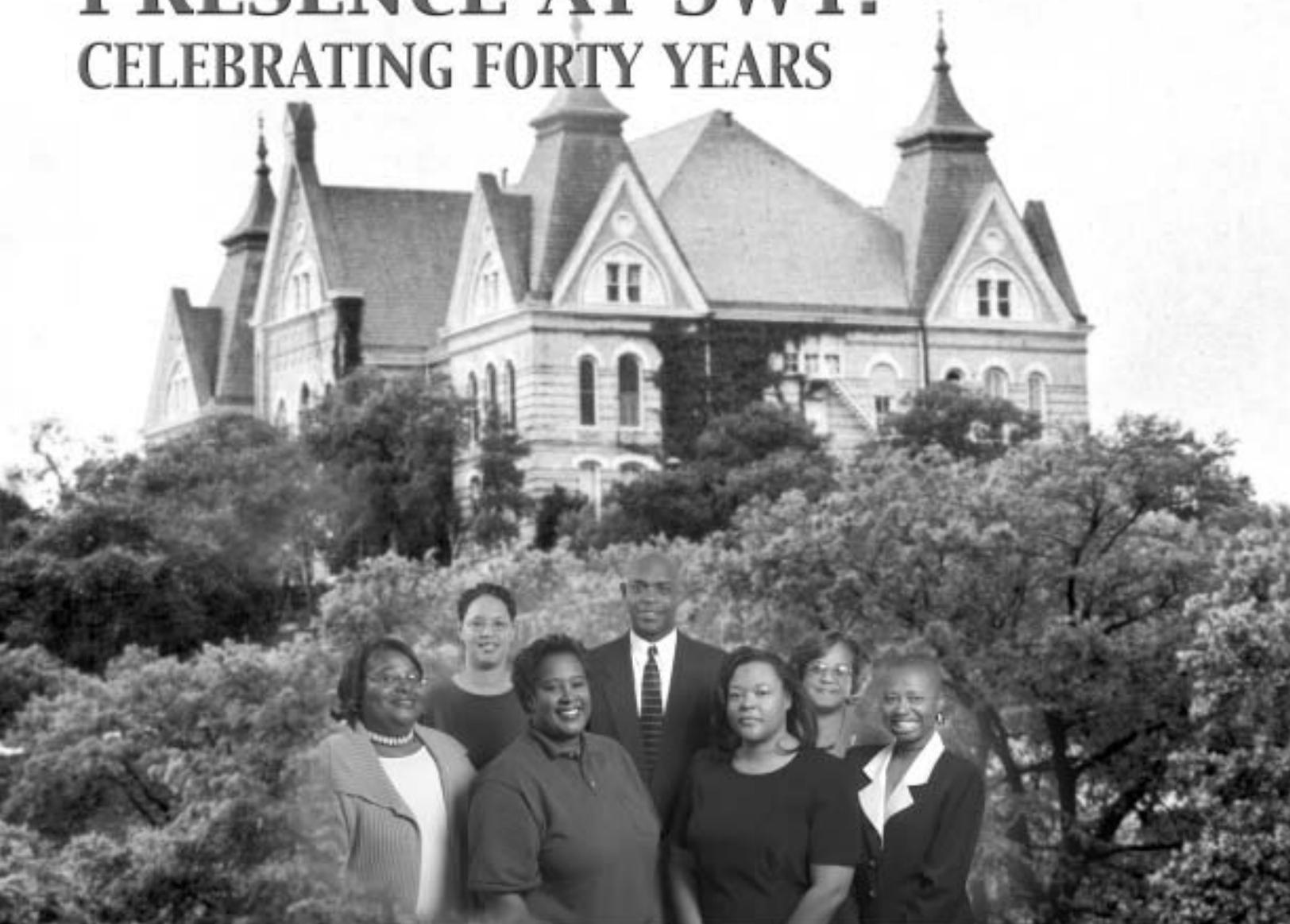


THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN PRESENCE AT SWT: CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS



1963-2003

Message from the President



Denise M. Trauth

This year marks a milestone in the history of Southwest Texas—40 years since the university was racially integrated. From our vantage point four decades later, the concept of segregation seems foreign and strange. Our students cannot understand—fortunately—such an atmosphere. Can any of us imagine a racially segregated campus in our day? Integration has brought us too much progress and cultural depth to entertain such an idea.

But it is important to remember—
and even more important to celebrate—

how far we have come as a society since 1963. We owe so much to those individuals who brought us to this point. We honor their idealism, courage and persistence.

