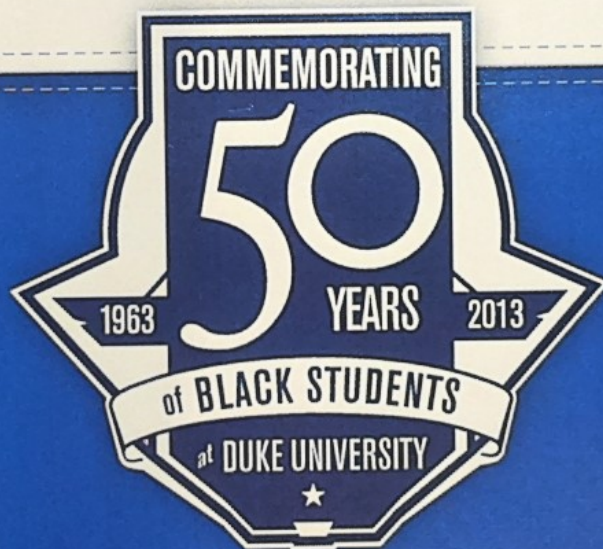




Join the Duke community as we honor the pioneers who first integrated the university, as well as the contributions of African-Americans over the last 50 years.



**CELEBRATING THE PAST, CHARTING THE FUTURE:  
COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS  
OF BLACK STUDENTS AT DUKE**

\*Pictured Above: Gene Kendall, Wilhelmina Reuben-Cooke, Nathaniel White, Jr., three of the first five black undergraduates.

# SCHEDULE OF

## JANUARY

- 20** Praise, Protest & Power: 50 Years in the Making  
Keynote: Rev. William Turner  
Annual Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Commemoration Service  
3<sup>pm</sup> | Duke Chapel
- 24** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Health Lecture  
Tribute to first African-American nursing  
student Donna Harris  
Keynote: Dr. David Satcher, Former  
U.S. Surgeon General  
4:30<sup>pm</sup> | Duke University School of Nursing
- 25** 50th Anniversary Kickoff Reception  
Featured guests include local & university leaders  
7<sup>pm</sup>-9<sup>pm</sup> | Nasher Museum of Art  
Registration: <http://bit.ly/50thNasher>
- 26** Celebrating 50 Years of Achievement & Progress:  
It Starts With Us  
Duke Student National Medical Association's  
20<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Jr. Banquet  
6<sup>pm</sup> | Washington Duke Inn  
Email: [MLKJrBanquet2013@gmail.com](mailto:MLKJrBanquet2013@gmail.com)

## FEBRUARY

- 13-14** Civil Rights Lecture Series  
(Also March 28, April 8-9)  
Randall Kennedy, John Hope Franklin Visiting  
Professor of Legal History  
12:15<sup>pm</sup> | Duke Law School
- 14** Blindspot: The Hidden Biases of Good People  
Mahzarin Banaji, Harvard University  
2<sup>pm</sup>-4<sup>pm</sup> | Reynolds Auditorium, Bryan Center  
Registration required

\*Time and/or date to be announced

## HONORARY 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERS

### FIRST FIVE UNDERGRADUATES



#### GENE KENDALL | E '67

Kendall served in the Navy for 35 years, rising to the rank of Rear Admiral. He left Duke after his sophomore year, transferring to the University of Kansas.



#### MARY MITCHELL HARRIS | T '67

Harris worked as a performance counselor at Georgia Tech University and was the president of education consulting for Harris Learning Solutions before she died in 2002.



#### WILHELMINA REUBEN-COOKE | T '67

Reuben-Cooke, also known as "Mimi," is an emerita member of Duke's Board of Trustees and was the 2011 winner of Duke's Distinguished Alumni Award.



#### CASSANDRA SMITH RUSH | T '67

Rush left Duke her junior year and worked in Washington, D.C., for the federal government and, later, the Navy. She died in 1996.



#### NATHANIEL B. WHITE, JR. | T '67

A Durham native, White is principal of the Formation Consulting Group, and past president of the Hayti Development Corporation.

