Facing the Winds of Change
with Dignity, Courage and Wisdom

A SALUTE TO THE 1956 BLACK UNDERGRADUATES

in celebration of the

60th Anniversary of the Enrollment of the
First Undergraduate African Americans
at
The University of Texas at Austin

September 9, 2016
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATING
THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN UNDERGRADUATES

60

years on the 40 Acres

You have weathered the earliest years of integration and are trailblazers to whom we shall forever be grateful. You paved the way for excellence for UT’s Black community with your courage, dedication, and perseverance. We thank you!

BLACK STUDIES
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Gordon-White Building | The University of Texas at Austin | 210 W. 24th St | Austin, TX 78712
Facing the Winds of Change with Dignity, Courage and Wisdom

A SALUTE TO THE 1956 BLACK UNDERGRADUATES

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Official Greetings

University of Texas at Austin Celebration of the First African American Undergraduates
September 9, 2016

Dear Friends,

I join you in spirit to celebrate this notable anniversary of the first African American undergraduates enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin. It took far too long for far too few to participate here, but through the sacrifice and struggle of many, progress has slowly been made.

Thanks to the early efforts of individuals such as Heman Marion Sweatt, August Novel Swain and members of The Precursors, Texas slowly recognized that all its people were entitled to an opportunity, as inscribed on the Tower, to know the truth, just as all were entitled to be truly free.

I salute the current leadership of our university for defending reasonable admission policies against sustained ideological attack. And I note the significant contribution of Dr. Gregory Vincent and the team he has built at the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. Every student benefits when our university community—students, faculty, staff, and administration reflect the rich diversity that is Texas.

As we celebrate and honor, we also recognize how much work remains. This year with so many tragedies across the country, affirming that “Black Lives Matter” only recognizes the reality that too often, in too many places in America, they have not mattered enough. Our affirmation in no way lessens our respect for the lives of others. We look to Longhorns to provide this State leadership to address division and bring us together to meet the great challenges of our day.

Hook ‘em,

[Signature]

Lloyd Doggett
Greetings:

As Governor of Texas, I am pleased to welcome everyone in attendance to the 60th anniversary celebration of the first African American undergraduates at The University of Texas at Austin.

Texas is a state renowned for its rich heritage, history and culture — a reflection of the many people from near and far who have settled here to pursue their dreams. Our society is strengthened immeasurably by our diverse population’s ingenuity, vision and enterprise.

In 1956, The University of Texas opened its doors to nearly 100 African American students to pursue an undergraduate degree. These alumni should be remembered and honored as we continue to strive for a richly diverse and inclusive campus.

Today we honor The Precursors, a group of African American alumni who were pioneers at The University of Texas. Their goal is to share their history and experiences and assist in the success of current and future African American students.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in sending best wishes for an enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

Greg Abbott
Governor
The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join President Fenves, The Precursors and the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the enrollment of the first African American undergraduates at The University of Texas; and

Whereas, The Precursors is an organization whose members are African American alumni of The University of Texas at Austin who entered the university a minimum of 40 years ago; these men and women work to highlight the achievements of their peers and to help current and prospective African American students succeed and thrive at the university; and

Whereas, The 60th anniversary celebration is being held in conjunction with Black Alumni Week-End, which is taking place September 8 through 11, 2016; this exemplary event will include discussions on a wide range of relevant topics, including the Sweatt v. Painter Supreme Court case, the establishment of Texas Southern University, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

Whereas, The presence of a diverse student body has helped The University of Texas at Austin become one of the nation’s leading institutions of higher education, and it is truly fitting that the pioneers of that drive for diversity receive special recognition; now, therefore, be it

Proclaimed, That the Senate of the State of Texas hereby commend the Precursors and The University of Texas at Austin Division of Diversity and Community Engagement on their commitment to equality and excellence in education and extend to them best wishes for a memorable 60th anniversary celebration of the university’s first African American undergraduates; and, be it further

Proclaimed, That a copy of this Proclamation be prepared in honor of this special occasion.

Senator Rodney Ellis, District 13
Senator Royce West, District 23
Senator Kirk Watson, District 14
Senator John Whitmire, District 15
Senator Judith Zaffirini, District 21
Senator Sylvia R. Garcia, District 6
Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, District 20
Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr, District 27
Senator José Menéndez, District 26
Senator José Rodríguez, District 29
Senator Carlos I. Uresti, District 19
September 9, 2016

Ms. Cloteal Davis Haynes
President, The Precursors, Inc.

