

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY  
AFRICAN AMERICAN CHRONICLES  
*1899-Present*



Compiled by Darryl B. Daisey '83

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**AFRICAN AMERICAN CHRONICLES**

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*Revised Edition*

February 2011

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## INTRODUCTION

*"Armed with a knowledge of our past, we can with confidence charter a course for our future."*

- Malcolm X



**Sankofa** (sang-ko-fah) is an Akan (Ghana & Ivory Coast) term that literally means, "To go back and get it." One of the symbols for Sankofa (above right) depicts a mythical bird moving forward, but with its head turned backward. The egg in its mouth represents the "gems" or knowledge of the past upon which wisdom is based; it also signifies the generation to come that would benefit from that wisdom. It is hoped that this document will inspire Penn State students, faculty, staff, and alumni to learn from and build on the efforts of those who came before them.

Source: Center for Teaching & learning - [www.ctl.du.edu](http://www.ctl.du.edu)

In late August, 1979, my twin brother, Darnell and I arrived at Penn State's University Park campus to begin our college education. While fairly confident in my academic abilities, arriving at college as part of the then Black Scholars program, there were nagging concerns of, can I handle this and do I truly belong here?

I am proud of my academic and social accomplishments at Penn State, but I do wonder what could have been achieved if I had been able to build on the courage, and political successes of groups like the Douglass Association (1967), or been inspired by the determination of Mildred Settle Bunton (1932). Most of us had heard of neither. More importantly, I wonder if this knowledge would have made a difference to the many African American students who never felt they belonged, and eventually left prior to graduation.

In November, 2007, after registering to attend the 2008 Black Alumni Reunion, I was somewhat surprised to discover there was no documented comprehensive account of the African American experience at Penn State. I believed that sharing more than 110 years of the rich contributions, struggles, and successes of African American Penn Staters could help inspire and empower students, faculty and staff, and reconnect African American alumni to the University. I therefore undertook the process of compiling a brief historical timeline. That "brief" timeline, with the encouragement and help of Penn State staff, alumni, family, and friends became the *"Penn State University African American Chronicles."*

The project gained momentum when the Office of Educational Equity, the Africana Research Center, the Penn State Alumni Association, the Department of African and African American Studies, Penn State Public Broadcasting, the Penn State Archives, the

Black Alumni Reunion Committee, and others enthusiastically contributed resources and assistance. This support greatly enhanced, enriched, and expanded upon the initial research and led to this revised edition of the *Penn State University African American Chronicles*, and the creation of the extraordinary website [www.blackhistory.psu.edu](http://www.blackhistory.psu.edu).

In this journey I learned that, despite our relatively small numbers, African Americans have been an important part of the Penn State fabric. Accomplishments by many African Americans have helped to shape Penn State's national reputation as a world class institute of learning.

Upon gaining a better understanding of our legacy at the University, the growing number of African American students, alumni, faculty and staff can say with even more confidence that...

### **WE ARE ... PENN STATE!**

Darryl B. Daisey

**I would like to thank the following people, whom without their help this project would not have been possible:** W. Terrell Jones, Edward N. Thompson, Jeffrey Moore, Roger Williams, Amy Caputo, Cheryl Stringer, Keith Wilson, Lovalerie King, Grace Hampton, Cheraine Stanford, Perry Smith, Frederick B. Phillips, Rod Woodson, Cynthia Hamlin, Diana Kenep, Lee Stout, Lou Prato, Jackie Esposito, Toby S. Jenkins, Anthony Keith, Paul Dzyak, Tina Hay, Ronald Williams, Darnell K. Daisey, T. Ryan Poole, Lisa Roney, Tiffanie Lewis, Donna King, Michael Bezilla, and Dionne Williford.

**Special thanks** go to my wife, Sari, and two young sons, Benjamin and Warren, for putting up with the time away from the family as I researched this document.

**Note:** This document is a "work-in-progress." Every effort was made to create an accurate depiction of known relevant historical events, people and places. It is recognized that some errors and omissions are probable on a document such as this. If you identify such an error or omission, please e-mail the information to [darryl.daisey@psualum.com](mailto:darryl.daisey@psualum.com) for consideration and verification.

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The citations maybe incomplete for this document, but the following sources have been utilized:

**Sources:** Penn State Archives, Daily Collegian Archives, Penn Stater Magazine, Penn State Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity, Penn State Alumni Association, Penn State African American Alumni Interest Group, Penn State Africana Research Center, Penn State Department of African and African American Studies, Penn State Department of Public Information, Penn State Libraries, The Penn State Fact Book, Penn State Dickinson School of Law, Paul Robeson Cultural Center, Mildred Bunton-Calvin Waller Fellows Handbook, Diana Kenep, Intercollegiate Athletics Diversity Council, Lou Prato, "The Black and White Behind the Blue and White: A History of Black Protests at Penn State" by Robin Hoecker, BigTen.cstv.com, Astronautix.com, Voices of Central Pennsylvania, Center for Teaching & Learning, Rita (Frealing) Shultz, Esq., Lorraine Hutchings Oliver, various organization websites, and personal interviews.

**Photos:** Penn State Archives, Penn State Department of Public Information, Daily Collegian, LaVie Yearbook, Robert Preston, Robin Hoecker, Edward Leos, George Oliver, Barack Obama Photo by Andy Colwell (Penn State Department of Public Information)

**Proofreaders:** Erna Rosemond and Sari Daisey

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## **1899 - 1939**

**1855** – February 22 – Farmers’ High School of Pennsylvania was founded. In 1862 the school changed its name to the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, and later (1874) to the Pennsylvania State College (Penn State).

**1865** – *13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to U.S. Constitution passed to put an end to legally sanctioned slavery in the United States*

**1899** – September - First colored student, Calvin H. Waller, was admitted to Penn State to study agriculture.

**1903** – Ralph Brock admitted to the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy (now Penn State Mount Alto). Brock was the only colored student among the first class of 13 students admitted to the school. Brock was a graduate of Howard High School in Wilmington, Delaware.

**1905** – Calvin H. Waller becomes the first colored graduate from Penn State. Hailing from Macon, Georgia, Waller was described by the 1904 *La Vie* Yearbook as “a member of the trio that runs State.”

**Calvin Hoffman Waller, (BS Ag Sci 1905)**

*Calvin Hoffman Waller, class of 1905, is believed to be Penn State's first colored graduate, although there are no official school records from that time to indicate the students' racial identity. A native of Macon, GA, Waller earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture.*

*His arrival on campus in 1899 does not seem to have provoked any disturbances; instead, he distinguished himself as associate editor of Penn State's 1904 La Vie yearbook, a member of Alpha Zeta agricultural fraternity, the natural history club, association of athletics marshall*

*for the football team, and quarterback for the intramural football team, the Tumblers. In addition, he was an accomplished vocalist who served as president of the Glee Club, and a member of the Cecelian Quartette. Waller was described by the 1904 La Vie Yearbook as "a member of the trio that runs State."*

*His professional accomplishments include: Head of the Agricultural Department at Prairie State University in Texas (now known as Prairie View A&M University), faculty member at Haynes Institute in Augusta, GA, and Texas State Leader of Negro Extension work. By the time of his sudden death due to a heart attack on April 15, 1941, Waller had established a reputation that was widely respected among African-American agriculturists throughout Texas.*

*Sources: Calvin Waller Fellows Handbook, LaVie 1904, 1905, 1906, Daily Collegian Jan 31, 2000, (Photo from 1904 LaVie)*

**1906** – Ralph Brock becomes the first colored forester in the nation upon graduation from the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy (now Penn State Mont Alto). Brock was among the first class of six students to graduate from the school, which was founded in 1903. The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission dedicated a formal marker recognizing Brock on October 24, 2003. The marker was unveiled at the entrance to the Penn State Mont Alto campus.

(Photo from Penn State Mont Alto)



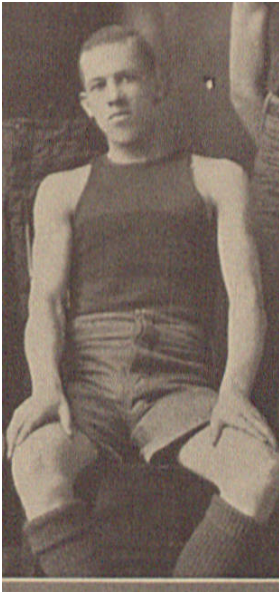
**1908** – Clarence Muse becomes the first colored person to attend the Dickinson School of Law. Muse, the son of a shoeshine man, would become a respected Hollywood actor. He appeared in over 200 films, including such well-known

movies as *Huckleberry Finn* (1931) in the pivotal role of Jim, and the screen version of *Porgy and Bess* (1959), as well as *Car Wash* (1976). Muse was inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame in 1973. Muse received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the Dickinson School of Law in 1978.

**1909** – Cumberland “Cum” Posey, Jr. enrolls at Penn State as the college’s first colored student athlete. While at Penn State he played on the freshman basketball (1909-1910), varsity basketball (1910-1911) and freshman baseball (1910) teams, but left school after less than two years.

**February 12 - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) established.**

**Cumberland Posey, Jr. (1909 – 1911)**

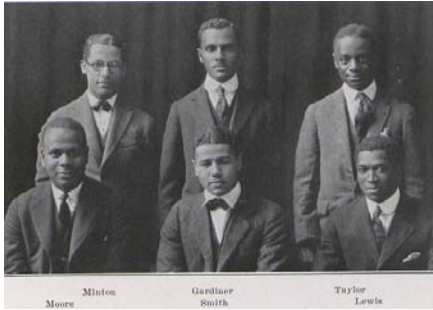


*Cumberland “Cum” Posey, Jr., 2006 Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, enrolled at Penn State in 1909 as the college’s first colored student athlete. Posey, who studied chemistry and pharmacy, would become one of the great entrepreneurs of professional sports, first playing for, and then owning the Pittsburgh based Homestead Grays, one of the most successful franchises in Negro Baseball League history. While at Penn State he played on the freshman basketball (1909-1910), varsity basketball (1910-1911) and freshman baseball (1910) teams, but left school after two years.*

*After leaving Penn Stat, and a brief stint at the University of Pittsburgh, Posey helped to form and played for the famous Monticello Athletic Association team that captured the Colored Basketball Championship in 1912. In 1913 the club changed its name to the Loendi Big Five. By this time Posey was the star player and operator (which included managing, booking and promoting) of the club. Loendi won the Colored Basketball World Championship four years in row from 1920 – 1923.*

*In 1915 Posey played for Holy Ghost College (now Duquesne University) – using the alias “Charles Cumbert” – and led the basketball team in scoring for three seasons. A 5-foot-9, 140 pounder, Posey was “lightning fast, controlling the ball and the tempo of a game,” wrote Ocania Chalk in Black College Sport, adding, “and being regarded as the best colored player in America.” Simultaneously, starting in 1911, Posey played centerfielder and subsequently became the owner of the Homestead Grays baseball team. He owned the Negro Baseball powerhouse until his death on March 28, 1946.*

*(Photo from 1912 LaVie)*



**1921** – March 15 - *Omega Psi Phi* fraternity established at Penn State as the first colored organization and fraternity on campus. It was reported that all **8** colored students on campus at the time joined the fraternity. (Photo from 1923 LaVie)

**1923** – First recorded acts of racial discrimination in State College occurred when Ko Wie Gbu “William” Donma was refused service at several area restaurants. At one point, he fell ill and required the attention of a doctor, who described his condition as severe malnutrition. An investigation revealed that “for months, Donma had been attempting to prepare meals in his room at the Old Main building, as no eating establishment in town would serve him because of his race.” Donma, a native of Liberia, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in animal husbandry in 1923. He would go on to have a distinguished teaching career at South Carolina State Agricultural and Mechanical College (now South Carolina State University) from 1928 until his death in 1951. On May 2, 1973, the South Carolina State College Board of Trustees honored Donma by naming the school’s main administration building the “Ko W. G. Donma Administration Building.” (Sources: South Carolina State University Archives, Daily Collegian January 14, 1964, Photo from 1923 LaVie)



**1929** – September - Mildred Settle, from Uniontown, becomes Penn State’s first colored co-ed.

**1932** – May - Mildred Settle becomes the first colored female graduate from Penn State. She would consistently appear on the dean's list and would graduate with honors and the highest grades in the home economics department.



**Mildred Settle Bunton, (HH&D 1932)**

*In the face of overwhelming poverty, Mildred Settle Bunton refused to let economics steal her dream of attending college. Bunton, recognized as the first colored female to graduate from Penn State, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Human Development in 1932. Raised in poverty as the seventh of nine children, whose father died when she was very young, she had to work her way through school. She worked for faculty in exchange for room and board, borrowed money for tuition, and won scholarships from the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women. Money was not Bunton's only obstacle; when she arrived at Penn State in 1929, she was the only colored co-ed on campus. Even with these challenges her name consistently appeared on the dean's list and she graduated with honors in 1932 with the highest grades in the home economics department.*

*In the March/April 1989 Penn Stater Magazine, Bunton indicates "No one ever mistreated me when I was there (at Penn State)," Bunton said in the interview that on occasion, she was called "the woman on the box" — Aunt Jemima — but she attributed this to unfamiliarity, not cruelty. "They had never seen a colored woman before."*

*She went on to earn a Master's degree in nutrition from Cornell University in 1953. Her career accomplishments include: Director of Dietetics at Freedmen's Hospital, Associate Professor at Howard University, worked with the 1969 White House Conference on Nutrition, Food and Health, and Subcommittee Chairman on the District of Columbia's Mayors Commission on Food, Nutrition, and Health. In 1983, Bunton was listed in Who's Who Among Blacks in Metropolitan Washington.*



Source: Penn State Mildred Bunton-Calvin Waller Fellows Handbook, Photos from LaVie 1932 and Penn State Alumni Association



**1936** - Skull and Bones honorary society tapped its first colored student, James H. Redmond. Redmond was an Agriculture Economics major who captained the track team and was a star on the cross-country team. Skull and Bones was the first of the Penn State honorary societies to initiate a colored student.



**1939** – Herbert Nipson becomes the first colored student in the nation elected to *Sigma Delta Chi*, the national journalism honor society (now known as The Society of Professional Journalists). Because Penn State did not note Nipson's race on the nomination, *Sigma Delta Chi* did not recognize they had a colored member until 1946. The first known colored *Penn State Collegian* newspaper reporter (1936), Nipson would be selected assistant sports editor in 1939 and join the paper's Managing Board. Nipson also lettered on the cross-country track team. In 1949 he was hired as associate editor of *Ebony* magazine, and was promoted to executive editor in 1972. He received the Capitol Press Club's outstanding journalist award in 1965, and – after 38 years and 456 issues of *Ebony* - retired in 1987. (Photo from 1940 LaVie)

February 24 – Duke Ellington and his band perform at Recreation Hall for a Friday night Ball. They would perform several more times over the next 30 years.

## 1940 – 1949

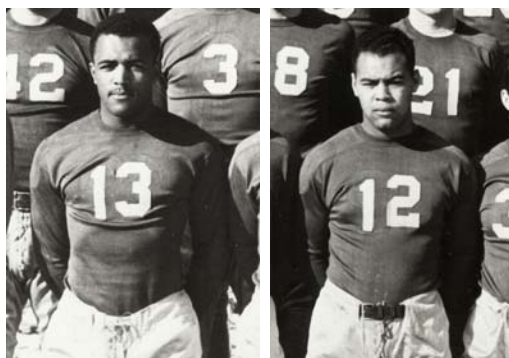


**1940** – February – Henry Norwood “Barney” Ewell, Penn State’s “Ebony Sprint Ace,” was selected to the AAU All-American track team in the 400 meters. At the 1939 and 1940 Penn Relays, Ewell broke, and then bettered, the 50 yard dash world record with times of 5.1 and 5.0 seconds. In 1942 Ewell set a world record in the 200 yard dash with an 18.9 seconds performance. Ewell would be the most dominant and best known athlete at Penn State during the early 1940s. Ewell was a member of *Omega Psi Phi* fraternity. (Photo from LaVie)

May - **13** colored students estimated to be enrolled at Penn State

December 9 – Paul Robeson, famed athlete, singer, actor and activist performs for a capacity crowd at Schwab Auditorium as part of the “Artists’ Course Series.” The two hour concert included nine encores and several standing ovations. He would again perform at Penn State on December 9, 1946.

**1941** - September – Dave and Harry Alston, from Midland, PA, join the freshman football team, becoming the first Negroes to play the sport at Penn State.



Dave and Harry Alston

***December 7 – Imperial Japanese Navy Airplanes bomb the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, resulting in 2403 fatalities and causing the U.S. to enter World War II.***

**1942** – Charles Townes, from Petersburg, VA, earned a PhD in Physics from Penn State. He had also earned a master’s degree in Physics from the University in 1938.

April 13 – Marian Anderson, famed contralto and world renowned singer, performs on campus. Track star, Barney Ewell, served as her body guard.

