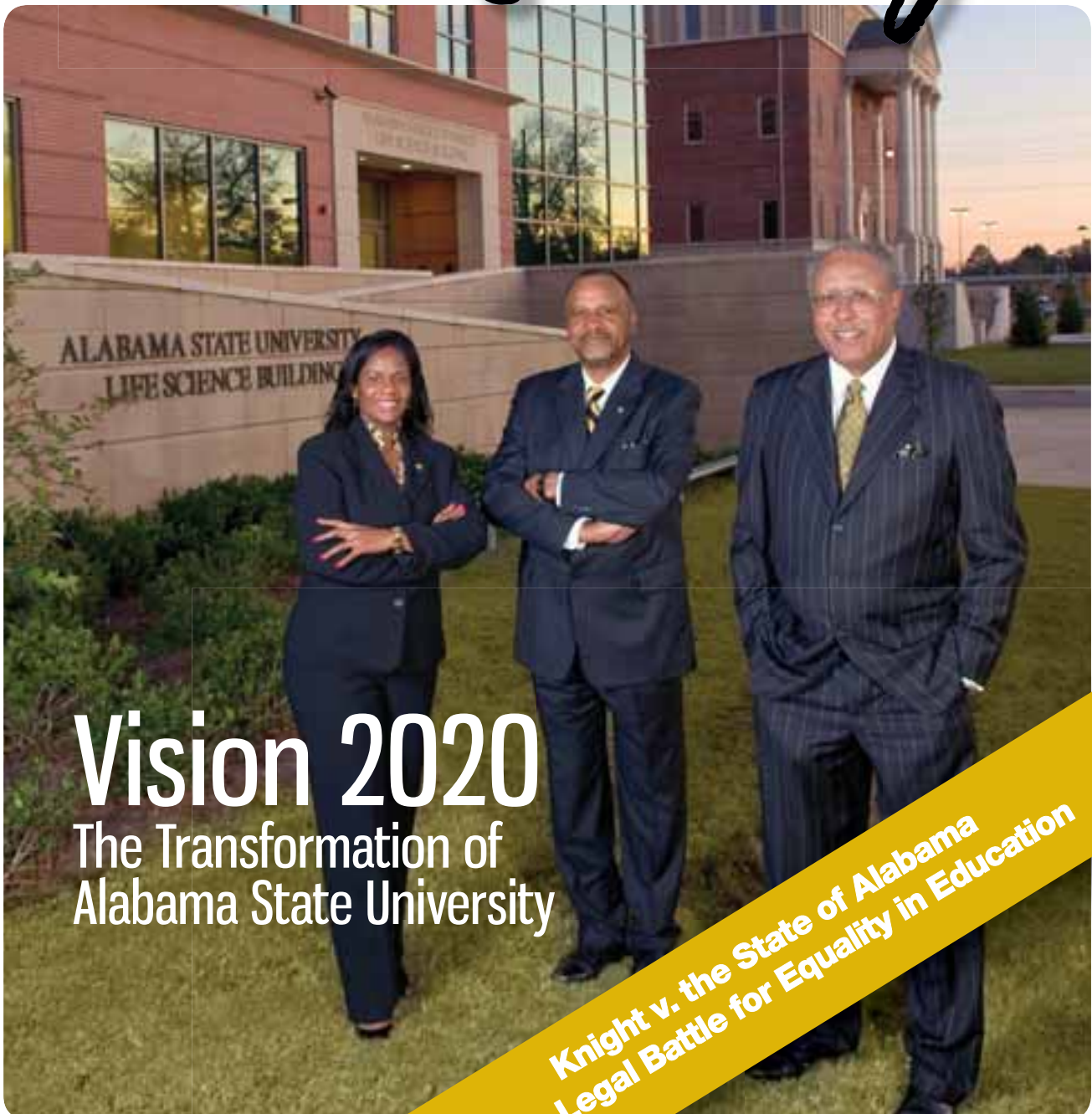


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ASU Today

MAGAZINE



Vision 2020

The Transformation of
Alabama State University

Knight v. the State of Alabama
The Legal Battle for Equality in Education



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All in the Family

ON THE COVER LEFT TO RIGHT:

*Dr. Karyn Scissum Gunn, Dr. John F. Knight Jr and Dr. William H. Harris at the
forefront in the Transformation of Alabama State University.*

FROM THE EDITOR



There's nothing like Homecoming at Alabama State University. The golden trees, the chill in the air and the quiet buzz of students and alumni traversing about a black and gold campus create a special feeling that only comes this time of year.

For decades, we have celebrated the annual Hornet Homecoming during the week of Thanksgiving. This is no mistake, because we have so much to be thankful for! Since its founding, ASU has been the center of the communities that it has served from Marion to Montgomery. What has evolved over 142 years is an extended family that stretches across the globe, with alumni and friends the world over. It is this bond that has allowed the university to persevere, and this bond will ensure our continued progress now and in the future.

Few institutions have a history as rich and storied as ASU. From shared accounts of late-night press runs for the Montgomery Bus Boycott and protests during the fall of Jim Crow to tales of the time that the Jackson 5 spent their day at 915 South Jackson Street, our alums come home to relive and share those special ASU stories that have created memories of a lifetime.

This familial spirit continues in our most recent myASU.me marketing campaign focusing on a broad diversity of students and their testimonials about the wonderful experiences they have had at Alabama State University.

The testimonials applaud the professors who have touched the students' lives, making a daily difference for them both academically and personally. While each testimony is different, the fabric of their stories shares a common thread: pride in their institution.

Part of that pride comes from the significant transformations that students are able to witness on a daily basis. With front row seats, they are enjoying a "Transformed ASU"; they are experiencing new academic programs and participating in the research that will help to propel ASU onto a global platform; they are watching the future of this great institution unfold before their very eyes.

We wanted the readers of *ASU Today* to have an opportunity to experience through words and pictures some of what is happening to transform the physical and academic landscapes of one of the most prestigious Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the nation.

Our desire is to inspire you. If you have been a committed participant in the ASU mission, we hope the unveiling of the university's Master Plan will encourage you to continue. If your Ole 'Bama State Spirit needs a little revival, we invite you to come on home, visit the campus and give us a call to say, "Yes, I want to be part of this great vision." Only together can we bring this era of unparalleled spirit and success to fruition. In short, we want you to feel truly proud of and committed to your ASU.

As our ASU family returns this year, some of you will be awestruck by the prominent transformations that have taken place. You will enjoy some new activities that we've added to the festivities that accompany the spectacular Homecoming event.

We want you to leave Homecoming 2009 with a three-fold charge to give back to your university, to share this ASU story with others, and to encourage the best and brightest students to join the ASU family.

Keep in touch with your alma mater. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Knight Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

John F. Knight Jr.



A BOLD STRATEGIC PLAN

EXCERPTS FROM VISION 2020:
THE ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY
TRANSFORMATION PLAN

By William H. Harris

“Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.”

—Benjamin Franklin

In order for a university to fulfill its purpose effectively, it must pursue a vision, and that vision must be sufficiently bold to shape the institution for decades to come. Thus is the vision of Alabama State University. Utilizing carefully husbanded human and monetary resources, the entire ASU constituency will contribute to the transformation of the university into an institution unlike the one that currently exists.

Our vision is that by 2020, Alabama State University will be transformed into a Level VI Southern Association on Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS COC) classified institution, offering doctoral degrees in four or more major academic or professional disciplines. In realizing its mission, ASU will become one of the premier comprehensive and diverse institutions of higher education in the state of Alabama through achieving excellence in teaching, research and public service.

Over the past 142 years, various social and historical changes have transformed Alabama State University into a broad, multicultural center of learning of which the primary purpose is to develop leadership, knowledge and service for a complex technological society. Recently, this transformation has gained a new momentum.

After decades of intentional limitation to the mission of Alabama State University and its operations by state policies and low funding, a group of alumni and others sued the state of Alabama in 1981, alleging purposeful discrimination and mission denial. This suit resulted in a case before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama, *Knight v. Alabama*, which was heard by United States District Judge Harold J. Murphy. In a decree that was handed down on Aug. 1, 1995, and amended on Sept. 26, 1995, Judge Murphy ordered a major change in the support of Alabama State University by the state of Alabama.

The 1995 decrees for the first time opened ASU’s mission to facilitate the provision of educational opportunities for black students in all fields of human knowledge and for the development of bold new programs and activities. As part of his wisdom, Judge Murphy reasoned that a rich future for Alabama State University should be based not only upon annual state appropriations that rested upon the whims of the Legislature, but upon vested and endowed resources as well. Accordingly, the decree provided for a Trust Fund for Educational Excellence (see story, page 24). The judge also ordered that

Continued to page 35

Vision 2020: The Transformation of Alabama State University



"Progress lies not in
enhancing what is, but
in advancing toward
what will be."

— Kahlil Gibran



Extreme Makeover — Hornet Edition

Major Upgrade of Campus is Now Under Way

By May Donnell

Two decades or so from now, the Chime Tower sitting high atop Bibb Graves Hall will still be the focal point and enduring symbol of Alabama State University.

Alumni will still visit each year to renew old ties, but things won't be the same. Some will no doubt leave their hotel rooms and walk along the shady promenade through campus on their way to the homecoming game. Perhaps they will wonder how they ever did this any other way.

Nearly everything else on campus will have changed, including the way alumni experience homecoming.

The physical transformation of Ole 'Bama State into a cutting-edge and much larger seat of higher learning has begun. It's nothing less than an epic "Extreme Makeover" – the giant black and gold version.

"This plan is bold," said ASU President William H. Harris. "It has been carefully thought out by both ASU stakeholders and some of the country's leading experts. We plan to execute it with precision and grace."

Construction crews are now swarming the 172-acre home of the Hornets as new projects break ground and existing projects wrap up. The work is part of a sweeping Master Plan for the university, and it will continue in stages for the next 20 to 25 years. Phase I is going on now with four additional phases to come.