To the attendees of the 2016 UT Black Alumni Homecoming Weekend:

I bring you all greetings from the Texas House of Representatives and the great State of Texas.

Thank you all for coming together to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of this distinguished group of alumni. To each and every one of you, we owe a debt of immense gratitude for leading the charge and opening doors once unjustly closed. The University of Texas at Austin is blessed to have a group of passionate Longhorns and individuals dedicated to making sure our young brothers and sisters succeed at this venerable institution and beyond.

What better example of dedication to the advancement of black student excellence than that lived by my friend and colleague, Senator Rodney G. Ellis—a Precursor and graduate of both the LBJ School of Public Policy and The University of Texas School of Law. For over 25 years, Senator Ellis’ Texas Legislative Internship Program has provided a first class seat from which over 650 young men and women from the Forty Acres, many of color, have witnessed the Violet Crown’s horizon over the Athens of the South’s marble tinted majestic Texas Capitol. Atop the dome, a beacon of wisdom and strength, the Goddess of Liberty, whose ruby-red eyes gaze upon her Texas garden of mauve tinted granite buildings—a beauty that validates its comparison to the Grecian Acropolis. Senator Ellis’ dedication to serving the next generation of Texas leadership is unparalleled.

To President Fenves, the University of Texas at Austin’s Division of Diversity and Community Engagement and Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, the Precursors, our Honorary Chairman Mr. Earl Campbell, and the 1956 Black Undergraduate students we celebrate this weekend, I send my appreciation. Let us take this moment to reflect on all of the work that has been done and all that we must continue to do. Your courage and passion are invaluable assets to this University and to the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Dawnna Dukes
State Representative, District 46
To The Precursors:

On behalf of The University of Texas at Austin, we offer you our deepest and most profound thanks. The entire campus joins us in celebrating this momentous anniversary and marking the matriculation of the first African American undergraduates in 1956.

The accolades attributed to you, The Precursors — bold, fearless, and courageous — are well-deserved. When you first set foot on campus, this was a hostile environment. Yet you remained united and persevered.

Because of you, the generations that followed have had the opportunity to become educators, politicians, business owners, civic leaders and lawyers. Put simply, we now have the opportunity to pursue our dreams because you followed yours.

Today, our campus is a different place from when you were here. It fosters an open, inclusive, and robust learning environment built on the free exchange of ideas and mutual respect for our differences. On the sidelines of DKR-Texas Memorial Stadium and the Frank Erwin Center, we are led by two of the nation’s most accomplished coaches, who happen to be African American. And we have successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court for the educational benefits of diversity and our holistic admissions policy.

The Texas Constitution may have called for a “university of the first class,” but The University of Texas at Austin did not meet that mark until all of you passed through the halls and opened the doors for those who came afterward. You proved that excellence and diversity are mutually reinforcing, and for that, we can never thank you enough.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Gregory Fenves
President, The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Gregory J. Vincent
Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement
The University of Texas at Austin
Proclamation

Be it known that

Whereas,
The Board of Regents of the University of Texas unanimously passed a resolution on July 8, 1955, to admit African American undergraduate students beginning in the fall semester of 1956; and

Whereas,
In the fall semester of 1956, approximately seventy-three courageous men and women became the first African American undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin; and

Whereas,
The Precursors, an Organization of Black Alumni of the University of Texas, in partnership with President Gregory Fenves, the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement and the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, will honor the first African American Undergraduates of the University of Texas;

Now, Therefore,
I, Steve Adler, Mayor of the City of Austin, Texas, do hereby proclaim

September 9th, 2016

as

Salute to the First African American UT Undergraduates Day in Austin.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Austin to be affixed this 9th Day of September in the Year Two Thousand Sixteen

Steve Adler, Mayor, City of Austin
September 8, 2016

To the Precursors:

On behalf of all alumni of the University of Texas at Austin, thank you for so courageously paving the path forward for thousands of African American students. We stand in awe of the dignity and tenacity you showed Texas and the world while pursuing higher education and creating greater opportunities for yourselves, your peers, and your children.

You have made this campus a place where people from all walks of life can learn not just from their professors, but also from one another. Looking back over the 60 years that have passed since the first Precursors enrolled at UT Austin, there is much progress to celebrate, and much work left to do.