### ***“Lincoln Hall” – Unofficial Colored Dorm***

*A boarding home for colored male students from the late 1930s to the early 1950s, “Lincoln Hall” would serve as an unofficial colored dormitory and early sanctuary for its residents. Located at 119 North Barnard Street, State College, Lincoln Hall was operated by Harry & Rosa Gifford, their two children – Emanuel and Bessie, and Emanuel’s wife. The family had moved from Mississippi and Louisiana to take employment as cooks at local white fraternity houses, including Phi Gamma Delta and Theta Chi. The Giffords and other colored cooks assisted many colored students by employing them to work for their meals. In addition, they were supportive of the colored students in many ways and when needed would even lend them money.*

*Lincoln Hall could house about 6 – 8 students at a time (which represented up to half the colored students on campus during the late 1930s), and became the center of colored life at Penn State. While the few colored female students could stay in the dorms during this period, the males were referred to either Lincoln Hall, or to the homes of a few white families that rented to colored students. Born out of an unofficial segregated housing rule, this network is credited for nurturing, supporting and encouraging an early generation of colored students in the isolated State College environment. Some alumni of Lincoln Hall include:*

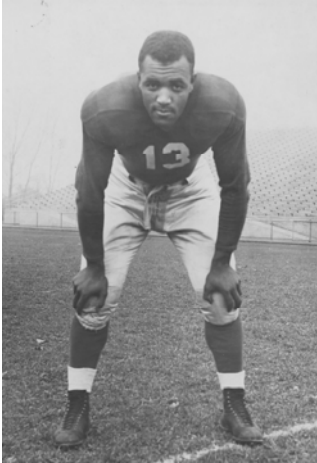
- Barney Ewell – Penn State track star and Olympic Gold Medalist*
- Wally Triplett – Penn State football star and future NFL player*
- Roger K. Williams – Vice President Academic Affairs at Morgan State University*
- Harold Dixon – Howard University physician*
- Ernest Lowe – Boston University physician*
- Perry Smith – Electrical Engineer*
- James H. Robinson – Former associate dean and director of student affairs at Jefferson Medical College*
- Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity founders (Penn State Chapter) – At least 3 of the charter members of Alpha Phi Alpha lived at Lincoln Hall during the formation of the chapter*
- Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity founders (Penn State Chapter) – At least 3 of the charter members of Kappa Alpha Psi lived at Lincoln Hall during the formation of the chapter*

*Sources: Perry Smith (Eng 1948), 1930 US Census and World War I & II Draft Registration.*

August 15 – Dave Alston, the first Negro star football player at Penn State, died from complications following a tonsillectomy. The 20 year old sophomore pre-medical student had been the star halfback on the undefeated Penn State freshman football squad (freshmen did not play varsity football at that time), and was expected to lead the varsity squad to a similar record during the 1942

season. Alston and his brother Harry - who also played on the 1941 freshman team - are reported to be the first Negro football players at Penn State.

### **Dave Alston (Pre-Med 1941 –1942)**



*On August 15, 1942, Dave Alston, star of the 1941 Penn State freshman football team, died from complications following a tonsillectomy operation about 6 weeks prior to his highly anticipated regular season varsity football debut. The 20 year old sophomore pre-medical student had been a dominant halfback on the undefeated Penn State freshman football squad (freshman were not allowed to play varsity football at that time), and was expected to lead the varsity squad to a similar record during the 1942 season. Alston and his younger brother Harry - who also played on the 1941 freshman team – are reported to be the first Negro football players at Penn State.*

*In an April, 1942 varsity Spring practice game against Navy, Alston demonstrated his potential in leading Penn State to a 12 – 6 victory over the Midshipmen. Unfortunately, Alston bruised his eye in the final three minutes of the game, and had to miss the last practice game against Duquesne. Many in the State College Negro community believed Navy deliberately hurt Alston, and that the injury contributed to his early death.*

*Weighing over 200 lbs and standing well over six foot tall, Alston was a triple-threat on the gridiron. He ran with amazing speed, was an exceptionally accurate passer, and could kick more than 60 yards. He was often compared with such greats as Jim Thorpe and Paul Robeson by Penn State football coach, Bob Higgins, and other football experts. Higgins called Alston “the greatest player I ever coached.” Alston had been named the top sophomore football player in the nation and a preseason All-American by Esquire Magazine just prior to his death.*

*Alston was exceptional off the field as well. The son of a minister, he had been president and class valedictorian at Midland High School (Midland, PA), as well as a basketball and football star. At Penn State he was known as a friendly, intelligent, and fun loving student who wanted to be a “good doctor” one day. Despite his almost unbelievable ability on the gridiron, his attitude was unassuming and sincere. Teammates indicated that Alston would “go out of his way to help anyone.” He was a great source of pride for the school and the state of Pennsylvania, but especially among the Negro population.*

*At 9:00 am on August 15, 1942, Alston went to Centre County Hospital for a tonsillectomy. Shortly following the operation, a blood clot formed and caused his lungs to collapse. By 11:45am Dave Alston was dead. The entire Penn State community was stunned by his death.*

*Sources: Daily Collegian July 22, 1947, Perry Smith (Eng 1948), Lou Prato, Diana Kenepp, Penn State Archives*

**1945** – November 17 – Wallace “Wally” Triplett III becomes the first Negro starter for the Penn State varsity football team when he is promoted for a late season contest against Michigan State. Triplett also holds the distinction of being the first Negro to play on the varsity football squad (1945), to earn a varsity letter (1946), and to be drafted by the National Football League (1949).

### **Wallace “Wally” Triplett III (PE 1949)**

*Wally Triplett established a football legacy as he became the first Negro to start and the first to earn a varsity letter on the Nittany Lion varsity football team in 1946. Triplett was born on April 18, 1926, in La Mott, Pa. A three-sport athlete at Cheltenham High School, it was on the football field where he earned a spot on Penn State's roster. While his freshman year was nothing to brag about, by stepping on the field against Michigan State (November 17, 1945) for that first snap, Triplett became the first Negro to ever start for the Nittany Lions. When Triplett arrived back on campus in 1946, he found that the team was scheduled to play against the University of Miami (FL), a segregated school. At that time, schools like Miami would not allow Negro athletes to play with white athletes. It was also common for schools to bow to discrimination and leave their Negro players at home. A meeting was set up by the players to discuss and vote on this issue. In a team vote, Penn State decided to cancel the game and in doing so established a new precedent.*



*The 1947 Nittany Lions ended the season undefeated and were invited to play in the 1948 Cotton Bowl against Southern Methodist University. Triplett would be the first Negro player to play in the Cotton Bowl. Both teams entered the game undefeated and ended the game undefeated, as the two teams played to a 13-13 stalemate, with Triplett catching a six-yard pass in the third quarter to tie the game.*

*Upon receiving his physical education degree at Penn State, Triplett was drafted in the 19th round of the 1949 National Football League draft by the Detroit Lions. Because the NFL only had 10 teams at the time, he would be equal to a 5th round draft pick today. While Negroes were not uncommon on NFL rosters, by stepping into a uniform and onto the field, he became the first Negro player to formally be drafted by a team and play in the NFL.*

*Triplett played two seasons with the Lions, setting a team record for the longest run from scrimmage, a 90-yard touchdown scramble against the Green Bay Packers, and an NFL record with 294 return yards in a single game which stood for 44 years. Triplett left after the 1950 season for a year of military service in the Korean War. Upon his return, the Lions traded him to the Chicago Cardinals where he played for one season.*

Source: [www.BigTen.cstv.com](http://www.BigTen.cstv.com)



**1946** – Roger Kenton Williams earned a PhD in Psychology from Penn State. Williams, a native of Harrisburg and a magna cum laude graduate in Sociology from Claflin College (SC), went on to become vice president of Academic Affairs at Morgan State University. Williams was also an accomplished pianist.

November – After a vote by the players, Penn State officials cancel a scheduled football game at the University of Miami because that university would not allow Penn State to bring its two Negro players, Wally Triplett and Dennie Hoggard.

**1947** – April 10 - *Alpha Phi Alpha* fraternity chartered at Penn State.

***April 15 - Jackie Robinson becomes the first Negro major league baseball player of the modern era.***

December – Penn State's Boxing Team refuses on principle an invitation to participate in the "Tournament at the Sugar Bowl", in New Orleans, because the tournament rules would not allow Negroes, despite the fact the team had no Negro boxers.

**1948** – January 1 – Penn State plays in the first interracial football game in Texas, when they participate in the 1948 Cotton Bowl. Because their two Negro players would not be allowed in the same hotels as their white teammates, the entire team stayed at the nearby Dallas Air Naval Training base.

March – *Council on Racial Equality (CORE)* established on campus. Its influence continued into the early 1960s.

*National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)* chapter organized on campus. The group lasts only a few years at this time.

August - Henry Norwood "Barney" Ewell (BS H&HD 1947) won a gold medal in the 400-meter relay and silver medals in the 100 meter dash and the 200 meter dash at the 1948 London Olympics -- at the age of 30. His three Olympic medals are still the most won by a Penn State alumnus. Lou Prato, Penn State sports historian, contends that "*Barney would have been as well known an Olympian as Jesse Owens if two Olympics (1940 & 1944) had not been cancelled due to World War II, when Barney was in his prime.*" Ewell, a Penn State legend in his time, also took home 4 NCAA Gold Medals. *Track & Field News* later voted him one of the top ten sprinters of all time.



Dennie W. Hoggard, Jr. is selected to the Lion's Paw honorary society, becoming the prestigious group's first Negro member. Founded in 1908, Lion's Paw membership was reserved for senior men who had distinguished themselves in service to the college and extra-curriculum activities. Hoggard was a member of the football team and *Alpha Phi Alpha* fraternity. (Photo from 1949 LaVie)

December 10 – 300 students rally and protest six State College barber shops that refused to cut “Negro hair.” The protests were led by the local *NAACP* and *CORE*. While Negroes made up some of the leadership, the majority of the protesters were white students. After further protests, *CORE* raised enough money to lease space in a downtown building and bring in a barber from outside the area who agreed to cut “Negro hair.” That shop opened in September 1949.

**1949 – 60** Negro students are estimated to be enrolled at Penn State.



## 1950 - 1959

**1950** – March 3 – W.E.B DuBois speaks to a capacity crowd at the Sparks Building as part of Negro History Week. “Modern democracy cannot succeed unless all races and creeds can integrate themselves and live together on an equal basis,” proclaimed DuBois. During that appearance DuBois was reported to be the first Negro to stay at the Nittany Lion Inn, though he was not allowed to eat in any of the dining rooms.



**1951** – Parmi Nous honorary society tapped its first Negro member, Hardy Williams. Williams, Liberal Arts major from Philadelphia, co-captained the basketball team and was the first Negro to earn a varsity letter in the sport (1949) at Penn State. A member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and president of the Pi Lambda Sigma pre-law honorary society, Williams would later serve on the Penn State Board of Trustees (1972 – 1975) and thirty years in the Pennsylvania State House and Senate (1968 – 1998). Formed in 1907, Parmi Nous is the oldest honorary hat society at Penn State. (Photo from 1952 LaVie)

**1952** – May 17 - *Kappa Alpha Psi* fraternity chartered at Penn State.

**1953** – March 14 - *Alpha Kappa Alpha* sorority chartered at Penn State as the first Negro sorority on campus. Ethel Brown served as the charter president of the group.

1953 – 1954 Alpha Kappa Alpha Chapter (Photo from 1954 LaVie)



Bottom Row, Left to Right—Turner, McClane, Brown, Battle, Jackson, J. Williams.  
Second Row—Dillard, Miller, M. Williams, Wilson, Hart, Ripley.



April - Betty Love, a freshman physical education major, a featured dancer, and an Olympic quality gymnast, decided to try out for the Penn State Cheerleading squad. Love, from Pittsburgh, wanted to be a cheerleader to demonstrate her strong school spirit, and to utilize her dance and gymnastics abilities. Unfortunately, when she attempted to sign up for try outs she was told by officials that “Negroes were not allowed on the squad.” While deeply disappointed, she indicated that she simply “brushed it off” and focused on getting her education and honing her dance skills. On February 28, 2010, the then 75 year old Betty Love Gibbs was named an “Honorary Penn State Cheerleader” by the Penn State Athletic Department. (Photo by Edward Leos 1954)

September 23 – *Omega Psi Phi* fraternity recognized as achieving the highest grade point average of any fraternity or sorority at Penn State during the 1952-53 school year. The fraternity had placed near the top of the list several times during the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s.

1952 – 1953 Omega Psi Phi Chapter (Photo from 1953 LaVie)



Left to Right—Piscknev, Lindner, McAdoo, Bower, Manos, Nichols, Yu, Jamison, Moer.

November 14 - The Pennsylvania State College officially changes its name to The Pennsylvania State University.

**1954** – February - Commissioned through the Navy ROTC Program at Penn State, Ensign Louis A. Ivey (BA Lib 1953) reports as the first Negro officer aboard the USS New Jersey battleship. After his first night aboard, his white roommate requested Ivey be reassigned another room due to his race. Upon completing his tour of duty in 1958, Ivey went on to become a well respected surgeon in the Washington, DC area, and a member of President Jimmy Carter’s traveling medical team. Ivey was also a founding member of the Penn State chapter of *Kappa Alpha Psi* fraternity in 1952.



April – H. Jesse Arnelle, star basketball and football player, was elected All-University student body president by a landslide margin. He was reported to be the first Negro elected to head the student government of a major white university in the nation. Arnelle had previously served as junior class vice-president.

### **H. Jesse Arnelle (BA Lib 1955, JD 1962)**

*Jesse Arnelle is not only one of Penn State's all-time greatest athletes, he is also one of its most distinguished graduates. A highly regarded retired senior partner with Arnelle and Hastie, a San Francisco based law firm, Arnelle has served on many corporate boards, including Wells Fargo and Company, Eastman Chemical Company, Gannett Company and Met Life Series Fund.*



*As a football standout from 1951-1955, he earned All-East honors, and All-American honorable mentions. On the basketball court, the 6-foot-5 center became the Lions' all-time leading scorer with 2,138 points and remains Penn State's only basketball All-American. Arnelle led the team to the NCAA Final Four in 1954 -- the Lions' only Final Four appearance. He became the first Penn State player to play in the NBA, with Fort Wayne. He also played for the world renowned Harlem Globetrotters.*

*Arnelle's achievements outside of the athletic arena are as impressive, if not more so, and include many firsts at Penn State. He was elected the first Black All-University student body president in 1954. A 1955 graduate of Penn State in political science, and Lion's Paw he received his LL.B. from the Dickinson School of Law in 1962, following service as an Air Force officer.*

*In May 1968 he was awarded the first Alumni Association Award, but publicly turned it down as a protest to Penn State's lack of progress regarding the recruitment of Negro students and faculty. In June 1969, he was the first Black person elected to Penn State's Board of Trustees and was a strong proponent of minority recruitment and of the University divesting from companies with interests in South Africa. In 1996 he was elected the first Black Chair of the Board of Trustees. Arnelle celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> year on the Penn State Board of Trustees in 2009.*



Source: Daily Collegian February 23, 1994, Photos: Penn State Archives



Ethel Brown, president of *Alpha Kappa Alpha* sorority, is selected for membership in the Mortar Board honorary society. Brown becomes the organizations first Negro member. Mortar Board, established on campus in 1935, offered senior women membership based on service, leadership and scholarship. Brown would serve as treasurer of Mortar Board as well as in the House of Representative of the Women's Student Government Association (WSGA). (Photo from 1955 LaVie)

**1955** – *Entre Nous* was founded by a group of students who felt a need for an organization to represent Negro students on campus. The primary aim of the interracial (but mostly Negro) club was to “promote and develop social, academic and cultural interest of the students, and to promote interracial understanding.” *Entre Nous*, which loosely translates to “among us,” sponsored mixers, parties, concerts, speakers, and Negro History Week events until 1963. Presidents of the organization included Robert S. Hoover (the first Negro varsity baseball player at Penn State), Floyd Greer, and Donald Collier.

***December 5 - Montgomery (AL) Bus Boycott begins when Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white patron.***

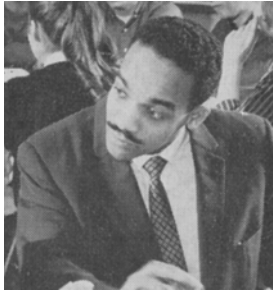


**1956** – Mary E. Godfrey becomes Penn State's first full-time Negro faculty member. She began her Penn State career as an assistant professor of art education. Godfrey would serve on the faculty until her retirement in 1979.

(Photo from Penn State Archives)

September 8 - Rev. Preston N. Williams, assistant professor of religion at Lincoln University, was named assistant to the chaplain at Penn State. An ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, Rev. Williams was one of the first professional staff members at the university. He was eventually named assistant chaplain and would serve as acting university chaplain from late 1959 to early 1960. A member of *Kappa Alpha Psi* fraternity, Rev. Williams was an active speaker at various university events and forums, and chaired the committee on Interreligious affairs. Rev. Williams was also very outspoken against discriminatory practices on and off campus. Rev. Williams left the university in 1962 when he accepted an appointment as professor at the Boston University

School of Theology. In 1971 he became a Houghton Professor at Harvard Divinity School. In 1974-75, he served as acting dean of the Divinity School and then, in 1975-77, was acting and founding director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African American Research. After his June 2002 retirement, Harvard recognized Williams with the establishment of the Preston N. Williams Black Alumni Award.



**1957** - September - Robert H. Davage joined the Penn State faculty in September of 1957 as an associate professor of psychology. He led the “Pyramid Program” which was started that same year. The pyramids were composed of freshmen, sophomores, a junior and a senior as a study group. The goal was for students to develop the attitudes, knowledge, and skills to enable them to pursue their academic work with greater motivation, resourcefulness and independence. In the fall of 1959, Davage left the university to teach at Hunter College (NY). (Photo from Penn State Archives)

**1958** - **126** Negro students are estimated to be enrolled at Penn State

March – Robert H. Davage, associate professor of psychology, conducts a survey of Negro students to determine the level and impact of racial discrimination in the State College community. The “Davage Report,” which was issued in the fall of 1958, was sponsored by the Centre County Layman’s League. The report outlined some major problems, especially in the areas of off-campus housing, and personal services. (Appendix H)

**1960 - 1969**

**1960** – March 26 – “Barbershop poster-walks” begin outside of Bunn’s Barber Shop (110 South Allen Street – State College, PA) after owner Kenneth Bunn refused to cut the hair of a Negro student. The multiracial coordinating group, *Direct Action for Racial Equality (DARE)*, maintained the picketing for over a month. While the barber did not relent, the protesters expanded their focus to include a dean of men’s list of “approved” off campus housing which showed discriminatory racial and nationality preferences of the landlords

May 21 - *Delta Sigma Theta* sorority is chartered at Penn State.

