

TSU Special Collections Renaissance

Volume 3, No 2, October 16, 2002



NEWS

Brown-Daniel Library

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Mr. Wilmer Cooksey

TSU's 2002 Grand Marshall

Tennessee State University is proud to honor Mr. Wilmer Cooksey, Jr. as this year's Homecoming Grand Marshall.

Born in Fort Worth Texas, Cooksey received a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from our very own Tennessee State University in 1965. He earned a Master's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Toledo in 1972 and completed postgraduate doctorate work in mechanical engineering at Michigan State University.

A Distinguished Graduate of the Officer's Training School, Cooksey served as an executive officer in the U.S. Army Artillery, 1st Lieutenant. His last assignment included a year in Vietnam. For his efforts while in Vietnam, he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Cooksey's General Motors career is the epitome of achievement, beginning with his first job as an assistant professor in industrial engineering at GMI in Flint, Michigan. However, his dream from the beginning of his career was to be the Corvette plant manager.

In 1976 he transferred to the St. Louis plant where he held several positions before being transferred to the Doraville plant in Atlanta. After working at various superintendent positions at Doraville, he was named production manager at the Fairfax plant.

In 1993 Cooksey was awarded his dream job, plant manager of the world's only Corvette plant in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Under Cooksey's direction the Corvette has received numerous awards including: America's Best, Automobile of the Year by *Automobile Magazine*, Best Premium Sports Car by J.D. Power, and was named "Best Sports Car" by *Money Magazine* in their 2002 car guide. In May of 2002 the Bowling Green Assembly Plant was awarded two prestigious awards. J.D. Power & Associates named Corvette as Best in Segment for the second year in a row and recognized the assembly center as their Silver Plant, the second

best automotive plant.

Cooksey takes an active role in the community. He currently serves on the boards of the National Corvette Museum, Integra Bank, Western Kentucky University School of Business Advisory Board, Western Kentucky University College of Education and Behavioral Science, Drug Abuse Resistance Education Advisory Council and Advancing Minorities' Interest in Engineering Executive Advisory Board.

Cooksey is proud to serve as the General Motors Key Executive for Tennessee State University and the Key Organization Liaison for Career Communications. He is on our University Foundation Board of Trustees and received a Presidential Citation from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education in recognition of exemplary experience that honors our University. "Education is the key to success," stated Cooksey. "The well rounded education and work programs TSU provides its students is impressive. I am proud to support and be associated with such a fine institution."

In 1997 Cooksey received the "Black Engineer of the Year President's Award." Also in 1997, Austin Peay University named him "Achiever of the Year" in their Focus Program. Cooksey was named a "Black Achiever in Industry" by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. *Dollars & Sense Magazine* honored Cooksey in their 1998 "Salute to America's Best & Brightest Business and Professional Men and Women." *Contemporaria* magazine chose Cooksey for an article in their 1998 winter issue. Cooksey was also featured on the cover of *African Americans on Wheels* magazine 1999 winter issue as they named the Corvette the "Best Urban Car of the Year." He was also featured in the December, 2000 issue of *Vette*, the 2001 winter issue of *Corvette Quarterly*, and in *Corvette Fever* magazine's October, 1999 and May, 2002 issues. In May, 2000 Cooksey was honored with an Award of Excellence from the Warren County Chapter of the D.A.R.E. program for his outstanding

contributions and demonstrated commitment.

In his free time, Cooksey likes excitement. His hobbies include drag racing and flying airplanes. He resides in Bowling Green with his wife, Elizabeth, a teacher at Western Kentucky University. They have two children, David and Crissy.

Tennessee State University is a major, comprehensive, urban, land-grant University which offers students study in 43 bachelor's degrees, 24 master's degrees and 5 doctoral programs. More than 8,600 students currently attend classes at TSU. Thank you Mr. Wilmer Cooksey, Jr., for all you have done. We in Special Collections, Brown-Daniel Library at TSU want you to know we appreciate your work. Your work is living inspirations and encouragement.



Brown-Daniel Library



As the daughter of a teacher(mother) and a tailor(father), Lillian began her talented careers both in teaching and as a fashion designer when she taught home economics at Pearl High School in Nashville.