As we observe this important milestone, the Texas Exes is committed to supporting and fostering diversity at our alma mater. We will continue to actively engage Longhorns through groups like the Black Alumni Network and to amplify minority voices on the Forty Acres and beyond. You stood together and faced the winds of change with dignity, courage, and wisdom. May we always remember the example you set for young people in this country, and may the university always endeavor to deserve you.

Thank you,

John H. Massey
President

Leslie Cedar
CEO and Executive Director
It is with great honor and tremendous pride that The Precursors welcome you to the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the first African American students to enroll at the University of Texas (UT) as undergraduates. Following the unanimous approval of a resolution of the UT Board of Regents on July 8, 1955, allowing admittance of Black undergraduate students in the Fall Semester of 1956, more than 70 capable and courageous young Black men and women tore off the shackles of segregation and changed the 40 Acres forever. At a time when headlines are dominated by issues of intolerance, we are pleased to recognize and acknowledge the accomplishments of these trailblazers.

The Precursors (those who came before) is an organization whose members are African American alumni of the University of Texas at Austin who entered the University a minimum of 40 years ago. The organization was formed in 2010, when a group of Black alumni who were pioneers at UT came together with the goal of sharing their history, experiences and influence to recognize the achievement of African American alumni and to assist current and prospective African American students succeed at the University.

Eligibility for membership in The Precursors currently extends to Black alumni who entered UT in or before 1976—including many individuals who most likely were not yet born when honorees Leon Holland, Charles Miles, Edna Rhambo and others were first allowed to come to UT as undergraduate students.

The African American undergraduates of 1956 changed the trajectory of the University of Texas, the State of Texas and the country. Against all odds, those students became teachers, artists, doctors, lawyers, architects, scientists, government officials, business owners and military leaders. Because of them, others like them with dreams and aspirations were encouraged to come to UT. And yes, they CHANGED THE WORLD!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AFRICAN AMERICAN UNDERGRADUATES OF 1956! THE REST OF US PROUDLY STAND ON YOUR SHOULDERS!

Sincerely,

Cloteal Davis Haynes, President, The Precursors, Inc.
Special Thanks

Acknowledgments

Dr. Gregory L. Fenves
President, The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Gregory J. Vincent
Vice President for Diversity
and Community Engagement (DDCE)

Dr. Edmund T. Gordon
Chair, Department of African and
African Diaspora Studies (AADS)

Arthur Johnson
Executive Senior Associate Athletic Director
for Administration, Department of Athletics

Earl Campbell
Honorary Event Chair

Erica Sáenz
Associate Vice President for Community
and External Relations, DDCE

Yvonne Loya
Executive Director for Community
and External Relations, DDCE

Leslie Blair
Executive Director of Communications, DDCE

Ron Bowdoin
Art Director, DDCE

Thaïs Bass-Moore
Program Coordinator for Community
and External Relations, DDCE

Virginia Cumberbatch
Director, Community Engagement Center, DDCE

Brenda Burt
Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate
and Alumni Relations, AADS

The Texas Exes

Brian Ricter
Networks Coordinator, Texas Exes

Stephanie Johnson
Chair, Black Alumni Network

Lori Lewis-Conerly
Black Alumni Network

Kelvin James
President, Innovative IP Communications

Ronald Means
Austin Cab Company (Shuttle Service)

Dottie L. Watkins
Vice President, Bus and Paratransit Services,
Capital Metro

The Precursors
Board of Directors and Members

Jacquelyn Hawkins
The Precursors Board of Directors
and Event Chair

Leon Holland
The Precursors Board of Directors
and Event Planning Team

Charles M. Miles
The Precursors Board of Directors
and Event Planning Team

Cloteal Davis Haynes
President, The Precursors
and Event Planning Team
Sponsors

The University of Texas at Austin

Cockrell School of Engineering
College of Education
College of Liberal Arts
Division of Diversity and Community Engagement
Division of Student Affairs
Dolph Briscoe Center for American History
Graduate School
John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies
Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs
Moody College of Communication
Office of the President
Red McCombs School of Business
School of Architecture
School of Information
School of Law
School of Nursing
School of Social Work
School of Undergraduate Studies
University of Texas Libraries