**1961** – Charles T. Davis joined the faculty in 1961 as an associate professor of English after teaching at Princeton and New York University. He had also held visiting professorships at Yale University, Bryn Mawr College, and Rutgers University.

March 9 – *DARE* launches a campaign to require all fraternities and sororities to eliminate any constitutional clauses that forbid membership due to race, or religion. The campaign received little support from the major student organizations.

December 28 – Eugene “Gene” Harris, basketball team captain, scored a Penn State record 46 points against Holy Cross during the Quaker City Tournament in Philadelphia. Harris, a senior from Pittsburgh, eclipsed the previous record of 44 points scored by Jesse Arnelle in a 1955 contest against Bucknell. (Photo from 1962 LaVie)



**1962** – January 9 – The University Senate rules that all social organizations on campus, including fraternities and sororities, must eliminate any constitutional clauses that forbid membership due to race, religion or creed.

November – Richard “David” Robinson, star offensive and defensive end for the varsity football team, was named NEA first team All-American. Robinson, a civil engineering student, was the first Negro Penn State football player to receive that honor. Robinson would later be drafted in the first round by the Green Bay Packers, and help them win 3 NFL championships, and 2 Super Bowl titles as a linebacker. Robinson was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1997.

**1963** - Henry Tomes becomes the first Negro to receive a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Penn State University.

July 1 - Charles T. Davis, associate professor of English, is promoted to a full tenured professor of English. He was the first Negro faculty member to become tenured at the Penn State.

### ***Charles T. Davis, Professor of English (1961 – 1970)***



*Charles Twitchell Davis was born on April 29, 1918, in Hampton, Virginia, into a middle-class family. He attended Dartmouth College, where he was awarded a bachelor's degree in 1939. He went on to the University of Chicago, graduating with a master's degree in 1942, and became an instructor in American civilizations at New York University (NYU) in 1948. While working at NYU, Davis earned his doctorate in 1951 before moving to Princeton as an assistant professor in 1955.*

*Davis joined the Penn State faculty in 1961 as an associate professor of English. He had also held visiting professorships at Yale University, Bryn Mawr College, and Rutgers University. On July 1, 1963, Davis was promoted to a full tenured professor of English, becoming the first Black faculty member to become tenured at Penn State. During the 1966-67 academic year, Davis took leave to lecture on the "American Romantics" at the University of Turin (Italy) under the Fulbright – Hays Act Grant.*

*In September 1968, Davis developed and taught the new "Afro-American Literature in the 20th Century" course. He would become the first Black faculty member elected to membership in the State College Literary Club on November 4, 1968. The Literary Club is the oldest faculty organization on campus, founded in 1896 and dedicated to the promotion of the liberal arts as well as good fellowship. In July of 1969 Davis was also elected chair of the University Senate Committee on Undergraduate Student Affairs (SCUSA).*

*He would leave the University in September 1970 to head the Afro-American Studies Program at the University of Iowa. Davis would later become the Director of the Afro-American Studies Program at Yale University, where he gained a national reputation as an influential literary critic, author, and scholar. Prior to his March 26, 1981 death, Davis mentored and influenced young future high profile scholars such as Henry Louis Gates.*

Source: Daily Collegian Archives, Photo from Penn State Archives

**1964 – 250** Negro students are estimated to be enrolled at Penn State

*National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)* is reestablished on campus primarily through the efforts of the *Omega Psi Phi* fraternity.

*Student Union for Racial Equality (SURE)* was organized at Penn State. Its purpose was to promote equal rights and fair treatment for all races at Penn State and in the State College area. *SURE* had a multiracial membership.



February 26 – Julie Cromitie, a secondary education major from Philadelphia, is installed as the new president of the *Association of Women Students (AWS)*. *AWS* was the coordinating body for cultural, social and educational activities for the women of Penn State. Cromitie, a member of *Alpha Kappa Alpha* sorority, becomes the first Negro elected to this leadership position. Cromitie also served as treasurer of the Mortar Board honorary society. (Photo from 1965 LaVie)

April 15 – Julie Cromitie becomes the first Negro selected as a Miss Penn State finalist. Judged on the basis of their activities, appearance, grades, personality, and poise, the five women were chosen from among thirty-eight entries.



April 17 – Bruce Trotman, from Philadelphia, is elected senior class president with more than twice the votes of his nearest challenger. He had been elected junior class president the previous year. Trotman was also a member of *Lions Paw*, *Skull and Bones*, and *Omicron Delta Kappa* honorary societies, as well as *Acacia* fraternity. (Photo from 1965 LaVie)

**1965** – January 21 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaks to an estimated crowd of 8000 to 9000 people who had packed the newly expanded Recreation Hall. King told the crowd that “segregation is on its death bed today,” and the only question was “how costly the segregationist will make the funeral.” A full text of the speech can be found at [www.blackhistory.psu.edu](http://www.blackhistory.psu.edu).





Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaking at Recreation Hall on January 21, 1965

### ***February 21 – Malcom X is assassinated in Manhattan***

June - Julie Cromitie was named the recipient of the 1965 Ralph Dorn Hetzel Memorial Award, the most prestigious student award given by the university. Cromitie was the first Negro student to receive the honor. Established in 1949, and named for Penn State's 10th president, the Hetzel Award recognizes a combination of high scholastic attainment together with good citizenship and participation and leadership in student activities. Cromitie served as president of *the Association of Women Students (AWS)*, treasurer of the *Mortar Board* honorary society, and a member of *Alpha Kappa Alpha* sorority.

**1966** – November 5 - *The Supremes* perform two sold out concerts at Recreation Hall for over 15,000 fans. The chart topping Motown group was originally scheduled for one show, but it sold out so quickly a second show had to be added. Because group member Florence Ballard had expressed an interest in bowling, the university made the Recreation Hall lanes available to her prior to the concerts.

**1967** – January 16 – *SURE* sponsors a four day “Black Power” Conference on campus. The purpose of the conference was not only to educate Blacks on Black Power, but to also educate whites on their role in the Black Power movement. On the first night of the conference, the one “Blacks Only” meeting was the cause of small demonstrations, public arguments and editorial scorn. *SURE* President, John Warner, defended the meeting by saying that “Black Power is not a white thing.”

September 23 - Emmett Smith, Jr. suits up as the first known Black member of the Penn State Marching Blue Band. Smith, from Pittsburgh, was selected as a tuba player, and would perform with the band for two years. Andrew Jackson would follow in 1970 on the bass drum and silks. Both were members of *Omega Psi Phi* fraternity. (Photo from LaVie)





October - *The Frederick E. Douglass Association (Douglass Association)* is first established to petition for the creation of an Afro American history course at Penn State. The *Douglass Association* would later press for increased Black enrollment and awareness. Frederick B. Phillips (left), a member of *Kappa Alpha Psi* fraternity, was the group's founder and served as its first President.

### ***Frederick E. Douglass Association (1967 – 1969)***



*Founded in October 1967, the Frederick E. Douglass Association was first formed to petition for the creation of an Afro American History course at Penn State. The group would later press for increased Black enrollment and awareness. Frederick B. Phillips, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, served as the groups first President. A course called "The Negro and the American Experience" was established*

*in the spring of 1968 as a direct result of the Douglass Association petition. On May 13, 1968 (about 5 weeks after Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated), 100 members of the Douglass Association, led by newly elected President Wilbert Manley and Vice-President Vincent Benson, confronted the University Vice-President for Student Affairs, Charles L. Lewis, at his Old Main office with a list of 12 demands for changes in the University's policies regarding Black students. The meeting lasted almost 3 hours, and it was reported that Lewis was "visibly shaken" when he left.*

*The demands focused on the need for more Black undergraduate and graduate students, Black faculty and athletic coaches, and the creation of an African cultural study program. The Douglass Association held several more demonstrations to continue to press for status on their demands.*

*On January 13, 1969, five representatives from the Douglass Association gave University President Walker a list of thirteen demands aimed at making a stronger black presence felt on the campus. On the list were demands that a thousand Blacks be admitted within a year, a special recruiter for Black students be appointed, courses in Black history and culture be added to the curriculum, and more black faculty members be hired. The Douglass Association also wanted a special collection in Black literature to be established in the library and a new building to be named after Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*In February 1969, the Douglass Association, now led by William “Rick” Collins, lobbied the then Pennsylvania State House Majority Leader, K. Leroy Irvis for support. As a result, Irvis convinced University President Eric Walker to include an extra \$1 million in his budget strictly for the purpose of Black recruiting.*

*In April of 1969 the Douglass Association transitioned into the Black Student Union, but the mission remained basically the same. Two years later, the then inactive Black Student Union was replaced by the Black Caucus.*

*Sources: Dr. Frederick B. Phillips, Rod Woodson, Daily Collegian Archives*

November 21 – The *Douglass Association* presents a petition to the College of Liberal Arts requesting the creation of an Afro-American history course (Appendix A). Included among the 130 signatures on the petition were Charlie Pittman (All-American Football Player) and Ted Thompson (future USG President). A course called “The Negro and the American Experience” was established in the spring of 1968 as a forerunner of the *Black Studies Program*. Daniel Walden, a white associate professor of American Studies, would teach the course.

**1968** – January 9 – *Douglass Association* elects officers. The officers were: President John F. Warner, Vice-President Wilbert Manley, Planning Chairman Raymond Edgerton, and Secretary-Treasurer Meryl Nimmons.

**April 4 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, TN.**

April 5 – The *Douglass Association*, along with a racially mixed group of students, forcefully lowered the United States and Pennsylvania flags in front of Old Main building to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. King had been assassinated the previous day. The students used a crowbar to break the lock mechanism. As the flags were being lowered, an argument and skirmish developed between the students, bystanders and campus police, until the administration announced that President Johnson proclaimed that all flags should be flown at half-mast that day.

May - **310** Black students are estimated to be enrolled at Penn State, along with **3** Black faculty members

May 13 – One hundred Black students from the *Douglass Association*, led by newly elected President Wilbert Manley, confront Vice-President for Student Affairs, Charles L. Lewis, at his Old Main office with a list of 12 demands (Appendix B) for changes in the University’s policies regarding Black students. The meeting lasted almost three hours

The demands focused on the need for more Black undergraduate and graduate students, Black faculty and athletic coaches, and the creation of an African cultural study program. A tentative agreement was reached on May 16<sup>th</sup>, with the administration agreeing to step up recruitment efforts, among other remedies.

May 18 – H. Jesse Arnelle (BA Lib 1955, JD 1962), the former Nittany Lion basketball All-American, and football star was the guest of honor at the Penn State Football Awards Banquet. Arnelle would stun many in the crowd by denouncing the University's record in failing to recruit more Black students, faculty and staff, instead of talking about sports. He further shocked many by turning down the Penn State Alumni Association's first annual alumni award in protest (Appendix I).

May 29 – Ten Black high school seniors from Harrisburg are accepted for admission into Penn State, even though they did not meet the normal academic requirements. "The Harrisburg Ten" were all a part of *Youth for Advancement of Black Students (YABS)*, which was lead by David Patterson. The rationale used by Patterson for why the University should admit the students was that individual determination must be factored as a predictor of college success for poor Black students. In August 1969, the University would establish *the Educational Opportunity Program*.

June 5 – Roosevelt "Rosey" Grier (BS H & HD 1956), former Penn State football player, helped disarm and detain the assassin immediately after the shooting of Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles.

July – Warren Coleman was named assistant track coach at the University, becoming the first Black to coach any athletic team at Penn State. Coleman, a very successful high school track coach and athletic director from Virginia, would become just as well known at the University for his long running Sunday morning radio persona, *The Good Witchdoctor*, on WQWK 97 FM.

September – "*Afro-American Literature in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*" course is added to the curriculum. The new course was developed and taught by Charles T. Davis, professor of English.

October 4 – A petition requesting changes in the University's admission policy was circulated among the faculty. The goal of the petition was to mainly increase Black student representation at Penn State.



October 11 – Barbara June Rose, a freshman from Beaver, PA, becomes the first Black female intercollegiate student athlete at Penn State when she is selected to the women's gymnastics team. Her best event was the uneven parallel bars. She only competed on the team for one year due to a family illness and increased involvement in the Douglass Association / Black Student Union activism. Rose, an agricultural economics major, would graduate in 1972.

November 4 – Charles T. Davis, professor of English, was the first Black elected a member of the State College Literary Club, an exclusive group (only 117 members since its founding in 1896) dedicated to the liberal arts, and the oldest campus faculty organization.

**1969** – January – *Afro American Studies* concentration is initiated as an interdepartmental program that relied on courses from various departments.

January 21 – Nearly 100 Black students deposit black painted bricks on the floor of President Eric Walker's outer office, building a three foot high triangular "wall" to symbolize the lack of communication from the administration.

February 3 – *African Student Association* first chartered. The mission of the group is to foster a fraternal relationship along with a better understanding among fellow Africans. Another goal is to protect the African image in American society through social and cultural activities.

February 21 – About 20 students – mostly from the *Douglass Association* – lowered the Old Main lawn US and Pennsylvania flags to half mast by breaking the lock with a crowbar, in order to commemorate the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X. *The Douglass Association* had asked permission from the administration to lower the flags, but the request was refused. A group of opposing white students would later raise the flags back up, only to have the Black students – supported by a number of sympathetic whites – lower them again. The two groups, with little physical contact, confronted each other for over 3 tense hours.

March 8 – Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, Leader of the *Southern Christian Leadership Council*, speaks at Schwab Auditorium

April - Barbara Toomer, a member of *Alpha Kappa Alpha* sorority was featured as the first Black "LaVie Belle" in the 1969 *LaVie* Yearbook. LaVie Belles were selected by a committee of *LaVie* editors. Candidates were screened, interviewed and photographed. The candidates whose photos showed an inherent beauty and whose accomplishments showed the most dedication to the advancement interest of the University were selected.

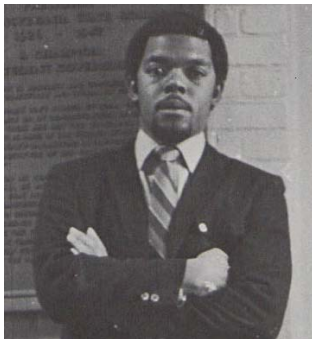
(Photo from 1969 *LaVie*)



Barbara Toomer

April – *Douglass Association* transitions into the *Black Student Union*. The broader intent of the *Black Student Union* was to address social as well as political issues for undergraduate Black students on campus

April 3 – George R. Culmer, a planning consultant for the Model Cities Program in Philadelphia, is named Admissions Director of Special Projects. His primary duties are to facilitate the recruitment of disadvantaged students, including Black students, to the university. In August, Culmer would be named as interim director of the new Equal Opportunity Program (EOP).



April 21 – Theodore Q. "Ted" Thompson is elected *USG* President, becoming the 2<sup>nd</sup> Black student to serve as President of the Penn State Student Government. Thompson had served as *USG* Vice President, and was a member of the *Douglass Association/Black Student Union*. (Photo from 1970 *LaVie*)

May 12 – 1<sup>st</sup> annual *Black Arts Festival* kicks off. Coordinated by the *Black Student Union*, the week long event features appearances from James Brown, Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, Ruby Dee and the Muddy Waters Blues Band. The purpose of the festival was to educate whites about Black culture, and to strengthen the pride and unity of campus Blacks.

May 23 – Muhammad Ali speaks at Recreation Hall. He indicated that the only peaceful solution to the racial crisis in America was the total separation of the races.

June – H. Jesse Arnelle (BA Lib 1955, JD 1962) elected by the *Alumni Association* to be the first Black member on the Penn State Board of Trustees.

July – Charles T. Davis, Professor of English, was elected chair of the University Senate Committee on Undergraduate Student Affairs (SCUSA). He would leave the University in September of 1970 to head the Afro-American Studies Programs at the University of Iowa, and later Yale University.

August - *Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)* is created to provide services such as financial aid, tutoring and counseling for students who may need extra assistance to succeed at Penn State. While perceived as a “Black program”, only slightly more than a majority of the students in the *EOP* program have historically been Black. While sometimes troubled and controversial, the program has been directly or indirectly responsible for the admission and graduation of thousands of Black students who may not have otherwise been admitted to Penn State.

October - Lorraine Hutchings, a freshman from Huntingdon, PA, becomes the first Black female on the field hockey squad when she took the field as the starting center. Hutchings, a member of *Delta Sigma Theta* sorority, would also be the first Black to play for the Lady Lions basketball (1970) and lacrosse (1970) teams. While playing only one season of basketball, she would star in field hockey and lacrosse. (Photo by George Oliver)



October 10 – Almaria Eberhardt, a first term freshman elementary education major, is elected Homecoming Queen. Eberhardt becomes the first Black student to wear the crown at Penn State. “I was shocked when I won considering where I was and the competition, but I guess I was in the right place at the right time.” (Photo from 1970 LaVie)



November 1 - the Black Student Union articulated their demands and grievances at halftime of a Penn State football game. “Since we cannot reach you at any other place, we find it necessary to come to a football game to ask you to think as members of an academic community. We wish to express an analysis of our situation, and we ask you to join us in these thoughts,” stated the group spokesperson.