The Master Plan addresses the need for more space to accommodate future enrollment of up to 8,000 students as well as a desire to transform the campus into a pedestrian-oriented, greenscaped place to live and learn.

TCU Consulting Services is the firm overseeing the project's architects and contractors. According to Percy Thomas, a partner in the firm, one of the



ASU Vice President of Buildings and Grounds Kippy Tate stands with Percy Thomas of TCU Consulting Services on one of the campus construction sites.

main contractors is Rabren General Contractors of Auburn. Another is A.G. Gaston Construction Co. of Birmingham.

The main architects include three Montgomery firms: Brown Chambliss, William Barry Robinson and Barganier Davis Sims, said Thomas.

While funding for current expansions is largely in place, the university will rely on a range of different public and private partnerships and grants to pay for portions of the work set forth in future phases.

Continued to page 6



Architectural rendering of the renovated Levi Watkins Learning Center.



Architectural rendering of the new football complex.

Continued from page 4
EXTREME MAKEOVER



A view from a third-floor window of the Life Science Building.



Students stand on the steps of the new Life Science Building.



Dr. Ralph Bryson

“We’ve customized the Master Plan to suit the needs of present and future ASU students,” said ASU Vice President of Buildings and Grounds Kippy Tate. “It’s a challenge, but it’s also very exciting.”

Among other things, the result of all the effort will be a much bigger campus.

“Of course, I think it’s wonderful,” said Dr. Ralph Bryson, interim head of the ASU English Department. Bryson’s only concern was about longer walking distances for students.

“Students will have to leave earlier and walk faster if they are going to make it to class on time.”

Bryson, who came to ASU in the summer of 1953, thinks the progress being made is worth any inconveniences caused by all the construction.

Sophomore Tina Holley is excited about the changes, even though some won’t be made until after she graduates.

“I look forward to coming back to campus in 20 years and seeing the amphitheater and the stadium,” she said. “It’s really long overdue, but I’m really excited to see it get started. All the improvements will give us more to love about ASU.”



Bibb Graves Hall Tower – the enduring symbol of ASU.

Here's a summary of the major changes planned:

- A 32,000-seat football stadium will be built on the expanded east side of campus.
- Walking will become the primary mode of campus transportation.
- A new hotel and conference center will go up on the northwest corner of campus.
- Formal entrance ways will set the campus apart from surrounding areas.
- A shaded pedestrian mall and a series of landscaped quads will run through campus, linking east and west.
- A new one-stop activities center will provide nearly every student need.
- New dorms will be built and existing dorms renovated.
- The majority of academic buildings will be within a 10-minute walking circle.



Dr. Thelma Ivery

When Dr. Thelma Ivery was an ASU student in the 1950s, the old North Dining Hall, now torn down, was one of the newest buildings on campus. Campus was a smaller place than it is



The ribbon cutting of the new Life Science Building and Ralph D. Abernathy Hall.

today.

“When I came to ASU, there was much less of it,” said Ivery. “If you looked out of Paterson Hall, you saw the veterans’ barracks. Beyond that were people’s houses.”

She added that it is amazing to her to think that ASU now has crossed over Carter Hill Road to the south and Hall Street to the east.

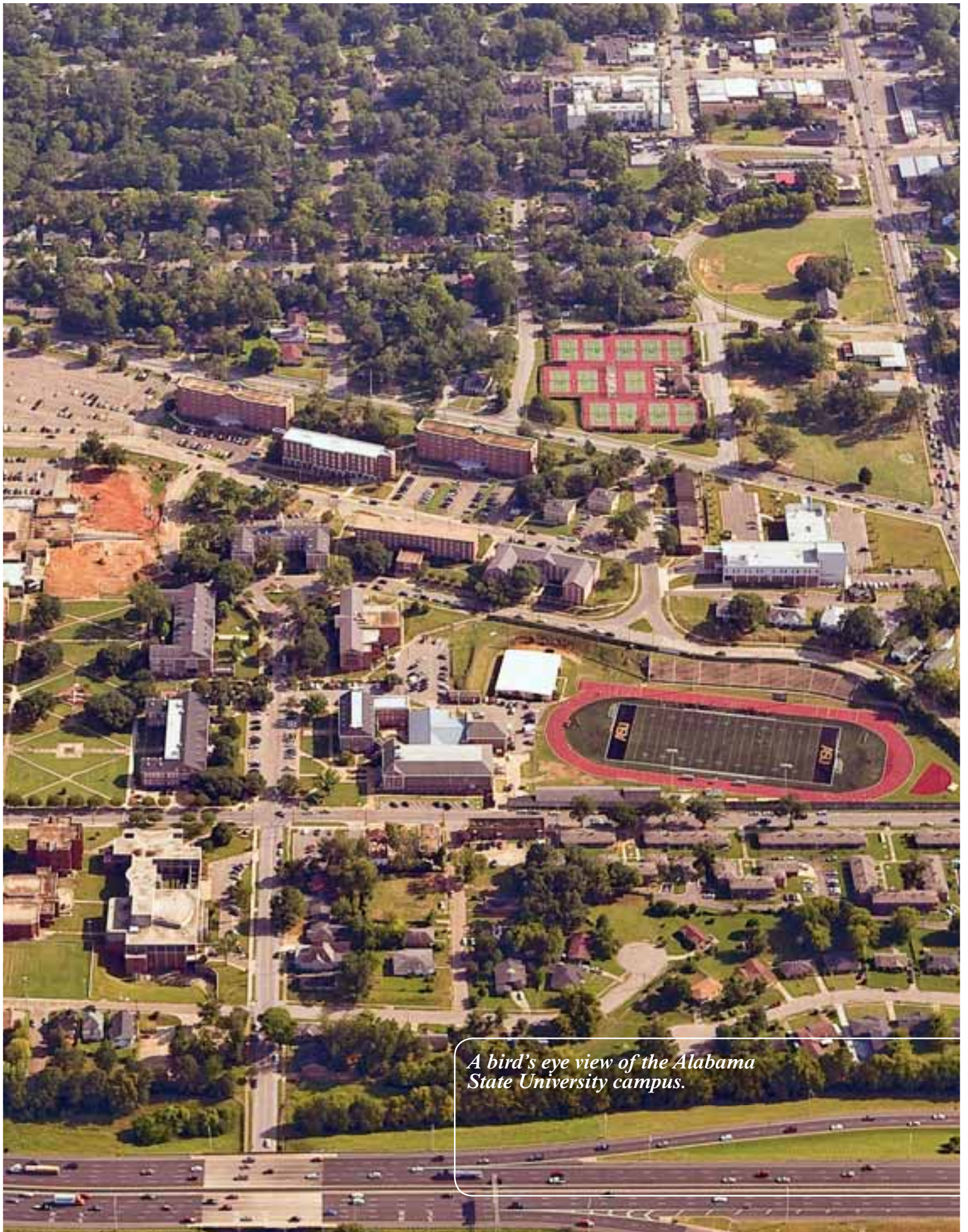
“ASU has expanded so much, it’s just really unbelievable to me,” Ivery said.

Thomas agrees. “It’s just a great experience to see this all come

together at ASU,” said Thomas, whose wife is an ASU graduate. “It’s very exciting and very challenging at the same time.”

“This vision is broad and the vision is deep,” said Harris. “If we all do it together, it is very achievable. The possibilities are so exciting and the end result will enhance the life of students at ASU.” ■





A bird's eye view of the Alabama State University campus.

5 PHASES

TO TRANSFO

A breakdown of the five phases of the project offers a better understanding of the depth and breadth of the planned growth of the university. All completion times and costs are approximate. Unless noted, projects are in planning stages.

Phase One

Completion: 2012

Cost: \$160 million

Standout Project: New student activity center

Highlights:

Buildings

New life sciences, forensics, health sciences and education buildings (complete); new dining hall (complete); renovations of six dormitories (two complete); new student activity center and library expansion (under way)

Site Improvements

Renovations to the homes of Dr. Abernathy (under way) and Nat King Cole (for use as a museum); new recreational fields for the east campus; gateway for Carter Hill Road at Hall Street (under way); gateway for Carter Hill Road at South Decatur; campus-wide landscaping and parking projects (under way); removal of a portion of South University Drive to be used as green space.

Phase Two

Completion: 2020

Cost: \$143 million

Standout Project: Hornet Stadium

Highlights:

Buildings

New 32,000-seat football stadium on east campus; a cultural center with Nat King Cole Museum; an amphitheater; east residential village; Acadome parking deck with ground-level retail.

Site Improvements

Work on east-west pedestrian mall begins; Hall Street bypass; streetscape improvements; stadium parking lot and plaza.

Beyond 2020

Phase Three

Completion: 2025

Cost: \$66 million

Standout Project: New east dormitories

Highlights:

Building

East campus residential village; new academic buildings along Hall Street; completion of east-west pedestrian mall; new field house on Fifth Street.

Site Improvements

Landscaping of east campus dormitories; streetscaping of Fifth Street; gymnasium renovations.

Phase Four

Completion: 2030

Cost: \$128 million

Standout Project: Union Street Campus Town

Highlights:

Building

At former Paterson Court site, a multi-use residential/retail village; student apartments; new baseball and soccer fields.

Site Improvements

Parking area along I-85; gateway at corner of North University and South Union streets.

Phase Five

Completion: 2035

Cost: \$117 million

Standout Project: Hotel and conference center

Highlights:

Building

New hotel and conference center near Campus Town and accompanying multi-level parking structure; student apartments on West University Drive.

Site Improvements

Streetscape improvements along Carter Hill Road and Hall Street.

“Every step of progress the world has made has been from scaffold to scaffold and from stake to stake.”

- Wendell Phillips

FORMATION

Entryways to Define New Look, New Day on Campus

By May Donnell



Herman Melville declared that the eyes are the gateway to the soul. If this is true, then could there be a gateway to the "soul" of ASU?