The University of Texas at Austin
Founding and Mission

The Precursors

The Precursors, Inc. is a group of African American alumni who share the distinction of being among the first Black students to attend and integrate The University of Texas at Austin. Membership requires enrollment at UT Austin a minimum of 40 years ago. A group of former African American students nicknamed “the Dudes,” met on April 3, 2009, at the Alpha House in Austin to officially establish and name the organization “The Precursors” as recommended by Carl Huntley. Lonnie Fogle served as the chief organizer and visionary. Fred Alexander created the logo, and Lawrence Baye was the official photographer. A mission statement was adopted. Charter members were Fred Alexander, Howard Ammons, Olice Arnold, Lawrence Baye, Nat Bradford, Riley Caruthers, Alvin Easter, Lonnie Fogle, Charles Hill, Leon Holland, Peggy Drake Holland, Walker Hunt, Carl Huntley, Larry Jackson, Cleo Jenkins, Walter Jones, Willie Jordan, Janice Lawson, Emanuel McKinney, Charles Miles, Robert Moore, Judge Harriet Murphy, Joe Reid, Robert Reid, Ed Roby, William Spearman and Charles Urdy.

Our Mission

We, the Black former students who attended The University of Texas at Austin more than four decades ago, are committed to using our experience and skills to offer challenges to enrich the lives of students who follow in our footsteps. We will engage those students in learning how to identify external resources; to acknowledge the achievements of their forbearers and peers; and to use the concept of networking. Thus, as a permanent organization, we will work to ensure that present and future students are empowered to realize their full potential at The University of Texas at Austin and beyond.

The Precursors, Inc. wish to gratefully acknowledge the following sponsors for their support:

Black Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
Institute for Urban Policy Research and Analysis
African and African Diaspora Studies Department
John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies

John Hall Public Affairs, Inc.
Hawkins Public Policy Consulting
Haynes-Eaglin-Waters, LLC (HEW)
Undergraduate Admission and Living on the Forty Acres

The Precursors

On March 8, 1956, Board of Regents Chairman Tom Sealy and University of Texas President Logan Wilson, released a joint statement that reiterated the University of Texas would admit qualified students, regardless of race. The news release also addressed student housing:

“In July 1955, the Regents announced that beginning with the fall semester of 1956, the University would institute entrance examinations and would admit qualified applicants at all levels without reference to race. With regard to University owned and operated housing, there has been no change in policy. This policy, as heretofore, provides that Negro women students may be housed in Whitis House and Negro men students in San Jacinto Dormitories D and F, all three of which are operating on a voluntary non-segregated basis. All other University-owned and operated housing continues to be available to white students only.”

The Spring 1956 reaffirmation of the UT Board of Regents’ decision to desegregate the University’s undergraduate colleges opened the door for the courageous pioneers who arrived on the Austin campus in September, 1956. Their stalwart perseverance paved the way for the advancement of civil rights on the Forty Acres and throughout the United States.

1. Almetris Marsh Duren (center) and female students.
2. The original Whitis House at 2515 Whitis, where African American women were to live was in total disrepair.
3. When administrators realized they could not house all of the African American female students at Whitis House, arrangements were made for 25 students to live in Eliza Dee Hall (shown here) on the Huston-Tillotson College campus. The women paid $52 a month for their room and two meals a day.
4. San Jacinto Dorms D and F were temporary barracks designated for African American male students to live in 1956.

Photo Credits: Dolph Briscoe Center for American History and The Cactus.
PROGRAM

Opening Remarks
MRS. CLOTEAL DAVIS HAYNES, Mistress of Ceremonies
President, The Precursors, Inc.

Invocation
REV. SHERRYL GRIFFIN-BOZEMAN

Welcome & Occasion
DR. GREGORY L. FENVES
President, The University of Texas at Austin

Board of Regents Resolution, July 8, 1955
MR. WILLIAM H. MCRAVEN
Chancellor, The University of Texas System

A Video Remembrance
“Sixty Years of Struggle and Progress”

Remarks & Proclamations

THE HONORABLE KIRK WATSON
Texas Senator, District 14

THE HONORABLE DAWNNNA DUKES
Texas House of Representatives, District 46

THE HONORABLE STEVE ADLER
Mayor, City of Austin

MR. GARY BLEDSOE
President, Texas Chapter NAACP

Mr. Earl Campbell, Honorary Chairman

The Year 1956 and Reflections from First Black Undergraduates

MRS. JACQUELYN HAWKINS
Col. (R) LEON HOLLAND

MRS. EDNA RHAMBO
MR. CHARLES M. MILES

Monologue
“As She Saw It”
MRS. THAÏS BASS-MOORE
Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Mrs. Cloteal Davis Haynes