At the end of the 8 minute speech, the students marched off the field single file with fists held high. (Photo from Penn State Archives)

November 10 – Matthew “Matt” Robinson, Jr. (BA Lib1958) debuts as Gordon on the first episode of *Sesame Street*. Appearing in that role for the first three seasons, Robinson was one of the original creators of the show. He wrote *The Gordon of Sesame Street Storybook*, recorded an album of children’s songs and helped shape the



show into an international success. He would also achieve acclaim writing and producing for *The Cosby Show* (1983 - 1990), the movies *Save the Children* (1973) and *Amazing Grace* (1974), and the play *The Confessions of Stepin Fetchit* (1993). The former president of the Penn State *Omega Psi Phi* fraternity chapter, Robinson and his wife, Dolores, would have two children, actress Holly Robinson Peete and Matthew Robinson III. A recipient of an NAACP Image Award, Robinson was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1982, and passed away on August 5, 2002. (Photo courtesy muppet wikia.com)



## 1970 - 1979

**1970** – January 22 – *Black Panther Party* representatives hold a “closed door” meeting on campus with the *Black Student Union* to speak about “Education and Revolution.” The following evening the representatives would discuss “Where Does Our Struggle Begin?” at an open meeting.



April 8 – *Black Student League (BSL)*, of the Ogontz Campus, blocks the entrance of Sutherland Hall, the main administration-classroom building, until campus officials agreed to meet and discuss their 11 demands. Due to the demonstration the campus cancelled all classes for the day, and had police with clubs monitoring the events. Led by *BSL* Chairman James Belcher, the group’s demands were similar to those made by the *Douglass Association* two years earlier. (Photo courtesy of Robert Preston Class of 1975)

April 14 – In support of the *Black Student League (BSL)* of the Ogontz Campus, about 70 students from the *Black Student Union* seal off Shields Building for several hours. *USG* President, Ted Thompson, was among the demonstrators.

September 19 – Mike Cooper, from Harrisburg, becomes the first Black starting varsity quarterback on the Nittany Lions football team when he lined up behind the center to open the 1970 season with a 55 – 7 win against Navy. However, the Nittany Lions would lose three of the next four games and Cooper would be replaced in mid-season by future All-American, John Hufnagel.



September 21 – First “Black Student Orientation” kicks off. Sponsored by the *Black Student Union*, the week long series of programs was designed to provide incoming Black freshmen and transfer students with the information and assistance they needed to prosper at Penn State.

October - The first Black Student Lounge is approved by the *East Halls Council*. The lounge was to be set up in Johnston Hall.

**1300** Black undergraduate students are estimated to be enrolled at Penn State

**1971** – *Groove Phi Groove Fellowship* is established at Penn State. The Nittany Lion chapter of the Black social organization operates under a fraternal structure, but is not considered a Greek organization.

January - Benson L. Dutton (BS Eng 1933) is selected as a Penn State "Distinguished Alumni" by the Board of Trustees. Dutton, a retired director of construction for the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the former dean of the School of Engineering at Tennessee State University, becomes the first Black alumnus selected for the award. The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor that Penn State bestows upon an outstanding alumna or alumnus.

January – *Black Staff Assistants (BSA)* group was created by the Student Affairs Office to alleviate racial tension in the residence halls, and to help disadvantaged black students on campus. The *BSA* staff was considered part-time university employees, and each was given an apartment and an office in a residence halls area. The first *BSA* members were Barry Manns (Director), Charles Cooper, Darryl Trent, Tom Brown, Lee Coffey, Michael Carpenter, and Eldridge Gibson.

January 14 – The 2nd Black Student Lounge is approved by *North Halls Association of Students*. The lounge was later set up in Beam Hall.

January 23 – The opening of the East Halls Black Student Lounge is celebrated with a public open house. The lounge, which was originally set up in Johnston Hall, was moved in 1982 to Findlay Hall and renamed the "George T. Clark Memorial Lounge."



1971-1972 Cheerleading Squad

April – Paula L. Jones (Philadelphia), Patricia R. Holloway (Pittsburgh), and Nelson Cox (Sharon Hill, PA) are selected as the first Black members of the Penn State cheerleading squad. They would be followed by Lorraine Bias (1974-76), Rita Frealing (1976-79), Tom Edwards (1976-79), Debra Johnson (1977-80), Carmen Redfern (1979-82), Greg McGee (1979-1980), and Caryn Holt (1983-1986) as the first ten Black Penn State cheerleaders. (Photo from Penn State Archives)

June - *Black Caucus* is formed to replace the now mostly inactive *Black Student Union*, as well as to represent a broader constituency (including Puerto Ricans, and Black graduate students). The *Black Caucus* emerged from the midst of dissent over the *Equal Opportunity Program (EOP)* during the summer of 1971. The Group helped to gain support in the *EOP* controversy from Black state legislators. The *Black Caucus* actually adopted its name in tribute to the Pennsylvania Black Legislative Caucus, who championed their causes with the Penn State administration.

### **Black Caucus (1971 – Present)**



*The Black Caucus serves as the umbrella organization for Black undergraduate students at Penn State. Its mission is to promote the positive and successful growth and development of its constituency. The Black Caucus aids in the political, social and cultural development of Black students, while acting as the representative voice of Black students to the University and other student organizations.*

*The Black Caucus was founded in 1971 to replace the then mostly inactive Black Student Union, as well as to represent a broader constituency (including Puerto Ricans, and Black graduate students at the time).*

*The organization emerged from the midst of dissent over the Equal Opportunity Program (EOP) during the summer of 1971. The group helped to gain support in the EOP controversy from Black state legislators. A group of “concerned Black students” (later to form the nucleus of the Black Caucus) presented the Black Legislative Caucus with a list of 42 grievances about the program. The list included the lack of black advisors, counselors, tutors, research personnel, and administrators. The lack of supportive services for EOP students, including financial aid packages based on need, was also cited. As a result of student efforts, an internal investigation, and legislative pressure, EOP was restructured, and the Director was terminated.*

*The organization was not officially chartered by the University until February 24, 1972, shortly after “merging” with the remaining leadership of the Black Student Union. In essence, the Black Caucus took over for the Black Student Union as the representative group for Black students at Penn State. James Lomax, a Vietnam veteran, would become the first Chairman of the Black Caucus.*

*While best known for its political activism, including calling for the University to divest from South African related corporations, and increasing minority recruitment, the organization has continuously provided a variety of social, educational and cultural programming.*

*The Black Caucus adopted its name in tribute to the Pennsylvania Black Legislative Caucus, who early on championed their causes with the Penn State administration.*

*Sources: Black Caucus website, Daily Collegian Archives.*

**August 18 – University administrators, including Acting President Paul Althouse, meet with members of the Pennsylvania Black Legislative Caucus to discuss student concerns with the *Equal Opportunity Program (EOP)*. A group of**

“concerned Black students” had presented the Black Legislative Caucus with a list of 42 grievances about the program. The list included the lack of Black advisors, counselors, tutors, research personnel, and administrators. The lack of supportive services for *EOP* students, including financial aid packages based on need, was also cited. As a result of student efforts, an internal investigation, and legislative pressure, *EOP* was restructured, and the director was terminated.

October 12 – *Black Student Union* officially agrees to merge into the *Black Caucus*, making the latter the primary representative group for all Black students at Penn State. James Lomax, a Vietnam War veteran, would become the first chairman of the *Black Caucus*.



October 23 – The student operated *Black Cultural Center (BCC)* offers an inaugural programming event, the movie “*A Search for the Past*” at the Walnut Building. The objective of the *Black Cultural Center* was to “provide a place for Black students to socially relate to when they come to the University.” Warren Coleman served as the unofficial coordinator, until his official appointment as acting director on January 24, 1972. James Carter was named director of the *BCC* later that year, but resigned on March 2, 1973.

(Photo of Warren Coleman from Penn State Archives)

**1972** – The *Paul Robeson Cultural Center (PRCC)* is established at the Walnut Building. The *Paul Robeson Cultural Center* replaced the student operated *Black Cultural Center*. The purpose of the *PRCC* was to function as a forum for the cultural enrichment, educational development and social advancement of all students, while promoting the appreciation of diverse cultures. Elmore Browne served as director of the *PRCC* from September 10, 1973, until retiring in 1982. Lawrence W. Young followed Browne for a 22 years term, until his retirement in 2004.

January – The *United Soul Ensemble* forms. The Black gospel singers were singing informally in various lounges on campus until Rev. Charles Coleman, program director of Religious Affairs, advertised the formation of a Black gospel choir.

January 7 – Hardy Williams (BA Lib 1952), a Pennsylvania State Representative, was appointed to the Penn State Board of Trustees by Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp. Williams, the second Black on the Board of Trustees, would serve until 1975. In 1982 he was elected to the State Senate.

February 24 – The *Black Caucus* is officially chartered by the *USG* Supreme Court.

February 24 - Thelma T. Price is named assistant vice-president for Student Affairs. Some of her responsibilities would include the *Black Cultural Center* and the *Equal Opportunity Program (EOP)*.

### ***Thelma “Mom” T. Price (1964 – 1986)***



*Price joined the Penn State staff in 1964 as assistant dean of students at the New Kensington campus. She was named acting director of the Equal Opportunity Program (EOP) at University Park in 1971 and assistant vice-president of Student Affairs in February 1972. Ms. Price acted as a key liaison between the students, the University administration, and state legislators on many issues during the often turbulent early 1970s, and beyond. Born in Detroit, she received her BA in*

*Social Studies from Bennett College, and her Masters in Education in history from the University of Pittsburgh.*

*Ms. Price served the University on several critical task teams, but is most known for her advocacy of minority student concerns. Nicknamed “mom” by many alumni, Ms. Price would often find book money, food, housing and clothes for needy students, as well as locating untapped resources for student programming – such as the Black Arts Festival. She frequently used her business connections to help students obtain internships and full-time employment, and she actively mentored many past and current staff and faculty members.*

*In 1977 Ms Price was elected president of the local NAACP, serving in that role for several terms. After her 1986 retirement from Penn State, she became an active community advocate for children and the poor through her work with Diversity and Respect committees of the State College Area High School, Stand for Children, Housing Transitions Inc. and the opening of Mom’s Kitchen – which provided free hot meals.*

*Appropriately the Thelma “Mom” Price Scholarship is being set up for Penn State students who are committed to academics, but have high unmet financial need.*

*Source: Daily Collegian Archives Photo: Penn State Archives*

May 2 – The *Undergraduate Student Government (USG)* announces the creation of the *Department of Minority Affairs* to “cover the Homophiles of Penn State, and Black/White relations.”

June – The *Summer Intensive Program* is introduced as part of the *Equal Opportunity Program*. Funded by the initial Act 101 grant, the *Summer Intensive Program* was intended to better prepare and transition *EOP* students for the

challenges of college academics and life. Act 101 grants are used to assist institutions in providing curricular innovation, cultural enrichment, counseling, and tutoring services to low income students. A portion of the *EOP* incoming students would be invited to campus during the summer prior to enrolling for tutoring sessions and preparatory classes.

August – *African Studies Option* first offered at the University.

December 23 – Franco Harris (BS H&HD 1972) of the Pittsburgh Steelers catches the “Immaculate Reception” during an NFL playoff game against the Oakland Raiders. NFL Films and others have selected the play as one of the greatest in NFL history.

**1973** – February – *Black Scholars Program* is launched to attract and retain academically talented Black students. Joeyl Jones is appointed the first recruiter for the program.

**1974** – March 27 – “BLK Life” magazine first published by the *Black Desk*, an organization established and funded by the *USG Department of Minority Affairs*. The 32-page monthly publication featured articles about the religious, social, cultural, academic and political affairs of Blacks at Penn State. It also included an editorial that called for the University to establish a position of Vice-President of Minority Affairs. Alfred D. Harrell and William McMillan served as the first co-editors of the magazine.

March 27 – It was announced that in the fall a new *Developmental Year (DY)* Program would replace the *Summer Intensive Program* (which was started in 1972). Similar to the *Summer Intensive Program*, the *DY Program* was intended to better prepare and transition *Equal Opportunity Program (EOP)* students for the challenges of college academics and life. The new program, which was also funded by the Act 101 grant, extended the tutoring and preparatory classes from just 3 months to up to a year. Lancelot Braithwaite would be named the original coordinator of *DY*.

May 6 – “Black Unity Day” was sponsored by the *Black Caucus* to promote unity within the Black community, and to project a new image for the *Black Caucus*. “The University will not give us a damn thing unless we get together collectively and go to them with our demands and requests,” stated *Black Caucus* President, Leonard Howard. Held at the *Paul Robeson Cultural Center*, the event featured speakers, musicians, and poets. In between segments of the program, the sisters of *Alpha Kappa Alpha* led songs and danced.

September 17 – The *Forum on Black Affairs (FOBA)* organizes to represent the Black faculty, staff and graduate students, and to deal with University programs, policies and activities that concern Blacks. The *FOBA*

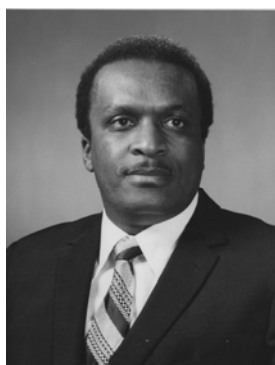
debuts as a formal organization with a reception at the Nittany Lion Inn, election of the first slate of officers, and a short speech by University President, John W. Oswald. The first officers included: Robert Allen (President), Margot Akom (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President), Rev. Charles Coleman (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President), Stewart Strothers (Secretary), and Beedie Cramer (Treasurer).

**1975** – January - First “Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet” is sponsored by the *Forum on Black Affairs*.

May 24 – Robert Williams and Tony Palimore file to enter the race for *Undergraduate Student Government* President and Vice President, marking the first time that Black students have run for both positions on a single ticket. Williams and Palimore would champion more student aid and campus safety. While they were not elected, Palimore would later be elected *Black Caucus* President (1975-76).

September – *Black Studies Program* initiated to incorporate and coordinate the African and Afro-American Studies concentrations. The revamped program was first headed by history professor Cyril Griffith.

### **Cyril E. Griffith (1970 – 1993)**



*Griffith was appointed assistant professor of history at Penn State in 1970. He became an associate professor in 1976 and taught African history at Penn State for 26 years, retiring as an associate professor emeritus in 1993. He served as the first director of the Black Studies Program from 1975 to 1979.*

*Born in Bermuda on August 5, 1929, Griffith earned a bachelor's degree from Wilberforce University in 1963, a master's degree from Bowling Green State University in 1965, and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1973. He was the author of *The African Dream: Martin R. Delany and the Emergence of Pan-African Thought* (1973). A founding member of the Black History Advisory Committee of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, he was cited by them for his "deep commitment to the promotion and preservation of Black history and culture in Pennsylvania." He was a member of the African Studies Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, and the Penn State Faculty Senate. Griffith died of a sudden heart attack on July 22, 1994. The “Cyril Griffith Papers,” housed in the Archives and Special Collections of the Penn State Libraries, include his extensive research into African American history, religion, and culture - including detailed work on A.M.E. churches.*

*Source and Photo: Penn State Archives*

September - **939** Black students are enrolled at Penn State

December 12 – Toni Clarke takes the court against Slippery Rock College at the Pitt Invitational Tournament (Pittsburgh) to become the second Black student to play for the Lady Lions basketball team, on her way to becoming the first to earn a varsity letter in that sport.

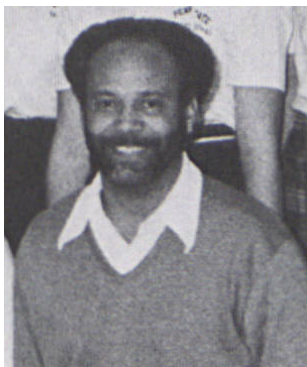


**1976** – Charles L. Blockson (H& HS 1956) becomes a founding member of the *Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum of Philadelphia* (later to be renamed the *African American Museum in Philadelphia*). Blockson played fullback and was a star on the track and field team for the Nittany Lions. Considered the foremost expert on the Underground Railroad,

Blockson devoted his life to research, scholarship, and the collection and preservation of significant materials related to African American history. He has authored more than 10 books on the subject, and is the founder and curator of the famed *Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection* at Temple University.

June 26 – *Zeta Phi Beta* sorority chartered at Penn State

September – **1294** Black students (2.4 % of University wide students) are enrolled at Penn State.



December 6 – Don Ferrell makes a successful head coaching debut with the Penn State men and women bowling teams by beating Shippensburg State College. Ferrell, the first Black head coach in school history, would consistently produce nationally competitive squads. His 1979 women's team would win a national championship, while the men's team placed third.

**1977** – April - Debra Lee "DJ" Johnson, a gymnast, and dancer, was chosen for the Penn State cheerleading squad. Johnson, who performed with the *Paul Robeson Dance Company*, would later be selected as the first Black cheerleading squad captain – leading the 1979-80 team to a Cheerleading National Championship. Debra was also named as an All-American Cheerleader.

September – W. Terrell Jones (West Halls) and Marilane Bond (South Halls) begin assignments as Dormitory Area Directors. The two were the first Blacks to head dormitory complexes at Penn State.



September 2- Sandra Blackwell debuts as the Penn State “mike lady.” The sophomore art student was the first Black student selected to lead Penn State fans in cheers during major sporting events.

**1978 – May – Atlanta child murders begin with the discovery of the bodies of two African American children. By 1981, 30 African American child murders would be linked to the same killer.**

September 6 – *The Black Caucus*, led by past President William “Butch” Randolph, launches a campaign to gain student support to persuade the University to divest all investments in South African related companies. In 1987, after nine years of petitions, discussions, and protests, the University Board of Trustees would finally vote in favor of divestiture.

**1979** – January 24 – Protesting six “racist” hoax help wanted ads that appeared in the *Daily Collegian* the day before, more than 20 “angry Black students” gathered at the *Daily Collegian* office. Led by *Black Caucus* President Charles Kennedy, the group demanded a front page apology from the paper for not screening out the ads. The ads were copied from a Cape Town South African newspaper, and listed Board of Trustee members’ phone numbers as the contacts.

January 28 – *Phi Beta Sigma* fraternity is established at Penn State.



