

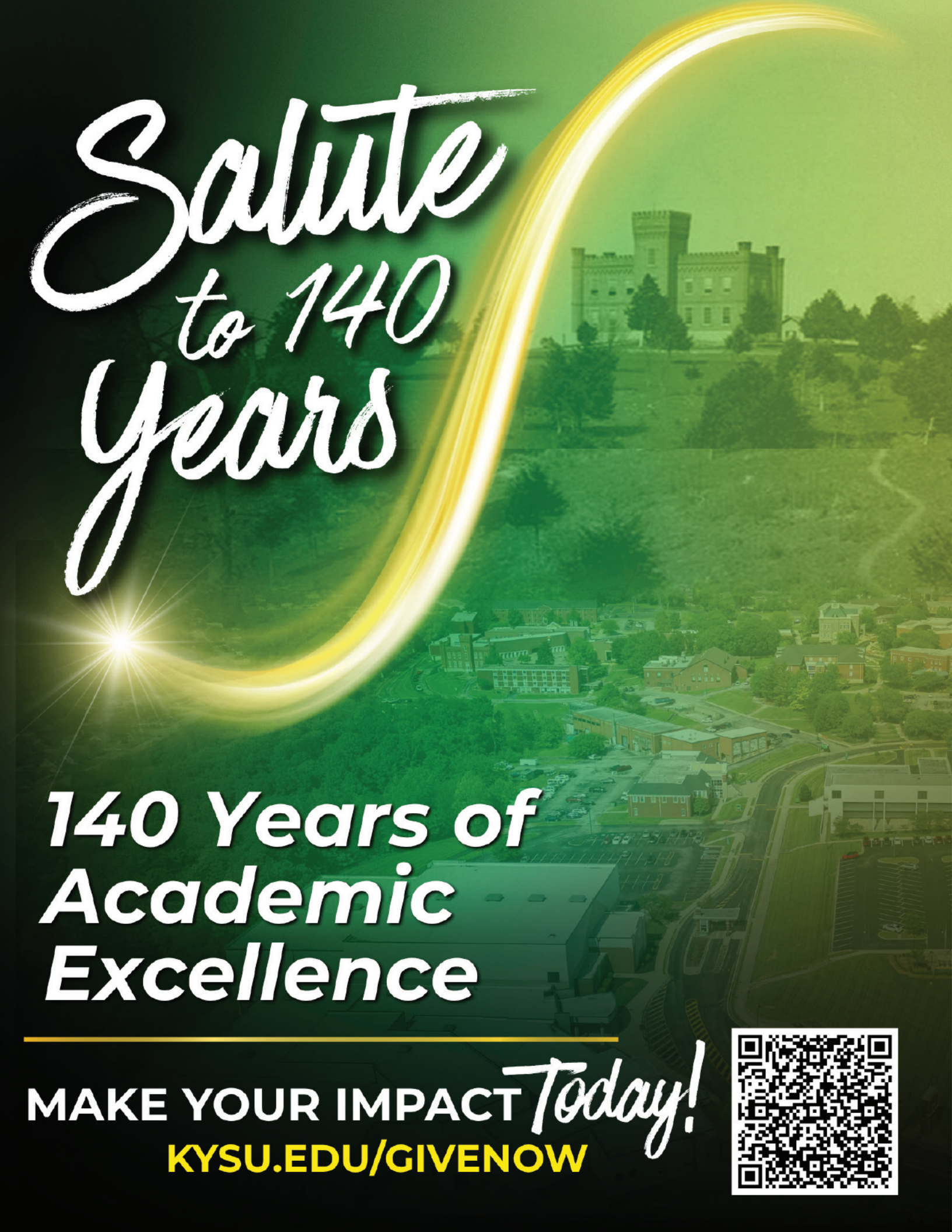


Founders' Day

CONVOCATION

Thorobreds Leading for Impact

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026 | 10 A.M.
KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY
DAVID H. BRADFORD HALL, CARL H. SMITH AUDITORIUM