Keynote Address
The Honorable Rodney Ellis
Texas Senator, District 13

Tribute in Song
“One Moment in Time”
Mrs. Sondra Dilworth Johnson

A Salute to the 1956 African American Undergraduates
Dr. Gregory J. Vincent
Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement
The University of Texas at Austin

This list reflects our best efforts for identifying the 1956 Black undergraduates. It was developed with input from fellow African American undergraduates who entered The University of Texas in 1956 including Leon Holland, Edna Rhambo, Mamie Ewing, Willie Jordan, Charles Miles, Eva Simmons, Norma Hancock Lawrence, and Girlene Williams-Gilford. Additional assistance was provided from Precursors Lonnie Fogle, Olice Arnold and Doris Williams. Other sources included The Cactus, 1957 (Vol. 64) and the book by Dwonna Goldstone, Integrating the 40 Acres: The Fifty-Year Struggle for Racial Equality at the University of Texas. We regret any errors or omissions.

Acknowledgments & Closing
“The Eyes of Texas”
Innervisions Gospel Choir

Earnestyne Yvonne Bell-Terry
Joyce Aletha Bennett
Jerry Bonner*
Jerry Ann Cannon-Hunter
John Carroll
Garfield Clark
Ira Clay
Wright Betts Collins*
Barbara L. Smith Conrad
Octavine Davis
Nathaniel Dickerson
James Dilworth*
Walter Joe Duncan
Senor Edwards
Marion G. Ford*
Jennie Elizabeth Franklin
Eva Goins-Simmons
John Green*
Norma Jean Hancock-Lawrence
Mamie Hans-Ewing
John Hargis*
Lola Hawkins-Ford
Norcell Dan Haywood*
Robert Eugene Henderson
Anthony Ray Henry*

Donald Hill*
Agnes Hill-Knight
Roby Waldo Hilliard
Herman Hines*
Leon LaForest Holland
Thomas Lee Horton
Raymond Humphries*
Edna Odessa Humphries-Rhambo
Walker Eugene Hunt
Melissa Hurt-Booker
Charles Hutchinson*
Bobbye Jean Hyder-Arnold
Frankie Jerlene Jackson
Henry Louis James*
Miriam Jones*
Walter Christopher Jones
Willie Cleveland Jordan, Jr.
George Kelly
John Lewis Kelly
I. G. Lakey
Bettye Jane Lancaster
Ira Verdell Lott
Ruth Madison
Ernest Windrow McBride*
Joe McBride*

Charles Murray Miles
Cleve Edward Moten
Lois Newby-Bell
Doris Price-Casey*
John David Ranger*
David Ransom*
Alvin Reynolds*
Ima Lerester Robinson
Ervin Rollins*
Johnnie Beatrice Rucker-Van Dyke
Reuben S. Sherman
Mary Frances Simpson-McFall
June Frances Singletary-McCoy
L. G. Slider*
Susie Louise Thomas
Charles Henry Washington*
David Washington
Frank Louis Waynewood
Roy West
Lodie Whittington-Harris
Ira Dalton Williams
Elijah Mae Williams-Dotson
Girlene Marie Williams-Gilford
Charles Wesley Wright
*Deceased
WE CONCLUDE THAT, IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, THE DOCTRINE OF ‘SEPARATE BUT EQUAL’ HAS NO PLACE. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought are, by reason of the segregation complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.”

Chief Justice Warren, Opinion of the Court, May 17, 1954

In 1956 the first African American undergraduates enrolled at and attended The University of Texas at Austin. Since that watershed year, thousands of African American students have attended this flagship institution.
Black Alumni Homecoming Weekend

celebrating the

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENROLLMENT OF THE
FIRST UNDERGRADUATE AFRICAN AMERICANS
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

The University of Texas at Austin honors the 60th anniversary of the first African American undergraduate enrollees with a series of events throughout the UT Black Alumni Homecoming Weekend. Festivities are scheduled around the UT vs. UTEP (University of Texas at El Paso) football game.