April 6 – Takesha Dockery is elected the first female President of the *Black Caucus*. Dockery, a former *USG* Senator, strongly pressed the University to divest from companies with financial interest in South Africa, as a protest to the apartheid government. A passionate and sometimes controversial leader, Dockery would also win the 1988 Miss Black Pennsylvania crown. (Photo from 1980 LaVie)

May 4 – *USG Department of Minority Affairs* sponsors its first annual “Spring Fashion Show.” This very popular event featured student models. After three years, the president of *USG* deemed that the fashion show should not be a priority of the department and cancelled the event.

November – *East Halls Black Student Union* is established as part of the *East Hall Residence Association*. The group's mission was to help bring East Hall African American students, a majority of whom were freshmen, into the mainstream of Penn State residential life through social functions, programs, and networking. Some of the early presidents of the group included John Warren (1979 -1980), Alvistico "Gary" Ricketts (1980-1981), James McCall (1981-82) and Rhonda McDaniel (1982-1984).

## 1980 - 1989

**1980** – May 8 - Sharon Thorpe was crowned “Miss Black Penn State” in the inaugural pageant sponsored by *Omega Psi Phi* fraternity. The pageant was “meant to showcase the beauty of the African American culture through its young women.” Susan Lindner was the first runner-up, and would be crowned Miss Black Penn State in 1981. Anya Armstrong would take the title in 1982.

October – *Student Advisory Committee on Minority Admissions (SACOMA)* formed to assist the admissions office in the recruitment of minority students. In addition to conducting recruitment phone-a-thons, providing guided tours of the campus, and hosting visiting high school students, the committee advised the admissions office on content of recruitment literature, activities for visiting potential students, and other methods of reaching a larger pool of qualified minority admission candidates. Roslyn Bradford was the first leader of the group.

**1981** – May 5 – Cecile M. Springer was appointed to the Penn State Board of Trustees by Pennsylvania Governor Dick Thornburgh. During her 14-year tenure on the board, she served on all committees, and was a strong proponent of the University divesting from companies with interests in South Africa. Mrs. Springer also was the Director of Contributions and Community Affairs for Westinghouse Electric.

May 6 – *Brotherhood Day* is first held. The purpose of the program was to “enhance awareness of the positive results of unity and the negative effects of racism and separatism to the Penn State community.” Originally conceived by the *East Halls Black Student Union*, and the *East Halls Residence Association*, the program quickly expanded to a campus wide event.

Chaired by Darnell Daisey, *Brotherhood Day* offered various seminars, panel sessions, and essay contests. It was responsible for bringing speakers such as Julian Bond, Benjamin Hooks, and Martin Luther King, III to campus over the next 3 years. (Photo from Penn State Public Information Office)



November – A comprehensive proposal to stabilize and expand the number of Black faculty, staff and graduate students at Penn State was presented to President Oswald by *The Forum on Black Affairs*. There were only **19** Black full time faculty members at Penn State (0.87%) that year.

**1982** – January 9 – The *Penn State Lion Ambassadors*, organized by Larry Atwell, Jr. (BS Bus 1981), begin serving the role of student/alumni liaisons. The *Penn State Lion Ambassadors* would provide service to the university while enhancing the relationships between students and alumni. They would become well known for their role as official campus tour guides for prospective students, alumni and VIPs.

February 11 – *East Halls Black Student Union* representative uncovers that Penn State's long time "mandatory" swim test/class was never really mandatory. When Darryl Daisey questioned the "policy", he discovered it was never really a requirement at all, even though it had been communicated as such for over 48 years. It was felt that the elimination of this "policy" removed a small barrier to minority recruitment.

April 1 – Four African American students were elected to the *Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Senate*. The *USG Senate* was made up of 35 members at the time. Keith Burris was elected from East Halls, Charles Blackwell was elected from Nittany Halls and twins Darnell and Darryl Daisey were re-elected from East Halls.

**1983** – January 22 – The Board of Trustees approve naming a study lounge in East Halls the "George T. Clark Memorial Lounge" after the recently deceased head of Minority Recruitment. Clark had died on September 16, 1982. The *East Halls Black Student Union* had requested the name change. The lounge, located in the Findlay Union Building, becomes the first University Park facility named after an African American faculty or staff member. A formal dedication ceremony was held on May 12th.

February 13 – *The Pittsburgh Press* ran a "special report" that heavily criticized Penn State for its low number of African American students (2.5%) and faculty (1.2%). On February 25<sup>th</sup> the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* printed a similar report. Both papers, which were jointly operated, cited that the number of Blacks at Penn State had shown little gain over the previous ten year period. A March 1<sup>st</sup> editorial in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* concluded that Penn State "cannot be considered a truly first-class university until it overcomes this shortcoming."

July 19 – Announced that William W. Asbury, the University's Affirmative Action Officer and Assistant to the Provost, was promoted to Executive Assistant to the President for Administration.

August 30 – NASA Astronaut Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford (BS Eng 1964) becomes the first African American in space as a member of the crew aboard the third flight of the space shuttle Challenger.



### **Guion "Guy" Bluford, (BS Eng 1964)**

*"Guy" Bluford was the first African American to go into space. Bluford would serve as a mission specialist on four National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) space shuttle missions*

*After graduating from Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. degree in aerospace engineering in 1964, he entered active duty with the U.S. Air Force, where he served as a pilot during the Vietnam War. He earned an M.S. degree in aerospace engineering in 1974 and a Ph.D. degree in aerospace engineering and laser physics in 1978, both from the Air Force Institute of Technology. Bluford earned an M.B.A. degree in 1987 from the University of Houston—Clear Lake.*

*Bluford was selected as an astronaut candidate in 1978. He first went into space in August 1983. Bluford's 1983 mission aboard the space shuttle Challenger included the deployment of an Indian communications satellite and the first launch and landing of a space shuttle at night.*

*In November 1985, Bluford again flew aboard the space shuttle Challenger on a mission dedicated to German scientific experiments. Bluford's third spaceflight was aboard the space shuttle Discovery in April 1991.*

*On June 5, 2010, Bluford was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame.*

*Source: [www.astronautix.com](http://www.astronautix.com)*

September – **1293** Black Students (2.2 % of University wide students) enrolled at Penn State

**September 17 – Vanessa Williams crowned "Miss America," becoming the first African American to hold the title**

**1984** – January 28 - *Ebony and Ivory Weekend* organized by *Alpha Phi Alpha* and *Beta Sigma Beta* fraternities. Espousing similar goals to its predecessor, *Brotherhood Day* (1981 – 1983), the program was made up of a series of workshops, seminars, and concerts. Co-Chairperson, Keith Burris, indicated that the program was intended to "break the ice" that had formed between blacks and whites on campus. Such notables as Shirley Chisolm, Roberta Flack, Spyro Gyro, Calvin Hill, Stanley Jordan, Edward James Olmos, Bobby Seale, Anita Hill, Gloria Steinem, Principal Joe Clark, and Bobby McFerrin have been a part of the draw. The current *Ebony and Ivory Week* has expanded its scope to address religion, gender, and sexual orientation, as well as race.

March - Kahadeejah Herbert becomes the first Lady Lion Basketball player to score more than 2000 points.

### ***Kahadeejah Herbert (BS Lib 1986)***



*Herbert grew up in Willingboro, New Jersey surrounded by a very hostile environment. She was often mistreated by her family and was afraid for her well being on numerous occasions. Herbert also became a mother at the young age of 16 after giving birth to a baby girl. In society's eyes, she was heading down a path of destruction.*

*At the time of her daughter's birth, Herbert had never participated in any type of athletic competition. Bill and Evelyn Lewis, neighbors of Herbert and parents of gold medalist, Carl Lewis, encouraged her to participate in track and field, and play basketball during her last two years of high school. "No one in my family had ever finished high school or went to college," Herbert said. The Lewis' were successful, and seeing that gave me hope that there was something better on the other side."*

*Herbert excelled on the basketball court and graduated from high school in 1981 before moving to University Park, Pa., to play at Penn State. With this opportunity, Herbert was defying the odds. She immediately felt the impact of being part of a team, or in her case a family.*

*"It was my first real family experience and coach (Rene) Portland was like the mother I never had," Herbert said. The Lady Lions also had success on the court during Herbert's career. During her freshman campaign, Penn State went 24-6 and played in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history. The Lady Lions would go to the NCAA Tournament all four years of Herbert's career.*

*Herbert's still holds several Lady Lion records. She was the first in program history to score 2,000 points in a career. She is the all-time leading rebounder with 1,103, and she holds the record for field-goal percentage in a season (.764) during the 1983-84 campaign.*

*Herbert currently works for AT&T as an Engineer and Project Manager and played a major role in developing U-verse, the company's new digital television service. Herbert's daughter was preparing to finish nursing school in 2009.*

*Source: [www.BigTen.cstv.com](http://www.BigTen.cstv.com)*

April 5 – First Minority Career Awareness Day held at the White Building. 18 corporations, including IBM, Dow Chemical, AT&T, General Electric, General Motors, Merck, and Mellon Bank, participated in the day of workshops, presentations and networking. The event was sponsored by the *East Halls Black Student Union, Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, United Soul Ensemble, Paul Robeson*

*Cultural Center, and the Career Development and Placement Center (CDPC). Forest B. Wortham, career counselor at the CDPC, served as program coordinator.*

Norman Lockman (BA Com 1958) and 5 other *Boston Globe* reporters won the Pulitzer Prize for an investigative series on race relations. Lockman, a former *Daily Collegian* reporter, went on to become a nationally syndicated columnist from 1991 – 2004.

**1625** African American students are estimated to be enrolled at Penn State

**1985** – January 13 – James B. Stewart, assistant professor of economics, is awarded the first *Forum on Black Affairs (FOBA)* Humanitarian Award at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet. The *FOBA* established the Humanitarian Service Award to honor an individual who has provided outstanding service to the African-American community of Pennsylvania, notably within Penn State and the Centre Region. Stewart is selected for his service to the *FOBA*, the university, the community, and leadership in his field.



April – Katrina Scott, a native of Jamaica, takes over as president of the *Committee for Justice in South Africa*, and would lead the regrouping organization through its most impactful period. By building strong alliances with African American groups and the *Undergraduate Student Government (USG)*, as well as imploring innovative and aggressive protest methods, the *Committee for Justice in South Africa* would play a major role in increasing the pressure on the Board of Trustees to divest all holdings from companies doing business in South Africa. (Photo from Collegian 1985 File Photo)

April 12 – First Black Alumni Reunion held at the Sheraton Hotel in State College. About 150 alumni from various classes attended the weekend events that were sponsored by the Penn State Alumni Association. Carmen Redfern (Lib 1982) served as the event coordinator.

August – The Martin Luther King, Jr. Interest House is established on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Atherton Hall. The 13 students of diverse races, creeds and colors came to live and work together to practice and promote the philosophies of Dr. King.

December - Penn State President Bryce Jordan formed a President's planning committee for Martin Luther King, Jr. recognition. Dr. James B. Stewart,

director of the Black Studies Program at that time, served as the inaugural chair. The result was the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration, which includes various university and community events on and around the official Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

**1986** – January 20 – The *Black Student Coalition Against Racism (BSCAR)* forms two days after the University Board of Trustees voted against divesting its South African-related financial holdings. BSCAR, led by Chairman Carlton Waterhouse, would organize 13 African American student groups to boycott the University's minority recruitment efforts in hopes of pressuring the Board of Trustees into reconsidering their decision.

February – *Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA)* is established to provide “a cross-academic line-and-support network” for African American graduate students. On December 4, the *BGSA* was granted a charter by the *Graduate Student Association*. At the time there were estimated 275 – 300 African American graduate students at the University. Elizabeth Lewis-Brooks, Andrew Jackson, Catherine Lyons, Morgan Laury, Laverne Gyant, Lennox Jackson and Jacqueline Smith were among the founders of the group.

February 9 – Gina Redmond is crowned “Miss Penn State 1986,” the first African American to hold that title. The freshman performed a dramatic monologue from a Stephen King novel during the talent portion of the pageant.

March 10 – South African style “shanties” are erected near Willard Building by the *Black Student Coalition Against Racism (BSCAR)* and the *Committee for Justice in South Africa* to protest the University's business holdings in South African related companies. The shantytown was meant to “demonstrate the living conditions of Blacks in South Africa” according to *BSCAR* Chairman, Carlton Waterhouse. The University would wait until April 29 to remove the shanties.

March 19 – *The Black Student Coalition Against Racism* and *The Committee For Justice in South Africa* occupy the office of University President Bryce Jordan for 2 hours and 23 minutes to protest the University's investments in South Africa.

**2308** African American students are estimated to be enrolled at Penn State (3.7% of total)

**1987** – William Asbury appointed Vice-President of Student Affairs.

September 18 – The University Board of Trustees votes 20 – 1 to divest all holdings from companies doing business in South Africa.



November 30 – *Mahogany Magazine*, a publication designed by the *Black Caucus* Communications Committee, is formally unveiled by *Essence* magazine editor-in-chief, Susan L. Taylor, to 200 people at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center. The magazine was initiated by editor-in-chief, Roceania Williams, a senior marketing major and a member of *Delta Sigma Theta* sorority.

(Photo courtesy of Roceania Williams)



December 12 – *Sigma Gamma Rho* sorority established at Penn State.



**1988** – A “Black Experience” yearbook is published by SYMBOL, a small group of African American students. Besides focusing on African American students and their activities, the yearbook included write-ups and photos of African American faculty and staff, a history of African Americans at Penn State, art & poetry, and profiles of outstanding alumni. The group indicated that the yearbook would help promote Black unity and help the University’s recruitment efforts. According to Elizabeth A. Lockett, president of SYMBOL, “Black people who know about the Black community at Penn State will be more likely to come here.” SYMBOL (**S**trong **Y**oung **M**embers of a **B**lack **O**rganized **L**eaue) raised most of the money for the book through fundraisers. In addition to Lockett, the group was led by Christine Smith, Jennifer Mayo, Joyce Williams, Doug Wilson and Maveta Thompson. (Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Anderson)

March 23 – R. Seth Williams, *Black Caucus* President, is elected President of the *Undergraduate Student Government (USG)* by a landslide. Williams became the third African American to head the student government at Penn State.

April 8 – A group of about 175 mostly African American students took over the Telecommunications Building for 15 hours, protesting what was called the University Administration’s indifference to minority concerns. 88 students were arrested for trespassing, including former *Black Caucus* President, Darryl King, and newly elected *USG* President, Seth Williams. The charges were later dropped. The students call for the creation of a vice provost for underrepresented groups was realized two years later.

May - N. Eric Bigelow was selected as the first “Mr. Black Penn State” in a contest sponsored by *Zeta Phi Beta* sorority. “This contest was meant to showcase the intelligence, talent and pride of the African-American male.”

### **R. Seth Williams (BA Lib 1989)**



*On March 23, 1988, Black Caucus President Rufus “Seth” Williams was elected president of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), becoming the third African American to be elected to head the Penn State student government. Williams would push for an open university budget, an elected student representative on the board of trustees, student control of the student activities fund, the creation of a vice provost for underrepresented groups, and an increase in the recruitment of African American students, faculty and staff.*

*While only part of his platform would be realized, Williams did leave his mark. A second-generation Penn State student activist, Williams marched to Harrisburg to oppose apartheid, challenged Penn State for inappropriately disposing of low-level radioactive waste and was twice arrested for demanding racial equality on campus.*

*The Telecommunications Building arrest (he was part of a group that took over the building for 15 hours in April 1988) landed him on national television with Dan Rather of CBS News. During his terms as both Black Caucus and USG President Williams received multi death threats.*

*After graduating, Williams attended Georgetown University Law Center and went on to serve 10 years as a Philadelphia assistant district attorney. Following an unsuccessful run for Philadelphia district attorney, and a two-year stint in private practice, Williams was appointed Philadelphia inspector general in 2005. In January 2008 Williams joined Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP in its litigation practice group. On November 3, 2009 Williams scored a decisive election victory to become Philadelphia's District Attorney, and made history as the first African American elected D.A. in Pennsylvania.*

*Source: Voices of Central Pennsylvania February 2, 2008 - [www.voicesweb.org](http://www.voicesweb.org)*

December - Grace Hampton was appointed university vice-provost. She was the first African American female to hold the position. Before her appointment Hampton served as director of the University's visual arts program. Hampton previously served as assistant director of the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., from 1983 to 1985.

**1989** – February 13 – The “Ebony Escorts” Service was organized by *Black Caucus* Vice-President Jennifer Demby. The service featured mainly African American male escorts for people who didn’t feel safe walking alone around the campus area at night. This alternative service was motivated by reports of a local incident where five African American women were accosted by 10 white men in downtown State College. The initial program consisted of 35 screened volunteer escorts.

March – The March/April edition of *The Penn Stater Magazine* featured the first of a three part series entitled “*The Black Experience at Penn State.*” The series was written by Lisa Roney, and contained interviews with a number of early African American alumni. This series was the first known attempt to broadly chronicle the African American history at the university.

May 11 – Barry Robinson (BA Lib 1967) elected to Board of Trustees by the Alumni Association members, and served until July 2004. Robinson, a practicing attorney, was also the Senior Counsel for Corporate Affairs for the Recording Industry Association of America, Inc., the nonprofit trade association representing the United States sound recording industry.

June – *National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)* chapter chartered at Penn State to formally serve as the governing body of the four African American fraternities and four African American sororities at the University. The *NPHC* replaced the Black Greek Council, which had not been recognized by the University. Donna Carter and Brian Swain served as the original co-chairs of the *NPHC*.

July 1 – Judge Cynthia A. Baldwin (BA, MA Lib 1966, 1974) becomes the first African American President of the *Penn State Alumni Association*. She would serve in that capacity until 1991.

September 9 – John Mitchell debuts as the first African American featured twirler on the Penn State Marching Blue Band. Mitchell was also the first male selected for the role.

## 1990 - 1999

**1990** – January 2 – Rodney Reed begins his term as the first African American dean at the University. Dr. Reed was recruited from the University of California at Berkeley to head the College of Education, where he would serve in that until his 1997 retirement.