*Salute
to 140
Years*

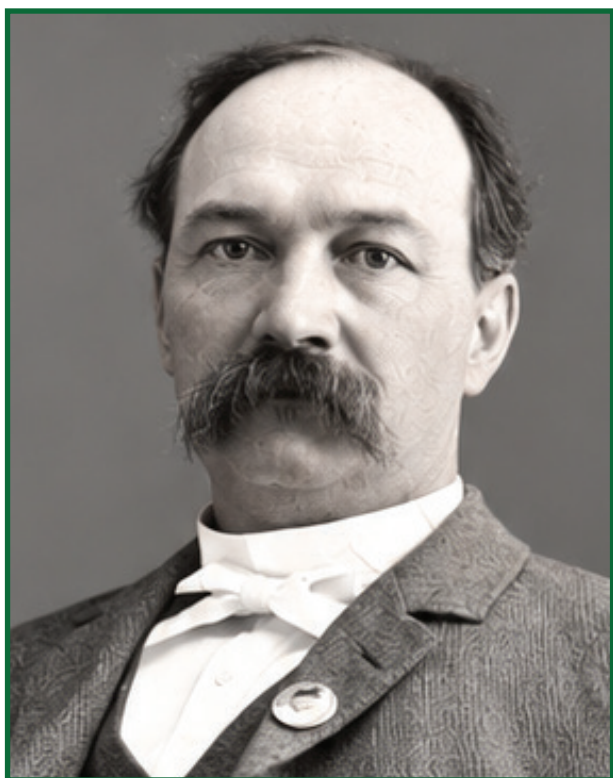
**140 Years of
Academic
Excellence**

MAKE YOUR IMPACT *Today!*
KYSU.EDU/GIVENOW





KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY
Founded 1886



EDGAR ENOCH HUME
1875 – 1877
State Representative



JOHN HENRY JACKSON
1886 – 1898
First President





Accreditation and Affiliations

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate of nursing practice level degrees. Kentucky State University also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Kentucky State University may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033- 4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

Kentucky State University remains committed to continuous improvement and institutional excellence. On December 7, 2025, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees placed the institution on Probation for Good Cause, providing a clear opportunity to strengthen our alignment with Standard 13.6 (Federal and state responsibilities) and reinforce our compliance efforts over the next 12 months (Letter from SACSCOC). A Special Committee has been authorized to visit the institution, allowing us to demonstrate the significant strides we are making as we move forward with transparency, responsibility, and a shared dedication to student and institutional success.





Mission Statement

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY provides transformative educational experiences to prepare graduates for making meaningful contributions to society. Kentucky State University is a public, research-comprehensive, historically Black 1890 land-grant institution.

Then & Now

FOUNDED IN MAY 1886, Kentucky State University formally opened on October 11, 1887.

1886	2026
President John Henry Jackson	President Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo
55 Students Enrolled	2,300 Students Enrolled
3 Instructors	450 Faculty and Staff
24 Acres	1,100 Acres
1 Diploma Offered: Normal School Certificate of Completion	30 degree programs: certificates in 28 disciplines, associate (two-year) degrees in two disciplines, baccalaureate (four-year) degrees in 22 disciplines, master's degrees in eight disciplines, and a doctoral degree in nursing practice





Board of Regents

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GENERAL COUNSEL

Mr. ADAM SMITH
INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT OF ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT SUCCESS





Presidential Symbols of Office



UNIVERSITY MACE

The mace is a club-shaped staff used as a symbol of authority. It was originally a weapon of the middle ages with a long handle, heavily weighted on the end. The heavy end became an iron ball as the sciences of war developed, and archers and other unmounted warriors used the mace as a hand arm. The mace was also used as a symbol of authority by some church officials, the British House of Commons, and the United States House of Representatives. Sergeants at arms, who were the guards of kings and other high officials, also carried maces. Even today, a gleaming white mace still rests on the table at meetings in many nations, symbolizing royal and legislative authority. Gradually, the mace gained a ceremonial character and today it is used during inaugurations, commencements and other formal processions. The Kentucky State University Mace is carried in by a member of the faculty.

RECTOR'S REGALIA

Since modern academic regalia evolved from the kinds of apparel worn by monks and students in the Middle Ages to keep warm in the castles and halls in which they studied, academic regalia remains symbolic of scholastic achievement. The regalia worn by Kentucky State University's president is made of black tropical wool. It has green velvet panels and bars. The bars and panels are accented by antique gold cordings. Each sleeve has four chevrons. The sleeves are Akron style inlaid with Washington green. The hood is flat with a square bottom. It is embellished with Washington green satin lining and antique gold chiffon. It also has gold cording with green velvet.