Thursday, September 8, 2016

THEN and NOW
The Precursors, Inc., an organization of African Americans who entered the University at least 40 years ago, will share their stories of UT THEN. Other alumni and students will share their stories of UT NOW. Students and alumni are invited to come and learn about the challenges in the history of UT’s desegregation. While acknowledging that the struggle continues, we can also recognize the progress that has been made. *Etter-Harbin Alumni Center*

Friday, September 9, 2016

Facing the Winds of Change with Dignity, Courage and Wisdom
A SALUTE TO THE 1956 BLACK UNDERGRADUATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President’s Reception for Honorees and Their Families (Private event)</th>
<th>Public Program Honoring the 1956 African American Undergraduates LBJ Auditorium</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legacy Celebration Dinner</td>
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</table>
A celebration of the 60th anniversary of the first African American undergraduates enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin. The Texas Exes Black Alumni Network celebrates students, faculty and alumni. Buffet dinner, silent auction, cash bar, Black Alumni Network Awards, and Precursors special tribute. *Crowne Plaza Hotel*

Saturday, September 10, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precursors Annual Meeting and Luncheon Crowne Plaza Hotel</th>
<th>Homecoming Tailgate and Game Viewing MLK Statue, University of Texas East Mall Darrell K. Royal Memorial Stadium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Precursors, Inc. conduct their annual meeting and will honor the first African American undergraduates at their annual luncheon.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsored by the Office of the President and co-sponsored by the Black Ex-Students of Texas (B.E.S.T.) and the Eta Theta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sunday, September 11, 2016

| Sunday B.E.S.T. Brunch Iron Cactus |
We work together so they’ll work together.

At Frost, our team will work together to give you customized solutions that make the most of your banking, investment and insurance needs, and help you reach your financial goals. So, if you could use a hand with any part of your financial life, our team is here to help you.
Haynes-Eaglin-Waters, LLC (HEW) applauds the courage and accomplishments of the first African American undergraduates who enrolled in The University of Texas at Austin 60 years ago. You opened the doors widely for many who followed.

Thank You!

Cloteal Davis Haynes, CEO
B.A., The University of Texas at Austin, 1972
M.P.A., LBJ School of Public Affairs, 1977

Established in 1988, HEW has become a trusted minority and woman-owned business with a national presence.

Targeting the public sector market, HEW specializes in interior finishes including doors, hardware, and building specialties.

HEW Project: MLK Monument & Courtyard

Visit us online at: www.HEWAustin.com
John Hall Public Affairs

*salutes*

**The Precursors**

*and celebrates the*

First African American Undergraduates enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin

1956

**John Hall**

LBJ School of Public Affairs, 1978
The University of Texas at Austin

**John Hall Public Affairs, Inc. (JHPA)**

P.O. Box 91463
Austin, Texas 78709
jhallpa@aol.com
512-413-4134
Facing the Winds of Change with Dignity, Courage and Wisdom
60th Anniversary Salute to Integrating the 40 Acres

Hawkins Public Policy Consulting

We proudly salute the UT African American undergraduates of 1956 who courageously paved the way for those of us who followed.

“If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.”
Issac Newton

Albert Hawkins III
B.A. Government, UT Austin, 1975
Masters of Public Affairs, LBJ School, 1978
Distinguished Alumnus
LBJ School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin

Hawkins Public Policy Consulting
919 Congress Avenue, Suite 1400
Austin, Texas 78701
Office: 512-617-6738 • Mobile: 512-771-8554
ahawkins@hawkinsppc.com
The Austin Area Black Contractors Association

Congratulates The Precursors, Charles M. Miles

and the other men and women who were the First African American Undergraduates to enroll at The University of Texas at Austin in 1956

ABCA Serving Austin Black Contractors for 28 years
recognizes the
First African American Undergraduates enrolled at
The University of Texas at Austin in 1956

We stand today because of your courage,
strength, tenacity and selflessness.

Thank You and Congratulations

THE PRECURSORS

“Education is the most powerful weapon which
you can use to change the world.”

NELSON MANDELA
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated was founded in 1908 by women of vision, integrity and dedication.

In 1958, amid the turmoil of ending segregation, a small group of UT students began the application process for a chapter on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin.

The chartering of the Delta Xi Chapter was completed in 1959.