This exhibition helps us remember and celebrate and honor. I invite everyone in the SWT community to spend some time with these displays and reflect upon the last 40 years.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise M. Trauth". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Exhibit Overview

“The African American Presence at SWT” exhibit highlights African Americans at Southwest Texas State University in 2003 as a way to celebrate the present and honor the past. The exhibit looks back to 1963 when one African American woman, Dana Smith, successfully challenged the segregation policy of SWT and won a landmark case in the history of the university that opened its doors to African Americans. In the spring of 1963 five African American women enrolled. Forty years later, SWT can be proud of its 1,067 African American undergraduate students and 215 African American graduate students (based on Fall 2002 enrollment data). African American students have founded and managed several organizations including local chapters of national sororities and fraternities, leadership conferences and alliances, NAACP affiliates, and performing arts groups. To date, five African Americans have received the SWT Distinguished Alumni recognition. In 1992 the first African American student reunion celebrated over 1,800 graduates. The graduates have moved out not only to San Marcos but also throughout Texas and the United States using the knowledge and skills acquired through the SWT experience.

In 1975, Kenneth Worthing Tucker, who is still a part of the faculty of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, became the first African American faculty member at SWT. In 2003 the university enjoys the service of many African Americans—15 full-time faculty and approximately 7 part-time faculty. In addition, approximately 70 staff members fill the ranks as administrators, program managers, and support staff.

Thus, in February 2003, during the national celebration of Black History, it is fitting to showcase, remember, and celebrate the accomplishments of the SWT community in this area of diversity.

Narrative for exhibit and booklet by Dr. Joni Charles, Dr. Elvin Holt and Dr. Sandra Mayo

Full-Time Faculty

Dr. Audwin Anderson, tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, began teaching at SWT in 1994. Dr. Anderson holds a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. His major accomplishments include authoring and co-authoring a number of refereed journal articles and book chapters, and service on the SWT Faculty Senate. Dr. Anderson has served on numerous national, university and departmental committees. His research area is in the Sociology of Law. He is also a SWT alumnus, class of 1981.

Mr. Cyrus Cassells, tenure track Associate Professor in the Department of English and the first African American instructor in the department's M.F.A. Creative Writing program, joined the SWT faculty in 1998. A graduate of Stanford University, Professor Cassells' major accomplishments include an Award from the College of Liberal Arts for Scholarly/Creative Activity, SWT Enhancement Grant to support the development of his play, *Doctor Free*, a Pulitzer Prize Nomination for *Beautiful Signor*, and the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America for *Soul Make A Path Through Shouting*. Carnegie Mellon University Press recently reprinted *The Mud Actor*, Professor Cassells' first book of poems, in its Classic Contemporary series.

Dr. Joni Charles, tenured Associate Professor of Economics in the Department of Finance and Economic, began her employment at SWT in 1984. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Purdue University. Professor Charles has garnered many awards and honors. Among Professor Charles' notable achievements are NSF grants for 1991-93, recognition by the President's Council for Higher Education, the Everett Swinney Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the first Mariel M. Muir Award for Excellence in Mentoring. Dr. Charles is the only tenured African American faculty member in the College of Business. Her research focuses on individual and collective decision making as it affects resource and environmental issues.

Dr. Laurie Fluker, tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Mass Communication and Presidential Fellow, was hired in 1989. An outstanding public speaker and gifted teacher, Professor Fluker holds a Ph.D. from UT in Austin. She is the first African American to receive the Alumni Teaching Award; the first in the Department of Mass Communication to be chosen by students as Outstanding Professor for six years; and the first African American named as a Presidential Fellow. Her accomplishments also include first runner up for the Presidential Award for Excellence in two categories (Service, 1999; Teaching, 1998). In addition, Dr. Fluker was chosen as a National Fellow by all five professional broadcasting associations that offer fellowships to outstanding broadcasting professors.



Audwin Anderson



Cyrus Cassells



Joni Charles



Laurie Fluker



Verna Henson

Dr. Verna Henson, tenured Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice, began teaching at SWT in 1994. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Missouri at Columbia. Professor Henson's major accomplishments include a term as President of the Southwest Association of Criminal Justice, Membership in the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Recipient of the Alfred H. Nolle Chapter of Alpha Chi favorite Professor Award, and two School of Applied Arts Service Awards for Teaching and Student Mentoring. Professor Henson is the first African American faculty member in the Criminal Justice Department and the first African American director of the TASP program. Her research examines topics concerning homelessness and campus crime.



Elvin Holt

Dr. Elvin Holt, tenured Professor in the Department of English, joined the SWT faculty in 1983. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in Lexington. One of twenty professors selected to participate in SWT's first yearlong Excellence in Teaching and Learning Seminar, Professor Holt has received three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and he was named Professor of the Year by the Association of Black Students in 1989. Professor Holt's research, publications, and conference presentations focus on African literature, African American literature and cultural studies, and folklore. Dr. Holt is the first African American tenured professor in the Department of English.



Barbara Lyman

Dr. Barbara Gallow Lyman, tenured Professor in the Department of Educational Administration and Psychological Services, began her service at SWT in 1990. Associate Dean of the Graduate College, Professor Lyman holds a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. Professor Lyman is author or co-author of numerous publications, including journal articles, reports, chapters, and edited volumes. Additionally, she has received an award from the College of Education for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activity.