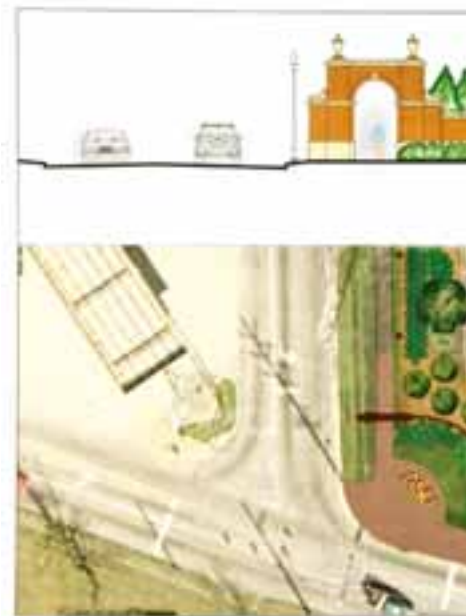
The answer is yes: four very nice ones. Two of them are being built now and the other two are in the planning stages. More may be planned down the road.

Rabren General Contractors of Auburn is building the first two structures as part of a \$3 million Hall Street improvement project that includes new sidewalks and lighting. They are located at the north and south ends of the street that runs through campus.

The new gateways will offer an immediate "Welcome to ASU." They are there to let you know that you've entered university life and left everything else behind, according to Dr. William H. Harris, president of ASU.

"Our new entrances will announce to everybody, 'This is Alabama State University and we're happy to have you with us,'" said Harris.

An arched entryway is now under construction at the Hall Street/North University Drive entrance. The other entryway is being constructed at the Hall Street/Carter Hill Road entrance. Both should be substantially completed by the end of November, according to ASU Vice President of Buildings and Grounds Kippy Tate.



“The entryways will give visitors the physical feeling that they’ve made the transition from the city of Montgomery to ASU,” said Tate. “This is not a signage package. This is a series of components that will come together and make a clear statement that you have arrived.”

Both gates on Hall Street will include control stations for security guards. According to Tate, the guards will be posted to limit and/or slow traffic through the area. Part of the ASU Master Plan includes a Hall Street bypass to be built later.

One of the concerns brought out early and often during initial meetings between ASU leaders and professional campus planners was that the university lacked formal,

definitive entrance ways into campus. According to the adopted Master Plan’s introduction, at some points it is difficult to tell where the ASU campus actually begins.

Because gateways help to convey the university’s identity, the planners agreed they should be designed consistently and reflect the overall new look of the campus. They reasoned further that since the entrances are the first impressions a visitor will have of ASU, the gateways should be among the first items on the wish list of campus improvements.

Future gateways may be planned for the Tullibody Drive entrance from South Jackson Street and the South Decatur Street at Carter Hill Road entrance. A traffic round, or rotary, also may be constructed at this point to help slow the pace of traffic.

Tate pointed out, however, that the locations of the next two planned entryways have yet to be formally determined.

“Eventually, as we develop this project, we will make all of the major entryways similar in scope to the ones at Hall Street,” he said.

Down the road, other entryways may be constructed as the campus expands. Following the acquisition of



Gateway construction site at the corner of Carter Hill Road and Hall Street.



the planned Paterson Court housing district, a gateway may be added near the new hotel and convention center.

These new entry points will present a welcoming preview of what today’s ASU campus is all about, set a tone for visitors and alumni and, once completed, play a key role in the overall transformation of the university, according to Harris.

“The entrances will define our campus like never before,” said Harris. ■

Campus **Abuzz** Over New Student Services Center

By May Donnell



Architectural rendering of the new student center.

You might describe the new \$25 million Student Services Center as a kind of heightened, one-stop shopping venue. The two-story structure now being built on the site of the old Hardy Student Center will have a little bit of everything, including a home for nearly all of the services the university provides for its students.

It was designed by Montgomery architects Barganier Davis Sims. Its 80,000 square feet of convenience will soon stretch across four acres of land near the center of campus. Opening is set for January 2012.

Construction of the new center is one of the major starting points of a Master Plan for the university that

will be implemented over the course of the next 20 years. Access to the nearby Fred Shuttlesworth Dining Hall will be gained through a series of landscaped courtyards that are designed as part of the pedestrian-friendly campus of the future.

The student center will house registration, admissions, student accounts, career services, student housing and a counseling center. Sororities and fraternities will have suites at the center, along with student government leaders. A security substation will be located on the first floor.

Tate said the state-of-the-art facility will house a cyber café, bookstore, post office, computer lab, food court and movie theater.



SGA president Stanley Giles and Golden Ambassador Tina Holley pose in front of the new student center site.

"A number of universities have gone to a one-stop location for students to receive services," said ASU Vice President of Buildings and Grounds Kippy Tate. "We liked the idea, but we wanted our own version; so we custom-designed this facility to wrap around the needs of our students."

SGA President Stanley Giles was part of a group that visited other state institutions last year to get ideas for the new facility.

"We went to UAB and Birmingham Southern to look at what they had," said Giles. "The university listened to our feedback from that trip and incorporated a lot of our suggestions into the design of this new student center. I'm definitely excited about it."

Tate said combining services in one location will cut down on the time it takes for students to conduct their business with the university.

"Instead of multiple locations, students will fulfill nearly all of their needs right there – from registration to housing to student accounts and financial aid," he said. "This way, students don't have to go running all over campus to get what they need."

Today's ASU freshmen will begin using the facility by the middle of their junior year.

"I am so happy we're getting a new place to hang out," said Stella Speer, a freshman from New York City. "I've

heard it's going to have a lot of new places for us to eat and that is important."

Another freshman, John Young of Tallassee, likes the idea of having a new place to have fun.

"When they build the new student center, people without cars can find entertainment right here without having to find transportation somewhere else," he said. "From what I hear, there's going to be a lot to do over there."

Freshman Larry Burton, a communications major from Atlanta, said he agrees that the new center will be a welcome addition to ASU.

"I can't wait to see what it's going to be like," he said. "I just wish it didn't take so long to build."

"It gives us something to look forward to," said freshman Synikaqua Taylor. "It'll be somewhere new to go."

Tate concurs that the new student services center will be something to look forward to.

"It is definitely going to enhance the quality of life for ASU students," he said.

As for senior Giles, the new student services center will be a place he will visit as an alumnus.

"I regret I won't be around to take advantage of the new student center," Giles said. "But, hey, if the students coming behind me can benefit from it, then I'm all for that." ■



Dr. William H. Harris with members of the university's Administrative Council. From left to right: Sterling Steward, Interim Athletic Director; Dr. Freddie Gallot, Vice President of Business and Finance; Danielle Kennedy-Lamar, Vice President of Marketing and Communications; Carmen Douglas, Vice President of Human Resources; Dr. John F. Knight, Jr., Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Karyn Scissum Gunn, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs; Kippy Tate, Vice President of Building and Grounds; and Rick Drake, Interim Associate Provost and Vice President of Student Services.

RE-ORGANIZING FOR THE FUTURE

By Gary Maitland

While the most visible aspects of the change taking place at Alabama State University are the ongoing construction projects across campus, the heart of the transformation is a revamped organizational structure.

The first phase of the reorganization, which was announced in September 2008, created two new leadership positions – university provost, and executive vice president and chief operating officer.

John F. Knight Jr. was named executive vice president and chief

facilities, athletics, human resources, marketing and communications, and the Center for Leadership and Public Policy.

Gunn is in charge of faculty and student-related activities such as research programs, enrollment and student services, and heads up the six colleges of the university, the School of Graduate Studies and the Levi Watkins Learning Center.

Knight and Gunn will rely upon a number of experienced and highly qualified administrators who serve

addition of three new vice presidents to oversee the divisions of Marketing and Communications, Human Resources, and Buildings and Grounds.

“This is all part of our ongoing process to reorganize Alabama State University, which also compliments our university’s Plan for Excellence,” Harris said when he made the announcement in June of this year.

The new vice presidents are Danielle Kennedy-Lamar for Marketing and Communications;

“WE LOOKED FOR A WAY TO BETTER
STREAMLINE COMMUNICATIONS AND MAKE
SURE ALL THE ISSUES WITH THE UNIVERSITY
WERE BEING ADDRESSED.”

—DR. WILLIAM H. HARRIS

operating officer and Dr. Karyn Scissum Gunn was named provost and vice president of Academic Affairs. Both will report directly to President William H. Harris.

Calling the changes both necessary and strategic, Harris said university officials spent weeks reviewing the way similar-sized institutions were structured before developing an organizational chart (see pages 36 and inside back cover) that splits operations into two main areas – academics and support services.

As the university’s highest ranking non-academic official, Knight oversees business and financial matters, grounds and physical

as vice presidents, associate provosts and directors. Their charge is to carry out the day-to-day functions of a university with more than 1,200 employees.

“This new system, I think, is ... going to improve day-to-day oversight at the very highest level so that the busyness of the president’s office doesn’t prevent things from happening on a regular basis,” said Harris. “It gives me a funnel that can keep me directly involved in the most important items with a moment’s notice without having to talk to 10 or 12 people.”

The second phase of the organizational change was the

Kippy Tate for Buildings and Grounds; and Carmen Douglas for Human Resources.

Kennedy-Lamar returns to ASU after having served as Florida A&M University’s associate vice president for Student Affairs-Enrollment Management. She formerly was ASU’s director of Admissions and Recruitment from 1999 to 2006.

Douglas – a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources – has 17 years experience and served as the employee relations and training specialist at the Montgomery City-County Personnel Department since 2003.

Tate is a registered architect and
Continued to page 25

Knight v. the State of Alabama:

The Quest for Equality

By Arnelle Adcock



Think of the best university you can imagine. Picture academic programs attracting the brightest students and faculty from around the world and a well-planned campus with buildings designed for function and beauty that make a statement for quality of life and excellence.

“Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.”

— Harry S. Truman

For Dr. William H. Harris and Dr. John F. Knight Jr., that university is Alabama State University.

The vision of such a university motivated Knight and other university and other ASU leaders, alumni, supporters and students to initiate lawsuits to bring about the change needed to make the vision a reality.