Duke  
UNIVERSITY

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Below is an abbreviated schedule of events. Most are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For a full, updated list, visit

**SPOTLIGHT.DUKE.EDU/50YEARS**

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Registration required

\*Time and/or date to be announced

## FEBRUARY CONTINUED

- 19** Samuel DuBois Cook Society  
Reception & Dinner  
5<sup>pm</sup> | Washington Duke Inn  
Tickets: (919) 684-8228
- 21** A Celebration Through the Arts  
Black Graduate Professional Student Association  
7<sup>pm</sup>-10<sup>pm</sup> | Beyu Caffe (335 W. Main St., Durham)

## MARCH

- 4** Black Church & Black Mosque: An Interfaith Conversation On Faith & Race  
Honoring C. Eric Lincoln  
Duke Faith Council  
7<sup>pm</sup> | Goodson Chapel, Duke Divinity School
- 10-15** The Roots-to-Rights Tour: A Black Jewish Exploration of the Southern Civil Rights Movement  
(Alternative Spring Break Trip)  
Jewish Life at Duke/Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture  
Open to Duke students only
- 22** 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Duke/Durham Health Summit  
Forum on Education, Poverty & Homelessness  
8<sup>am</sup>-3<sup>pm</sup> | Durham Convention Center

## APRIL

- 2** Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture Series  
Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus, Riverside Church, NY  
6<sup>pm</sup> | Duke Divinity School
- 7** Art for All: Wangechi Mutu: A Fantastic Journey  
Brunch & gallery tour of the Kenyan-born artist's exhibition  
2<sup>pm</sup>-5<sup>pm</sup> | Nasher Museum of Art

## SEPTEMBER

- Our New Day Begun: The Faith of Duke's First Black Voices  
Panel discussion hosted by Dean Luke Powery  
TBA\* | Duke Chapel
- 21-22** A Duke & Durham Jazz/Gospel Festival  
TBA\* | Carolina Theater/Duke Chapel

## OCTOBER

- 4** Billy Childs Jazz Chamber Ensemble  
featuring Dianne Reeves  
World premiere commission for 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
8<sup>pm</sup> | Baldwin Auditorium  
For tickets, visit [dukeperformances.org](http://dukeperformances.org)
- 5** Closing Gala Celebration  
TBA\*

## ONGOING EXHIBITS

- THROUGH FEBRUARY 23** Campaign for Braddock Hospital (Save Our Community Hospital)  
Photographs by LaToya Ruby Frazier  
Kreps Gallery, Duke Center for Documentary Studies
- THROUGH MARCH 2** The Restraints: Open & Hidden  
Highlighting the Work of Gordon Parks  
Lyndhurst Gallery
- THROUGH MARCH 3** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Exhibit: The Road to Desegregation at Duke  
Rare Book Room Gallery, Perkins Library
- MARCH 21 THROUGH JULY 21** Wangechi Mutu: A Fantastic Journey  
Nasher Museum of Art/NCCU Art Museum

## HONORARY CO-CHAIRS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

### FIRST FIVE UNDERGRADUATES



**GENE KENDALL | E '67**

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**NATHANIEL B. WHITE, JR. | T '67**

A Durham native, White is principal of the Formation Consulting Group, and past president of the Hayti Development Corporation.

**Duke**  
UNIVERSITY

### FROM THE GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS



**DONNA ALLEN HARRIS**

B.S.N. '71  
Duke School of Nursing



**W. DELANO MERIWETHER**

M.D. '67  
Duke Medical School



**IDA STEPHENS OWENS**

PH.D. '67  
Biochemistry and Physiology



**ANTHONY OYEWOLE**

'66, A.M. '68, PH.D. '70  
Political Science



**DAVID ROBINSON II**

J.D. '64  
Duke Law School



**JEAN GAILLARD SPAULDING**

M.D. '72  
Psychiatry



**CATHERINE GIBSON TAYLOR**

M.A.T. '67  
Program in Education



**MATTHEW ZIMMERMAN**

M.DIV. '65  
Duke Divinity School



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be Dr. William T. Rice.

Rice is a retired professor from Winston-Salem State University and a historian. His knowledge about African-American history spans many decades and generations. Activities will be available for children of all ages. Lunch will be served following the workshop.

The public is invited to attend.

The Rev. Joseph Jones is the pastor of Zion Memorial.

