all I could think about was the ‘South.’ What was I going to see?”

Whitehead eventually earned his bachelor’s degree in theatre in 1967. While working on his master’s degree, shortly after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he was asked by WLAC radio president Jimmy Ward to accept a position as an evening newscaster.

“He was looking for someone to broadcast the news,” Whitehead said. “Dr. Poag suggested that I go down to WLAC.”

Whitehead declined. He knew nothing about radio broadcasting and was focused on pursuing a career in theatre. However, after three trips to the radio station, he reluctantly agreed to accept the position.

He never realized how radio would play an important part in his life. He signed with the largest radio station for nighttime programming in the United States reaching an audience close to 20 million. It was one of the first radio stations to have a R&B format and the first to have a black radio newscaster. At the time he didn’t realize the significance of what he was doing.

“I was just doing a job,” Whitehead said. “I didn’t realize I was one of the first. I didn’t receive much push back for being African-American and I never felt much pressure because my co-workers helped me through any challenges I faced. Everybody was gentle.”

During the 1960’s and 1970’s, Whitehead traveled all across the South covering stories from Carolina to Texas. He was a strong voice to African-American colleges, traveling to about 40 black schools providing motivation to students. Whitehead’s nine-year stint with WLAC radio ran from 1968-1977. After leaving WLAC radio, he signed on with WLAC–TV and worked in sales. Today, he is a retired insurance adjuster, and owner of an insurance company in Newnan, Ga. where he resides.

Whitehead will be honored in the fall by the Department of Communications with a portrait hanging ceremony at the TSU Performing Arts Center. He is currently working on the memoirs of his life and the history of WLAC.

“He had no idea the history he was creating,” said Joe Richie, operations manager for WTST campus radio at TSU. “He was the first to have that kind of footprint in broadcast radio in terms of an African-American.”

By Tamika Harvey
In a connected world of smartphones, tablets and computers, cybercrimes continue to grow at alarming rates. This reality has one Tennessee State University alumnus quickly establishing himself as an expert in handling online security risks.

Didar Sohi, who found his way to Nashville from the United Kingdom, said his interest in cyber security developed while a student at TSU. After completing his Bachelor of Electrical Engineering in 1998 followed by his Master of Computer and Information Systems Engineering in 2002, he spent a short period working for Hewlett-Packard as a software engineer before Dr. Decatur Rogers, former dean of the College of Engineering, encouraged him to return to TSU to teach and assist in research. As a professor, Sohi was instrumental in designing new classes in cyber security as well as helping to identify funding for research in localization and tracking in wireless networks.

“The research was invaluable,” Sohi said. “People were talking about cyber security, but it wasn’t as big a thing as it is now. TSU was definitely a trailblazer with the cutting-edge research taking place. It certainly prepared me for the industry.”

There’s no question the expansion of technology in everyday use has opened the doors for more cybercrime, particularly in high risk industries such as health care, financial services and banking. According to the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), a non-profit public-private partnership focused on helping to keep the Internet secure and safe, more than 1.5 million people are victims of cybercrimes each day.

Dr. S. Keith Hargrove, current dean for the College of Engineering, said TSU is ahead of the curve among historically black universities in preparing students to protect the nation against cybercrimes and intrusions, securing more than $1 million in grant funding to conduct specialized research. Graduate courses have been established at the master’s and Ph.D. levels while plans are also underway to develop an undergraduate initiative in cyber security.

“I would recommend TSU to anyone,” Sohi said. “It’s true nothing comes easy but hard work and perseverance will get you anywhere. TSU was the top of the tier as far as I was concerned for the research and things I was doing. If I can make it, anybody can make it. TSU is a fantastic place.”

**CYBER CRIME statistics and trends**

Cybercrimes are growing and by 2017, the global Cyber Security market is expected to skyrocket to $120.1 billion.

- Victims per year: $556 million
- Victims per day: More than 1.5 million
- Victims per second: 18
- Identities exposed: More than 232.4 million
- More than 600,000 Facebook accounts are compromised every day.
- About 15 percent of social network users have reported that their profiles have been hacked by pretenders.
- One in 10 social network users said they had fallen victim to a scam or fake link on social network platforms.
- Percentage of cybercrime victims by gender: male (71%), females (63%), 59% of ex-employees admitted to stealing company data when leaving previous job

**Source:** The National Cyber Security Alliance
Ghariba Babiry is a classic American dream story.

After coming to the United States 15 years ago, without understanding a word of English and no prior education, she just received a college degree...with a potential teaching job in tow.

"It's all still a dream," Babiry said.

For the young Kurd, it all started at about age 14 when she, her father, mother and three younger siblings had to flee their Kurdish homeland in northern Iraq for a new life in the U.S. They landed in Nashville, Tenn., a completely different culture and way of doing things.

"This was all a new experience and yet my siblings and I were required to cope and succeed amid some serious challenges," Babiry said.

But challenge for Babiry was an understatement. It was an awakening.

"For my first time ever in a classroom, I was thrust into the eighth grade at Cameron Middle School, with no understanding of English and totally dumbfounded," she said. "I had a separate interpreter with me in class about three hours a week to guide me through the instructions while the teacher was teaching. Worse yet, at 14 years of age, I was the oldest in the class but understood the least. This was very difficult. I tried to give up several times."

Thanks to the persistence of Babiry’s parents, she continued through the daily struggle of trying to complete class assignments – almost always the last to finish.

"My mother was constantly on me not to give up. ‘Never give up; don’t be illiterate like me; I can’t even write my own name,’ she would say. For my father, all he wanted me to think about was school. ‘I’ll provide you with everything I can after all I came to America for you, so that I can give to you what I did not have the chance to do in Kurdistan,’ he would say.”