“We see ourselves as a flagship university,” Knight said. “These lawsuits are all about the ASU team’s having the resources and opportunity to build the best university. Living that vision is what we want and why we keep pushing onward.

“We don’t want someone else to do our work or build our dream,” he said. “We want the opportunity to do that ourselves.”

The task has been longer and more complex than anyone thought it would be.

The case actually began during the administration of President Levi Watkins Sr. The following passage is from Dr. Watkins’ book, *Alabama State University: The First 114 Years, 1867-1981*.

“When it became clear that the state and the universities were planning no voluntary action to desegregate, President Watkins and Vice President Charles Varner organized the Fund for Alabama State University Defense (FASUD), a non-profit corporation chartered 23 September 1980 for legal defense of ASU through protection of the constitutional rights of students and employees.”

Watkins asked Knight to serve as lead plaintiff in the resulting lawsuit with a goal of ending vestiges of segregation in the funding of higher education in Alabama.

Knight said “yes.”

“I was back from Vietnam and had a sense of pride and commitment to making changes in Alabama,” he said.

“This struggle and fight have been revealing to me. They never should have been this hard.”

Yet, 25 years, millions of dollars and countless hours of work later, Knight said he would still say “yes” to Watkins’ challenge.

Knight was 35 years old when the now famous desegregation lawsuit was filed. *John F. Knight Jr. and the United States of America v. the State of Alabama* focused on allegations of racism and state policies that either prevented or critically limited educational opportunities for blacks in Alabama.

Watkins had been following a similar lawsuit in Tennessee, and he knew that litigation in Alabama could not be far behind.

“We concluded that in order for black citizens of Alabama to protect the future of Alabama State and Alabama A&M, they should file their own litigation, independent of any state or government entity,” Knight said. “That way, when pressures came, we could remain independent, stand our ground and do what was right.”

When *Knight v. Alabama* was filed, Alabama was operating under a separate but unequal system of higher education, especially in regard to funding and program offerings, said Knight. As the case unfolded, he said he was surprised at the depth of the neglect and the struggle that people had gone through to establish and maintain ASU.

“If the black universities had been funded fairly from

the time they were established, think of where we would be today,” said Knight. “That is why the lawsuits were filed.”

Even though the Civil Rights Act of 1964 forced race-neutral practices in education across the nation, severe limitations in funding and program options continued to negatively impact Alabama State and Alabama A&M.

In November 1980, a Higher Education Desegregation Working Group was formed in the U.S. Department of Education in Atlanta to generate letters of finding for several states, including Alabama. The state’s letter of finding, issued Jan. 7, 1981, stated that vestiges of the former de jure system of higher education remained in Alabama’s public colleges and universities in violation of Title VI. The state of Alabama was directed to devise a plan for compliance.

No plan was ever submitted. On Jan. 15, 1981, Knight and other plaintiffs filed a lawsuit in the Middle District of Alabama. The U.S. attorney general filed a separate action July 11, 1983. ASU and Alabama A&M soon became plaintiffs in the case *United States v. Alabama*.

The first trial in *United States v. Alabama* resulted in a Dec. 9, 1985, order and memorandum of opinion. After a one-month trial, District Judge U.W. Clemon concluded that Alabama had operated a racially dual system of higher



Judge Harold Murphy

education until 1967 and that vestiges of the de jure system had not been dismantled. The state was ordered to submit a plan to correct the problem.

On Oct. 6, 1987, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered a new trial. The court ruled that ASU and



Carlos Gonzalez

Alabama A&M could not prosecute claims against the state. It dismissed the case but affirmed the right of the Knight plaintiffs to challenge vestiges of segregation under the 14th Amendment. Knight and 18 others were designated as lead plaintiffs. They and the United States filed amended complaints.

The second trial began Oct. 29, 1990. U.S. District Judge Harold Murphy repeatedly stated throughout the six-month trial that he did not want to have to enforce a remedy in *Knight v. Alabama*.

When his efforts to bring about a settlement failed, Judge Murphy digested the testimony of 200 witnesses, perused hundreds of thousands of pages of exhibits, and reviewed more than 20,000 pages of transcripts before rendering an 840-page court order Dec. 27, 1991. Issues remanded on appeal in 1987 were addressed in a second 198-page order issued Aug. 1, 1995.

Judge Murphy ruled that vestiges of segregation have impeded and unduly restricted ASU and Alabama A&M and that the 14th Amendment required the state to eliminate those vestiges.

Carlos Gonzalez, an Atlanta attorney, was Judge Murphy’s law clerk during the trial and was appointed special master and adjunct for court implementation.

“This case was a significant landmark for desegregation litigation,” he said. “It was a remarkable step for Alabama and showed the way for other states to get their university funding in step with federal laws. So much of what was accomplished in Alabama and at ASU is directly related to the leadership and character of Judge Murphy and how he administered the case.”

Of all the victories, all the gains that ASU and Alabama A&M made through *Knight v. Alabama*, the one that is most important to Knight is “recognition that historically black institutions have the right to exist ... where you maintain the heritage, the name, all that you’ve stood for all those years, but not for the purpose of being segregated.”

Once the legal battles were completed, the transformation of Alabama State University began in earnest.

“The court case is a cornerstone of ASU’s future,” Harris, ASU president, said. “Our mission has expanded, our governance has changed and our funding has increased. These elements were necessary for us to prepare and implement a transformational plan for the university’s future.”

Harris has focused on preparing the campus for the development that will support and enhance advanced program growth and broad-based student recruitment.

“We are becoming international in scope and activity,” he said. “It is vital that we complete the reality of this transformational event. ASU will be wholly unlike what we were before the case in programs, facilities and academic expectations.

“Our graduate programs and baccalaureate programs will be among the best. Our faculty will be involved in research, national discourse, publications and presentations,” he said.

Gonzalez agrees.

“ASU is a changed university with enhanced programs and facilities,” he said. “The leaders have shifted the direction of the university to be responsive to the current needs of students and of the state.

“This case gave ASU the opportunity to compete on a level playing field,” Gonzalez said. “Dr. Harris and Dr. Knight are committed to the new future of ASU — a university providing educational excellence unfettered by its segregated past.”

“We will press on,” Harris said. “Our new period of growth will be accomplished with the partnership of our constituencies.”

“This case is helping us accomplish what we fought for,”

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Actions Ordered by the Court

The State of Alabama and the traditionally white colleges and universities were permanently enjoined and restrained from maintaining vestiges of discrimination and from impeding desegregation of the state’s colleges and universities. Actions ordered by the court to finally and fully desegregate higher education were comprehensive in scope and specific in details.

Faculty and Administrative Employment: Auburn University, Calhoun State Community College, Livingston University, Troy State University and the University of Montevallo were ordered to hire more black faculty members. Universities directed to recruit and employ more black administrators were AU, Jacksonville State University, the University of Alabama, UA-Huntsville and the University of North Alabama.

State Funding for Higher Education: The portion of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education’s funding formula that reduced higher education appropriations based on average statewide tuition was modified because it unfairly affected historically black universities.

Facilities: ASU was awarded more than \$15 million for capital expenditures to address the effects of long-term neglect from deferred maintenance because of lack of funding.

AAMU was awarded approximately \$16 million. Troy State University Montgomery was enjoined from expanding its physical plant without court approval.

Program Duplication: A single statewide cooperative extension system was created with AAMU and AU as full participants. An associate director for extension was designated at AAMU to oversee urban affairs and new nontraditional programs.

Program duplication in business and education at ASU and AUM was reduced by establishing cooperative programs of study and unnecessary program duplication in business education between AAMU and Calhoun State was eliminated.

Scholarships to Diversify: Other-race scholarships were awarded to ASU and AAMU to help them diversify their student bodies and to

Continued to page 22

eliminate perceptions of inferiority. The scholarships were funded annually up to 2005. Each university was reimbursed up to \$1 million a year for diversity scholarships.

☞ *Recruitment of White Students: ASU and AAMU were directed to develop and implement a recruitment policy targeting white students and an advertising campaign focusing on institutional quality and openness to other-race students.*

☞ *To provide ASU a fair opportunity to compete for white non-traditional and commuter students, the two-year college system was prohibited from establishing a community or junior college in Montgomery or Madison County. In addition, Calhoun State-Huntsville's enrollment was capped to allow AAMU to compete for those students.*

☞ *Endowments: A Trust for Educational Excellence was created at ASU and AAMU to augment negligible endowments caused by historic under funding. The trust at each university was awarded \$1 million annually for 15 years (ending in 2010), and the state was required to match contributions of up to \$1 million to each endowment annual.*

☞ *New Programs: Several high-demand programs were awarded to ASU and AAMU to assist materially in their desegregation. ASU was directed to develop and implement a curriculum and program of study in allied health sciences and was awarded up to two Ph.D. programs and a master's degree in accounting. AAMU was authorized to establish an undergraduate mechanical and electrical engineering program.*

☞ *Long-Term Planning and Oversight Committee: In 1995 this committee was established to assist the court and the parties in implementing the court's decree. The members of the committee are former presidents of universities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Texas.*

Lawsuit Participants with John Knight

- Alma S. Freeman • John T. Gibson • Susan Buskey
- Carl Petty • Dennis Charles Barnett • Vonda Cross
- Tammi Palmer • Alease S. Sims • Stacey Levis Sims
- Gary Mitchell Jr. • Grover L. Brown • Frederick Carodine
- Frankie Patricia Yarbrough • Charles Edwards McMillan
- Horace W. Rice • Anthony Y. Lavonne Thompson
- Kreslyon Lynette Valrie • Taylor Byrd • Dan Tibbs Jr.

The Impact of Knight v. State

By Tom Ensey



Stacie Fairley

Stacie Fairley knew she wanted to be a scientist by the time she was 10 years old, growing up in tiny Collins, Miss. She also knew she wanted to make that dream happen at Alabama State after she visited the campus for the first time in the late 1990s.