Sandra Mayo

Dr. Sandra M. Mayo, tenured Associate Professor of Theatre in the Department of Theatre and Dance, came to SWT in 2001. She holds a Ph.D. from Syracuse University. Recipient of the NISOD Award for Teaching and Leadership Excellence, Professor Mayo has been inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame in the Creative Arts category, and she has written, directed, and produced numerous African American plays. Her research, publications, and conference presentations focus on African American and Ethnic Theatre history, literature and performance. She is the first and only African American faculty member in SWT's Theatre department.

Ms. Vevelyn K. Peterson, Lecturer in the School of Social Work in the College of Health Professions, joined the SWT faculty in 1996. Ms. Peterson received a Master of Social Work degree from Our Lady of the Lake University. Named Clinical Social Work Faculty of the Year in 1997, Ms. Peterson was also a nominee for The College Services Award in 2001. She is the first and only African American faculty member in the College of Health Professions and School of Social Work.



Vevelyn Peterson

Dr. Jovita Ross-Gordon, tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Administration and Psychological Services, began her career at SWT in 1998. She holds an Ed.D. from the University of Georgia. Professor Ross-Gordon has published several edited books, books, articles and book chapters. Her research focuses on the teaching and learning of adults and diversity and equity in adult education. Dr. Ross-Gordon has held numerous positions of national leadership in adult education, most recently as chair of the Commission of Professors of Adult Education. She has also been the recipient of two research fellowships.



Jovita Ross-Gordon

Dr. Naymond Thomas, tenured professor in the School of Music, has been a faculty member at SWT since 1984. He holds a D.M.A. from the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Thomas is an active performer of oratorio, opera and concert literature. He has appeared with major opera companies such as the Opera Company of Boston, New York City Opera, Covent Gardens, and the San Francisco Opera. He has performed with major orchestras such as the Montreal Philharmonic and the Boston Symphony. Dr. Thomas has served SWT as the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Director of Texas Opportunity Graduate Fellowship Program, and Professor of Music (voice).



Naymond Thomas

Mr. Kenneth Worthing Tucker, tenured instructor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, began his employment at SWT in 1975. He holds an M.A. from the University of California at Los Angeles. Poet, real-estate agent, and author of three books, Mr. Tucker is also an outstanding teacher and a dedicated mentor to student teachers. With more than 25 years of service to the University, Mr. Tucker has worked at SWT longer than any other African American faculty member.



Kenneth Tucker



Melvin Weathersby

Mr. Melvin Weathersby, MA, LPC, LMFT, lecturer with the Occupational Education Division, Career Assessment Program, began teaching at SWT in 1983. He holds an M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. Mr. Weathersby has taught a variety of courses including Aerospace Studies, Management and Marketing, Career Assessment, and Human Relations.

Other full-time faculty include:

Dr. Carol L. Barger is a tenure track Assistant Professor in the Department of History. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Dr. James Polk, tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Music, holds a B.A. in Music from Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, a M.M. from SWT, and an honorary doctorate from Huston-Tillotson College. Dr. Polk, a nationally known jazz pianist and arranger, has been named one of SWT's Distinguished Alumni.

Dr. Dwight D. Watson, tenure track Assistant Professor of History, has been employed at SWT since 1999. He holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Houston. He was nominated for the 2002 Presidential Excellence in Teaching Award and has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1994-95 and a Murray Miller Research Fellowship in 1995-98. Dr. Watson was a Cullen Research Fellow in 1994, 1996, and 1999. His research interests include Civil Rights History and the History of Blacks in Texas.

Part-time Faculty

Over the years, African Americans served as part-time faculty at SWT. In the fall of 2002, the following individuals served the University:

Mr. Norman Custer is a lecturer with the Health Services Research Department.

Mr. Byron Lynn Morgan, lecturer with the Department of Management, holds a M.B.A. and a B.B.A. from SWT. He began his employment with SWT in 1999 as a Graduate Assistant Instructor with the Department of Finance. Currently, he is a systems/budget analyst for the Texas Department of Human Services.

Ms. Lolita W. Rattler is a lecturer with the School of Social Work.

Mr. Chadwick L. Reese, lecturer in the Department of Management, holds a Master of Public Administration. Mr. Reese is a broad-based senior level executive with MPA and SPHR with a track record of performance in the public and private sectors.

Mr. Henry Ross III, lecturer with the Department of Political Science, holds a Master of Public Administration degree from SWT.

Mr. Thomas J. Stokes is a lecturer in the Respiratory Care Department.

