

MISSISSIPPI STATE
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MSU BLACK ALUMNI WEEKEND 2024

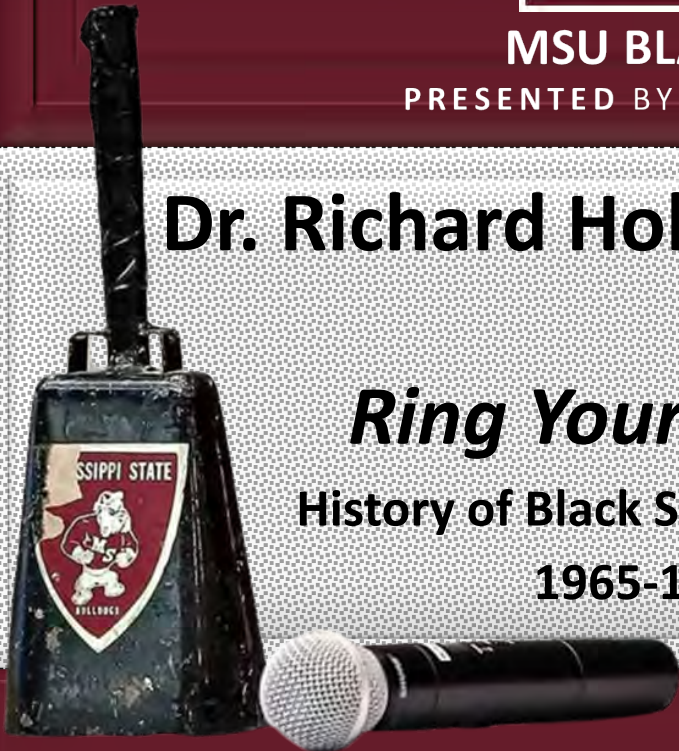
PRESENTED BY JOHNIE & MAGGIE COOKS AND FAMILY

Dr. Richard Holmes – John Barnes Brunch*

presents

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

**History of Black Students at Mississippi State University
1965-1975 (MSU's Black Pioneers)**



Featuring

**MSU's Black Pioneers, *Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale* Documentary
Trailer Screening, Director of African American Studies, University
Archivist, and MSU's Administrators**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

*** Sponsor: The Society of African American Studies**

WELCOME

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

History of Black Students
at

Mississippi State University

1965-1975 (MSU's Black Pioneers)



Dr. Richard Holmes – John Barnes Brunch

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

Honoring MSU's 1st African Americans Students

Dr. Richard E. Holmes, 1st African American student to enroll at MSU. July 19, 1965.



John(ny) Barnes, 1st African American graduate of MSU. June 19, 1968.



Dr. Richard Holmes – John Barnes Brunch

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

Mississippi State University

hereby confers upon

Johnny Barnes

the degree of

Bachelor of Arts

College of Arts and Sciences

together with all the honors, privileges and obligations thereto appertaining.

In Testimony Whereof, the seal of the University and the signatures

of its officers are hereunto affixed this second

day of June, nineteen hundred and sixty-eight



m. m. Roberts
President of the Board of Trustees

William L. Giles
President of the University



L. C. Behr
Dean

Dr. Richard Holmes – John Barnes Brunch

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

History

COL Barnes,
you all have a
book in you.
Your and your
peer's stories
must be told!



Outcomes

Scholarly Book
Documentary
Website
Soundtrack



June 10, 2019



November 10, 2021



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Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

Aim to:

- research the history of MSU Black students (Pioneers) from 1965-1975
- share their history with the MSU community
- develop methods/strategies to take these stories and use them as tools to increase Black student success (increase recruitment, improve retention rates, and increase graduation rates)

MSU partners

- Mississippi State University Libraries
- Archives and Special Collections
- Alumni Affairs
- Director of African American Studies
- Access, Opportunity, and Success
- University Television Center
- Office of Public Affairs

Why must we undertake this project?

- it is our history
- accurately record our history
- welfare of our community
- MSU shows commitment to its core values

Target audience:

- alumni
- administrators
- faculty
- staff
- current students
- future students



Dr. Richard Holmes – John Barnes Brunch

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

By the numbers...