As an undergraduate, as a graduate student at Auburn and later teaching at ASU, she saw that other schools had more resources and better facilities.

"I'd look around and think, 'Why don't we have that at ASU?'" she said.

These days, the self-described "die-hard Hornet" is a doctoral student in microbiology at ASU. Sometimes, she looks out the third-floor window of the brand new Life Science Building, sees the massive construction going on all over campus and it's all she can do not to burst into applause.

"Where have those bulldozers been?" she said, laughing. "We're finally getting to that level, to where we're supposed to be, to where we belong."

"With all the new people we've brought in, all the fresh ideas, I'm so excited about the changes I see — to make us more competitive with Alabama and Auburn, a research-based institution as well as one that puts out teachers."

Much of what brings pride to Fairley and others like her can be attributed to *Knight v. the State of Alabama*. The litigation was designed to position Alabama State to be able to expand its mission and to create new opportunities for training professionals in high-demand fields.

"A host of new academic programs have been spawned by that case," said Dr. Karyn Scissum Gunn, the school's provost. "Among them, in health sciences alone, a doctorate in clinical therapy, a master's in occupational therapy, training in health information management and rehabilitation counseling, and an undergraduate degree in rehabilitation services focusing on addiction studies."

The crown jewel of the health sciences expansion is the Ph.D. program in microbiology — Fairley's field. The program has been praised by reviewers for its focus on solving societal problems, including combating microbial contamination of food. Faculty members are working on new strategies to combat the H1N1 epidemic that has drawn such media attention.

"The school of business has added a Master of Accountancy program. A concentration in international business and another fast-growing initiative in entrepreneurial leadership have helped attract business persons of international stature to partner with faculty and students," Scissum Gunn said. "The College of Education had the school's first doctoral program in Educational Leadership, Policy and Law, which has already trained dozens in the past three years."

The transformation that's taking place in front of everyone's eyes began with the facilities upgrade, which has helped spark the surge in health sciences.

"We have an excellent facilities base," Scissum Gunn said. "We're well equipped, and federal dollars procured by the university have given

us world-class instrumentation and equipment. When you recruit scientists and they see you have excellent instruments they can use for research, that's attractive. We've been able to recruit faculty members from major universities to help make sure the program grows to national prominence."

Dr. Shree Singh, an associate professor and director of research and training in health sciences, said the university's facilities are now on a par with any institution in the nation.

"Many more students in our program are being recognized all across the country," he said. "We don't make any (national recruiting) effort, but we're getting a lot of applications from outstanding students from all over.



Dr. Shree Singh

— and most likely, we will have some breakthrough research that will put us on the map. On the path we are headed, we will be recognized as the research institution in the state."

Dr. Steven Chesbro, who oversees the physical therapy program, pointed out that health science facilities are not cheap — and the funds generated by *Knight v. State* paid for the anatomy lab, the biomechanics lab and other infrastructure that has led to programs like the new master's degree in prosthetics and orthotics. It goes hand-in-hand with other programs in rehabilitation therapy at ASU, he said.

"We're filling a real need in the state and region," Chesbro said. "We're going through a wonderful period of growth now, and not just in health sciences. I'm looking forward to helping create a college that takes a comprehensive look at individuals with disability."

Trish Sigmon is nearing completion of her doctorate in physical therapy and will be part of a team that will travel to San Diego in February to present research to the American Physical Therapy Association. The research, developed by one of her ASU professors, projects strength gains in patients.



Dr. Steven Chesbro

"ASU is at a point where we will be able to compete in teaching with any other institution in the state or nation

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TRUST *for* EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

By Lois G. Russell



LaToya Agee Williams

LaToya Agee Williams remembers the excitement she felt when notified that she was one of the recipients of a Great Teacher Scholarship.

"I came from a family that didn't have a lot," Williams said. "I was struggling with tuition when I got the scholarship. It did help me out tremendously."

The Teacher Scholarship is administered through the ASU Trust for Educational Excellence.

The scholarships are designed to help students like LaToya who are good students but may be having difficulty meeting their financial obligations.

The Trust is another benefit that ASU has received from the *Knight v. State of Alabama* decree.

The Trust is now 14 years old and has raised millions of dollars for the university. It has been funded by an annual payment of \$1 million from the Alabama Special Education Trust Fund and an additional sum of up to \$1 million matched by gifts, grants and contributions to the trust by alumni, foundations, corporations, associations, estates and other sources.

The decree set the annual payments and matching grants for a period of 15 years. The matching funds end in 2010. The Trust, however, will continue.

Retiring ASU professor Dr. Wallace Maryland plans to do his part to help the Trust keep going. He has contributed to the fund for the past 10 years, establishing the Wallace and Naomi R. Maryland Jr. Scholarship to benefit university students.

Maryland said his involvement in the trust stemmed from his efforts to recruit students for mathematics and science programs.

"There's a shortage of students in math, biology, physics and science," said Maryland. "In order to fulfill

"WE MAKE
A LIVING BY
WHAT WE GET.
WE MAKE A
LIFE BY WHAT
WE GIVE."

WINSTON
CHURCHILL

the requirement to attract more students in these areas, we recognized that scholarships would be an incentive."

"I give to the Trust because I believe in the mission of ASU," said Dr. Evelyn Hodge.

Dr. Hodge is also a 10-year donor whose concern for students and potential students prompted her to give.

"I have had the opportunity to work in the Black Belt (of Alabama). I met so many deserving

students who would not be able to benefit from an education at ASU if not for the Trust. I gladly give because of that," said Hodge.

Danielle Kennedy-Lamar, vice president of Marketing and Communications, has primary responsibility for the administration of the Trust. She said the Trust is an excellent means of showing support for ASU, its vision and its mission.

It gives ASU alumni, friends and supporters the opportunity to do something to help someone," said Kennedy-Lamar.

Longtime ASU supporters Oatice and Deborah Thomas are major donors to the Trust.

"We give because ASU



Dr. Wallace Maryland



Oatice and Deborah Thomas with Dr. Knight and Dr. Harris.



Dr. Evelyn Hodge

has given so much to us,” said Deborah Scott Thomas. “ASU took me from the fields to the hills of the Capitol in Washington,

D.C. I want to give someone else that same opportunity.”

Kennedy-Lamar said while many HBCU’s find it difficult to establish large endowments, ASU’s endowment is nearly \$60 million.

“We are proud of that accomplishment,” said Kennedy-Lamar, “but we still have a long way to go and so much more that we can do. This is something we can all do. Whether your gift is one dollar or one million dollars, every dollar helps ASU to get to where we need to be.”

The Thomases, both members of the Classes of the ’70s, have launched a campaign to raise \$7 million for the Trust over the next few years.

Oatice Thomas had these simple words of advice for his fellow alumni.

“It’s time. Why procrastinate? Help some student today by giving to the trust.” ■

*To make a donation to the ASU Trust for Educational Excellence, visit our Web site at www.alasu.edu, or mail your donation to:
The Office of the President
Alabama State University
P.O. Box 271
Montgomery, AL 36101-0271
For more information, call (334) 229-4620.*

Continued from page 17 RE-ORGANIZING

formerly served as director of the state of Alabama’s Building Commission.

Harris said all of the organizational changes that have occurred the past year will allow university officials to better serve the needs of students, faculty and staff through more effective interaction and communication.

“We instituted this process and these new positions after looking at several different factors,” said Harris. “We looked for a way to better streamline communications and make sure all the issues with the university were being addressed.”

The reorganization is just one part of the work that Harris has been able to accomplish in the year since he has returned to Alabama State.

“I wanted to change the tone and tenor and to make sure that we ... deal with matters ourselves internally,” he said. “We’re opening our new facilities and we’ve put into place new admissions standards. Lots of things are already there and there’s a whole lot of stuff in stages of implementation. It’s been a whirlwind year.”

See organizational chart on inside back cover and on page 36 of this edition. ■

Continued from page 23 Impact of Knight v. State

“It’s a new concept,” she said. “We hope our research will help build a foundation for it.”

Sigmon has seen the number and quality of students grow in her time at ASU, and said she’s proud to have been a part of it. Upon graduation, she plans to join her husband, who now lives in Florida, and work there as a physical therapist. She sees herself as something of a pioneer who will go into the workforce and prove that her training has prepared her to be a top-notch physical therapist.

Fairley isn’t sure yet where life and her doctorate will take her. She’d like to stay in academics and become a dean or even a college president one day. She’s confident her education will enable her to do something she loves.

“There are so many options,” she said. “I wouldn’t hesitate to go into research. Every day I step in the lab, I am exposed to something different. I am surprised and challenged.”

She’s glad she trusted her instincts when she felt so at home — and in love — that first day on campus at ASU.

“I got more here than I think I would have anywhere else,” she said. “Once they know how dedicated you are, they take you in like family. You get the feeling that nothing can go wrong with your career. They’ll always be there for you.” ■

A Total Technological

By Tom Ensey



The welcome page of the new ASU Web site.

The transformation of Alabama State that is taking place in cyberspace is every bit as dramatic as the physical changes happening on campus.

Bulldozers, heavy trucks and construction workers have shifted dirt, and heaved steel, bricks and mortar as new buildings and facilities begin to rise. Less visibly, a team of software engineers, graphic artists and Web page designers have worked with university officials to build a new Internet presence that will have no less of an impact now and in the years to come.

First impressions are crucial, and future students will likely get their introduction to ASU via the new Web site.

"They'll get their first taste of what it's like to live, learn and socialize at Alabama State University," said Dana Vandiver, the school's Web content manager who is spearheading the project.

The site will allow virtual tours of campus, showing the outside and inside of the new buildings, Vandiver said. Prospective students will get to meet online with current students to help them start making friends and get firsthand reports on campus life before they enroll.

The site has a strong emphasis on student services, but also will allow alums to reconnect with their alma mater. Faculty and staff will be able to stay on top of school news and find tools to help them do their jobs.

A couple of students who test-drove the site during its development gave it high marks.