Coalition of Black Faculty & Staff

“Mentoring, Networking, and Advocacy”



*Jacqueline Cooper
Secretary*



*James Mathews
President*



*Jonnie Wilson
Treasurer*



From Left: Vincent Morton, Barbara Lyman, Michael Corke



*Verna Henson
Board Member*



*Joanne Smith
Board Member*



*Barbara Lyman
Board Member*



*Vincent Morton
Board Member*



*Sherri Benn
Board Member*

Administrator



Dr. Joanne Smith is Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Enrollment Management in the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. She also is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Educational Administration and Psychological Services. Dr. Smith came to SWT in January 1992 as Director of Residence Life, a position she held until 2000. She earned her Ph.D. in Student Personnel Administration from Kansas State University and has received numerous honors and awards, including Greek Advisor of Excellence (1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, and 2000) and the Mariel M. Muir Mentoring Award (2002).

Program Managers



Dr. Sherri Benn, Acting Director of Residence Life, holds a Ph.D. (2002) from the University of Texas at Austin. She was President of the Coalition of Black Faculty and Staff in 2000, has been named Outstanding Staff of the Year, and has received the Friend of Residence Life Award. Dr. Benn coordinated and led the process to charter the Sigma

Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority at SWT. She has been employed at SWT since 1992.



Ms. Jacqueline Cooper, who has been a member of the SWT community since June 2000, is Assistant Director/Coordinator of Orientation with the Office of Admissions and School Relations. She is the first African American to serve as Orientation Coordinator. She earned an M.S. in Education from

Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. Ms. Cooper is currently Secretary of the Coalition of Black Faculty and Staff, and she was elected to the University Council representing the Division of Student Affairs in 2000. She is a doctoral candidate at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Dr. Charles Christopher,

who joined the SWT community in May 1998, earned an M.D. from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a physician at the Student Center under the Division of Student Affairs and currently serves as Acting Department Head of Medical Providers for the Student Health Center. He served as a Guest Coach for Women's Basketball Team in November 2001 and was recently appointed as the official physician and medical spokesperson for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



Mr. Michael L. Corke, who began his employment at SWT in July 2002, is the Assistant Director for Sport Clubs with Campus Recreation. This program hosted the 2002 National Water Ski Championships with 20 teams and 260 student athletes from around the country participating. His M.S.

(2002) in Student Affairs is from Colorado State University. Mr. Corke is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.



Mr. Enos Jones holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Texas A&M University, College Station Texas and is presently enrolled in a graduate program in Computer Science at SWT. He began employment at SWT in April 1995. He is presently the Director of Facilities Operations. His accomplishments include the management of a staff of 94 supervisors, technicians, and skilled craft persons, and serving as the account manager of a multi-million dollar budget in operations management and payroll.



Mr. Greg La Fleur became the Athletic Director at SWT in July 2001. He holds a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University where he lettered as a wide receiver and tight end. After graduating in 1981, he joined the Philadelphia Eagles in the third round of the NFL Draft. He spent 6 years with the St. Louis Cardinals and finished his professional football career with the Indianapolis Colts. In 1988, he returned to his alma mater to join the athletic department, serving in marketing, then as an Assistant Athletic Director, and for ten years as Associate Athletic Director.



Mr. James Mathews, who began working at SWT in 1992, is the Coordinator of the Student Learning Assistance Center. He earned a B.A. in English and Modern Mathematics from Texas College in Tyler, Texas. His proud accomplishments include the initiating of a successful effort to bring all of the academic support providing programs together in 2002.



Ms. Cheryl Annette McWilliams, employed at SWT since September 1995 with the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs as Director of Upward Bound and Rural Talent Search, holds a master's degree in Business Administration from SWT. Ms. McWilliams is a successful grant writer, having written two successful grants for the TRIO programs and is a recent nominee for the San Marcos Women's Hall of Fame.

Mr. Vincent Morton, who holds an M.S. from SWT, is the Assistant Dean of Students. He began his employment at SWT as a graduate student in August 1989 and as a professional employee in September 2001. His accomplishments include 2001 Student Affairs Employee of the Year and 2000-2001 Outstanding Staff Mentor of the Year.



Ms. Jonnie Wilson, Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Affairs, has an M.A. in African American History from the University of Missouri at Columbia (1996). She received her B.A. from SWT with majors in English and History and a minor in Women's Studies. She was the first African American woman to receive the LBJ Outstanding Senior Award (1993). She also received a Thurgood Marshall Fellowship. Ms. Wilson's other accomplishments include Board Secretary for Hays, Blanco, Caldwell Community Action, Inc. and Co-Leader of the Student Affairs Diversity Team. She has been an SWT staff member since 1996.



Professional Staff



Angela Ausbrooks

Ms. Angela R. Ausbrooks has been employed in the School of Social Work since January 2000. She holds an M.S. in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin.

Mr. Curtis Marcel Clay is employed with the Center for Initiatives in Education in the College of Education. He holds a B.A. from Sul Ross State University and has been employed at SWT since October 1999.