CHAIN OF OFFICE

Each president of Kentucky State University wears the Chain of Office, also referred to as the livery and/or the presidential medallion, symbolizing the Office of the President. It is worn at formal academic occasions such as inaugurations, commencements, convocations, and Founder's Day. Kentucky State University's Chain of Office comprises a 3" diameter brass medallion with an antique finish. It is attached with a leaf banner bearing the title president and leaf clusters. The chain consists of curved banners depicting engravings of the names of all the official presidents of Kentucky State University and their years of service.





List of Presidents



JOHN HENRY JACKSON
1886 – 1898

JAMES SHELTON HATHAWAY
1900 – 1907

JAMES SHELTON HATHAWAY
1910 – 1912

FRANCIS MARION WOOD
1923 – 1924

RUFUS B. ATWOOD
1929 – 1962

WILLIAM A. BUTTS
1975 – 1982

JOHN T. WOLFE, JR.
1990 – 1991

GEORGE W. REID
1998 – 2002

RAYMOND M. BURSE
2014 – 2016

JAMES EDWARD GIVENS
1898 – 1900

JOHN HENRY JACKSON
1907 – 1910

GREEN PINCKNEY RUSSELL
1912 – 1923

GREEN PINCKNEY RUSSELL
1924 – 1929

CARL MCCLELLAN HILL
1962 – 1975

RAYMOND M. BURSE
1982 – 1989

MARY L. SMITH
1991 – 1998

MARY EVANS SIAS
2004 – 2014

M. CHRISTOPHER BROWN II
2017 – 2021

KOFFI C. AKAKPO
2023 – PRESENT





KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

History

From its modest beginnings as a robust school for the training of African American teachers, Kentucky State University has grown into a comprehensive research land-grant institution that prepares a student population to compete in a multifaceted, ever-changing global society.

Kentucky State University began as an idea on October 15, 1885. The Commonwealth needed more normal schools to train African American teachers for employment in its Black elementary schools. On May 18, 1886, Kentucky's legislators authorized the school's creation and the city of Frankfort donated \$1,500, a considerable amount in 1886, and a site on a scenic bluff overlooking the town. The campus was chartered as the State Normal School for Colored Persons and became the second state-supported institution of higher learning in Kentucky.

Recitation Hall, now Jackson Hall, was the college's first building and erected in 1887. The new school opened on October 11, 1887, with three teachers, 55 students, and John Henry Jackson as its first president.

Kentucky State became a land-grant college in 1890 and the departments of home economics, agriculture,

and mechanics were added to the school's curriculum. The school produced its first graduating class of five students in the spring of 1890.

A high school was organized in 1893. This expansion continued into the 20th century in both name and program. In 1902, the name was changed to Kentucky Normal and Industrial Institute for Colored Persons. The name was changed again in 1926 to Kentucky State Industrial College for Colored Persons. In the early 1930's, the high school was discontinued, and in 1938 the school was named the Kentucky State College for Negroes. In 1938 the school gained full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In 1952, the school was named Kentucky State College and finally, in 1972, the school officially became Kentucky State University.

Since its humble beginnings, Kentucky State University now spans 1,100 acres, which includes a 301-acre agricultural research farm, 106-acre research and demonstration facility and a 306-acre environmental education research center. Today, KSU boasts 3 Colleges, 30 degree programs, 30 certificates, 7 residence halls, 12 athletic teams, 2,300 students, and 450 faculty and staff.