The persistence, struggle and what seemed to Babiry then as harassment, paid off through developmental courses in middle school, high school, community college...and at Tennessee State University.

On May 11, 2013 she was among more than 1,000 graduates who received a degree from Tennessee State University during its spring Commencement at Hale Stadium. She is the third among her siblings to receive a college degree since arriving to the United States. Two of her brothers earned degrees in mechanical engineering and nursing from TSU.

In addition to her degree, Babiry has completed all certifications required for teaching, with the exception of the English Language Learners Certification or endorsement required to teach in the schools in her area. She plans to receive that certification soon, she said, and is currently a student teacher at Haywood Elementary School in Nashville.

"I am really enjoying student teaching. I love seeing my students’ faces every day and helping them,” Babiry said. “Like many immigrants, I have experienced many hardships in my life, and I am certain that because of my experience, I will be the best role model for my students.”
Tracy Pointer fell in love with the game of golf after volunteering at a tournament sponsored by her employer. It was an eye-opening experience for the Louisville, Ky. native who noticed women, especially minority women, were scarce faces on the course where professional development and networking opportunities were plentiful.

This revelation prompted her to become more involved in the game and she began taking lessons. It was something she enjoyed so much it inspired her to share it with other women. In 2007, she founded the nonprofit GROW – Golfers Recognizing Opportunities for Women, Inc.

“I really began liking the game,” said Pointer, a former beauty queen holding the titles of Miss Black Tennessee and Mrs. Tennessee International. “It’s not so much that deals are taking place on the golf course as much as it is about the relationships being built. It’s another form of networking.”

According to the National Golf Foundation, only 19 percent of all golfers are women, and that number drops significantly more when minority women are factored in. Since starting GROW, Pointer has engaged more than 238 women and girls in signature events and programs, including the Lunch and Learn series, GROW Girl and Collegiate GROW programs.

The GROW Girl program targets ages 10-12, while Collegiate GROW hosts a one-day session for college students. The program currently works with TSU students, but Pointer plans to expand it to Fisk University as well. Both programs are free to students and strive to teach the basic elements of the game and other important life lessons associated with the sport, including punctuality, being prepared, proper etiquette and attire.

“When members apply the learning, take initiative to go to the driving range and enhance their skill set by practicing, they truly begin to see the benefits of the game as a business sport and networking tool,” Pointer said.

A 1993 graduate of TSU, Pointer earned a B.S. in Speech Communications. She also holds a master’s degree from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville. While a student, she worked part-time for UPS, a company she has been employed with for 23 years. Her campus involvement included writing articles for The Meter newspaper and serving the community as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

She remains active with her alma mater through her work with Leadership TSU and will also host the 4th Annual GROW Golf Tournament in conjunction with TSU’s John Merritt Classic.

She readily acknowledges trailblazers like TSU alumna, Dr. Catana Starks, for opening up doors in the game of golf for women. Starks, whose true story plays out on the big screen in the movie From the Rough starring Academy Award-nominated actress, Taraji P. Henson, was the first woman ever to coach a college men’s golf team. As a TSU coach, she led them to an all-time record at the PGA National Collegiate Minority Championship.

“Dr. Starks was definitely a pioneer for women getting in the game of golf on another level,” Pointer said. “As a female coach, she really demonstrated and paved the way for other women to do the same.”

In the future, Pointer hopes GROW is as influential in getting more minority women involved in the game.

“I’ve got some women who have taken it to another level,” she said, adding her goal is to develop GROW chapters in other cities as well as establish scholarship opportunities.

For more information about GROW, visit www.growtoday.org
Tennessee State University: 
New Century, New Direction for Excellence

Founded in 1912, Tennessee State University is one of the nation’s preeminent historically black universities.

- Comprehensive, Urban Co-educational, Land-grant Institution
- Offers 45 Bachelor’s and 24 Master’s Degree Programs, and Doctoral Degrees in 7 concentrations
- A diverse and engaged student body from 48 states and 35 countries

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Presidential Inauguration
Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover
October 23 - 25, 2013
Visit our website for more information: www.tnstate.edu/inauguration
TSU alumni couple presented with Chancellor’s Excellence in Philanthropy Award

Rosa and Alfred Coleman (center) were presented the Chancellor’s Excellence in Philanthropy Award recently by John Morgan, Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents (left) and Dr. Glenda Glover, president of Tennessee State University. The alumni couple was recognized for their philanthropy efforts for the university. (Photo by John Cross, TSU Media Relations)

Tennessee State University alumni Alfred ('57) and Rosa Coleman ('67) are no strangers to philanthropy, especially in giving back to their alma mater to make sure deserving students get a chance for a quality education.

During the annual University Honors Convocation, the couple, whose endowed scholarship at TSU has grown to nearly $270,000, was presented with the Chancellor’s Excellence in Philanthropy Award in recognition of their gifts and efforts in raising funds for the institution.

The Coleman were also recognized as agents for the 2012 Vintagers Class Reunion, during which more than $191,000 was raised for scholarships.

In addition to being active with the Nashville Alumni Chapter of the Tennessee State University National Alumni Association, the couple are inaugural members of the TSU Legacy Society, which recognizes donors who have included TSU in their estate plan or established an endowment.

Williams inducted into Who’s Who for Excellence in Engineering

Beverly G. Williams, P.E. ('83), director of engineering for TLC Engineering, Inc. specializing in project development and management, and business development. She currently also as program manager for international housing projects in Africa. She is a licensed professional engineer in the states of Tennessee, Virginia and Texas.