March 30, 2018

- **30 Interviews**
 - 25 on campus
 - 5 Jackson MS
 - one interview in Wedowee, AL – Dr. Wallace Murphree – 1st AA+ advisor
- Driven over 3,000 miles to tell their stories
- 1,500 Years of Professional Experience by the Pioneers.
- 300+ pages of dialogue
- 600+ scanned Reflector's documents
- 100 scanned Reveille pictures
- 7 MSU departments involved
- Pioneers travel from 5 states, from Maine to Florida
- 30+ hours of interviews
- eight executive communication meetings
- 35+ weekly meetings
- 17 Pioneer profiles so far
- one overall story – **OUR STORY, OUR HISTORY**



Dr. Richard Holmes – John Barnes Brunch

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

Moderator

Ms. Bria Young

Ph.D. Candidate C/o 25



Hometown: Saratoga Springs, NY

Education:

BA in Dramatic Writing from Purchase College in New York

Masters of Africana studies from the University at Albany in New York

Dissertation title:

Apprehending a Utopian Method in the Formation of Pro-Black
Intentional communities: How Radical Social Hope (Re)imagines
Futures



Dr. Richard Holmes – John Barnes Brunch

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

Outline

- Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale documentary trailer
- Ring Your Bell Pioneers' Roundtable
- MSU's Archivist, Ms. Jessica Perkins Smith
- Director of African American Studies, Dr. Don Shaffer
- Call to Action, Dr. Don Shaffer
- Question and answer session





Dr. Richard Holmes – John Barnes Brunch

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale





Ms. Jessica Perkins-Smith

Associate Professor and University Archivist

Mississippi State University Libraries
Archives and Special Collections

Dr. Richard Holmes – John Barnes Brunch

Afro-American Plus Promotes Social Life

BY HESSIE BLAINE MINOR

The Afro-American Plus is a new university-recognized group, whose major purpose is to achieve better social life at MSU.

Because of its recent organization, it has not been clearly represented to the student body.

The objectives of the Club as stated in the constitution are (1) To establish better relationships among members; (2) to acquire self-identification; (3) to become better recognized as students of Mississippi State University; (4) to acquire better relationships with the Caucasians and other races on campus, since all are members of the same university; (5) to help other Negro students outside the university in obtaining an education; (6) to establish a better social life

among members; to perform any functions that may alleviate any interference with the student's college life at MSU, whether educationally, economically, politically, socially, or religiously."

President Roy Pearson explained the progression of the club depends on what goes into it. That is the club will be what members make it, he said. Pearson encouraged all persons interested in becoming a member to come to the next Afro-American Plus meeting Oct. 18.

The location and time will be posted later on the Union Roster in the main lobby of the Union.

The officers of the Club are president; Roy Pearson, vice-president; Freddie Hebron, secretary; Thelma Nicks, and treasurer Albert Spears.



AFRO-AMERICAN PLUS. Pictured above are the officers of the newly organized, Afro-American Plus. From left to right: secretary, Thelma Nicks, president, Roy Pearson, treasurer, Albert Spears, and Bell James, sergeant-at-arms.

Ring Your Bell and Tell Your Tale

Reflector Digital Collection, 1965-1975

February 17, 2024



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Reflector Collection, 1965-1975

- This collection includes articles and images from the Reflector, Mississippi State University's student newspaper. The collection ranges from 1965-1975 and represents the first ten years after integration at MSU. The collection includes articles highlighting MSU Black student organizations, efforts to recruit students and faculty of color, MSU's first Black student athletes, and notable speakers on campus.



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Dr. King's Death Vigil, April 9, 1968

MSU Reacts To King's Death



Students gathered for a vigil on the campus of Mississippi State University Sunday night.



A student stands in front of a flagpole on the campus of Mississippi State University Sunday night.



Minor damages remain as visible traces of unrest that prevailed on the Mississippi State campus Sunday night.



A building on the campus of Mississippi State University Sunday night.



A building on the campus of Mississippi State University Sunday night.

Unrest Hovers Over Campus Sunday Night

By Merril Merkle

Minor damages remain as visible traces of unrest that prevailed on the Mississippi State campus Sunday night.

Behind (Hibon Hall) a tree was burned, trash receptacles were overturned, groups (Hamil Hall), and a window was broken in the Chapel of Memories during minor disturbances that began early Sunday night.

A faculty counselor reported that as racial overtones were evident in a gathering of 50 to 75 Hamlin students who began shouting across in the freshmen dormitories about 8:30 p.m.

"It was typical of previous circumstances -- the long time between Christmas and Spring holidays," said the counselor.

At the Chapel, during the p.m. memorial service for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a stained-glass window was broken and sometime Sunday, the flagpole ropes were severed.

Students that classes at the West Hall were canceled are believed to have prompted a group of students gathered at the freshmen dormitories around 10:30 p.m. to move to the President's house, where an administrator met them and told them not to remain on that side of the campus.

Dr. Richard Jones, vice-president of Student Affairs, repeated his statement to the REGISTER: "It seems that late spring vacations, uncoordinated rumors and national tensions as well as a memorial service for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. contributed to some student unrest on the MSU campus Sunday night.

Much milling about, shouting and small gatherings marked the evening's April evening. No serious occurrences were noted. Damage to University property was minimal and no student apprehensions were necessary."

When contacted at his home, Rev. Jim Landrum, Executive Secretary of the YMCA on campus, said that he believed that the memorial service "might have disturbed about 60 people, but not the whole campus."