Past Founders' Day Speakers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1977 – Dr. William A Brown (1959) | 2004 – Dr. Bailus Walker Jr. (1954) |
| 1978 – Dr. Henry Cheaney (1936) | 2005 – Dr. James C. Letton (1955) |
| 1979 – Rev. Benjamin Baker | 2006 – Mr. Patrick Beauchamp (1955) |
| 1980 – Dr. Carl M. Hill | 2007 – Mr. Lytle T. Davis (1955) |
| 1982 – Dr. Rufus Barfield (1952) | 2008 – Kimberly Reed Thompson, Esq. (1978) |
| 1984 – Dr. Clifford Claiborne (1960) | 2009 – Dr. Cuttie Bacon III (1963) |
| 1985 – Dr. Ivan Cotman (1962) | 2010 – Ms. Tish Norman (1995) |
| 1986 – Mr. Roy E. Bussell Jr. (1970) | 2011 – Dr. Earl Richardson |
| 1987 – Dr. Bessie M. Lasley-Rhodes (1956) | 2012 – Brigadier General Henry L. Huntley (1983) |
| 1988 – Mrs. Brenda Blane (1967) | 2013 – Rev. Zachary Royal (1982) |
| 1989 – Mr. Thomas P. Lewis (1959) | 2014 – Mrs. Joann James (1986) |
| 1991 – Dr. Olivia Whyte Thomas (1972) | 2015 – Judge Hubert Grimes (1975) |
| 1992 – Senator Gerald A. Neal (1967) | 2016 – Patricia Russell-McCloud, Esq. (1968) |
| 1993 – Patricia Russell-McCloud, Esq. (1968) | 2017 – Dr. M. Christopher Brown II |
| 1994 – Mr. Kenneth “Sam” Harp (1977) | 2018 – Rev. Cuttie W. Bacon IV (1987) |
| 1995 – Dr. Herbert Ernest Olivera (1950) | 2019 – Mr. Russell L. Drake |
| 1996 – Mr. Benjamin F. Shobe (1941) | 2020 – Combined with Commencement Convocation |
| 1997 – Dr. Norman Maurice Rates (1947) | 2021 – Dr. Corey Hicks (1995) |
| 1998 – Mr. Adrian L. Wallace | 2022 – Dr. Karen Townsend (1985) |
| 2000 – Dr. Gerald W. Patton (1969) | 2023 – Mr. Frederick Yeakey (2005) |
| 2001 – Dr. Kevin W. Cosby | 2024 – Mayor Stephanie Terry (1998) |
| 2002 – Mr. Jaques J. Wigginton (1986) | 2025 – Dr. Leonard Clemons (2009) |

Note: Parenthetical year represents graduating class.





2026 Keynote Speaker



DR. EVELYN BETHUNE is an educator, author, entrepreneur, and nationally recognized advocate for historical preservation, leadership development, and community empowerment. A proud graduate of Bethune-Cookman College, now Bethune-Cookman University, she carries forward a deeply personal connection to the institution as the granddaughter of its founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune.

As Founder and Managing Director of the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Family Legacy Foundation, Inc., Dr. Bethune leads initiatives that preserve, interpret, and expand her grandmother's legacy while inspiring new generations to embrace scholarship, service, cultural stewardship, and community transformation. Her life's work reflects the enduring HBCU tradition of education not simply as preparation for a career, but as preparation for leadership and service.

Across more than four decades, Dr. Bethune has built a career spanning education, business, government, nonprofit leadership, media, and entrepreneurship. She is also the founder of Bethune Publishing House, Inc. and History in the Making Coaching Network, Inc. Her signature master class, "Greatness Is In Your DNA," connects ancestral history, faith, self-confidence, leadership, and practical business development.

An accomplished author, lecturer, radio host, workshop facilitator, and motivational speaker, Dr. Bethune's books include the award-winning *Bethune: Out of Darkness into the Light of Freedom* and *The Bethune Blueprint: Transforming Your Life Through the Lessons of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune*. Her work transforms history from something we remember into something we actively use to build stronger lives, communities, and institutions.

Dr. Bethune is a Life Member of the Bethune-Cookman University National Alumni Association and the National Council of Negro Women, where she is also a Bethune Achiever. Her service and leadership have been recognized through numerous honors and acknowledgments, including the Phenomenal Woman Award, Most Influential Women in Business honors, and recognition in the United States Congressional Record. She remains a passionate advocate for HBCUs and for alumni engagement, investment, mentorship, advocacy, and collective leadership so that future generations inherit institutions stronger than those entrusted to us today.