Williams has 25 years of experience in engineering, and has served the past five years as director of engineering for TLC Engineering, Inc. specializing in project development and management, and business development. She

Black College Football Hall of Fame reveals its Class of 2013

The Black College Football Hall of Fame has announced its Class of 2013. The newest members were selected from a list of 35 finalists determined by the Black College Football Hall of Fame Selection Committee comprised of journalists and former football executives from around the country. Former inductees also submitted votes in an effort to determine who joined this elite group of pioneers who have significantly impacted college football.

The inductees were honored Feb. 16, 2013 at the Black College Football Hall of Fame’s Fourth Annual Enshrinement Ceremony. A trio of Tennessee State football legends were enshrined into the Black College Football Hall of Fame:

- Joe Gilliam, Jr. (QB, Tennessee State University, 1968-1971)
- John “Big John” Merritt (Head Coach, Tennessee State, 1953-1983)

Porter named state director

Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth has appointed Cassandra Porter ('95) as the state director in Indiana. She will be responsible for the treatment and care of nearly 1,000 youth and families throughout the state and for the fiscal and contractual viability of all Indiana programs and services.
Don Holloman (’00), an alumnus of the Health Care Administration and Planning (HCAP) program at Tennessee State University, recently accepted a position as CEO of a large community health system in Jefferson City, Mo. For the past 15 years, Holloman has trained and hired many students enrolled in the HCAP program while serving as COO of Matthew Walker Comprehensive Care Center and Clinic.

The reception was conceived and planned by three alumnus members: Ervin L. Kinsey (’67), Theo Maxey (’76) and Eddie S. Meadows (’62). Meadows and his wife, Jacqueline Cogdell DjeDje, hosted the event.

Holloman accepts CEO position

Professor Edward L. Graves honored in Los Angeles

Professor Edward L. Graves (’62), director of bands and associate professor of music at Tennessee State University, was honored by the Tennessee State University (TSU) Los Angeles Alumni Chapter. Although Prof. Graves was aware of the reception, he was surprised to receive a plaque and gifts honoring his service to TSU from his Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity brothers as well as a proclamation from the Los Angeles Alumni Chapter. Both the gifts and proclamation extolled Professor Graves' dedication and hard work to reinvigorate and expand the tradition of excellence in the Aristocrat of Bands for more than 33 years.

The reception was conceived and planned by three alumnus members: Ervin L. Kinsey (’67), Theo Maxey (’76) and Eddie S. Meadows (’62). Meadows and his wife, Jacqueline Cogdell DjeDje, hosted the event.

Nunnally makes Family Feud appearance

Hoyt Nunnally (’72) competed on the popular game show, “Family Feud.” The show aired April 29 and June 17, with a repeat of the show scheduled Aug. 12. Among the members of his family participating on the show with him included Ellain Brooks (mother-in-law); Karen Nunnally (wife), Joi Nunnally (daughter), and Hoyt Nunnally II (son).

Brew receives national recognition for giving back

John Brew (’05) is giving back to his alma mater in a big way. Since graduating, he has remained a frequent presence in the College of Engineering mentoring students, attending career fairs and helping with recruitment efforts. Because of this, he has been recognized by the American Society of Civil Engineers with the “Outstanding ASCE Practitioner Advisor Award.” The award is given to members who are involved in the development of local younger members in their communities, and who participate in student chapter activities such as educational conferences and seminars. Brew is also a member of the Structural Design Department for Nashville-based Gresham, Smith and Partners architectural firm with more than 15 offices around the country.

TJUH medical oncologist to receive ASCO Humanitarian Award

Edith Mitchell, M.D., FACP (’69), a medical oncologist at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center (KCC) and clinical professor of medicine and medical oncology in the Department of Medical Oncology at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, has been named the 2012 recipient of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Humanitarian Award for her personification of the society’s mission and values, and for going above and beyond the call of duty in providing outstanding patient care. She will also be honored by the National Black Alumni Hall of Fame this September in Atlanta.

Pride elected first African-American Circuit Court judge

Nathan B. Pride (’78) was elected Circuit Court judge in a heavily contested race in Jackson, Tenn. making him the first African-American to serve on the judicial bench between Davidson and Shelby counties. Pride, a Jackson attorney, won the Division III seat of Tennessee’s 26th District by 941 votes and will take office sometime before Sept. 1.
Carpenters donate house to The Sickle Cell Foundation

The Sickle Cell Foundation of Tennessee hosted a grand opening of The Carpenter House April 6 donated by the family of Kenneth (’78) and Terrell Carpenter. Kenneth Carpenter is an associate professor of Natural Sciences at Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis and the founder of the annual Sickle Cell 5K Run/Walk. The 3,000 square-foot Carpenter House was established to provide quality and affordable housing for adult males living with sickle cell disease.

Hamilton named vice chairman of the ABA Young Lawyers

Sheena Hamilton (’05), an attorney in St. Louis-based Armstrong Teasdale’s Employment and Labor Practice Group, has been appointed vice chairman of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division’s Labor and Employment Law Committee. In that capacity, she will assist the chairman in developing an action plan for the committee which provides training, networking and mentorship opportunities for young lawyers.

Bennett to lead Southern Miss as new president

Rodney D. Bennett (’96) has been named the first black president of a predominantly white university in Mississippi. The College Board appointed Bennett as the 10th president of the University of Southern Mississippi.

Thomas appointed deputy chief counsel

Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) has appointed Regina Daniels Thomas (’91) to the position of deputy chief counsel broad-based advocacy of its Civil Law Group. Thomas is responsible for the development and implementation of broad-based advocacy initiatives in the areas of legislation, fundraising, and education and training. She is also responsible for the overall management of LAD’s Private Attorney Involvement Unit.