Ms. LaTonya Y. (Henry) Croskey, began at SWT as an Admission's Counselor in 1997. She became an advisor for Career Services in 2000. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Management from SWT.



LaTonya Croskey

Ms. Beverly D. Woodson Day began her employment at SWT with the Admissions and School Relations Office. She holds an M.A. in Developmental and Adult Education from SWT. Her accomplishments include ten years of involvement with the African American Leadership Conference, Staff Employee of the Month Award (2001), the Advisor of the Year Award (1999) and the Outstanding Staff Award (1997).



Patience Evans-Kerley

Ms. Patience N. Evans-Kerley is employed with Residence Life. She graduated from SWT with a B.A. in English and a Minor in Ethnic Studies. She is presently Hall Director of Arnold and Smith Halls and is pursuing a master's degree in Professional Counseling.

Mr. Willie Ray Flemons has been employed with the Athletics Department since May 2002. He holds a B.S. from Texas Tech University and has been involved with the Women's Basketball Program at SWT.

Ms. Chiquita Edberson Hyman has been with SWT's Department of Aerospace Studies since February 2001. She helped to commission 49 cadets in 2001-2002. She is proud of her participation in the Airman Leadership School.

Mr. Kent Laster has been employed in the Athletics Department since March 2001. He holds a master's degree in History from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Mr. Terence Parker, who was hired in 1999, works with Campus Activities and Student Organizations in the LBJ Student Center. He holds a B.S. in Exercise and Sports Science from SWT. Mr. Parker developed the Chapter Accreditation Program for Greek-letter organizations, was named Who's Who Among America's Teachers (2000) and received the LBJ Student Center Full-Time Staff Award (2001). He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and the Association of Fraternity Advisors.

Mr. Dionne Phelps, who began in 1999, is employed with the Department of Athletics. He received his M.S. in

Education from SWT. He is proud to be associated with the Men's Basketball program on campus and was inducted into the 2002 Athletic Hall of Honors at Texas Lutheran University.

Ms. Cynthia Polk-Johnson has been employed at SWT since February 2002 with the Office of Residence Life. She holds an M.S. in Student Affairs in Higher Education and a B.S. in Psychology from Mississippi State University.

Mr. Curtis Thames is an employee at the Texas Justice Court Training Center, an affiliate of SWT.

Mr. Reuben Vaughn began his employment at SWT in April 2002 with the Athletics Department (Football). He received a B.S. in Psychology from Texas Christian University and an M.S. in Kinesiology from Texas A&M University-Commerce. Mr. Vaughn is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., the Black Coaches Association (BCA), the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) and the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA).

Ms. Earlanda Lynn Williams began her employment at SWT in May 2002. She has a B.S. in Biology with a Minor in Chemistry from SWT. She is employed in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department with the Molecular Biosciences Research Group.

Ms. Becky Diane Woodson joined the SWT staff in 1997 with Computer Information Services in the University Library. Her M.P.A. is from SWT.



Student Affairs Staff

Back row from left:
Patience Evans-Kerley,
Greg LaFleur, and
Joyce Lawson.

Front row from left:
Jonnie Wilson, Pauline
Calvin, Sally Freeman
Miller, and Jacqueline
Cooper.

Support Staff

Ms. Anitra Abdul lah-Levy, employed with the University Library in Reference:Microforms/Periodicals, began her employment in July 1996. She holds an M.A. in Legal Studies from SWT. She received the Alkek Library Team Award in 1998 and 2001.

Ms. Terry Aguirre, employed in the Faculty Senate Office since August 1998, worked at the Health Professions Clinic as an Administrative Assistant until January 2000. She is presently working with the Faculty Senate while pursuing a double major in Accounting and Management.

Ms. Ethel Banks is the Office Manager for Career Services. She has been a part of the University community since January of 1996. She is presently working on an associate's degree from Austin Community College.

Ms. Mashaun W. Hardaway-Green, who began at SWT in April 1991, is employed with the University Library in the Library Cataloging Department. She earned a Certificate of Completion from the Mansfield Business School and an associate's degree.

Ms. Cheryl D. Harper is employed with the Adept Center in the Alcohol and Drug Resource Center. She has been employed at SWT since 1991 and has been a proud recipient of the Friend of Residence Life Award.

Ms. Evelyn Denise Harris is employed in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. She began employment at SWT in 1978 and has attended Austin Community College.

Mr. Emile Jones, who began at SWT in 1999, serves in the SWT Bookstore as an Assistant Computer Sales Representative. He has a college background in business and computer science. Mr. Jones is a retired Senior Chief Yeoman and a retired Telecommunications Design/Engineer with the United States Navy. He has received Outstanding Performance professional and service awards while serving in both careers.

Mr. Glenn M. Joyner, who began at SWT in November 2000, earned a B.S. from the Medical College of Virginia. He is employed in the LBJ Student Center under the Division of Student Affairs.