Reasonable calm returned around 11:00 p.m.

Students Honor Dr. King With Silent Vigil, Service

by Sam Love, News Editor

Some students at Mississippi State openly expressed their feelings about the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King in a silent prayer vigil Friday and a worship service Sunday night. The worship service was marked by a group of students who gathered outside to observe the event.

The Friday vigil occurred without incident and at its peak included an illuminated group of

people leaving the Chapel, but beyond that no incidents were reported directly connected with the service. The group of about 60 attempted to sing "Amazing Grace."

The service was planned to be a memorial service to the late Dr. King. It was conducted by local and campus pastors; approximately three hundred people were in attendance.

Mock Election



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Special Student Services Program, September 1, 1972

September 1, 1972, REFLECTOR, 13

Special services program set for some students

In an effort to meet the educational needs of the total student population at Mississippi State University, The MSU office of Student Affairs has developed a new program of special services to assist a number of disadvantaged groups of students.

The Special Student Services Program seeks to provide counseling and assistance for students who are culturally, economically, educationally, or physically handicapped, according to Program Director Dr. Morris Kinsey.

Any student who has earned a composite score of 15-18 on the American college Test, who is a member of an ethnic minority group, or who is recommended by a referral source is eligible for the program's services.

Included in the list of those eligible for assistance, for example, are American Indians, members of the state's black population, veterans, physically handicapped students, or any student who needs the help we can provide," Dr. Kinsey said.

There is a great need for this type of program at MSU,

according to Dr. Kinsey. "Under 50 per cent of our freshmen students never finish college," he said. "There is also ample evidence which suggests that students having adjustment and achievement problems have a lifelong history of economical and-or cultural deprivation."

Counselors

The program is staffed by two full-time professional counselors and eight part-time peer counselors who are trained to evaluate each student's problems areas and to provide

remedial services to meet his particular needs, Dr. Kinsey said.

"Many such students are the products of inferior school systems which failed to adequately prepare them for academic survival once they reached the college level," Dr. Kinsey explained. "These students lack sufficient skills in such areas as reading and writing."

One manner in which the program plans to help students acquire these basic skills is through tutorial programs set up by the various academic de-

partments. "It is imperative that the faculty become totally involved in the education of the students in the Special Services Program," Dr. Kinsey said.

Four faculty supervised graduate students will provide tutorial services for these students in such areas as English, mathematics, reading and writing. It is felt by the University that as a direct result of the Special Services Program a significant number of students will now complete their college careers, with some pursuing graduate studies," he added.



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Athletics



REFLECTOR

Mississippi State University Mississippi State News 1962
Vol. 65, No. 73 "Serving Mississippi's Most Dynamic University" October 20, 1962



Frank Dowsing

Frank Dowsing elected Mr. MSU; Sydney Tucker reigns as Queen

Frank Dowsing, a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, was elected Mr. MSU for the year 1962-63. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Sydney Tucker, a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, was elected Queen for the year 1962-63. She is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

135 sons and wives expected

Students honor legislators Saturday

Students and representatives of the Mississippi State Legislature are expected to attend a luncheon at the University Center on Saturday, October 20. The luncheon will be held in the University Center and will be attended by 135 sons and wives of the legislators. The luncheon will be held in the University Center and will be attended by 135 sons and wives of the legislators.



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Cindermen meet Northeast Louisiana Saturday

MISSISSIPPI STATE IMPROVED their state, they had worked a great deal of time and effort in the past few weeks. The Cindermen, coached by Dr. Richard Holmes, will meet Northeast Louisiana Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the home of the Cindermen, the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss.



Tommie Rife

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Tommie Rife

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CINEMA 12
Starts Wednesday

REFLECTOR sports

FCA, AA Plus made life easier for Robert Bell

By Robert Bell

Robert Bell, an Oxford, Miss., high school senior, has been named the 1973 AA Plus FCA member of the year. He was elected to the position at the annual meeting of the FCA at the University of Mississippi on January 15.



Robert Bell

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Black Voices, 1971 and 1972



Dr. Richard Holmes – John Barnes Brunch

Reflector Collection, 1965-1975 |
University Archives | Mississippi
State University (msstate.edu)



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Dr. Richard Holmes – John Barnes Brunch

Questions?

Jessica Perkins Smith

University Archivist and
Associate Professor

jsmith@library.msstate.edu

662-325-3935



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RESEARCH
1878

Man in dark suit and striped tie, holding a small object.

Man in light grey suit jacket, holding a small object.

Woman in floral patterned dress.

Woman in red and white patterned dress.

Man in dark suit jacket and light blue shirt.

Woman in olive green top and pants.

Man in white hoodie over a dark polo shirt and white pants.



Dr. Don Shaffer

Professor of English and African American Studies

Director of African American Studies

Mentor Presidential Scholars

THANKYOU



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