She has given most of her adult life to others, largely in volunteer capacities. She has chaired an organization of 4,000 teachers and co-authored chapters in the books used by home economics teachers in Nashville, TN.

She has served as president of the local chapter of AKA, the Links, Inc., and the Ardent Garden Club.

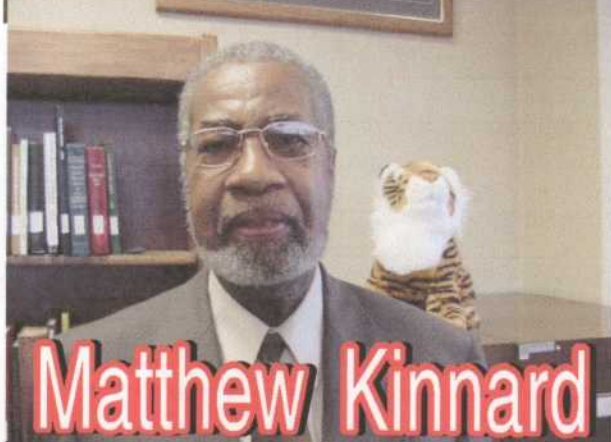
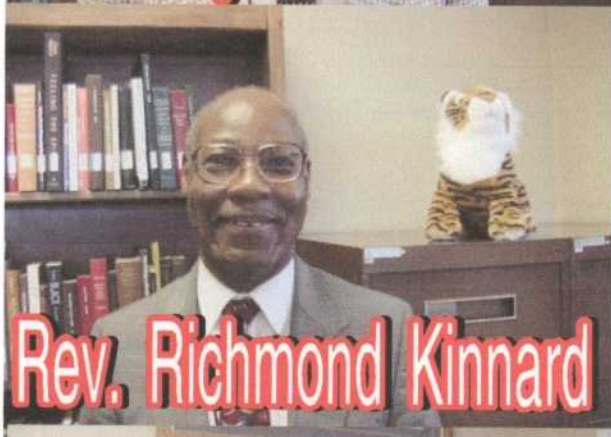
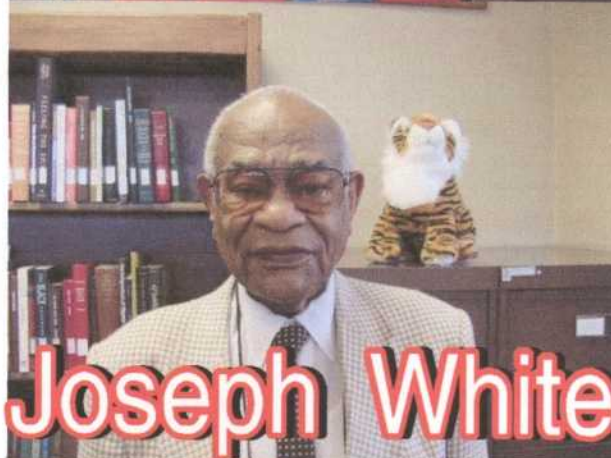
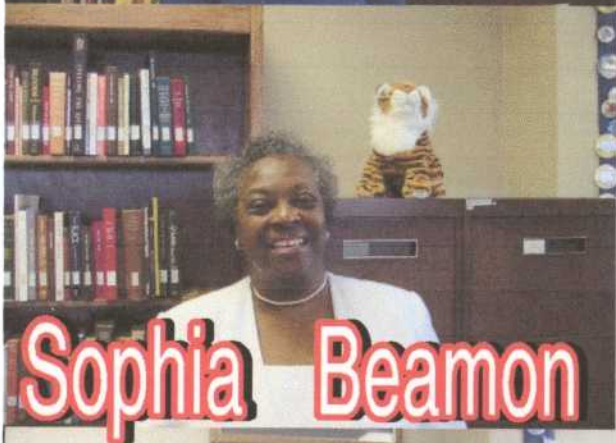
Lillian Dunn Thomas

Tennessee State University 2002

Homecoming Honoree is Mrs. Lillian Thomas, a 1935 graduate of TSU. She earned a degree in home economics and has had a career of 30 years of teaching. Lillian pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, INC., in 1932 and began a quasi-career in civic volunteering. After graduating from TSU, Thomas earned a master's degree from Columbia University and later studied at the University of Tennessee, Fisk University and the Ikebana School of Flower Arrangements in Japan and China.