Shanese Jasper, a sophomore chemistry major from Montgomery, said



Dana Vandiver, ASU Web content manager.

the new site trumped the old one in user-friendliness and ease of navigation despite offering much more information. It'll make her life that much easier, she said.

"So much of what we do at ASU is based on the Web site — we check our grades, find our assignments, pretty much everything dealing with our classes.

"The new site has more information, more about what ASU has to offer and it's much easier to get around and find everything," she said.

Timothy Harding of Prattville will graduate soon with a degree in graphic design. He'd like to design Web sites himself one day. He brought a critical eye to the project and came away impressed. He said the new site is not just better than the old one, it's better looking, too.

"The color scheme is great, the buttons are nice, it's well-designed and well-organized," he said.

Harding said the new site will provide much easier access to and more information about university events, which will benefit alums, current students and people in the outlying community who might want to come to a concert or attend a public lecture or art exhibition. The site offers a spacious, uncluttered design that makes it easier on the eyes — and the brain.

"It's great," Harding said. It's useful. It's all I expected."

That was the whole idea, according to the project manager for Barkley REI, a Pittsburgh company the university hired to produce the

Transformation

site. Barkley REI is an interactive marketing agency that focuses on higher education and has worked with Yale, North Carolina State, Wake Forest, Notre Dame and the University of Alaska, as well as community colleges, small liberal arts schools and state universities to present images demonstrating the uniqueness of each school.

ASU's Web site will showcase some of the company's best work, freshest ideas and creative talent, said Shane Pryal, the project's managing director.

"ASU means a lot to us, too," he said.

The site aims to connect with everyone, regardless of how familiar they are with ASU.

"We wanted to allow the visitor, whoever it is outside of those on campus, to visualize what it's like to be at ASU," Pryal said.

"We're tying in very personal stories from alumni, faculty, students and employees that will allow donors and alumni to see the university in a different way. We wanted to show the transformation that takes place in the students, and what the university is doing to give back to the community and prepare the young people to take their place in society." ■

A Technological Campus

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) is an information system aimed at those inside the university to help optimize all university resources — people, money, hardware, software and more.

"The exciting thing is this platform allows every facet of the university to be involved," said Danielle Kennedy-Lamar, vice president of Marketing and Communications.

"And because this is such a major initiative, it is vital that we have all facets of the university involved. That's from the administration with the leadership team to the steering committee, all of our end users and those people who provide the technical support, as well as the information support from all of the units."

ERP will build a technological campus community that will benefit all members, especially students.

"ERP brings in all the resources that a student would need to exercise all of his or her business. Instead of having to go to one platform to access transcripts and other records and somewhere else to access billing and financial aid, campus community brings all those resources together for a student," said Kennedy-Lamar.

The ERP will provide information to some outside the university, such as allowing prospective students to apply for admission and financial aid and track the status of

those applications.

It also will provide information specific to and only accessible by departments and individuals within the university, such as financial, human resources and payroll information, said Terence Thomas, president of diversified technologies and project manager for ASU's ERP.

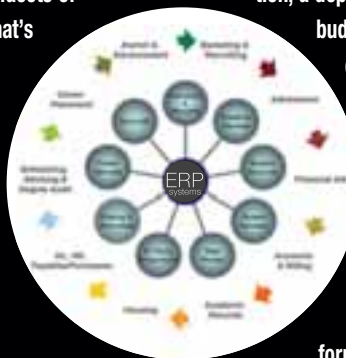
In simpler terms: An employee will be able to access his or her salary information; a department head can monitor budgets and expenditures on a day-by-day basis; a teacher can track grades and attendance ... the list of ERP benefits is extensive.

The university chose PeopleSoft, which is built on an Oracle platform, because the software best fit the size, structure and needs of Alabama State, Thomas said.

Like all aspects of the transformation, the ERP is designed to grow and change along with the university.

"The system has the capacity to grow," Thomas said. "Things change, and there will be upgrades and revisions. But the university can be on this same system for 10 to 15 years."

Regardless of which community — or aspect of the community — needs information, direction or help, Alabama State's online presence is being built to serve and to last.





A RIVALRY LIKE NO OTHER

By Brian Morgan and staff writers

Rivalry games are a huge part of college football. While most coaches don't like to admit it, those games do hold a little higher value for players. Fans circle those games on the calendar as soon as the schedule comes out and make plans around that date so they don't miss the "big" game.

In its 100-year history of football, ASU has developed several rivalries; but no game has risen to the level of intensity as the annual showdown against the Tuskegee Golden Tigers. For more than 80 years, these two universities have battled in one of the oldest football rivalries in HBCU history — the Turkey Day Classic.

As a former Hornets player, ASU head coach Reggie Barlow has experienced firsthand the intensity of the rivalry. Barlow enjoys a 3-1 record as a player and head coach against Tuskegee.

"There is just a different level of excitement around that game," said Barlow. "Both teams know the importance of the Turkey Day Classic

and come to the game with increased focus. It is a great game and atmosphere to be part of as a player, coach or fan."

The 2009 Turkey Day Classic promises to be another exciting addition to the storied history of this game.

As a matter of fact, the entire week long celebration of Homecoming will be filled with excitement. The schedule of events contains both familiar and new activities. The university is rolling out the black and gold carpet for returning alumni and friends.

This year's theme is "A Celebration of Community, A Tradition of Rivalry." The university has planned events that truly support the theme:

- Alumni Pep Rally and Block Party
- Gospel Fest featuring Vickie Winans, the Williams Brothers and comedian Jonathan Slocumb
- A Comedy Show featuring the Browns of Comedy
- A Community Breakfast with community leaders serving as hosts

The university's goal is to welcome alumni and other stakeholders to a celebration of all that is great about Alabama State University. ■



RIVALRY REMEMBERED

By Jasher Cox



Courtesy of Todd J. Van Erst

Coach Joe Whitt, Sugar Bowl
Virginia Tech vs. Auburn in 2005.

Sportsmanship is all well and good, but let's be honest. The games are more fun when there's just a tad bit of hate involved. When it comes to sports rivalries, you'd be hard pressed to find a game whose emotions run as deep and spirited as the Turkey Day Classic.

"It's known as 'the Game' for both schools," said former ASU defensive end Joe Whitt. "You can compare it to the likes of the Iron Bowl just in a smaller arena."

Whitt played football for the Hornets from 1971 to 1973.

"I can still see it vividly," said Whitt. "The week of preparation leading up had more emphasis than for any other opponent."

Whitt completed his undergraduate and master's degrees at ASU, coached for six years at Robert E. Lee High

School in Montgomery and eventually became an assistant coach at Auburn University from 1981 to 2005. He is now an assistant athletic director for Auburn.

While coaching the Tigers, Whitt helped lead the team to five Southeastern Conference titles and 18 bowl appearances. He credits part of his success to being infused with that Ole 'Bama State Spirit during his college days.

"We all were taught to work hard, show dedication, and more importantly become men," he said.

Alabama State head football coach Reggie Barlow and his staff all received words of admiration from Whitt.

"He's a fine football coach and good person," said Whitt. "He and the staff are trying hard to build a foundation and get the program to the next level."

Whitt was asked what words of encouragement he would offer the ASU players prior to the kickoff of this year's game.

"In sports and in life you must give your all," said Whitt. "Winning the game will take care of itself; just don't leave anything on the field for guessing."

Like Whitt, former ASU receiver Chad Lucas also has vivid memories

of the Turkey Day Classic.

Lucas caught passes for the Hornets from 2002 to 2003. His journey to the campus took a variety of turns before he put on the black and gold. The Tuskegee native spent two years playing for Troy University before coming to ASU.

"I was familiar with the rivalry way before I played in it," said Lucas. "The Turkey Day Classic has been a family tradition my entire life."

Lucas said that after he signed with the Trojans, he thought he'd never get to play in the Classic. A series of events led to his becoming a Hornet.



Chad Lucas photo courtesy of John E. Sokolowski/Toronto Argonauts Football Club

"Once I got to ASU, it was a dream come true," said Lucas. "I not only got a chance to play in a game that holds such a rich tradition, but I also got the opportunity to play against some of my high school friends."

Success followed Lucas once he came to ASU. Not only was he the leading receiver in 2003, but he also helped the Hornets earn the SWAC Eastern Division title.

Lucas said each game he played was meaningful, but no contest compared to the Turkey Day showdown.

"It's a must-win game every year," said Lucas. "The turkey and dressing just won't digest the same if you walk away as the loser." ■



James Banks, Lucille Banks, 12-year-old Grenden Jordan, Lola Varner, 6-year-old Jacoby Jordan, Joy Banks, Margaret Thomas, Annie Wells and Willie James Wells.

A Hornet Tradition: **All in the Family**

By Jill Petty

If you've attended an Alabama State University home football game the last couple of years, you may have spied the youngest member of the "Goldsmith Sisters" entourage in the Cramton Bowl stands, 6-year-old Jacoby Jordan, who is likely ASU-bound in a few years.

"My baby boy thinks he's a drum major, so I made this black and gold cape for him," said Joy Banks, ('91). "Now he marches up and down the stairs, whirling around an old broomstick during the games."

Jacoby will be at this year's Turkey Day Classic along with his mom, father, grandmother, grandfather, three aunts and uncles, and his older brother, Grenden, 12, who has his eyes on quarterbacking for ASU.

This year will mark the eighth year Jacoby's extended family, anchored by the "Goldsmith Sisters"—Lucille G. Banks ('61), Lola G. Varner ('64), Margaret G. Thomas ('66) and Annie

G. Wells ('71) – will be cheering on their beloved Hornets, hoping for a repeat of last year's win against the Golden Tigers.

"But no matter the score, we're always going to be ASU fans," said Joy Banks ('91), Lucille's daughter and senior secretary in the Office of Grants and Contracts at ASU. "Win or lose, we love Alabama State!"