Jones selected for CBC Institute

Adrian L. Jones (’96) was among a select group of young professionals chosen for The Political Training Program “Boot Camp,” an initiative of the CBC Institute in Washington, D.C. The program is designed to generate a pool of minority professionals who are well-qualified in public and private sector policy issues and the conduct of political campaigns. The nine-day, intensive program focuses on training participants in the expertise and techniques required to become tacticians and key staff who will conduct candidate and issue campaigns. Instruction also covers campaign ethics, research and polling, the legislative process, getting out the vote (GOTV), E-campaigning, E-fundraising and issue advocacy.

Kelton confirmed as U.S. Marshal

The U.S. Senate confirmed Louise Kelton (’92) to become a U.S. Marshal for Tennessee’s Middle District. President Barack Obama nominated Kelton, the long-time deputy chief of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department. She is the first African-American to hold the post in the state and only the second in the nation.

Viera appears on HuffPost Live

Bené Viera (’06), freelancer and former host and digital writer for VH1.com, appeared on HuffPost Live April 29 providing commentary on the wrongful death of Michael Jackson as well as the controversial relationship of pop and R&B artists, Rihanna and Chris Brown. Viera has penned pieces for VH1, Essence, Essence.com, VIBE, Vibe.com, Huffington Post, BlackEnterprise.com, TheLoop21.com and Madame Noire, to name a few.

Big Blue Centennial Giveaway a success

More than 65 alumni participated in the Big Blue Giveaway,
The idea took off through a social media campaign utilizing Facebook to encourage fellow alumni to give and inspire a new generation of alumni to become comfortable with giving and connecting with undergraduates. Alumni were asked to either provide gift baskets for students, make a personal $100 contribution or collect contributions from others totaling $100.

**TSU’s WOLM Awards salute outstanding women**

State University’s Women of Legend and Merit Awards dinner honored seven women leaders on March 28 in Nashville. Actress Tasha Smith served as the dinner’s keynote speaker.

The annual celebration saluted dynamic women leaders in business and the community in a variety of fields and exposed the university’s female student population to positive role models, networking opportunities and resources to assist in their academic, personal and professional growth as women.

Hosted each year by the university during Women’s History Month in March, the Women of Legend and Merit Awards brings awareness and raises funds in support of the TSU Women’s Center. This year’s alumnae honorees included:

- Hortense Price-Jones in the category of business
- Barbara Curry Murrell ('60) in the category of education
- Mary Johnson Pruitt ('56) in the category of government/politics
- Traci Otey Blunt ('90) in the category of media
- Ola G. Hudson ('51) received the special surprise award of the evening, “Woman of Strength, Courage and Commitment.”

**Alumnae help Camp Wings take flight**

Brittani Chavious ('09) and Tanisha Carothers ('09) are the masterminds behind a special camp that’s helping young girls reach their greatest potential.

Camp Wings targets girls ages 12-16 and is designed to improve their self-esteem through activities such as horseback riding, archery and rock climbing. The camp is a program of their nonprofit organization, HerSpace, Inc. To learn more about Camp Wings, visit www.her-space.org.

**Bond manages law firm**

Johnnie Bond, Jr., Esq. ('98), a native of Nashville, Tenn., is a partner at Bond Law, PLLC, a firm based in Washington, D.C. The firm focuses on accident/personal injury litigation, business law and commercial litigation for government contracting companies, contract disputes, real estate, general legal services for small businesses and start-ups, and copyright and trademark infringement law. Bond started his boutique firm in 2006.

**Dornell appointed DIO**

Izella Mitchell Dornell ('74) has been appointed deputy information officer for the United States Department of Commerce. She is responsible for leading the effort that provides the Department of Information Technology (IT) program and project oversight for all major IT investments. Additionally, she facilitates the current shared service initiatives for the Herbert C. Hoover Building resident bureaus (Commerce headquarters), which include e-mail cloud migration, web hosting, IT security, a tier-one service/help desk call center, and video teleconferencing capability. Her professional career began more than 30 years ago with NASA in Houston, Texas with the Space Shuttle Program.
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TSU “Globetrotter” recalls fight for equal rights as student social activist

By Emmanuel Freeman

Tennessee State University 1957-61 basketball standout Melvin “Trick” Davis has some great memories about his days at TSU. But at the top of that list is not basketball.

“It’s not even about being at then-Tennessee A&I when the Tigers won two consecutive national championships.

“We had a lot of fun, but for me it was the marches we took part in for justice,” said the 75-year-old Davis. “We got hit in the head, cursed at, kicked around, and some of us got arrested for participating in the march when Dr. (Martin Luther) King came to Nashville.”

In an effort to express the non-violence nature of their marches, Davis recalled joining fellow students and marchers and carrying signs that read, “Let’s break bread together,” to let their “white brothers” know they did not hate them but were just asking for equal rights.

“But these guys came at us with signs saying, ‘N… this and N… that; we don’t need your kind here,’” said Davis, who for the last 26 years has made Vancouver, Canada his home.

“It was not easy,” Davis said. “Those were some rough days but we were determined and ready for whatever they threw at us. Although we were students, we were also social activists who were tired of being kicked around.”

After a stellar college career at TSU, Davis (a 6-foot, 5-inch guard/forward) went on to play for the Harlem Globetrotters from 1962-1979. He would become one of 11 former TSU players (the most from any college) to join the Globetrotters.

