



Dr. Andrew P. Torrence

In 1968, Andrew P. Torrence, also an alumnus, was named the University's third president. Throughout his relatively brief tenure, the University strengthened its focus on academics and introduced a broader array of offerings. It was during this time that the University, through a bill passed by the state legislature, formally dropped "Agricultural and Industrial" from its name and became Tennessee State University. Still, one of the most significant events of the Torrence presidency would not be fully resolved or have its impact felt for decades to come. In 1968 that a Tennessee State University faculty member named Rita Sanders filed a lawsuit alleging a dual system of higher education in Tennessee based on race. An agreement in that case, which over the years evolved into *Geier v. Tennessee*, would not be reached until 2001.