The Banks family is one of many who make the pilgrimage to Montgomery every November to watch the Hornets play the Golden Tigers. There's no formal estimate of how many intergenerational clans attend ASU's homecoming game, but a quick scan of Cramton Bowl on Thanksgiving Day afternoon – or of the tailgating crowds before, during and after the game – will reveal many grandparents, daughters, sons and grandchildren rooting for the home team.

What makes the Banks family

somewhat unusual is their fervor, commitment and willingness to plan ahead, way ahead.

"Every July, we sit down with the sports calendar and map out all of the games," said Joy. "We're on the road from August through Thanksgiving to see all of the football games, home and away. Then we start again and go to all of the basketball games."

Their game attendance routine dates back to 2001 and involves all four sisters, originally from Fort Deposit, Ala., but now living in Montgomery, their husbands (Annie's husband, James Wells, is an ASU alumnus); Joy Banks, her husband, and usually their two young sons.

"Besides me, everyone is retired, or working parttime as adjuncts at ASU," said Joy. "So for away games, we just go after I get off work."

The way they travel to games is as unique as the routine. The family piles into a 44-foot motor home, a custom-



Jacelyn, W Rayford and Eleana Johnson photographed during a family moment at ASU.

made brown and gold number decked out with a kitchen, two bedrooms, a bathroom, a den, and two wide-screen televisions. The motor home is owned by Joy's parents. The family has logged more than 10,000 miles just during the 2009 football season, traveling as far away as Chicago for the Chicago Football Classic against Mississippi Valley State University in September.

"It's a very livable space," said Joy.

While the family eats well on every trip, Turkey Day is special. Family members will wear their traditional game shirts (gold with "ASU Tailgaters" and a picture of a motor home on the back), but the fare will be completely different.

"We usually grill polish sausages, steaks and hamburgers, and bring things like baked beans, pound cakes, potato salad and macaroni and cheese from home," said Joy. "On Turkey Day, we all bring Thanksgiving food and we sit and entertain, gathered right there in the motor home. We just love the relaxing atmosphere."

Like the Goldsmith family, W Rayford Johnson ('70) likes to travel in comfort and style to Turkey Day. For 23 consecutive years, he and his wife, Irma Jean, piloted their blue Winnebago from the Minneapolis area, usually with their three daughters — D'Shanna, Eleana ('01), and Jacelyn ('04) — in tow. Last year, for the first time since 1985, they drove a car — the transmission on the trusty Winnebago (which now has clocked more than 293,000 miles) was slipping. This year, while the Winnebago is in the shop, Johnson will drive his daughter, Eleana, and one of her friends from ASU, Laura Belser ('01).

"When I travel to Alabama, I keep a log," said Johnson. "So I know I have traveled more than 95,000 miles between Minnesota and Montgomery over the years."

Some of those miles were added after Eleana and Jacelyn matriculated to the university. Johnson and his wife visited them and attended their performances and concerts.

But Turkey Day has been an annual highlight since their children were babies.

"The girls gained a great deal of allegiance by going to these events," he said. "They really understood the desire for the black college experience. They were exposed to the academic environment at ASU. They saw how people cared for each other and provided direction for each other."

The Johnson sisters also grew up knowing all of the ASU fight songs. Their father, a music major and member of the original Mighty Marching Hornets, always sits near the band at games.

"That's my location. For some 40-odd years, that's been where I sit," he said. "So folks know where they can find me."

Johnson has remained a very active alumnus, recruiting more than 40 students from the Minneapolis area to attend Alabama State. When he and his family are in town for Turkey Day, they have their traditional dinner with Rebecca Holbert, widow of former head football coach Henry Holbert.

"We've been eating at Rebecca's home for years," he said, "and every year I get to see faculty, staff and students I have known for years — the people who make up the ASU community. How could I not want to be around them?" ■

ASU Alumna Brings Big Heart to Small Town Health Care

By Timothy C. Ervin

The following story exemplifies the far-reaching benefits of Knight v. the State of Alabama. One of the goals of the lawsuit was to allow the university to offer high-demand programs such as physical therapy and terminal degrees for students so that ASU could have a major impact on its surrounding communities, in the state of Alabama, the nation and the world. Dr. Tiffany Crutcher's work in Union Springs is a direct result of the lawsuit's consent decree.



ASU alumna Dr. Tiffany Crutcher in her outpatient clinic at Southern Springs Health and Rehab in Union Springs, Ala.



June Ray Jones at the Physical Therapy Health Fair.

Access to quality rehabilitation health care was a problem for residents of Union Springs, Ala., until the Southern Springs Health and Rehab Center opened in 2008.

The Rehab Connect clinic resulted in large part from research studies led by Dr. Tiffany T. Crutcher, director of rehabilitation.

"After assessing the needs of the community, I saw that the access to health care as it relates to outpatient physical therapy services was limited," she said.

Crutcher, who received a master's degree and Clinical Doctorate in physical therapy from ASU, found that Union Springs area residents had to travel to Montgomery, Troy or other nearby cities to receive physical therapy.

"Residents may not have adequate transportation or the finances to afford gasoline to travel to physical therapy appointments and then back home to

Union Springs," she said. "Most residents would just opt out of being treated due to the long drive."

Aaron Cobb, a Midway, Ala., native, was a patient for 21 days at Southern Springs this past spring. Afterward, he was required to do outpatient rehabilitation three times a week for three weeks. He said he isn't sure how he would have managed if the outpatient clinic wasn't available.

"I would have had to travel at least 70 miles if it wasn't for Dr. Crutcher," he said. "She gave me quality treatment and now I am able to do routine exercises on my own."

June Ray Jones, an 89-year-old in-house patient at Southern Springs, said the physical therapy at the clinic was great.

"I love it here," she said of the clinic. "What Dr. Crutcher is doing is really helping the community."

Crutcher said Rehab Connect is devoted to working with patients to rehabilitate and prevent movement dysfunction or disability caused by illness, injury or other causes.

✿ Providing Learning Avenues

Crutcher is no stranger to promoting health awareness.

As a student at ASU, she was very active in the community and organized various events that promoted health, wellness and prevention, targeting rural and underserved communities. She started and chartered the Student Physical Therapy Organization (SPTO) and was its first president. Crutcher also has played a pivotal role in mentoring and recruiting minority students into



Midway resident Mary King takes a balance test with Gamal Elawad, a first-year PT student at ASU during the Physical Therapy Health Fair.

the profession of physical therapy and other health care careers.

Today, she continues to give back and is helping Southern Springs Health and Rehab Center build a strong relationship with Alabama State University's Department of Physical Therapy.

An example was the sixth annual community health fair held Oct. 23 at the Rehab Center, which drew more than 200 residents from the small town.

Staff at the center, along with 20 physical therapy students from ASU, offered free eye screenings, blood pressure and blood glucose tests, reflex checks, information on posture, balance, body fat, muscle strength and talks on physical therapy, dental hygiene and nutrition.

Crutcher said she hoped the fair would help residents learn more about health prevention.

"While we offered a variety of



Above: Third-year PT student Latonya Johnson checks Midway town clerk Margaret Hill's blood pressure. Left: Dr. Veronica Jackson at the Physical Therapy Health Fair.

screenings, the most important thing that I wanted to accomplish was educating the community about health, wellness, prevention and the importance of the health risks, which lead to the top causes of death and disability," she said.

The Southern Springs staff also made a special effort to attract the area's students by inviting local elementary schools to participate.

"It's vital that young people learn how important it is to be aware of their health at an early age with the rise in childhood obesity being a

nationwide concern," Crutcher said.

Kenya Davis read about the health fair in the local newspaper and came to have her blood pressure checked.

"I was really worried about my pressure," she said. "I haven't been feeling well lately and I just wanted to get it checked."

Davis also watched as ASU physical therapy students gave demonstrations on lifting properly, posture and balance.

"I didn't realize that we are doing damage to ourselves every day as we walk or lift things," she said.

❁ Providing Real-life Experience

"These types of events give our students opportunities to get hands-on experience," said Dr. Veronica Jackson, ACCE for ASU. "Dr. Crutcher has awarded our students inpatient rehab internships and keeps the line of communication open."

Jackson understands the value of service learning. She is one of the first students to graduate from ASU (2002) with a master's degree in physical therapy.

"During physical therapy month, we know there will be a lot of health fairs so we encourage students to volunteer their time," she said. "Most of our students have volunteered at many health fairs, including ones at St. Jude Hospital and Huntingdon College."

Crutcher said she hopes events like the annual health fair will inspire residents to take advantage of the prevention services offered at Southern Springs.

"Southern Springs plays an important role in the realm of physical, occupational and speech therapy by providing an avenue for patients to receive rehabilitative care," she said. "By recognizing the needs for individuals to remedy the effects of various musculoskeletal and neurological problems, Southern Springs is at the forefront of assisting individuals to lead more active and functional lives." ■

Gourmet Services Inc.: Keeping the Promise

By Lois G. Russell



Alabama State University President William H. Harris and Al Baker of Gourmet Services Inc. pose with a \$200,000 check to represent Gourmet's recent donation.

Gourmet Services Inc. is making good on its promise to Alabama State University. Last year, the company promised to donate \$1 million to the university over a five-year period. The second \$200,000 installment was recently presented to President William H. Harris.

Gourmet Services has contributed a total of more than \$773,000 to the university over the past six years. The company's senior vice president of operations Al Baker says the total pledge from the company is \$1.2 million by 2013.

The university's association with Gourmet Services began in August 1994. Baker also came to ASU at that time.

"Alabama State University is the second largest and third longest contract that we have," said Baker. "We are proud of our partnership with

ASU."

Gourmet Services was founded by Nathaniel Goldston III in 1975. It is one of the nation's largest African-American-owned food service management companies with 2,500 employees. It is ranked 14th among the nation's top 50 food service companies.

In 1986, Goldston founded the Atlanta Chapter of 100 Black Men of America along with 21 other local businessmen and civic leaders. In 1989, he became the 100 Black Men of America's second national president.