Mr. Sidney G. Kyle has been employed at the LBJ Student Center in Custodial Operations since November 1, 1994. Mr. Kyle is known for listening and offering advice to students. The Black Student Alliance gives a special award in Mr. Kyle's name acknowledging the nicest and most welcoming student on the SWT campus.

Ms. Joyce Lawson, who began her employment at SWT in December 1991, is presently employed with the Office of Financial Aid. She received a degree from St. Philip's College. Her accomplishments include advisor to Alpha Lambda Omega Christian Sorority, SWT Mentor, Outstanding Service Award from the Black President's Council, and a citation of service from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority (2000).

Ms. Josie Mack is an employee at the University Library in the Bindery Preparations Department. She began at SWT in 1979 and celebrated 20 years of service in 1999. She attended Austin Community College. She received the Classified Employee of the Year recognition in 1998 and Employee of the Month in 1999. Ms. Mack is the Assistant Treasurer of the Alkek Library Staff Association.

Ms. Veronica Prescott, who began working at SWT in June 2001 in the Office of Admissions and School Relations, earned a B.S. degree from Austin Peay State University.

Ms. Chris Noel Williams works in the Graduate College. First employed with the University in April 1990, she left in November 1995 and returned June 2002. She has assisted with grant proposal writing, with the development of a Parent Advisory for Upward Bound, and the mentoring program.

Students and Student Organizations

Black Men United provides a forum where young black males can discuss issues concerning black males and the black community in general. Signature program: *Annual Poetry Night*.



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a public service organization that strives to confront the problems of African Americans through a wide range of programs including education, health care, international development, and strengthening the family.



The Black Student Alliance enhances the interaction of African American students on SWT's campus. Signature programs: *Image Awards, Mr. Debonair Contest*.



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. was founded with the mission to address contemporary issues. Signature Program: *Stork's Nest* (prenatal care education sessions).



The Gospel Expressions Association is a ministry that encourages scholastic excellence and spiritual growth through bible study, gospel music, and other songs of praise and worship. Signature Program: Gospel Fest.



Unlimited Praise is a dance organization that praises God through dance.

The Student Leadership Conference is an annual event bringing together students from many colleges and universities in the region to network and enhance their knowledge of issues relevant to African American students.



Other student groups include Ebony Players, a group whose goal is to challenge negative images of African Americans and expose audiences to outstanding dramatic literature; Harambee, a dance organization that uses dance as a form of expression; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of SWT that promotes civil rights issues locally and nationally; National Student Business League, an organization that provides students with information and opportunities to help them obtain their educational goals and prepare them for the business world; and Sister Circle, which seeks to reclaim the women's spirit and to explore higher levels of consciousness through fellowship with others and discussions of literature, history, and current events. Other Greek letter organizations on campus include Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma, Inc., and Omega Psi Phi, Inc.



Student Highlights



Two of the SWT December 2002 Graduates.



Lee Davis, SWT running back closed out his Bobcat career with 2,545 career rushing yards, placing him fifth all-time in SWT history.



Senior Greg Pitts, a two-time Bobcat football captain, once again produced one of the most outstanding seasons in the nation. Pitts led SWT and Southland Conference with 136 total tackles (71 solo), including 20 tackles for losses of 57 yards.



One of the SWT December 2002 Graduates.

University Honors Program

Representative African American Students from the University Honors Program*

Alexis Brooks is a sophomore majoring in Communication Design with a GPA of 3.75. She is a Mitte Scholar and has participated in the creation of the new Mitte Scholar Society, in which she serves as the Scholarship Coordinator. She holds the office of Public Relations Coordinator in the Student Volunteer Connection and Vice-President at the McCarty Student Center. In addition, she is an active member of the University Ambassadors and Trailblazers.

Patrick Thornton is a Health, PE & Recreation major who plans to enter the SWT Counseling Program.

Nicole Wrice is a former Mitte Scholar, with a major in Biology, who graduated in December 2002. She is an active member of the armed services.

*These are just three of the African Americans involved in the program. Students must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher to participate in the Honors program.

Historical Reflections



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., SWT chapter founded in 1984.



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was the first black fraternity at SWT, chapter founded in 1972.