Founders' Day Convocation

DR. MICHAEL D. DAILEY '84

Provost and Vice President Division of Academic Affairs

Presiding

GOLDEN CLASS AND ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL

"War March of the Priests"
(from Athalie by Felix Mendelssohn)

Mr. Gordon D. Ford Jr. '19

Guest Organist

THE SUMMONS TO CONVOCATION

Dr. Phillip H. Clay, Jr. '99

Associate Professor of School of Education,
Interim/Acting Director of Graduate Studies

MUSICAL INTROIT

ENTRANCE OF PRESIDUM PLATFORM

Mr. Gordon D. Ford, Jr.

WELCOME TO FRANKFORT

Mr. Layne Wilkerson
Mayor, City of Frankfort

PROVOST WELCOME

Dr. Michael D. Dailey '84

WELCOME

Ms. Drew McEachin
97th Miss Kentucky State University

Mr. LaTrae Redrick
33rd Mister Kentucky State University

THE OCCASION

Ms. Tammi Dukes '94
Chair, Kentucky State University
Board of Regents

THE HERITAGE ANTHEM

*"Lift Every Voice and Sing" (by James Weldon Johnson
and John Rosamond Johnson/Arr. Roland Carter)*

Dr. Patricia Griffith
Accompanist

INVOCATION

Reverend Leslie Wayne Whitlock
Pastor, First Corinthian Baptist Church
Frankfort, KY



THE THOROBBRED OATH

Mr. Kylan Richard
Student Government Association President
Kentucky State University

As a member of the Kentucky State University family,
I pledge to maintain honesty and integrity in my academic and personal life.
I understand that cowardly or shameful acts violate our shared bond
and undermine the community of trust and respect for which we are all stewards.
I will remain loyal to the ideals learned at “The College on the Hill” toward the
betterment of those who are around me and others who come after me.

ALUMNI GREETINGS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Barry Johnson '94
President of the KSUNAA

JUBILEE GRAND MARCH

Mr. Michael R. DeCourcy
Vice President of Institutional
Advancement and External Relations

1976 GOLDEN CLASS RESPONSE

Mr. Wentzel Stewart '76

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Michael D. Dailey '84
Dr. Corey Hicks '95
Chair, KSU Thoroughbreds Foundation, Inc

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

“Somebody’s Knockin’ At Yo’ Do’, arr. Stacey Gibbs”
Soloist, Kisma Jordan '04

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

Ms. Tisha L. Norman '95
Vice President of the KSUNAA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Evelyn Bethune
Founder and CEO of
Barbershop Male Mentoring Initiative

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo
President
Kentucky State University

THE ALMA MATER

University Choirs
Mr. Mario J. Radford '14

POSTLUDE

Mr. Gordon D. Ford, Jr.





Golden Class of 1976

BEN ABERNATHY
MELLIO W. ABERNATHY
LARRY LEE ADAMS
DOUGLAS E. ALBRITTON, JR.
ARNOLD R. ALEXANDER
FELIX R. ALEXANDER
TERRY L. ALEXANDER
JAMES ARMSTRONG
DOUGLAS W. BALDWIN
JAMES W. BARBER
DAVID M. BARNETT
GLENDA M. BEAUMONT
STANLEY K. BETSWORTH
WENCESLAO BORRESS, SR.
ARTHUR G. BOX
JAMES L. BRADLEY
ROOSEVELT R. BRANTLEY
TERRY A. BROWN-HAZARD
OLIVER S. BUCKNER
ROBERT C. BURKS
HOMER W. BYERS, JR.
ROBERT D. BYRD
VALERIA L. CALDWELL GAINES
BERTHA J. CALLAHAN
TOMMIE CARNEY

COURTNEY J. CARTER
ETHEL M. CHANEY
CECIL E. CIARDY
PATRICIA L. CICCORELLA
MIM C. CLARK
WANDA E. CLARK
CEDRIC M. COLLINS
CELINA R COLLINS
LINDA P. COOK
JOSEPH V. CROCKETT
PAUL D. CROSS
NANCY M. CRUME
JAMES W. DAVIE
ANTOINETTE S. DAVIS JONES
HARRIETT E. DAVIS
JAMES DAVIS
BONITA C. DAWSON
MARGARET E. DeBOW
WANDA D. DeWITT
DEBORAH J. DOWNS
ORVELT T. EATON, JR.
LYNNETTE A. EDWARDS
MICHELLE E. FAIN
OLGA R. FLETCHER
TANGULAR Y. FREEMAN