***February 11 – Leading anti-apartheid campaigner Nelson Mandela is freed from prison in South Africa after 27 years.***

July 1 – James B. Stewart assumes duties of the newly created vice-provost of underrepresented groups. The title was later changed to vice-provost for educational equity.



September 8 – Mike Harrell takes the field as the first African American Drum Major for the Penn State Marching Blue Band. From New Castle, Delaware, Harrell would utilize his training in gymnastics, as well as his charismatic personality in the role for the next two years. (Photo from 1991 LaVie)

**1991** – January – *Essence of Joy* choir is formed and conducted by assistant professor Anthony Leach to perform at the Forum on Black Affairs' annual Martin Luther King Celebration. This popular interracial choir now performs African and African-American spirituals and contemporary music to audiences around the world.

**1992** – January 28 – *Daily Collegian* sports writer Chino Wilson's column causes several weeks of campus and national debates by calling for fellow African Americans to "bear arms" and "form a militia" against white "devils." Wilson indicated his message was misconstrued. "I know what I advocated and that was self-defense," he said.

February 27 – *Student Minority Advisory and Recruitment Team (SMART)* chartered to promote and assist the office of Minority Admissions and Community Affairs in every aspect related to the recruitment and retention of underrepresented racial minority students to the University. The group was actually established in December of 1988.

April 28 – *Groove Phi Groove* calls for African American and Latino students to boycott the McDonald's restaurant, on East College Avenue - State College, for allegedly harassing and unfairly calling the police to manage minority

students. The boycott, led by *Groove Phi Groove* president Michael Austin, continued into that summer when it waned due to the summer break and student turnover.

***April 29 – Four Los Angeles police officers, who had been videotaped beating African American motorist, Rodney King, are acquitted by a predominately white jury. Riots would breakout in the Los Angeles area for the next six days, resulting in 53 deaths.***

July 1 – Joanne E. Burley assumes the position of campus executive (chancellor) for Penn State McKeesport (now Penn State Greater Allegheny), becoming the first African American to lead a Penn State commonwealth campus.

September – *Comprehensive Studies Program (CSP)* launched to replace and enhance the *Developmental Year (DY) Program*. The goal of the new program is to help Act 101 admitted students (usually with modest financial means and/or limited educational resources) deal successfully with the many economic, educational and personal challenges they may face as they strive to earn their college degree. A program of coursework, tutoring, networking and extensive counseling is utilized to accomplish that goal.

October 14 – John Mitchell is elected as Penn State's first African American Homecoming King. Mitchell, a member of the *Alpha Phi Alpha* fraternity, had twice held the title of "Mr. Black Penn State."



**1993** – April – Ricky Williams is selected to be the Nittany Lion mascot. A Baltimore native, and industrial engineering major, Williams becomes the first African American student to serve in one of the most visible roles at the University. (Photo from 1994 LaVie)

April 21 – The formation of an *African American Alumni Interest Group* is announced. The purpose of the group was to help the University with cultural diversity issues, and to help African American alumni stay connected to the school. The group would hold its first meeting in October.

June 1 – Dr. Eddie N. Moore, Jr. (BS Bus 1968) becomes the twelfth president of Virginia State University in Petersburg, VA. Moore, a Philadelphia native, had previously served as treasurer of the commonwealth of Virginia,

September – *African and African American Studies Program* becomes a full department. The department would focus on three themes of African and African-American lives -- history, culture and contemporary problems. David McBride was selected to head the new department.

**1994** – September 8 - *Caribbean Student Association* is first chartered at Penn State. The organization had been established on campus since the 1970s, but was not recognized as an official student organization until this date. The mission of the group is to promote the active dissemination of cultural, political, and historical information about the Caribbean islands and people.

September - *The Mildred S. Bunton and Calvin Waller Scholarship and Fellows* programs are initiated. The programs, named in honor of the first African American male and female to graduate from Penn State, seek to enhance the diversity of undergraduate and graduate representation at Penn State. *Bunton-Waller Scholarship* participants receive about \$3000 a year, while *the Bunton-Waller Fellows* participants are eligible for full in-state tuition and room and board for Pennsylvania residents, and out of state tuition to non-Pennsylvania residents. The programs were meant to replace and enhance diversity scholarships such as the Black Scholars program.

**1995** – May - Judge Cynthia A. Baldwin (BA, MA Lib 1966, 1974) is appointed to the Penn State Board of Trustees by the Governor of Pennsylvania. Judge Baldwin had served as the first African American president of the *Penn State Alumni Association* from 1989 – 1991, and was named a Distinguished Alumna of the University in early 1995.

September 1 – John H. Stanford (BA Lib 1961), a retired Army Major General, became Superintendent of Seattle (Washington) Public Schools. Stanford gained national notoriety by turning around the failing school district within a couple of years. His leadership was cut short when leukemia took his life on November 28, 1998.

September 6 – Jerry Dunn named Head Coach of the Nittany Lion Basketball Team, becoming the first African American head athletic head coach of a major sport in Penn State history. Dunn was the top assistant for 12 years, and would lead Penn State to its first NCAA Tournament “Sweet Sixteen” appearance (2001) since 1955.

**October 3 – O.J. Simpson found “not guilty” of murdering his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman.**

November 10 - More than 2000 students of various races gathered in front of Schwab Auditorium at the "Take a Stand Rally." The rally was organized to show support for the victims of ethnic intimidation and stress the value of unity on campus.

Artist John T. Biggers (BS, MS. Art Edu 1948) is the subject of a major traveling exhibition, *The Art of John Biggers: View from the Upper Room*, curated by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas. Most of his world renowned art (muralist, painter, sculptor, and printmaker) depicted African American culture and history. Biggers also painted the murals in Burrowes Building at the University Park campus

**1996** – January - Jesse Arnelle (BA Lib 1955, JD 1962) becomes the first African American elected to chair the Penn State Board of Trustees.

**1997** – Beverly Lindsay was appointed Dean of the University Office of International Programs. UOIP serves as a catalyst to encourage Penn State to enhance its commitment to internationalization. She would serve in that role until October 2002.



May 2 – Ground broken for new *HUB-Robeson Center*. *The Paul Robeson Cultural Center* would move into the new building in 1999.

September - **2975 African American students** (3.8% of total) are enrolled at Penn State.

September – 88 (2% of total) members of the faculty at Penn State are African American.

November - Curtis White takes over as Head Coach of the Penn State Cheerleading Squad. White would lead the cheerleading squad to two national championships in his first 12 years.

**1998** – January 28 – Richard Lee Snow (BS AG 1981) assumes role of Executive Director/COO of the international *Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.* organization, which is headquartered in Philadelphia.

February – "Framework to Foster Diversity at Penn State 1998 – 2003" is first issued by the Office of the Vice-Provost of Educational Equity. The document described the actions that would be undertaken from 1998 – 2003 to strengthen Penn State's efforts to promote diversity as an essential ingredient in its quest for greater excellence. The basic thrust of Penn State's efforts over the

five year period would be to increase the synergies between the various diversity initiatives and the other missions of the colleges and departments as well as the goals set forth in the University's strategic planning framework. The focus of this diversity plan included: historically underrepresented racial/ethnic minorities, women, persons with disabilities, veterans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender persons, and persons from low-income families who would be the first generation in college.



August 17 – W. Terrell Jones replaces James Stewart as vice-provost of educational equity. Jones had served as associate vice-provost of educational equity prior to the promotion. (Photo by Andy Colwell)

**1999** – June 24 – Curtiss E. Porter becomes Chancellor at Penn State Greater Allegheny campus, following the retirement of Joanne E. Burley.

November - Blondell Reynolds Brown (BS, MS EDU 1974, 1975) is elected to Philadelphia City Council. The former elementary school teacher and director of the Penn State Philadelphia Recruitment Center, is an effective legislator and highly sought after speaker. Reynolds Brown is also a member of *Delta Sigma Theta* sorority.





## 2000 - 2009

**2000** – February 12 - Stan Lathan (BA Com 1967) won his first NAACP Image Award for directing “*The Steve Harvey Show*.” Lathan’s TV directing/producing credits also include *Sesame Street*, *Roc*, *Martin*, *The Redd Foxx Show*, *Sanford and Son*, *Hill Street Blues*, *Miami Vice*, *It’s Garry Shandling’s Show*, *Def Comedy Jam*, *Def Poetry Jam*, *Amen*, *Frank’s Place*, *Moesha*, *The Waltons*, *Falcon Crest*, *Soul Train*, and others. His film credits include *Amazing Grace* (1974), *Beat Street* (1984), *Richard Pryor: Here and Now* (1983), and *Waist Deep* (2006). While at Penn State Lathan had been President of the *Jazz Club* and a member of *Kappa Alpha Psi* fraternity. He has five children, including actress Sanaa Lathan.

### **Alisia “Lisa” Salters (BA Lib 1988)**

*Alisia “Lisa” Salters joined ESPN as a general assignment reporter in March 2000 from ABC News where she served as a bureau correspondent out of Los Angeles, providing news coverage for World News Tonight and other ABC News telecasts since the Spring of 1997.*



*One of ESPN’s most versatile reporters, Lisa Salters can be seen on the sidelines of NBA and major college football games or reporting on the ESPN news magazine, E:60, a role which earned her a Gracie Award from the Association for Women in Radio in Television for best feature in 2009. In 2008, she was nominated for a Sports Emmy Award for the story “Ray of Hope”.*

*At ESPN, Salters’ reports have also been regularly featured on the award-winning Outside the Lines series. She led the network’s comprehensive coverage of the murder trial of Carolina Panthers wide receiver Rae Carruth in December 2000 through January 2001. During the build-up to Operation Iraqi Freedom through the commencement of the war, Salters covered sports-related stories in and around the U.S. Central Command in Qatar for Outside the Lines, SportsCenter and ESPNEWS.*

*At ABC News, she covered the Oklahoma City bombing trials, the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, and the crash of TWA flight 800. Earlier in her career, Salters served as a general assignment reporter for WBAL-TV in Baltimore.*

*A native of King of Prussia, PA, Salters graduated from Penn State with a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and played for the women's basketball team.*

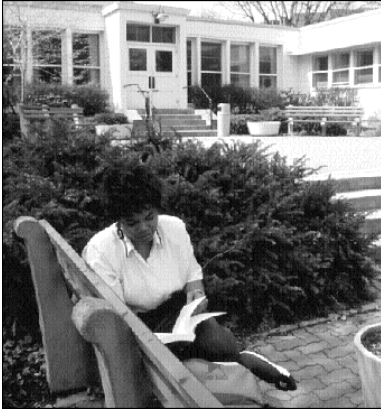
*Source: ESPN Media Zone*

March – Alisia “Lisa” Salters (BA Lib 1988) joined ESPN as a general assignment reporter. A native of King of Prussia, PA, Salters majored in broadcast journalism and played for the Lady Lions basketball team while at Penn State.

March 27 – Helen Darling and Andrea Garner lead the Lady Lions basketball team to their first NCAA “Final Four” appearance, by defeating Louisiana Tech 86 – 65.

### ***The Walnut Building***

*The Walnut Building was the powerful center of minority student social, academic, cultural and political life at Penn State from the opening of the Black Cultural Center in 1971 until the Paul Robeson Cultural Center moved to its current expanded facility in 1999.*



*The former USO surplus building on an Army base in Lebanon, PA was transferred piece-by-piece in the fall of 1947 to the Shortlidge Road site at the University Park campus. The building later served as the Temporary Union Building, affectionately known as the TUB, for Penn State students in the 1940s and '50s. When the Hetzel Union Building (HUB), opened in 1955, it was renamed the Walnut Building and was used by the Division of Student Affairs and then the Department of Anthropology before becoming home to the student run Black Cultural Center (1971) and later the Paul Robeson Cultural Center (1972).*

*The building underwent makeovers in 1974 and 1986, including construction of a small art gallery, a library, conference room, and meeting spaces. One constant was the auditorium, a multi-function space, where the center hosted diverse speakers, dances, performances, meetings and receptions, such as one for Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, Alex Haley, Nikki Giovanni, Julian Bond, Jessie Jackson, Earth, Wind & Fire and many others. The building hosted over 500 events a year during the 1980s and 1990s.*

*The Walnut Building was demolished in the summer of 2000 to make way for the current Chemistry Building. Source: Penn State Intercom*

April 15 - Teammates Courtney Brown and LaVar Arrington were selected as the first two players in the 2000 National Football League (NFL) draft, making them the only Penn State players to be drafted number one and two in the same year. Brown was picked by the Cleveland Browns, while Arrington was selected by the Washington Redskins.

September 23 – Penn State freshman cornerback, Adam Taliaferro, “breaks his neck” in a nationally televised football game against Ohio State. Despite being told he may not walk again, within a year Taliaferro would complete a determined and courageous recovery. Though he would never again play college football, on September 1, 2001, Taliaferro miraculously led the Nittany Lions on the field to start a new season. (Photo from Penn State Public Information)



October 1 - Southern Illinois University named James E. Walker (PhD Edu 1972), president of Middle Tennessee State University since 1991, as its new president. Walker, the first African American to serve as president of the two-campus, 35,000-student Southern Illinois University system, died in February 2006 after a long bout with prostate cancer.

October 21 - About 300 students, dressed in black, march silently in protest of recent racist acts at Penn State. Earlier in the month threatening hate mail had been sent to three students (including *Black Caucus* President LaKeisha Wolf and an African American football player) and an African American university trustee. A list of hateful acts, from stones thrown at black women to swastika vandalism in dorms, was regarded by many as a sign of problems with the overall climate at Penn State.

**2001** – April 20 – *Black Caucus* President, LaKeisha Wolf, received another anonymous letter filled with racial slurs, profanity, and an explicit threat on Wolf’s life. The university provided Wolf with police security, and offered a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the letter writer. This event triggered months of racial tension, protests, sit-ins (most notably “the Village”), and led to the university establishing a comprehensive plan to make Penn State a more “welcoming place” for minorities.



April 24 – “The Village” forms following a “No Hate” rally and counter rally for racial tolerance held at the steps of Old Main. An estimated 4000 students attended the rallies. Following the rallies a group of 100 plus of those students marched from Old Main to the HUB and stayed for over a week, as Black Caucus and other student leaders negotiated with University officials on several diversity and security issues.

Dubbed “the Village” by *Black Caucus* member Assata Richards, the students were dancing, singing, and laughing. Students of different races prayed, hugged, and studied the Bible as well as their textbooks, while camping out in sleeping bags. Following the signing of the revised “Plan to Enhance Diversity at Penn State” the gathering ended on May 3rd.

August 19 – A mandatory diversity training video is shown on the first night of freshman orientation by the Office of Residence Life. The video was followed by a scheduled discussion of the topic.

**September 11 – Terrorist group, al-Qaeda, executes a series of coordinated suicide attacks upon the United States utilizing 4 commercial airplanes. About 3000 people were killed.**

October – Ronald R. Davenport (BS Bus1958) and Judith L. Davenport (BS MED Tec 1961), founders of the Sheridan Broadcasting Corporation, pledge \$3 million to the University.

October 19 - Roy L. Austin is sworn in as United States Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Prior to his August 31, 2001 nomination, Ambassador Austin was an associate professor of sociology, justice, and African American studies at Penn State. From 1994 – 98 he served as Director of the Crime, Law, and Justice Program, and in July 2001 became Director of the Penn State Africana Research Center.



**2002** – January 5 – *Beta Phi Pi* fraternity is chartered at Penn State.

January 17 – *Africana Research Center* celebrated its opening with a reception at the *HUB-Robeson Center*. Created primarily as a result of “The Village” 2001 student protests, the center’s mission is to promote research and scholarship that will advance the historical and contemporary understanding and enhancement of the lives of people across the African Diaspora. In addition, the center promotes an enabling environment where cultural production and discourse on diversity are nurtured to advance the research, teaching, and outreach mission of Penn State University.

September – **3741 (4.51%) African American students** are enrolled at Penn State.

September – 147 (3% of total) members of the faculty at Penn State are African American.

**2003** – The African American Alumni Organization Scholarship was established in 2003 with initial contributions as an endowed scholarship. A major push by the 2008 and 2010 Black Alumni Reunions broadened the support

January 25 – Carly Hughes is crowned “Miss Penn State,” becoming only the second African American to hold that title.

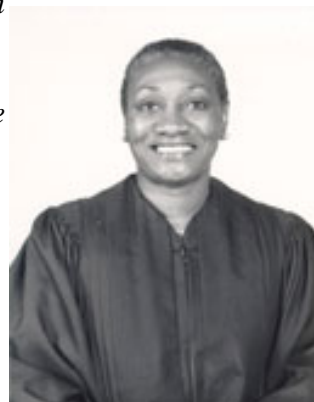
February 24 - Anita D. McDonald takes over as campus executive officer for Penn State DuBois. Dr. McDonald had previously been the Dean of Extended University, Summer Session, and Evening and Weekend Campus at the University of Arizona.

**2004** – January – The “Framework to Foster Diversity at Penn State 2004 – 2009” is released by the Office of the Vice-Provost of Educational Equity. Just like the “Framework to Foster Diversity at Penn State 1998 – 2003,” this plan describes the actions that would be undertaken from 2004 – 2009 to strengthen Penn State’s diversity efforts.

January 23 – Judge Cynthia A. Baldwin becomes the first African American woman elected to chair the Penn State Board of Trustees. Judge Baldwin had served as vice-chair of the Board from 2001 – 2003.