Gourmet Services has donated millions of dollars in scholarships to students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Goldston also established the Mary E. Goldston Foundation to provide scholarships to deserving African-American students. ■

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AS I SEE IT

Alabama provide the facilities in which to conduct the research and teaching the new programs would require.

This Vision 2020 Plan is based upon a strategic process that started 15 years ago and seeks to build upon the platform constructed as a result of Knight v. State.

This new round of strategic planning gives a full university-wide focus on the emerging strategic issues and opportunities as the year 2020 approaches. The direction Alabama State University is taking at this point in its development mandates that planning efforts become more formal, integrated and explicit so that the university can move to the forefront of innovation and educational change.

All of the university's goals are important, yet a fundamental issue facing ASU is the one of securing its vital niche in the higher education structure of Alabama by enhancing the high quality of instruction provided to learners.

The university's administration realizes that it must develop and implement even more effective strategies to capitalize on the many opportunities available in the diverse markets it serves, not only in Alabama, but also across the South and the nation.

The Alabama State University Board of Trustees and administration are solidly committed to the strategic planning process, as are members of the faculty and staff to its implementation. The university's leadership is committed to cooperating and working hard to assist the university in building the academic programs, facilities and culture of learning that will be required to provide for its students an education appropriate to cope with the challenges and realities of the 21st century. ■

In each of the next editions of ASU Today, we will continue to update you on the Transformation of ASU. Look for information on enrollment management, giving campaigns and special events, the president's Spring Transformation Tour, newly created Research and Sponsored Programs, the Center for Perpetual Training and Protocol, and other initiatives as they unfold.

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Quest for Equality

Knight emphasized. "We wanted quality of life and quality of living equal to any."

He sees the future in the lives of today's grandchildren.

"We don't want to go back to where we were," he said.

"We don't need to re-fight the battles of 30 years ago."

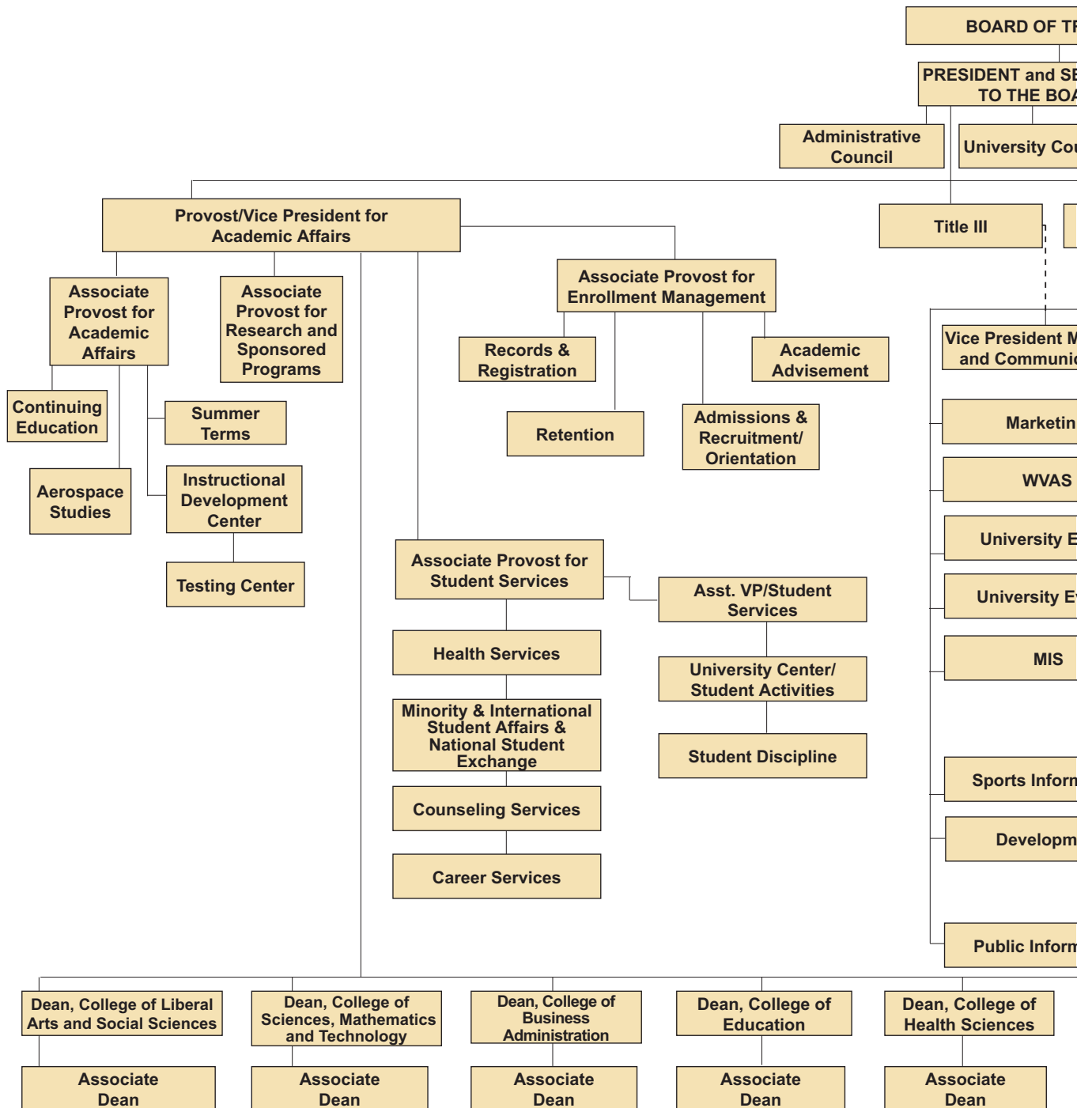
Knight believes society has different battles today.

"The more people interact, the more we find we are alike in what we want in life," he said. "Our goal is to be happy and to live the American dream. We are getting there." ■

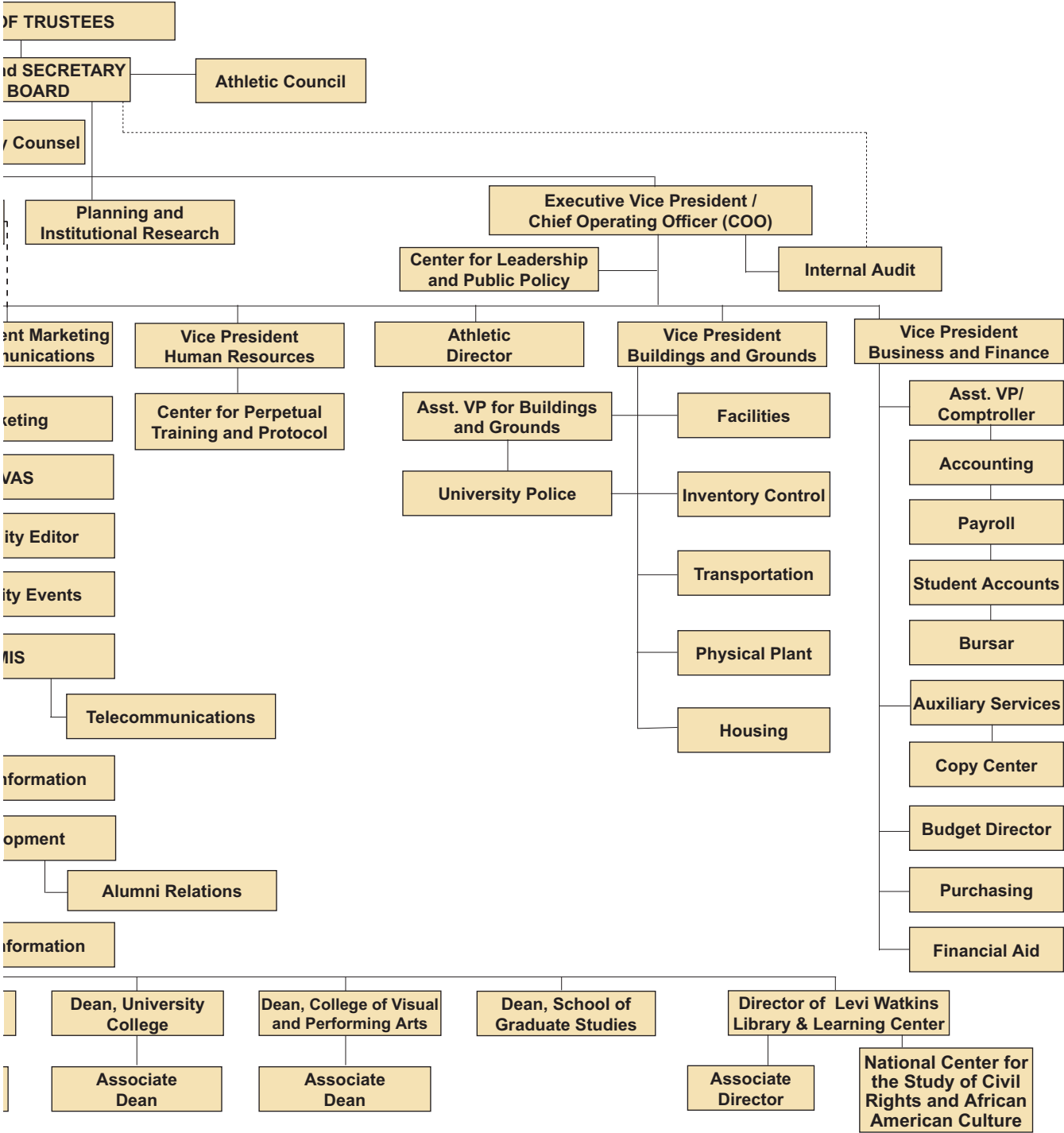


Retired Lt. Gen. Julius Becton Jr. was another key figure in Knight v. the State of Alabama. He was appointed by the federal court to serve as a member of the oversight committee. Becton assured that the court's decree and edicts were carried out at ASU and all other public universities. Becton is shown here at the dedication of the Life Science Building and Ralph D. Abernathy Hall.

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New gateways will herald the unfolding transformation of Alabama State University.