She's been chair of the AKA's national Silver Star Banquet, received the AKA National Service Award, she been named Soror of the Year in the Southeastern Region and even has an award named in her honor. Lillian Thomas's civic service has been honored by governors of Alabama, North Carolina and Tennessee. For eight years, she served on the Nashville Beautification Board at the urging of the mayor. Special Collections is pleased to congratulate Mrs. Lillian Dunn Thomas and proud that after 67 years as an alumna, she is being recognized as is this years Homecoming Honoree.

This summer the Vintagers Celebration honored Classes of 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, here in Special Collection we had displays of all three floors of the library to help celebrate the good old days. Some of the Vintagers that came and visited our department had their picture taken as part of the library tour.



In 1996 the Library Art Corner Gallery received a proclamation from the City of Nashville, Mayor, Phil Bredesen honoring the Galley in recognition of its services to the community, promoting the arts. Thanks to all the artist, who have exhibits with us.

R Lafayette Mitchell



Teruni Lamberg

Larry Scott



Jonathan Kupersmith

Sampson Bradley



Nance Cooley is showing the month of October



Darrell Gilbert



Mr. Gilbert will show in November



Higgins Bond



Ms. Bond will show in January 2003

Making Donations to Special Collections at TSU

The Library is the official depository for the archives of the university. Below is a list of appropriate materials to donate to Special Collections.

- Tennessee Board of Regents' minutes, memoranda, correspondence, and reports.
- Records of the Office of the president, including correspondence, administrative subject files, and reports.
- Records of the Office of the Vice-Presidents and Deans of the College, including correspondence, subject files and reports.
- Minutes, memoranda, and reports of all major academic and administrative committees, including the faculty council and its committees.
- Records of the Office of Student Affairs including correspondence, subject files, and reports.
- Accreditation reports and supporting documents.
- Annual budget and audit reports.
- Administrative and instructional department's records of permanent historical and legal value, such as department chair's correspondence, meeting minutes, etc.
- Records of the Office of Admissions and Records, including catalogs, class schedule, non-current enrollment reports, graduation programs, and other reports as issued.
- Records of the Office of Alumni Relations including minutes of the various alumni chapters, alumni magazines, etc.
- Records of the Vice President for University Relations and Development.
- Records of Student Organization, such as constitutions, programs, flyers, newsletters, meeting minutes, photographs, sorority and fraternity material.

- All publications, newsletters, or booklets distributed in the name of the university, including special bulletins, year books student newspapers, university directories and faculty/staff rosters. Audiovisual materials documenting the development of Tennessee State University, such as still photographs and negatives, motion pictures, oral history interviews, and audio or videotapes.

Other materials you may donate:

- Manuscripts, letters, and diaries
- Photographs(labeled)
- Scrapbooks
- Professional papers
- Business records
- Memoirs/reminiscences
- Brochures and flyers
- Minutes/reports

There are several issues involved in donating manuscripts, letters, and diaries. If you are considering donating such materials, we encourage you to view the following guides created by the Society of American Archivists:

(www.archivists.org)

- The SAA guide to donating your organizational records (www.archivists.org/catalog/donatingorgrcs.html)
- The SAA guide to donating your personal or family papers(www.archivists.org/donating-family_recs.html)

How to make a donation:

- First, call the Head of Special Collections, Sharon Hull at (615) 963-5219, who will discuss your donation and let you know of any special circumstances regarding your gift.
- Box items before bringing them to the library
- All gifts to the library are tax-deductible.
- The library staff cannot provide appraisals under IRS rules.

"In 1978 the new Library building (82,000 square feet) was dedicated on April 21. A room called SPECIAL COLLECTIONS was born to house the university's historical archives, theses, dissertations and other special materials."