Earlier this year, Davis and his fellow former Globetrotters from TSU were honored by the Black Legends of Professional Basketball Foundation. The organization helps to recognize and support African-American pioneer professional basketball players who paved the way for the National Basketball Association. Along with Davis, former TSU players also receiving honors from the Harlem Globetrotters included Joe Buckhalter, Tommy Gibson, Bobby Hunter, Ben Jackson and Ernest Jones. Posthumous honors were given to Clarence Wilson, Boyd Buie, John Grider, Henry Kean and Willis Thomas.

The Foundation, founded and headed by Dr. John Kline, organized the ceremony in partnership with the Rev. Enoch Fuzz, pastor of Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church and the Rev. Brian Fesler of the Church of Scientology, both in Nashville; and Eldridge Askins, founder of the United Amputee Basketball Association, Inc. For more information visit www.nashvillecityhoops.org.
It is a tremendous experience when one has the opportunity to lead the very institution that provided the foundation to help shape them as a leader. Such is the case for Tennessee State University’s eighth president, Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover (’74).

A believer of taking the road less traveled, this personal practice has worked well for Glover who has always set lofty goals and accepted difficult tasks to advance her knowledge and experience.

Glover’s progression from a young girl growing up in Memphis to a college student, and now to president of one of the nation’s most recognized historically black universities is a journey of wildest dreams, and one she does not take lightly.

After a nationwide search of more than 85 applicants, Glover once again rose to the top receiving unanimous approval by the Tennessee Board of Regents to replace retired president Melvin N. Johnson. She took over the post Jan. 2, 2013 and has moved full speed ahead in bringing to reality her vision for the university that gave her a start.

“When I was selected for the presidency, I went on a 40-day fast of only water and vegetables,” Glover said. “This is an awesome responsibility, and I felt favored and honored to be selected. I needed the proper guidance and wanted my spiritual self to be intact, especially in a leadership role as great as this one.”

Glover’s first order of business was to breathe new life into a campus suffering personnel challenges and budget cuts.

Then came the big reveal — a personal contribution of $50,000 to launch the President’s Challenge — an effort to energize alumni and others to give back to TSU.
and build a scholarship base of $5 million by 2015. Since presenting the challenge, alumni contributions more than doubled in the first three months of the year compared to the same period last year, jumping from $121,000 to $254,000, an increase of 110 percent.

Glover’s path to success began through the teachings and encouragement of her parents who she said, “provided a strong family unit” for her and her five siblings. Her father worked several jobs to keep the household running and was influential in sparking Glover’s interest in politics and law. Her mother, a homemaker, instilled a solid spiritual foundation. “We were taught that working hard, being honest and always telling the truth upfront was how to conduct yourself,” she said. “My parents also taught me to understand that people have feelings, and there is a way to get a point over without being rude and cruel. Sometimes you may have to make unpopular decisions but you can make those decisions in a way that’s not in a demeaning and insulting manner. I’ve learned that you can be touch and still be polite.”

As one of only two women in the nation to hold the Ph.D.-J.D.-CPA combination, Glover’s passion for learning and achievement began at an early age. While other children were playing softball, jacks and hopscotch, she made her way to the local library to expand her knowledge base. “Knowing a little about a lot of things was better than just knowing a lot about nothing,” Glover said, adding she engaged in learning about a number of diverse disciplines. “Learning became a burning drive for me. Knowledge was a way to get ahead and be competitive.”

After graduating from high school, Glover’s strong academic record led to offers from several universities, but her high school math professor impressed on her the advantages of a TSU education and encouraged her to enroll. Once arriving at TSU, she wasted no time becoming involved in campus life and taking on leadership roles. She was active in many student activities, including the University Honors Program, the Math Club, the newspaper staff and as president of Alpha Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Because academics was always her first priority, she challenged herself to take the toughest courses and professors. This led to her decision to major in mathematics.

“Graduating from college was one of my proudest moments,” she said. She said of returning to TSU as president, “The campus is completely transformed. The academics are most competitive and the university is far more comprehensive.”

Today, this businesswoman, higher education administrator, attorney and accountant shows no signs of slowing down. She still has much to
do, including writing a book about her life growing up in a segregated Memphis. She has conquered corporate America working in executive positions and serving on the boards of several publicly-traded companies. Her success as the former dean of the College of Business at Jackson State University, led to the establishment of the Ph.D. degree in the college, innovative retention strategies and compliance with accreditation standards, along with heightened fundraising and fiscal accountability.

As Tennessee State University’s eighth and first female president, Glover is preparing for inauguration activities, which take place October 23-25 during the university’s Homecoming celebration. In just a short period, Glover has made significant moves in reviving the campus spirit and implementing a five-point vision centered on academic progress and customer service, fundraising and partnerships, diversity and inclusion, shared governance and business outreach.

While money remains a challenge for many institutions of higher learning, Glover said that taking full advantage of access to the city’s downtown business district are aspects that can be leveraged. She further explains that the university must enhance conversations about “who we are and where we are” to address challenges such as funding, recruitment and retention, community relations and the Complete College Act.

“We can’t just say we have 9,000 students as our benchmark of recruiting success,” Glover said. “We have to be able to say we graduated them in record numbers.”

In addition, one of Glover’s top goals is to heal the TSU campus community and bring back the energy of pride and inclusion.

“I would like to see the spirit of unity coming back to campus,” Glover said. “I want people to know this is an administration that will operate out of fundamental fairness. I want employees to understand they can speak freely, and that they are appreciated and bring value to this institution.”