### **Cynthia A. Baldwin (BA, MA Lib 1966, 1974)**

*A former Justice on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Baldwin received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Penn State in English and American literature, respectively, and her law degree from Duquesne University School of Law. At Duquesne she was a member of the law review and is now a board member emerita.*



*She served as the first African American President of the Penn State Alumni Association from 1989 to 1991 and was named a Distinguished Alumna of the University in 1995 and Alumni Fellow in 2000. A 1995 gubernatorial appointee to the Penn State Board of Trustees, Baldwin was elected the first African American female chair of the board in January 2004 and served in that capacity until January 2007.*

*An experienced attorney, Baldwin has been associated with several law firms and served as attorney-in-charge in the Bureau of Consumer Protection in the Office of the Attorney General of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Allegheny Bar Association, Homer S. Brown Law Association and the Women's Bar Association.*

*In January 2010, Baldwin was appointed to serve as vice president and general counsel of Penn State University.*

*Source: Penn State Dickinson School of Law March 26, 2001 [www.dsl.psu.edu](http://www.dsl.psu.edu)*



May 12 - Blannie Bowen is named Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. Bowen assumed the post on July 1, 2004. He had previously served as the head of the University's Department of Agricultural and Extension Education in the College of Agricultural Sciences from 1998 to 2004.

September – Keagan-Michael Key (MFA A&A 1996) premieres as a regular cast member of *MAD TV* (FOX Network)

**2005** – February 9 – University officials announce that classes would be cancelled to observe the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday beginning in January 2006.

March 7 – The group *Undertones* is chartered to provide a safe and supportive environment within the larger Penn State community to focus on the distinct needs of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Ally (LGBTQA) community of color. The organization had actually begun meeting during the spring of 2001.



October 28 – Tahiraah Allen and Theodore Jackson, both seniors, announced as Penn State's 2005 Homecoming Queen and King. This was the first time that African Americans have held both titles in the same year, and just the second time overall for each crown. Allen, a member of Zeta Phi Beta sorority, also served as President of the local *National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)* at the time.

November 19 – Rohan Murphy, a bilateral amputee grappler for the Penn State wrestling team, makes his debut at the East Stroudsburg Open. The junior 125-pounder grabbed his first win of the season, posting an impressive 19-4 technical fall over a Lehigh wrestler. The first double amputee to wrestle at the Division I level, Murphy also found success as a power lifter, earning the bronze medal at the 2006 International Paralympics Powerlifting Championships.

**2006** – January 18 – A Historical Marker is dedicated to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr's powerful January 21, 1965 speech at Recreation Hall.

April – Darryl Watson elected as the first openly gay *Black Caucus* President. Watson had previously served as Vice-President of the organization.

**2007** – February 1 - Emanuel Osagie, a native of Nigeria, is assigned as chancellor of Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus.

February 5 – Jennifer Harris reaches a confidential settlement against Penn State women's basketball coach, Rene Portland. Harris accused Portland of discriminating against her on the basis of gender, race and anti-lesbian biases (though Harris denied being gay) when she was asked to leave the team. Within a few weeks Portland would resign.

February 20 – John Amaechi (BA Lib 1994), the All-Big Ten basketball player who had led Penn State to a "Top 10" ranking, reveals that he is gay in his autobiography, *Man in the Middle*. The admission sparks national discussion over gays in professional sports.

March – Luther Smith (BS MEng 1977) is presented with Congressional Gold Medal by President Bush, along with the other 100 surviving members of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. Smith was a German prisoner of war for seven months during World War II.



April 23 - Coquese Washington was named the head coach of the Penn State women's basketball program. Washington, an eight-year assistant coach at Notre Dame, is the first African American female head coach in Penn State history.

August 30 - Vernon S. Courtney (M ED 1978) is elected President of the Association of African American Museums (AAAM). AAAM is a non-profit organization established to support African and African American focused museums nationally and internationally. He currently serves as the Hampton University Museum Director.

**2008** – January 17 – *The Charles L. Blockson Collection of African-Americana and the African Diaspora* opens (on a limited basis) to the public. The collection contains materials relating to African-American, African, Latin American, and Caribbean history and culture. A part of Penn State's Special Collections Library at Pattee Library, the Blockson Collection, focuses not only on African-Americana, but more broadly documents the African Diaspora. An official dedication of the collection occurred on April 18, 2008.

February 8 - Twins Vince and Vance Moss were selected by ABC World News as "Persons of the Week." As both surgeons and members of the U.S. Army Reserve, the twins were recognized on the nationally televised nightly news program for their efforts to offer medical treatment, entirely at their own cost, to Afghan civilians during their off-duty time. The Moss brothers, both members of Chi Phi fraternity, graduated from Penn State in 1994 with degrees in Science.

February 12 - *Cameroonian Culture Through its Dances (CCTD)* club was chartered at Penn State. The CCTD club's aim is to teach students the different dances and their meanings from about 240 African tribes. Lina Kacyem and Mariame Motaze, students originally from Cameroon, were the founding President and Treasurer, and (along with Carine Eyoum) dance instructors.



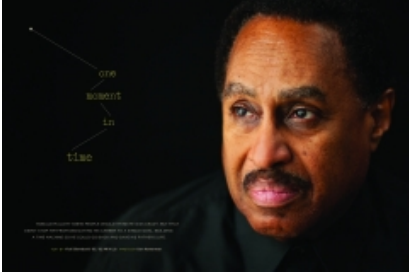
March 30 – Presidential candidate Barack Obama addresses a crowd of almost 22,000 students, staff and community members on the steps of Old Main. During the speech, Obama speaks on issues such as the Iraq War and the economy. "We are spending \$10 billion a month in Iraq ... Imagine if we were spending \$10 billion right here in the United States of America rebuilding roads, rebuilding bridges, rebuilding schools, laying broadband lines, putting Americans back to work," Obama said. "That is what we should be doing. That's what we will be doing when I'm President of the United States of America."

April 8 – *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* ranked Penn State 7th in African American student graduation rates among top state universities. Penn State's 68% graduation rate was also significantly above the 44% national average of all colleges and universities.

April 18 –The "*Penn State University African American Chronicles, 1899 - 2008*" was first distributed to alumni attending the 2008 Black Alumni Reunion. The fifty page booklet was compiled by Darryl Daisey (BS Bus 1983) who referred to it as a "work-in-progress." The document was considered by many to be the first comprehensive account of the African American experience at Penn State. In December 2008 an unofficial website, [www.pennstateblackhistory.com](http://www.pennstateblackhistory.com), was launched to provide broader access to the information.

April 18 – Casey Sandy captured the NCAA All-Around Male Gymnastics title with a total score of 91.350. A junior from Brampton, Ontario, Sandy became the first Nittany Lion to win both the Big Ten and NCAA All-Around titles in the same year. On April 15, 2009 Sandy would be awarded the 2009 Nissan-Emery Award as the top senior gymnast in the nation.





June 17 – Spike Lee’s production company, Forty Acres & A Mule Filmworks Inc. acquires the film rights to "*Time Traveler, A Scientist's Personal Mission to Make Time Travel a Reality*," by Ronald Mallett (BS 1969, MS 1970, PhD 1973). Lee, the Emmy-winning and Academy Award-nominated Director/Producer, plans to co-write the script and direct the movie. Mallett is one of America’s first

African-Americans to earn a doctoral degree in theoretical physics, and is regarded an authority on time travel. The memoir was co-written by best selling author Bruce Henderson. (Photo from July/August 2009 Penn Stater Magazine)

September – **4986 (5.4%) African American students** are enrolled at Penn State.

September - 3.0% (175) of the faculty and 3.0% (372) of the staff at Penn State are African American.

September 13 – Veno Leigertwood (BA Lib 2001), who worked for the Philadelphia School District and the federally funded "Gear Up" program, which helps low-income students with academics and college enrollment; was shot to death outside his home in Yeadon, PA. Leigertwood, also a real estate investor, was a community role model who was scheduled to receive his M.B.A. two months after his death. The motive and identity of his killers is still unknown. The case was featured on the TV show "America’s Most Wanted" in 2009.

***November 4 - Barack H. Obama elected the first African American President of the United States of America.***

November 13 - *Iota Phi Theta* fraternity is chartered at Penn State, completing the "Divine Nine" African American Greek organizations at the University.

**2009** – February 9 – "The Black Wax Museum" exhibit/program premieres at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center’s Heritage Hall. "The Black Wax Museum," collaboration between Penn State's chapter of the NAACP and *Phi Beta Sigma* fraternity, featured students posing as wax figures of historic African Americans.

Maya Angelou, Charles Drew, Billie Holiday, Langston Hughes, and Jackie Robinson were among the noted. The 100 or so attendees were free to travel from one historical figure to the next throughout the hall, while the performers would recite brief biographies to the students, using



props such as poetry books and baseball bats to illustrate the life achievements of their characters. (Photo of Sojourner Truth "wax figure" by Chloe Elmer)

April 27 – Anthony T. Leach, associate professor of music and music education in the College of Arts and Architecture, was named the University's second Penn State laureate. His yearlong duties included raising awareness of the arts and enriching the public's cultural experience. Leach, a tenor vocalist, pianist and music educator, is best known as the founder and conductor of the *Essence of Joy* choir.

May 15 – Kenneth C. Frazier (BA Lib 1975), president of the Global Human Health organization of Merck & Co., was elected by the board of trustees to represent business and industry. His three year term commenced on July 1, 2009.

November 3 - R. Seth Williams (BA Lib 1989) scored a decisive election victory to become Philadelphia's District Attorney, and made history as the first African American elected D.A. in Pennsylvania. While at Penn State, Williams served as president of the *Black Caucus* and the *Undergraduate Student Government (USG)*.

## **2010 - Present**

**2010** – January 22 - Cynthia Baldwin is appointed to serve as vice president and the first general counsel of Penn State University. Baldwin stepped down from the Penn State Board of Trustees, and as a partner in the Pittsburgh office of the law firm Duane Morris LLP to accept the position

February 7 – Jim Caldwell, a former Penn State assistant football coach, led the Indianapolis Colts into Super Bowl XLIV during his first year as head coach. Caldwell, a Penn State assistant from 1986 – 1992, became only the fourth African American head coach in Super Bowl history. Despite an impressive 14 – 2 regular season, the Colts fell to the New Orleans Saints in the game.

February 16 - Queen Nworisara Quinn, from Orlando, Florida, who earned a bachelor's degree in International Politics from Penn State in 2001, and holds a master's degree from Harvard University, is announced among the 29 American winners of the Gates Cambridge Scholarships. The students selected were chosen from a field of 800 applicants. Each student selected receives full tuition for their master's or Ph.D. studies at the University of Cambridge in England. In addition, each student receives a stipend to cover living expenses.

February 26 – “*Penn State University Pioneering African American Faculty & Staff (1956 – 1970)*” research document was released. In conjunction with the Africana Research Center, and the Office of the Vice-Provost for Educational Equity, researcher Tiffanie Lewis (BA Com, BA Lib 2004) identifies and highlights the achievements of the earliest Black faculty and staff members at the University Park campus.

March 9 - Emmanuel I. Osagie, chancellor of Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus, died unexpectedly from complications due to an illness. He was 58 years old. Osagie, a native of Nigeria, had helped to internationalize the campus. . He became chancellor in February 2007. Francis K. Achampong, director of academic affairs for the Mount Alto Campus, was appointed interim chancellor shortly after Osagie's death. (Photo courtesy of Penn State Public Information)



March 15 – It was announced that Christian Ragland and David Adewumi



David Adewumi Christian Ragland

would be facing off for University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) President, marking the first time all candidates for the student government presidency were of African descent. On March 31<sup>st</sup> Christian Ragland would be elected, becoming the fourth African American president of the Penn State student government.

June 21 – Megan Hodge, a four time 1<sup>st</sup> team All-American volleyball player, becomes the first Penn State athlete to be selected top Collegiate Woman Athlete of the Year (2009-2010) by co-winning the Honda-Broderick Cup. Hodge won many awards while at Penn State, and guided the Nittany Lions to an unprecedented third straight NCAA Volleyball title in 2009 while on a 102 match winning streak. Hodge, a business major, was also named the Top Big Ten Female Athlete (2009-10) and Academic All-American of the Year for Volleyball. (Photo courtesy of Penn State Athletics Department)



July 1 – Lance Collins, former professor of engineering at Penn State for over 11 years, becomes the dean of the college of engineering at Cornell University. Collins became Cornell's first African American dean. While at Penn State Collins was noted for making a discovery in powder manufacturing that generated a new area of study and helped to refine climate models.

September - The racial makeup of the 95,833 students in the Penn State system, including all campuses, special-mission colleges, and World Campus, was 78.71% white & unknown, **5.52% African American (5286)**, 4.14 % Asian American, 4.39% Hispanic/Latino, 0.13 % Native American, 5.44 % international students, and 1.62% two or more races.

September – 2.85% (171) of the faculty and 2.68% (342) of the staff at Penn State are African American.

September 10 – *African American Chronicles...Black History at Penn State* website ([www.blackhistory.psu.edu](http://www.blackhistory.psu.edu)) was launched at the 2010 Black Alumni Reunion. The website development was sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity, and was based on *the "Penn State University African American Chronicles, 1899 – 2010."* The highly interactive website was constructed by Penn State Public Broadcasting, under the direction of Cheraine Stanford, an associate producer at WPSU. The website features video interviews, archived photographs, newspaper articles, and other relevant documents.

October 15 – President Barak Obama named Warren Washington (PhD EMS 1964), a senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), as one of 10 eminent researchers to be awarded the National Medal of Science. Washington received his award—the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on scientists, engineers, and inventors—at a White House ceremony on November 17, 2010. Washington earned his Ph.D. from the Department of Meteorology in 1964, is a Penn State Alumni Fellow, a Distinguished Alumni and was the 2010 recipient of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences Hosler Scholar Medal. (Photo by Andy Colwell, and courtesy of the White House).



November 1 - Francis K. Achampong was appointed permanent chancellor of Penn State Fayette, after serving as interim chancellor since March 22, 2010.

**2011** – January 1 – Kenneth C. Frazier (BA Lib 1975), assumes the chief executive officer (CEO) and president position at Merck & Co. Frazier was also elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the “Fortune 50” company. Frazier had previously served as president of the Merck & Co. since May 2010, and prior to that held the position of president of the Global Human Health organization of the company. Frazier also has been a member of the Penn State Board of Trustees since 2009.

February 3 – President Barak Obama visited the University Park campus to meet with Penn State faculty and researchers regarding the University's role as the lead partner of an Energy Innovation Hub. He also delivered remarks at Recreation Hall on the importance of investing in innovation and clean energy to increase employment and grow the economy. This was the president's first trip to Penn State since he was elected in November 2008.



*"Our crowns have already been bought and paid for. All we have to do is wear them."*

- James Baldwin -

# **APPENDIX**

**Douglass Association petition for an Afro-American History course  
(Presented to College of Liberal Arts - November 21, 1967)**

As students of Afro-American heritage attending the Pennsylvania State University we note, as of this writing, that there does not exist a course in Afro-American history.

Such an oversight, particularly during these times of racial strife, only contributes to the misunderstanding which has been responsible for the continuation of racial troubles.

Therefore we strongly recommend that the University institute a course in Afro-American history to begin no later than Winter Term 1968. We would further recommend that this course be taught by a person of Afro-American heritage.

Such a course in order to cover the full scope of this subject should include the following topics:

- a. Activities of Afro-Americans prior to 1619
- b. The slave revolts
- c. The period of Reconstruction: 1865-1877
- d. The Black Nationalist and Black Muslim Movements
- e. Activities up to and including the Black Power Movement

We further recommend that this course be made a requirement for all education and history majors.

Conrad J. Reid

Ray Stovall

Ray Cooper (Attorney General)

James Thompson

Raymond Edgerton

Jean Lucas

Charles Pittman

Jim Hates

Charles Adams

Douglas McCutcheon

Elijah Johnson

Estelle Jackson

Ronald C. Johnson

Jeffrey B. Ferguson

Joseph E. Spelling's

Kenneth L. Sawyer

Washington

Note: Only first 17 of the 130 total signatures shown

Document courtesy of Dr. Frederick B. Phillips, the founder and first president of the Douglass Association (1967)

**Appendix B****\*Douglass Association List of 12 Demands**

(Presented to the vice-president of student affairs, Charles L. Lewis, on May 13, 1968)

1. More Black undergraduates. There are presently only about 200 Black students attending the University. The Douglass Association demanded that the undergraduate enrollment include 400 Blacks students by fall of 1968, 1000 by the following fall, and 10% of the undergraduate population thereafter.
2. That a building be named after and dedicated to Martin Luther King, Jr.
3. That a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship fund be established
4. That a course in Negro History be made a permanent part of the curriculum
5. More Black professors
6. More Black graduate students
7. That a section of Pattee Library be devoted exclusively to Black authors
8. Reevaluation of the athletic recruiting program with regard to Black students
9. More Black athletes
10. More Black coaches
11. More Black literature offered in the University's English section
12. The introduction of an African culture study program

**Note:** A commitment to take steps to meet these demands was agreed to and signed by the Vice-President for student affairs, Charles Lewis, that evening. A few days later three administration officials met with the executive board of the Douglass Association to further discuss the demands and potential implementation plans.