Charter Members

Jerry Ann Cannon*  Carolyn Nan Mims
Barbara Caruthers  Doris Price*
Evelyn Deason  Alnita F. Rettig
Donna Licia Guess  Mary Simpson*
Mamie Flora Hans*  Walta Marie Smith
Miriam Jean Jones*  Janice Strickland
Bettye Joanne McAdams  Gloria D. Truscott
Mabel Joyce Wilson

* 1956 Black Undergraduate

Thank You
Alpha Kappa Alpha Delta Xi Chapter Charter Members & All 1956 Black Undergraduates for
Facing the Winds of Change With Dignity, Courage and Wisdom
60-Year Celebration
First African American UT Undergraduates

Best Wishes
from the
Dunn and Berry Families

Dunn and Berry Families
Sheri Dunn Berry, Community Partners, Director of Programs
Brian Dunn, Esq., The Cochran Firm California, Managing Partner
Amara Berry, Brown University
Mikaela Berry, Fordham University
W. Paul Dunn, UT Alum (1962, Civil Engineering) In his memory
Dr. Alnita Rettig Dunn, UT Alum, 1962
“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”
— John F. Kennedy

Thank you, UT’s first Black undergraduates, for embracing the changes taking place in your world in 1956. You blazed a trail for so many and we are all grateful to be a part of your legacy.

Congratulations on your 60th Anniversary!

— Hoover Alexander —
You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, and how you can still come out of it.  

Maya Angelou
To the undaunted black students who enrolled in the University of Texas in 1956 to receive higher education:

**MANY THANKS,**

for giving our world much more.

*BENNY L. HAWKINS*

*U.T. School of Architecture*

*Class of ‘69*

Member, American Institute of Architects
President, CEO
BLGY ARCHITECTURE
Willie C. Jordan, Jr.

"TOUGH TIMES DON'T LAST, TOUGH PEOPLE DO."
Best Wishes to the Undergraduate Class of 1956

and particularly to my mother,

Mamie Ewing

Since being in the first black undergraduate class of 1956, Mamie has continued to be a trailblazer by continuing many firsts—including being the first black person hired by child welfare in Austin, the first black person to work in regional operations for the State of Texas, and for more than two decades, the first black female regional administrator for the State of Texas.

In 1990, Mamie was honored by the UT Ex-Students Association as an Outstanding African American Alumnus. Mamie’s business acumen led her to numerous prestigious board appointments including:

- Houston-Galveston Area Council Gulf Coast Workforce Board
- United Way of Texas
- San Jacinto Girl Scouts
- Target Hunger Initiatives for Children
- United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast Board of Trustees
- State Employee Charitable Campaign Local Employee Committee Chair

Mamie has also been recognized as an Outstanding Woman in Texas Government (1987), a Regional Administrators Cup Honoree (1998), received the United States Department of Agriculture-Food and Nutrition Award (1999, 2000), and received an award from the State Employee Charitable Campaign (1998, 1999, and 2000).

I wish my mother and all the other members of the undergraduate class of 1956 all the best!

Hook ‘em!

— Perry Ewing
Thanks for Being a Trailblazer
CHARLES MILES

from the
MEN FROM THE BARRACKS &
KAPPA INTEREST GROUP
Fred Alexander, Lonnie Fogle, Matthew Mullone,
Cleo Jenkins, Bill Spearman, Elliott Knotts,
and the Miles Family
Thanks for Being a Trailblazer

LEON HOLLAND

from the Men From the Barracks & Alpha
Howard Ammons, Carl Huntley, Charles Urdy,
Cleo Jenkins, Lonnie Fogle, and Bill Spearman

---

Thanks for Being a Trailblazer

WILLIE JORDAN

from the Men From the Barracks & Kappa Interest Group
Cleo Jenkins, Lonnie Fogle, Bill Spearman,
Freddie Alexander, Matthew Mullone, and Elliot Knotts
Congratulations

to our classmates

Leon L. Holland

&

Henry L. James (deceased)

as having been the

First African Americans from San Antonio
to enroll as undergraduates at

The University of Texas at Austin

September 1956

Alma Ruth Sheppard Owens, President, PWHS Class of 1956

Congratulations to the Black Undergraduates of 1956!

My journey would not have been possible without your sacrifice.

Thank you!

With Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa

With William Jefferson Clinton, 42nd President of the United States

With Barack Hussein Obama, 44th President of the United States

Rodney Griffin

Precursor ’65 • UT Alum, B.A. Mathematics, 1970 • White House Guest, LBJ Civil Rights Summit
Congratulations 1956 Black Undergrads!

Thank you for
Facing the Winds of Change with Dignity, Courage, and Wisdom

Special Congratulations to
Charles Murray Miles

With Love and Admiration,

Your Siblings
Iola L. Taylor, Austin, TX
Elijah W. Miles, San Diego, CA
Edgar Allen Miles, Amarillo, TX
Ella L. Lindsey, Anaheim, CA
John H. Miles Jr.*
Jewel M. Brown*
Thelma J. Beasley*
*Deceased

Your Children
Paul Miles
M.A., J.D., UT Austin
Charles L. Miles
B.A., Stanford
Master of Architecture, Columbia
Jonathan W. Miles
B.A., Williams College
J.D., UT Austin

“ACHIEVING IN EVERY FIELD OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR”
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
salutes
CHARLES M. MILES

• Born in Hearne, Texas
• Blackshear High School
  Graduated 1956
• University of Texas at Austin, 1956
• B. S., UT Austin, 1960
• M.S. Degree, North Texas State, 1963
• Teacher, Austin Public Schools, 1960
• Counselor and Teacher,
  Gary Job Corps, 1966-67
• Director, Austin Human Relations
  Commission, 1968-70
• U. S. Commission on Civil Rights,
  Deputy Director, SW Regional Office
  1970-75, 1977-81
• Assistant Comptroller,
  State of Texas, 1975-77
• Executive Director,
  Austin Housing Authority, 1981-87
• Owner/Publisher,
  Capital City Argus, 1987-present
• Associate Professor of Government,
  Austin Community College

Memberships:
• Austin Planning Commission
• American Planning Commission
• Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.
• The Precursors, Inc.,
  Board of Directors
• Other civil rights and
  civil liberties organizations

Congratulations to all the courageous Black UT undergraduates of 1956!
60TH ANNIVERSARY
University of Texas First African American Undergraduates!

Best wishes to my dear friend and classmate,
LEON HOLLAND

Jack Boone
Financial Advisor

We salute the 1956 Black Undergraduate Enrollees at the University of Texas
Facing the Winds of Change with Dignity, Courage and Wisdom

Fred Alexander
Architect Emeritus

1031 Pondview Dr.
Cedar Hill, TX 75104-6225
Phone: 972/293-3838
Alt. phone: 214/336-9462
email: fred_alex@msn.com

We started here and changed Texas. Texas changed the world.
Facing the Winds of Change with Dignity, Courage and Wisdom
60TH ANNIVERSARY
University of Texas First African American Undergraduates!

“The lessons of the past...prepare us to face the challenges of the future.”
L. Tom Perry

As we celebrate this milestone, heartfelt gratitude is extended to

DR. FLOYD HOELTING
Former Executive Director
Division of Housing and Food Services
&
Almetris Duren Residence Hall Visionary

Thank you for honoring one who spent her life serving others.

Congratulations to UT’s First Black Undergraduates

Thank you for paving the way for the thousands who are now part of your legacy.

Lt. Col.
Doris J. Williams
US Army, Retired
Class of 1964

Congratulations on the 60-Year Celebration of the First African American Undergraduates to attend The University of Texas at Austin —1956—
and to

JUNE SINGLETARY MCCOY
Bachelor of Science, Home Economics
June 4, 1960

(903) 729-5212 OFFICE
(903) 723-1949 RESIDENCE
(903) 729-7332 FAX
501 W. OAK
PALESTINE, TEXAS 75801

EDWARD McCOY, JR.
EMBALMER/FUNERAL DIRECTOR
GEORGIA McCOY
CO-FOUNDER

DAVID McCOY
FUNERAL DIRECTOR
JUNE McCOY
OFFICE MANAGER
The Texas NAACP would like to congratulate the first African American students to enroll as undergraduates at The University of Texas at Austin.

You have made a difference for our state, our nation, and for us all.
DR. GREGORY L. FENVES
President, The University of Texas at Austin

&

DR. GREGORY J. VINCENT
Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement

congratulate

The Precursors

and the

1956 Black Undergraduates

as we celebrate the

60th Anniversary of the Enrollment of the First Undergraduate African Americans

at

The University of Texas at Austin