As Glover reflects on the opportunities she has had and the accolades she has received – including most recently being named one of the “Top 25 Women in Higher Education” by Diverse Issues in Higher Education magazine – she remains thankful for the path set by TSU on her journey. Her spirituality, humble spirit, compassion and driven nature are all ingredients that have kept her grounded and focused. She also credits her husband Charles Glover and their two children, son Dr. Charles Glover, Jr., and daughter Attorney Candace Glover, for helping to keep her encouraged and humble. As Glover leads Tennessee State University into a new century and new direction for excellence, she remains steadfast on the path less traveled determined to open doors for the next generation.

“I never thought I’d be a college president, especially not at the university that gave me my foundation,” she said. “Sometimes in life you have more than one stop before you get to where you need to go, and sometimes that means not always choosing the most crowded path.”

Editor’s Note: Tennessee State University will officially celebrate President Glenda Baskin Glover during the 2013 Homecoming Celebration with a number of special inauguration activities, October 23-25. For event and ticket information and to make hotel reservations, visit www.tnstate.edu/inauguration.
TSU student gives voice to others; continues to serve

The journey to graduation for one Tennessee State University alumna has taken her on a path that many can never imagine. It has spanned two continents, including stopovers in Iraq. She served her country while in the military for six years, and while deployed three times to combat areas, saw a profound need for professionals in the care of those affected by war and trauma.

While now out of the military, Charity Winters continues to serve after receiving her Doctorate in Physical Therapy in 2012.

“I remember always thinking that I wanted to serve,” said the former Air Force captain. “From an early age it was instilled in me the importance of giving back. I came to TSU with a goal in mind, and that was to work hard and receive my doctorate and work with veterans and those affected by war.”

The Clarksville native applied to all four-service academies and was accepted to each. She ultimately decided on the Air Force Academy because of the biology program and the fact that if she wanted to lead troops, the Air Force Security Forces “was the place to do it.”

During her six years in the Air Force, she rose to the rank of captain and served three combat tours in Iraq during the height of the war.

While serving in Iraq, she received the Bronze Star Medal for leadership of a gun-truck company and actions in a hostile situation. The Bronze Star is a military decoration awarded for bravery, acts of merit or meritorious service. It is also the fourth-highest combat award of the U.S. Armed Forces. Winters also received the Air Force Achievement Medal with Valor for her actions taken when the convoy she was leading was ambushed.

“I was very blessed to return home healthy and safe…I knew many who did not,” she said.

Now three years later, Dr. Charity Winters speaks and advocates for veterans and others. She works as a staff physical therapist with Select Physical Therapy in Clarksville, Tenn.

“I had a feeling that more was needed to be done in the care and rehabilitation of our service members returning home, many of them missing limbs,” she said. “I decided to take the physical therapy route because they will require long-time care as far as rehabilitation and I also wanted to work on their behalf as a veteran’s advocate.”

She decided to attend Tennessee State University because of the reputation of the physical therapy program.

She said Tennessee State University’s motto of “Think, Work, Serve,” is personal and appropriate in her situation.

“I feel you should take what you learn back and work within your communities,” Winters said. “The value of education is not for ourselves, but for others. I am grateful for coming to TSU with the opportunity to start my life over and continue to serve.”
Cross captures TSU history through the lens of his camera

Jazz trumpeteer Dizzy Gillespie performs at TSU.

By Tamika Harvey

For nearly 20 years, Tennessee State alumnus John Cross has been the “eye of the tiger” with his photographs gracing the pages of magazines, Websites and newspapers capturing images of TSU’s tradition, history and pride. Through his artistry, he has visually documented the accomplishments and growth of Tennessee State University.

A native of Arlington, Tenn., Cross began taking pictures in the 7th grade. “I have always enjoyed taking pictures and I started with Polaroid cameras,” he said.

After graduating high school, Cross was encouraged to attend TSU by an uncle who lived in North Nashville. Many of his teachers, coaches and friends had been to Tennessee State and it was “like a real connection to come to TSU,” he said. “TSU had a great reputation in West Tennessee.”

As a student, Cross worked as the yearbook staff photography editor. He also worked as an intern in the Department of Public Relations. Although TSU did not have a photojournalism program, he still worked on his craft finding his way to still and video photography courses at Nashville State Community College.

“In addition to photography classes I also had some great mentors at TSU,” Cross said.

“I’ll never forget people like Donald Savoy, Joe Zinn, Mary Vowels, Robert Churchwell and others who not only shared their craft but taught character as well.”

Since joining TSU, Cross has worked under five presidents. Fredrick S. Humphries (1975-1985), Otis Floyd (interim 1986-87, 1987-1990), James A. Hefner (1991-2005), Melvin N. Johnson (2005-2011), and currently, Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover (2013-present). And while he has captured many historical moments at the university, he fondly recalls his collection of legends such as Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis, Stevie Wonder, Alex Haley, Miles Davis, Cicely Tyson, Cab Calloway [whose wife kissed him on the cheek].

Cross had to search deep when asked about his favorite photographic moment. There are events like the dedication of John A. Merritt Boulevard with Coach Merritt himself holding the sign, which he counts among his most memorable photographs, as well as the Freedom Riders.

“It’s difficult because there have been so many,” he said. “But President Johnson’s fight to honor the Freedom Riders and the community’s celebration of their courage and sacrifice was a great moment to record.”

“Someone will be able to look back and see I was able to visually pass images of TSU along in history,” he added.

A 1980 graduate Cross received his bachelor’s degree in English and also holds a Bachelor of Theology from
American Baptist College in Nashville. Additionally, he received a Master in Public Service Management from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tenn. He is married and has four children, including a son who is also a TSU graduate.

Cross is currently the director of TSU’s newly formed Department of Creative Services and heads a team responsible for photography, graphic design and web services.