\* As reported by the Daily Collegian



## Appendix C

## Penn State African American Student Government Presidents

School Year	Douglass Association/ Black Student Union	Black Caucus	All University/ AWS/ USG/ UPUA
1954-55			H. Jesse Arnelle
1964-65			Julie Cromitie (AWS)
1967	Frederick Phillips		
1968	John Warner/ Wilbert Manley		
1969	Rick Collins		
1969-70	* Vincent Benson * Kenneth Waters * Anthony Leonard * Bill W. Patterson * J. Raleigh Demby		Theodore Q. "Ted" Thompson
1970-71	# James I Garner/Anthony Leonard		
1971-72		James Lomax	
1972-73		James Lomax	
1973-74		Lee Coffey	
1974-75		Lenny Howard	
1975-76		Tony Palimore	
1976-77		William "Butch" Randolph	
1977-78		David Allen	
1978-79		Charles Kennedy	
1979-80		Takesha Dockery	
1980-81		Paul Davis	
1981-82		Avery Rose	
1982-83		** Iris Foster / Lorraine Vincent	
1983-84		Marvin Johnson	
1984-85		Gina Louissant	
1985-86		Larry Patrick	
1986-87		Darryl King	
1987-88		R. Seth Williams	
1988-89		Courtney Pinkney	R. Seth Williams
1989-90		Tanya Burnett / Walter Mosley	
1990-91		Nicole Batts	
1991-92		Gail Williams	
1992-93		## Ingrid McIntosh / Desiree Trader	
1993-94		Marcella Nixon	
1994-95		Christopher A. Atkinson	
1995-96		Sheneka Soloman	
1996-97		Nikitra Bailey	
1997-98		Rashid Njai	
1998-99		Luanda Johnson	
1999-00		Joseph Dawkins	
2000-01		LaKeisha Wolf	
2001-02		Hasan Amenra	
2002-03		David Davis	
2003-04		Tiffanie Lewis	
2004-05		Edward Smith	
2005-06		Gandarvaka Gray.	
2006-07		Darryl Watson	
2007-08		Anthony Washington	
2008-09		Kenya Goods	
2009-10		Christopher Nock	
2010-11		Christopher Nock	Christian D. Ragland

\* 1969-70 Black Student Union was led by a Coordinating Committee of 5 people

# 1970-71 James I Garner led the BSU, but was not identified with a title. Anthony Leonard was Treasurer/Spokeperson.

\*\* 1982 Iris Foster elected Black Caucus President, but resigned prior to taking office.

## 1992 Ingrid McIntosh left school shortly after taking office

Compiled by Darryl Daisey March 2008

**Appendix D**

## Penn State University African American Board of Trustee Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>First Year Elected/Selected</u>	<u>Selected by</u>	<u>Last Year on Board</u>
* H. Jesse Arnelle	1969	Alumni	-
Hardy Williams	1972	PA Governor	1975
Cecile M. Springer	1981	PA Governor	1995
Barry K. Robinson	1989	Alumni	2004
** Cynthia A. Baldwin	1995	PA Governor	2010
Kenneth C. Frazier	2009	Business & Industry	-

\* H. Jesse Arnelle elected Chair of the Board of Trustees from 1996 - 1997

\*\* Cynthia A. Baldwin elected Chair of the Board of Trustees from 2004 – 2006



H. Jesse Arnelle



Hardy Williams



Cecile M. Springer



Barry K. Robinson



Cynthia A. Baldwin



Kenneth C. Frazier

**Appendix E**

## **Penn State University Black Commonwealth Campus Chancellors**

**Joanne E. Burley**, campus executive (chancellor)  
Penn State McKeesport (now Greater Allegheny)  
July 1, 1992 to June 24, 1999



**Curtiss E. Porter**, chancellor - Penn State Greater  
Allegheny  
June 25, 1999 to present

**Anita D. McDonald**, chancellor - Penn State  
DuBois  
February 24, 2003 to present



**Emanuel Osagie**, chancellor - Penn State Fayette  
February 1, 2007 to March 9, 2010

**Francis Achampong**, chancellor - Penn State  
Fayette  
March 22, 2010 to present



**Appendix F****FIRST DOCUMENTED STUDENT ATHLETES OF AFRICAN DESCENT (BY SPORT)**

(Information courtesy of Diana Kenepf and the Intercollegiate Athletics Diversity Council - March 2008)

**Men's Teams**

School Year	Sport	Name	Team	*Year Sport Began
1909 – 1910	Basketball	Cumberland Posey	Freshmen	1896
1910 – 1911	Basketball	Cumberland Posey	Varsity	1896
1911 – 1912	Track & Field	James Ambrose Piner	Varsity	1891
1925 – 1926	Boxing	Theodore Elkton Gilbert	Varsity	1919
1926 – 1927	Soccer	Mousa Ismail Serry	Varsity	1911
1941 – 1942	Football	Dave Alston	Freshmen	1887
		Harry Alston	Freshmen	1887
1945 – 1946	Football	Wally Triplett	Varsity	1887
1909 – 1910	Baseball	Cumberland Posey	Freshmen	1875
1956 – 1957	Baseball	Robert S. Hoover	Varsity	1875
1956 – 1957	Wrestling	Bruce Gilmore	Varsity	1908
1962 – 1963	Fencing	John C. Cooper	Varsity	1926
1971 – 1972	Gymnastics	Vincent Faust	Varsity	1931
		William Mitchell	Varsity	1931
1973 – 1974	Lacrosse	Andy Fairfax	Varsity	1913
1977 – 1978	Tennis	Cecil Green	Varsity	1911
1984 – 1985	Volleyball	Javier Gaspar	Varsity	1976
1997 – 1998	Swimming	Shaun Anderson	Varsity	1936
		Chris Bagley	Varsity	1936

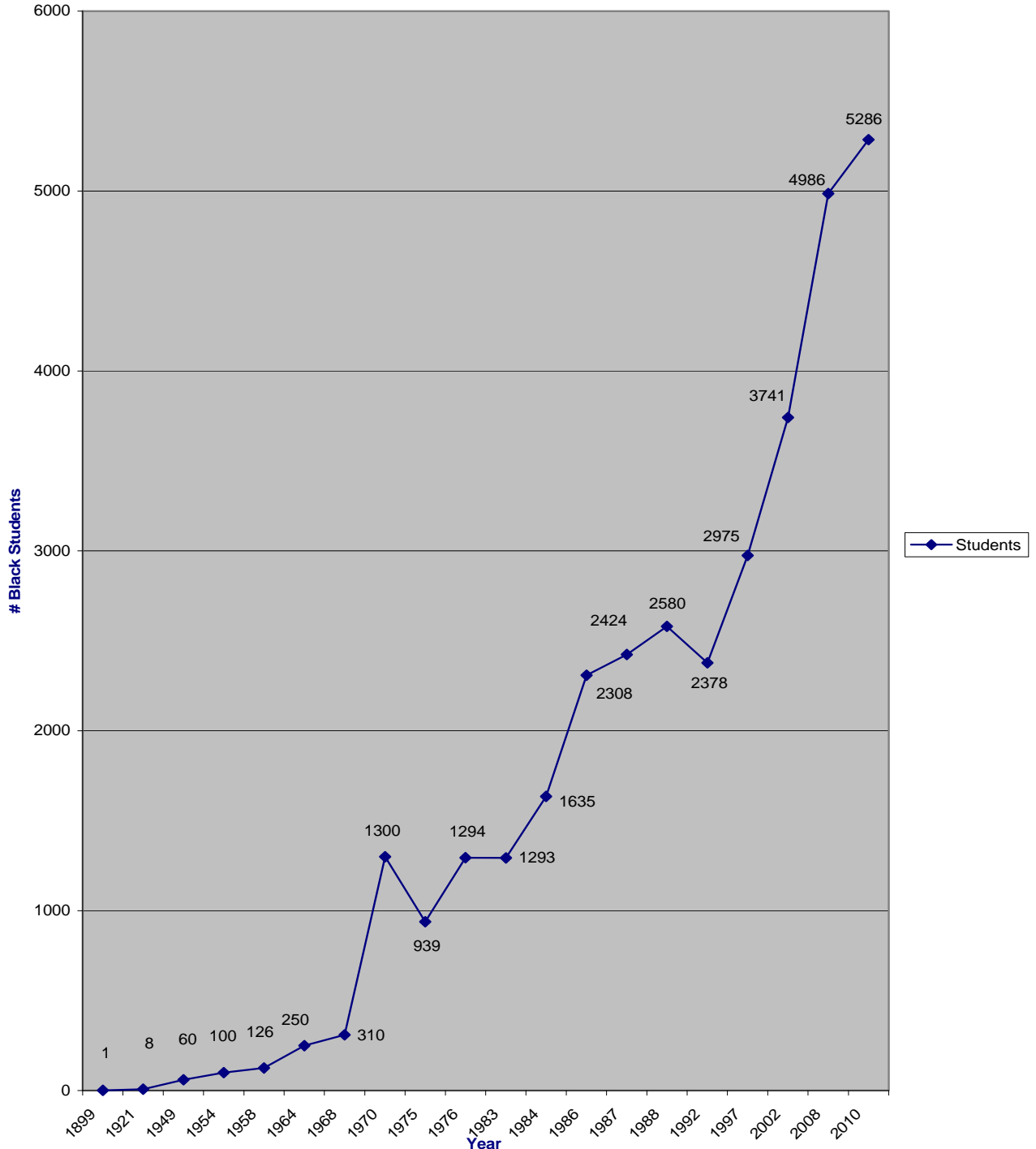
**Women's Teams**

School Year	Sport	Name	Team	*Year Sport Began
1968 – 1969	Gymnastics	Barbara Rose	Varsity	1964
1969 – 1970	Field Hockey	Lorraine Hutchings	Varsity	1964
1969 – 1970	Basketball	Lorraine Hutchings	Varsity	1965
1969 – 1970	Lacrosse	Lorraine Hutchings	Varsity	1965
1970 – 1971	Tennis	Sandy Turner	Varsity	1965
1971 – 1972	Fencing	Diane Snow	Varsity	1964
		Pam Hall	Varsity	1964
1972 – 1973	Softball	Barbara Snell	Varsity	1965
1975 – 1976	Track & Field	Doris Moore	Varsity	1974
1976 – 1977	Volleyball	Teresa Wilson	Varsity	1976
1998 – 1999	Soccer	Gillian Samuel	Varsity	1994

\* Year that sport became designated as an intercollegiate sport at Penn State. The list does not include club or Intramural sports.

**Appendix G**

**Penn State Black Student Enrollment (All Campuses)**



**Note:** The enrollment numbers prior to 1970 are estimates. No official count of Black students prior to that year.

Source: Penn State Fact Book

**Appendix H****1958 Davage Report**

Below is the summary page of a 1958 study entitled "Racial Discrimination in the State College Community." The study was commonly referred to as the "Davage Report" after its author, Robert H. Davage, associate professor of psychology. Go to [www.blackhistory.psu.edu](http://www.blackhistory.psu.edu) to view the entire report.

## Overall Summary

This study of racial discrimination in the State College community was based on an analysis of questionnaires administered to a sample of 67 Negro students in the Spring of 1958. The two major objectives of the study were (1) to obtain estimates of the extent and nature of discriminatory practices in the local community, and (2) to determine the attitudes of Negroes toward discrimination problems and toward possible corrective programs.

Estimates of the actual extent of discriminatory practices were derived from reports of discriminatory experiences personally encountered by Negroes. Overstatement of the extent of discrimination was prevented by requiring extensive documentation from the respondents and by providing internal checks in the data. Understatement of the actual extent of racial discrimination could not be eliminated from the basic data but was systematically assessed.

Major findings were as follows:

1. Two out of every five Negroes have personally encountered racial discrimination in the local community. Further analysis of the data reveals that this figure would be much higher were it not for (a) the confinement of some Negro activity to the campus, and (b) the protective measures that Negroes use to avoid direct encounters with discrimination.
2. It is assumed that the task of getting services which are rarely or not at all available is more basic than the task of improving the range and quality of available services. On the basis of this assumption, it is judged that the State College community has some severe problems of racial discrimination. Areas of most severe discrimination are (a) housing, and (b) tonsorial services (in particular, beauty salons for women). Other areas of discrimination problems are fully discussed and evaluated.
3. Reactions of Negroes to discriminatory experiences are intense and varied but much more likely to be despairing than aggressive. The kinds of corrective programs judged to be most effective by Negroes are those that emphasize persuasive, educational techniques. Other attitudes of Negroes are discussed.

**Appendix I****“I Love This Penn State – But Freedom Is Dearer To Me”****H. Jesse Arnelle: “A Love-Wait Affair” – May 18, 1968**

*(Note: On May 18, 1968 H. Jesse Arnelle, the former Nittany Lion Basketball All-American, and Football All-American honorable mention, was the guest of honor at the Penn State Football Awards Banquet. Arnelle would stun many in the crowd by denouncing the University’s record in failing to recruit more Black students, faculty and staff, instead of talking about sports. He further shocked many by turning down the first Annual Alumni Award in protest. The following is an **abridged** text of H. Jesse Arnelle’s speech delivered that evening as printed in the November 19, 1968 Daily Collegian. A more complete text of this speech can be found at [www.blackhistory.psu.edu](http://www.blackhistory.psu.edu).)*



H. JESSE ARNELLE

My undergraduate years here were untypically exciting and stimulating. Having grown up, as it were, in a slum, I miraculously received the benefits of a university education and hold, therefore, enormous gratitude and profound affection for my university. The four year undergraduate love affair I had with Penn State continued upon my graduation and during the intervening years has assumed a form of jealously protective of her virtue and honor.

I am not unmindful of the nature of the occasion which brings us here tonight. I know the “sweet smell of success” and have contributed in by gone days partially to the then moments of Penn State glory, but in growing protective of her virtue, I grew distant in my respect for her (Penn State) when alas I became less caught up in the euphoria and more aware of the faults which in my mind’s eye despoiled greatly the otherwise matchless beauty of her symmetry. Mine was never a love-hate relationship; it has been a love-wait affair. However, over the years I have grown weary of waiting, and last month while in Memphis, Tennessee and Atlanta, Georgia on the eve of the calamity (*the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*) which compelled me immediately from Los Angeles, I decided that further delay served only to prolong my disenchantment. So at the risk of queering the pitch, it becomes necessary now to sharpen the controversy. ...While the University rejoices tonight victoriously in the one area, it has historically courted disaster in another.

The Pennsylvania State University must become a principal player on the field of social and educational change. Far too long it has been the largely impassive spectator, on a distant sideline, aroused momentarily by the reports filtering through concerning the great conflict raging somewhere in the outside world. Isolated as it is

from the teeming, sprawling, urban jungle; insulated from filth, stench, and the sodden pock-marked ugliness of the black ghetto, the University in splendidly contrasting surroundings while grown bigger in size, student enrollment, and resources has grown ratably smaller in commitment to social change and largely insensitive to the frustrated aspirations and daily indignities of the "Other American," which James Baldwin, Kenneth Clark and Claude Browne have written so movingly.

When I wore my freshman "dink" it was fashionable to refer to Penn State University as a lovely predominantly middle-class college in social transition, framed by a picturesque college town which while conservative, was coming to grips with social enlightenment largely due to the University's presence. At the time of my graduation there appeared to be a glimmer of hope both on campus and off.

Today, more than a decade later, in spite of all that has transpired in America, despite broad public acceptance of formerly unrelieved truths, Penn State in the interim of my graduation has yet to come to grips with contemporary moral and social consciousness. Somehow she seemed to have lost the way. For it is now more than a century since the commencement of this land grant college and there has never been a Black American on the faculty, with tenure, holding the rank of a full professor of anything.

There has never been a Black dean of a Penn State faculty; there has never been a Black vice president of the University in any capacity; there is no known Black Penn State graduate appointed, assigned, or consulted at the policy-making level of the University. Should the University's president call his immediate staff in conference there wouldn't be a black face in the room. When the Board of Trustees meets their deliberations have never been enriched by the contribution of a black trustee member.

These days one not only hears a great deal of talk about Black power and student power on university campuses but one quickly is made aware of their existence here at Penn State. During the early 1950's the University's undergraduate student enrollment was between 9000 and 12,000. The then percentage which Black students comprised of that total was one percent. Today the University with 42,000 undergraduate students is among the top 16 universities in enrollment, but Black student enrollment represents still only one percent of the total. The majority of the students graduating from Pittsburgh and Philadelphia high schools are Black.

### **Unwavering One Percent**

While it was insisted when I was here as a student and student leader that Penn State looked not to racial characteristics in her admission policy ... nor would it countenance a racial quota under any circumstances more than mere coincidence must be now attributed to the unvarying one percent Black student representation which persists even today. With the Black ghettos in the commonwealth pleading for education, Penn State University has responded with traditional "tokenism."

The shameful record of more than 113 years has run unabated at the University suggesting the in residency of America's most crippling and destructive sickness.



...Ask why Black Americans are the excluded stepchild in the university system and I am sure you will be told by a university official "... we have found few qualified and those so found decided to go elsewhere."

But more can be done building on these recent developments. ...the University should substantially increase the number of scholarships, grants and athletic assistance programs for Black youth; the University must waive the present artificial admission standards which favor middle-class backgrounds over the ghetto poor; the University can through a variety of ways create a climate of sincerity in making the Black brother welcomed....

Let no one doubt that I love this Pennsylvania State University deeply, but freedom is dearer to me. So in the words of Martin Luther King, let freedom ring; Let freedom ring from the top of Mount Nittany; Let freedom ring from the bell in Old Main; Let freedom ring from the chairs of every Dean and Department head of every faculty. Let freedom ring! Let Freedom ring from the Office of the President of the University; from the meeting room of the Board of Trustees; from the Governor's oak desk in Harrisburg, and when the day dawns on freedom at my beloved Penn State and all its commonwealth campuses then I will come back and join hands, and we will sing together the prophetic words

*Free at last.  
Free at last  
Great God Almighty we're  
Free at last.*

**Note:** *Following Arnelle's speech, Ridge Riley, the Penn State Alumni Association President, got up to present Arnelle with the first annual alumni award – a large statue of the Nittany Lion, "as a token of our thanks. We are proud of your achievements and of your dedication to the great problems of our time," said Riley. Arnelle walked to the podium, and after the applause died down, he said "I am deeply honored with appreciation, but I decline to take it with me now. I will come back for it when freedom is here, when I can accept it with gratitude, affection, and extreme humility."*

*In June 1969, Arnelle was elected by the Alumni to serve on the Penn State Board of Trustees. He has since been elected to twelve additional three years terms.*

Source: Daily Collegian, - May 21, 1968 and November 19, 1968