— *Golden Class of 1976 Continued*

ROBERT H. FRENCH
LINDA M. FREY
DOLORES L. GIANNINI
ALLENE W. GOLD
LEEANNA GORDON
KENNETH W. GRAHAM
ROMEE GRAHAM
ROBERT LEE GRIFFITH
DORETHA GUION
EDWARD E. HALE
ALAN S. HAMMOND
ROBERT L. HARP
YVONNE HARRIS
DEREK HENDERSON
GARY M. HENDERSON
HELEN MAI HETCHER
SANDRA K. HILL-LEWIS
JENNIFER K. HODGE
DALE HOLT
DEBRA J. HOOD
THOMAS D. HORNE, SR.
TOMMY E. HORTON, JR.
WALLACE A. HOWARD
ROY C. HOWELL
SHERRY D. HOWELL
CLEVELAND C. HUDSON
MRS. OMEGA F. HUME
JAMES R. HURTT
ROBERT IVORY
KENNETH W. IVY

RENEE S. JACKSON
SUSHIL K. JAIN
LYDIA HAIL JOHNIKIN
MINNIE JOHNSON
MARLA V. JONES
ROBERT W. JORDAN
THOMAS D. KANE
DONALD A. KEMPER
TERESA Y. KNOX
ANTHONY L. LACEY
CHARLOTTE LANE
LINDA A. LARKIN
LESLIE J. LAWSON
MARSHA A. LINDSEY
NIRAL LOAHASURAYOTIN
GEORGE K. LONG
GLORIA J. LONG
EDWARD LEE LUNEY
VENTRA MAPP
NATHANIEL R. MARSHALL
STEPHAN A. MASON, SR.
JAMES D. MAYFIELD
PATRICIA A. MAYFIELD
CAROLYN McLAUGHLIN
JAMES McQUIRE, JR.
IVY MEADOWS
MINNIE MEBANE
BANURAYAT MEEPIEN
EDDIE MILES, JR.
ANITA E. MILLER





WILLIAM D. MINIX
JANNIE E. MORGAN
ANTHONY K. MORRIS
ORA R. MOSBY
JEFFERY MOSELEY
VIRGINIA MEREDITH MUCCI
JOYCE E. NAILING
DONALD W. NELSON
NELLIE NORRIS
VERNON L. OLDHAM
DELE T. OLUBAJO
JO ANN OSBEY
JOYCE Y. OWENS
TERESA L. OWENS
BERTRAM E. PERKINS
EVELYN E. PERRY
CHARLES F. PETERS
PHYLLIS B. PETTAWAY
ETTA J. PHILLIPS
JOHN D. RAVIZEE
DENISE M. RAY
CHERYL A. REDFORD
JOYCE E. REED
WILLIAM L. RIES
ESTHER DENISE ROACHE-DAVIS
MELVIN J. ROBARDS
GEORGE E. ROBINSON
ROSALIND A. ROBINSON
DWIGHT M. ROGERS

LA TANJI ROUSE BURROUGHS
THANUVEULI M. SAMUELS
ANNIE JANE SCOTT
RONALD SEAY
TOMMY SHEFFEY
FRANKIE F. SHEPPARD
CONSTANCE SLAUGHTER
LARRY S. SLAUGHTER
GEORGE M. SMALLEY
BENJAMIN L. SMITH
JACQUELYN D. SMITH
JANET D. SMITH
KENNETH RAY SMITH
MARILYN V. SMITH
SHERRI D. SMITH
ROSALINE SPOVALL
PERASAK SRISUPHOI
DIANE KATHY STEWART
WENTZEL STEWART
GARLAND H. STONE
ALBERT L. STRANGE
DONALD R. SULLIVAN
JOHN R. SUMMERSETT
DEBRA SWEASY
MELVIN K. SYKES
DONALD W. TALBERT
LARRY N. TAYLOR
LUVINIA G. TAYLOR
WILLIAM A. TAYLOR