In addition to his time at TSU, he has worked as the director of public relations and recruitment for American Baptist College, and has contracted as a photographer for Fisk University, Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University, local television stations, several public relations firms and The Tennessean newspaper.

He is an ordained pastor and senior pastoral assistant at Metropolitan Interdenominational Church in Nashville with a strong belief in community service. It can be said that Cross practices what he preaches through his own commitment to public service. His volunteer work includes serving as a mentor with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee and Room at the Inn ministry providing shelter for homeless men during the winter months. For two years he participated with the INSIDE/OUT Prison ministry visiting weekly and providing interactive workshops and other activities for inmates.

“All of us owe something to community,” Cross said. “And all of us can give our time to make the community stronger and better in some way.”

Additionally he has served as chaplain for Smith Brothers Funeral Home, and he is currently a volunteer chaplain with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department. Cross is also a member of the University Photographers Association of America, Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Society, Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

At this stage in Cross’ life and career at TSU, he said “the desire to capture images of life is the greatest gift God gave me, because I never get tired of it.”

Editor’s Note: You may view photos from Tennessee State University’s Celebration of the Freedom Riders and other photos by John S. Cross on TSU’s Flickr page.
Continued—Donor Categories (July 1, 2011–June 30, 2012)

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Estate of Bernice Callaway

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Eleanor S. Bass, 1975
Norman M. Batson
Frank Battle
Jennifer Bell, 2005
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Yildiz B. Binkley, 1994
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Raymonea Brown
Revlon S. Briggs, 1991

Cynthia Brooks
Ronnie Brooks, Sr.
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Gretha P. Burch-Sims
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Michael R. Busby

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Tracey B. Carter, 2005
Carolyn B. Caudle
James E. Chatman
Dhiren K. Chatterji
Chandra Cheeseborough, 1982
Ashanti N. Chunn, 2004
Gregory Clapp
Gregory A. Clark, 1987
Yvonne Y. Clark
Patricia Clayton, 1976
Katiel F. Coleman, 2012
Sammy Comer, 1972
Tiffany B. Cox
Michael Crook, 1976

Patricia A. Crook, 1973
John S. Cross, 1983
Morris S. Cunningham, 1967
Tilden J. Curry
Joel H. Dark
Taja D. Davidson, 2007
Ivan R. Davis, Sr., 1964
Walter, Lansden, Dorcht & Davis, LLP
Waters Corporation
Watkins Family Denistry, LLC
Watson and Associates
Wells Fargo Foundation
Wharton Charitable Fund
Wright Engineering Services
Xerox Corporation
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Michael A. Hamlet
Marie S. Hammond
Betty B. Handnett, 1963

Samuel K. Hargrove, 1985
Tracy Harper, 1987
Annie E. Harris, 1967
Darlene G. Haase, 1980
Jo Ann Hayes
William F. Hayslett, Sr., 1973
George S. Hendricks
Derick T. Henry
Gregory W. Henry

Albert Hill
Doh H. Hong, 1998
James E. Hollowell
Elisha M. Holt, 2003

Sandra Holt, 1971
Marva Hornbuckle
Helen R. Houston
Edward Isibor
Allie M. Jackson, Jr., 1997
Betsy Jackson
James H. Jackson, Jr., 1973
Jeanetta W. Jackson, 1997
Jesse C. James, 1973
Rosemary G. Jeffries, 1969

Eva K. Jermakowicz
Carlyle D. Johnson

Geraldine Johnson, 1967
Gloria C. Johnson, 1970
Iris A. Johnson
Melvin Johnson, 1970
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Elease Jolley, 1970
Valencia L. Jordan, 1997
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Henry L. Perry
Joseph L. Perry, 1974
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Sandra D. Pleas, 1975
Judith A. Presley, 1969
Georgianna Priddy, 1983
Joyce B. Radcliff

Monetha Reaves
Roderick F. Reed, 1990
Bertina E. Reed-Hevett
Danielle S. Rhodes, 1970
Heraldo V. Richards
Joseph C. Richie

Edward L. Risby, Jr.
Gerard A. Robinson, 1984
Tamara E. Rogers
Kathy Rouihac
Karla D. Rutledge
Adrian D. Samuels, 2001
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Patricia M. Scudder
Alex S. Sekwat
Stephen B. Shanklin
Lonnie Sharpe, Jr.
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Portia H. Shields
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Robert L. Smith, 1972
Sonya D. Smith, 1997
Tina G. Smith
Linda C. Spears
Daphane H. Spight
Catherine Arthur-Johnson
Hicks Ashley
Zestlan Ashley
Bob Askew
William C. Avery
Bruce Baghai
Michelle J. Bahner
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Melvadeen Bailey
Albertine D. Baker
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Deborah J. Baker
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Rod Baker
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Benny Washington, 1975
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Warren B. Westcott
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Jewell F. Winne, 1988
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Linda G. Woodruff, 1985
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Roselyn D. Word, 1980
Chenhua Yang

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Tee Wiggins
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Covetta Bohman
Kim Brewer

Patrick Brewer
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Daniel Bryant
Renita G. Bufford-Jones
Tasha Butler, 1989
Teri Cain