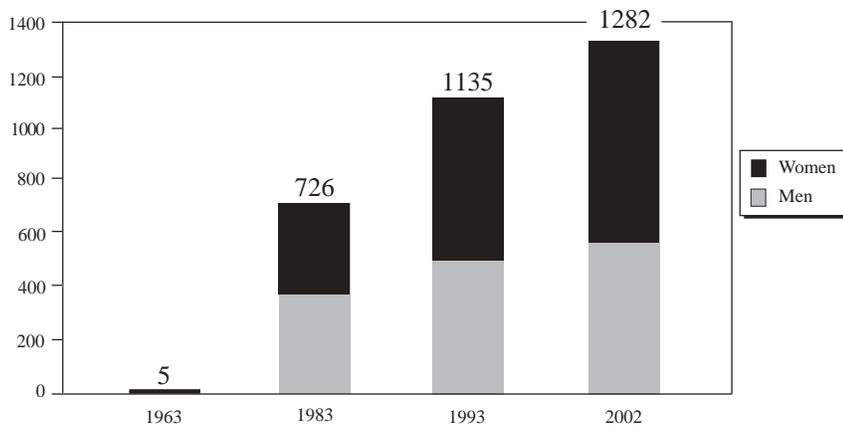


Ebony Players, scene from play, 1970s



Ebony Players, black theatre group, greeted by President Johnson during visit to campus in the 1970s.

Black Student Enrollment at SWT



Source: SWT Office of Institutional Research



Fall 1985, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. recognized for the highest GPA of all SWT Greek organizations.

Distinguished Alumni

The first SWT Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus Award was presented to Lyndon B. Johnson in 1959. Since then, five African American Alumni have received this prestigious award which is given annually by the Southwest Texas State University Alumni Association. In addition to being a distinguished member in his or her chosen profession, each recipient must have received previous recognition from his or her contemporaries on a national and/or international level.



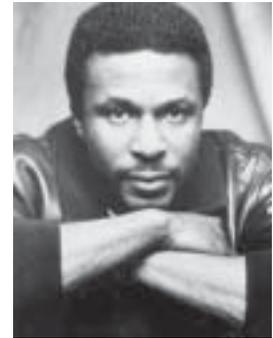
**Marcelus W.
Alexander, Jr. '73**

Vice President and General Manager of CBS Television affiliate and Baltimore's top-ranked television station; WJZ-TV; recipient of numerous awards for civic activities



Charles Austin '91

Olympic Gold Medalist, set an Olympic Record in the high jump; several world championships; U.S. Championship; NCAA Championship



Thomas Carter '74

Five-time Emmy award-winning director, actor, and producer; received the Directors' Guild Award and the George Foster Peabody Award

Eugene Lee '74

Stage, film and television actor; producer, playwright; plays produced at prestigious theaters throughout the United States and in London



James Polk '91

Inducted into the nationally recognized Austin Music Hall of Fame; known for his collaboration with Ray Charles for ten years as orchestra director and arranger; has received Grammy

nominations for his arrangements

Alumni Highlights

African American Chapter of the SWT Alumni Association

The objectives of the African American Chapter of the SWT Alumni Association are to provide scholarships for students, to provide a mechanism for alumni to stay connected with their classmates, and to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between Alumni and their university.

The 2002-03 Officers

President	Stennett Thomkins	Class of 1987
President Elect	Nan Burley-Richie	Class of 1981
Treasurer	Derrick Benn	Class of 1990
Secretary	Zanelle Dorsey	Class of 2001

Marcellus Alexander is a 1973 graduate of SWT, has served as the vice president/general manager of Group W Broadcasting, WJZ-TV. Marcellus has received numerous awards including: Distinguished Black Maryland Award from Towson State University; Humanitarian Award; Man of the Year in Television; Distinguished African American Leadership Award; and the Torchbearer Award for Distinguished Service.



Dr. Johnny Brown

Dr. Johnny E. Brown received a bachelor's degree in 1970; he earned his master's at SWT. He received the Ph.D. from the University of Texas in 1991. Dr. Brown was the first black athlete at SWT in 1966, the first black principal at V. Henry Middle School in Austin and the first head basketball coach at Anderson High School when the school first opened. He is currently the Superintendent for Dekalb County Schools.

Brian O. Clark, a 1982 Broadcast Journalism major, served as a captain in the Air Force where he was awarded the meritorious service medal, two commendation medals, the Air Force Achievement medal, two marksmanship medals, and two outstanding unit awards.

Cathy Ellison graduated in 1978 from SWT with a degree in Criminal Justice. She was the first black female police officer with the Austin Police Department, and she is proud of twenty-five years of service. She was inducted into the National African American Women Hall of Fame and has received numerous commendations from the Austin Police Department.

Brigitte Foster was a standout hurdler for the Bobcats, claiming numerous meet titles on the way to a third place finish in the 100-meter hurdles in the 1998 NCAA Outdoor Championships. Foster was an All-American pick that spring. She was a multiple Southland Conference event winner, claiming the 100-meter dash crown in 1998 and the 100 meter hurdle title in both 1996 and 1998. She was the SLC Female Athlete of the Year in 1998.



Benny Gordon, a 1974 graduate in Economics who went to work for AT&T, was the first SWT student to be elected to a position on the Regional XII Association of College Unions in 1973. Chairman of the campus special events committee, Gordon was elected chairman of the three state region which included Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas.