— *Golden Class of 1976 Continued*

CATHY L. THOMAS
CONNIE S. THOMAS
ANTHONY E. THOMPSON
ERIC H. THOMPSON
MAEDA E. THOMPSON
STEVE F. THORNTON
HAROLD L. TODD
TIMOTHY J. TURNER, JR.
JAMES R. TYSON
RHONDA S. USCHAN
CYNTHIA A. VANDERGRIFF
ARTHUR VANHOUTEN
EKACHAI VARUNPRABHA
CATHERINE WALKER
EDDIE L. WALKER
JAMES F. WALTERS

AUDREY G. WARREN
JAMES E. WATKINS
ESTRELLA U. WATSON
STEPHEN K. WATTS
MARY M. WELCH
VALERIE L. WESLEY
BERNIDA WHITE
JOHN T. WIGGINTON
RALPH M. WILLIAMS
ZACHARY D. WILLIAMS
KAREN D. WILSON
GEORGIA M. WIMBERLY
WILLIAM S. WIMBERLY, SR.
FURCHES L. WINGATE
JANICE E. YEWELL
ANGYLIN C. YOUNG



The Alma Mater

Lyrics by
Frederick Jarmon '43

Music Arrangement
Harriet N. Gibbons '45

HAIL TO OUR ALMA MATER, DEAR IS HER NAME,
AND THERE SHALL BE NO OTHER TO SURPASS HER FAME.
HERS IS THE HAND THAT GUIDES US DAY AFTER DAY,
AND SHE WILL STAND BESIDE US, WHEN WE GO ON OUR WAY.

MAY BLESSINGS BE UPON HER, SHEPHERD OF YOUTH;
SHE HOLDS THE SEAT OF HONOR, IN THE HALL OF TRUTH.
MEM'RIES OF HER SHALL NEVER FADE FROM OUR HEARTS,
AND WE WILL PRAISE HER EVER, FOR THE LOVE SHE IMPARTS.

SING EV'RY VOICE TOGETHER, LET ECHOES RISE.
HAIL TO OUR ALMA MATER, SHOUT TO THE SKIES.
HOLDING THE TORCH OF WISDOM, SHE LEADS THE WAY
CLASPING THE HAND OF FREEDOM, AS SHE MARCHES ALONG.



Lift Every Voice and Sing

*by J. Rosamond Johnson
and James Weldon Johnson*

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING
TILL EARTH AND HEAVEN RING
RING WITH THE HARMONIES OF LIBERTY
LET OUR REJOICING RISE
HIGH AS THE LISTENING SKIES
LET IT RESOUND LOUD AS THE ROLLING SEA

SING A SONG FULL OF THE FAITH THAT THE DARK PAST HAS TAUGHT US
SING A SONG FULL OF THE HOPE THAT THE PRESENT HAS BROUGHT US
FACING THE RISING SUN OF OUR NEW DAY BEGUN
LET US MARCH ON TILL VICTORY IS WON

STONY THE ROAD WE TROD
BITTER THE CHASTENING ROD
FELT IN THE DAYS WHEN HOPE UNBORN HAD DIED
YET WITH A STEADY BEAT
HAVE NOT OUR WEARY FEET
COME TO THE PLACE FOR WHICH OUR FATHERS SIGHED?

WE HAVE COME OVER A WAY THAT WITH TEARS HAS BEEN WATERED
WE HAVE COME, TREADING OUR PATH THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE SLAUGHTERED
OUT FROM THE GLOOMY PAST
TILL NOW WE STAND AT LAST
WHERE THE WHITE GLEAM OF OUR BRIGHT STAR IS CAST

GOD OF OUR WEARY YEARS
GOD OF OUR SILENT TEARS
THOU WHO HAS BROUGHT US THUS FAR ON THE WAY
THOU WHO HAS BY THY MIGHT LED US INTO THE LIGHT
KEEP US FOREVER IN THE PATH, WE PRAY
LEST OUR FEET STRAY FROM THE PLACES, OUR GOD, WHERE WE MET THEE

LEST, OUR HEARTS DRUNK WITH THE WINE OF THE WORLD, WE FORGET THEE
SHADOWED BENEATH THY HAND
MAY WE FOREVER STAND
TRUE TO OUR GOD
TRUE TO OUR NATIVE LAND
OUR NATIVE LAND





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