Shirlynn Carter
Lisa S. Coleman
Al W. Dandridge Sr.
Johnie Davis
Kenneth Davis, Jr.
Cassandria A. Dede
GlenEva Dunham
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Traci Fletcher
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Harrison S. Foyston, 1971
San Y. Foys
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Nikia R. Grier, 2005
De Anne Ginger Owens
Mattie M. Harris
Denna Harrison
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Shirley Henderson
Andrea M. Holcombe
Kristi Holcombe
Tony Jarrett
Marilyn Jones
Scott Jones
Ken Jordan
Katrina Kerr, 1994
Cynthia D. Lanier
Juralee Lee
Cary C. Lewis
Chandra Lipscomb, 1980
Leordan London
Andrea Maple
Bridgette B. Mitchell
Eva D. Mitchell
Sola Moore
Ronald Moseley
Vicki Nelson
Andrea Nesbitt
Melanie Nichols
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Treziq Watkins
Kimberly D. White
LaTrina Williams
Lisa Williams
Theresa Williams
Jacqueline C. Woodard-Patrick, 2010

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Dominic E. Alston
Anonymous
Asia M. Ashley
Ayabami M. Bass
Precious D. Bond
Valerie A. Bridgeforth
Alexander C. Brown
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Kristen D. Brown
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Manasseh M Warner
Raven W. Warren
Parrish T. White
Adrian D. Williams
Nigel R. Williams
Jon-Michael Williamson
Adrianni N. Wilson
Lance S. Woods
ADAMS, Zenoch G. (“Dwight”), 85
Nashville, Tenn.
Class of 1955
Died April 26, 2013
Retired teacher, a realtor with Otey’s Real Estate, an officer in the Metropolitan Teachers Credit Union, a dedicated member of St. Matthew AME Church, a former state director and a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Tau Lambda Chapter.
*In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Tau Lambda Education Foundation in his memory. Mail to: Tau Lambda Education Foundation, PO Box 330922, Nashville, TN 37203.

BRANDENBERG-ROPER, Mozel
Huntsville, Ala.
Class of 1948
Died May 24, 2013
Active member with the Huntsville Alumni Chapter.
*In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Huntsville Alumni Chapter scholarship in her memory.

BRANTON, Leo Jr., 91
Los Angeles, Calif.
Class of 1942
Died April 19, 2013
A California lawyer whose moving closing argument in a racially and politically charged murder trial in 1972 helped persuade an all-white jury to acquit a black communist, the activist and academic Angela Davis.

DAVIS, DaMon William “Monty”, 54
Warren, Ohio
Class of 1980
Died June 4, 2013
Retired from the National Basketball Association (NBA) as a forward for the Philadelphia 76ers; led the nation in rebounding during his senior year (1980) as a member of the TSU Tigers Basketball team.

DAVIS, Ivanetta Hughes, 100
Nashville, Tenn.
Class of 1939
Died January 14, 2013
Beloved former First Lady of Tennessee State University served faithfully for 25 years during the tenure of her husband, Dr. Walter S. Davis, retired principal and educator, actively involved civic and service leader (including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Links, Incorporated, NAACP, etc.), and TSU’s Centennial Homecoming Grand Marshal.

DAVIS, Sylvester
Mt. Juliet, Tenn.
Class of 1955
Died April 6, 2013
Retired after 40 years of service from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture; member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
*In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Tennessee State University Presidential Challenge, College of Agriculture, in memory of Sylvester Davis, 3500 John A. Merritt Blvd., Nashville, TN 37209 or Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity National Foundation, 145 Kennedy Street NW, Washington, DC 20011.
FANROY, Jesse Harris, Jr., 85
Nashville, Tenn.
Class of 1959
Died June 21, 2013

Known affectionately by friends as “Fanroy” and by his family as “Junior,” Fanroy proudly served in the United States Army (1952-1954) and is a veteran of the Korean War. He worked as a teacher and counselor at the State Vocational School in Pikeville, Tenn. (1959-1962); served as the first African-American U.S. Deputy Marshall in the Middle District of Tennessee. Fanroy was a coordinator of the OMAT program at Tennessee State University and also worked for Matthew Walker Health Center, Meharry Medical College, and Fisk University.

HUMPHREY, Sandra K., 64
Memphis, Tenn.
Attended 1966-1968
Died May 25, 2013

Domestic engineer, member of Emanons and J.U.G.S. International; fashion icon receiving recognition as Hall of Famer as Memphis’ “10 Best Dressed Women.”

OFOSU, Pauline Knight, 73
Rex, Ga.
Class of 1962
Died March 25, 2013

One of TSU’s Freedom Riders; received Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Tennessee State University in 2008 in recognition of her courage and sacrifice.

TUCKER, Benjamin “Ben”, 82
Savannah, Ga.
Class Year(s) Unavailable
Died June 4, 2013

Tucker had success as a songwriter – most notably with “Comin’ Home Baby,” a song co-written with jazz vocalist Bob Dorough, which was recorded by Mel Torme, Herbie Mann and more recently Michael Buble. In 1972, he became the owner of WSOK-AM radio in Savannah, Ga. making him the 15th black radio station owner in the United States at the time. He holds an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the B.F. Lee Theological Seminary and has been the featured artist at musical events nationally and internationally.

*In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ben Tucker Memorial Fund.

VEALE, Dionne F.
Atlanta, Ga.
Class of 1970
Died December 7, 2012

Former president of the Tennessee State University National Alumni Association, Atlanta Chapter, from 1994 to 1996.

WILLIAMS, Lev, 77
Memphis, Tenn.
Class of 1962
Died June 11, 2013

Retired educator, and active member with the Tennessee State University National Alumni Association, Memphis Chapter.

*In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Memphis Federation of the Blind, c/o National Federation of the Blind of Tennessee, 4113 Tea Garden Way, Antioch, TN 37013.

WYNN, William “Will”
Class Year(s) Unavailable
Died June 4, 2012

Former football player
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Degree(s): ___________________________________________________________________________

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