Benny Gordon, 1973

Caviel E. Herman received his bachelor's degree from SWT in 1979. He served as a probation officer for the Travis County Juvenile Court. Herman organized the first black intramural (flag football) team in 1969. He was one of the two first black SWT choir members in 1969-70. Among Herman's other accomplishments are: first black varsity coach (volunteer), women's basketball coach (SWT) 1974-5; member of the first black organization (UMOJA) in 1969; first black to run for city council in San Marcos in 1979.

Raymond Keys III, a 1984 SWT graduate, received his bachelor's degree in Applied Science. He is a firefighter, employed by the San Antonio Fire Department.



Reggie Rivers, former SWT football player, was one of three members of the 2002 class of the Southland Conference Hall of Honor. Rivers was a four-year letter winner and named the J.C. Kallam Outstanding Football Senior Athlete at SWT in 1990. During his collegiate career, Rivers earned All-Southland Conference honors twice, Academic All-Southland Conference honors four times and received All-American notice his senior year after rushing for 1,145 yards. Rivers went on to a six-year NFL playing career with the Denver Broncos. He also began writing a weekly sports column for the Rocky Mountain News which has become widely syndicated. He lives in the Denver area and also hosts a weekly television show on professional football on Sunday mornings.



Martha Castex Tatum received both her B.B.A. in Marketing and her Master of Public Administration in Human Resources from SWT. Martha was a member of the Lady Bobcat varsity basketball team, the American Marketing Association, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Currently she is an experienced consultant, the President and CEO of the Mitchell Center and the San Marcos Preparatory School, and a senior consultant for HR foundations,

a multi-service organizational learning firm. She serves on the board of several organizations and is a member of the San Marcos City Council.

Stennett C.

Thomkins graduated from SWT in 1987 with a BBA degree. He is a claims adjuster for State Farm Insurance. He was the first president and only African American to serve as the President of the SWT Alumni Association.



S. Kevin Washington, former legislative director for U.S. Rep. Dick Armey, received his bachelor's degree in political science and mass communication from SWT in 1991. Currently, Mr. Washington works for the U.S. Department of the Interior. He is the nephew of Mabeleen Washington, one of the five black women who integrated SWT in 1963.

Forty Years Ago



One of the most crucial years in the history of the Modern Civil Rights Movement was 1963. The historic March on Washington occurred in 1963, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his unforgettable “I Have a Dream Speech” before more than 200,000 people gathered at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial. In 1963 our nation observed the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation. In a speech at Gettysburg that same year, Vice-President Lyndon Baines Johnson, SWT’s most distinguished Alumnus and a staunch advocate of civil rights said, “Until justice is blind, until education is unaware of race, until opportunity is unconcerned with

the color of men’s skins, emancipation will be a proclamation but not a fact.” Thanks to the efforts of Dana Smith, an 18-year-old black woman, President Johnson’s alma mater was forced to relinquish its segregationist tradition and offer education “unaware of race.” Miss Smith’s attempts to integrate Southwest Texas State Teachers College began in 1962 when she applied for admission to SWTTC. However, in a letter to Miss Smith dated June 22, 1962, Dr. John G. Flowers indicated that her application had been rejected because of the whites only provision in the charter that established the college. A graduate of Austin’s Anderson High School (May 1962), Miss Smith was academically qualified to enroll at SWTTC. President Flowers informed Miss Smith that only an act of the State Legislature or a court order could make it possible for the college to admit Miss Smith and other black students.

Miss Smith’s father, Daniel, retained Austin attorney J. Phillip Crawford to file a complaint against the college on his daughter’s behalf, alleging that the college’s whites only admissions policy abrogated rights granted to her under the United States Constitution. In August 1962, Attorney Crawford filed suit number 1305 in U.S. District Court in Austin, Texas. To assist Mr. Smith with legal expenses, the Gay Paree Club, a local

black women’s social and cultural group, collected donations in the black community. Rev. Alphonso Washington, father of Mabeleen Washington, made the first donation to the Gay Paree Club’s fund for Dana Smith. Attorney Crawford’s class action suit was intended to make educational opportunities available at SWTTC not only to his client, but to all qualified African Americans. Defendants in the suit included the President of the college, Dr. John G. Flowers, Registrar Clem Jones, and the Board of Regents. Assistant Attorney General Scranton Jones represented the defendants.

At approximately 2:30 p.m. on Monday, February 4, 1963, Judge Rice signed the court order that ended segregation at SWTTC. His order instructed the college to “forthwith admit and enroll the said plaintiff, Dana Jean Smith, to said Southwest Texas State College, and to the utilization and participation in all of the education facilities...on the same basis as all others entitled thereto.” President Flowers said, “We will accept Negro students as we would any other academically qualified students.” By 3:15 that afternoon, Miss Smith and three other black women from San Marcos, Georgia Faye Hoodye, Gloria Odoms, and Mabeleen Washington, registered for classes assisted by the registrar, Clem

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