### • Sunday February 9 •

#### ▲ Valentine Tea

The Pastor's Aid Auxiliary of the Zion Memorial Baptist Church will host their Annual Valentine Tea Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Auxiliary asks that all guests wear red. The program will include special music and good food. The Rev. Joseph Jones is host pastor. Mildred Leak is auxiliary president. The public is invited to attend.

#### ▲ Afternoon Songs

sion is free.

### • Tuesday February 11 •

#### ▲ Pancake Supper

The Episcopal Church Women of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will sponsor their Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Feb. 11 from 4:30 to 8 p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. Tickets for the supper are \$4 and can be purchased by any member of St. Stephen's or call Olivette Bynum at 748-0374, Cordella Rumph at 725-6292, or Valeria Dove at 722-5229. The women of St. Stephen's invite the public to come enjoy the best pancakes in Winston-Salem and some good fellowship.

### • Saturday February 15 •

#### ▲ Fellowship for Homeless

The Sheepfold Ministry of Shiloh Baptist Church, 916 East 12th St., cordially invites everyone to attend their "Have



Rev. Wendell A. Johnson  
Telephone: 722-4883  
722-5605, FAX 722-6266

## First Ba

700 H

Sunday School...

Morning Worship

Nursery.....

8  
All a  
11  
Join

## MACEDONIA HOLINESS C



Bishop R.L. Wise Sr.  
D.D.S.T.D.  
Pastor

of Apost  
411 Whitfield  
WEEKLY SERVICE

Sunday  
Sunday School .....  
Morning Worship ...  
Radio Broadcast (WA  
M.Y.P.U. ....  
Evangelistic Service  
Wednesday  
Prayer Service & Bibl



## Plant Trees For America™

Trees Make a World of Difference. Thanks to trees we enjoy shadier streets, greener city parks, and friendlier neighborhoods. Trees also produce oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, and help keep the atmosphere in balance.

This year, plant Trees for America. For your free brochure, write: Trees for America, The National Arbor Day Foundation, Nebraska City, NE 68410.



The National  
Arbor Day Foundation™  
www.arborday.org

## Cassandra Elizabeth Smith Rush

July 4, 1945 - January 31, 1996

*Our loving memories*

*will never die*

*from the family*

Warren Julian Smith Sr., (father)

Georgia Mickle Smith, (mother)

Georgia Smith Jennings, (sister)

Warren Julian Smith Jr. (brother)



Winston Salem, NC hometown

Entered Duke Sept 1967

1963



I'm proud to say I went to Duke, and sometimes I wish I'd stuck it out. But at the time, I wasn't happy and I didn't know what I wanted to do. I was tired of the fights with townspeople, who could be absolutely hostile and very brutal. And even some of the students would cross the quad rather than speak to me. Or they would look the other way when they walked past.

I grew up in a very sheltered environment and it really hurt. I hadn't ever been treated like that. For a long time I put it out of my mind because it was so unpleasant, especially the off-campus encounters.

I was arrested in Chapel Hill in early 1964. Martin Luther King, Jr. had spoke[at Duke], and our CORE group walked from Durham to Chapel Hill to hold a sit-in protest in front of a [segregated] restaurant there. We were thrown in jail for trespassing and resisting arrest. But it was fine, because we were all together....

For my sons, it is so, so different. They were born and raised in integrated neighborhoods and schools. They grew up in an environment where we didn't label people black, white, Chinese, whatever. Our house always looked like a United Nations meeting. My sons would describe their new friends to me and tell me how old they were, where their parents lived and more. But until I met them, I would have no idea what race they were. I taught them to look at other people as human beings. And maybe I've done them an injustice because we live in a racist society. But as little kids, they were never aware of racism. And it shouldn't be an issue that children have to deal with. Consequently, they fit right in and feel they're entitled to the same rights as anyone else. When they see instances of [racism] they ask me "Why? Why do people raise their children that way?" And I tell them that it's a form of child abuse when parents raise their children to be racist.

After I left Duke, I worked in Washington, D.C., for the government and then the navy. I went as far as I could go without a college degree; not having that piece of paper kept me from going ahead to the next level. So I started thinking about returning to school, but it wasn't until I was at home with my first child that I really felt I was vegetating. I felt that my brain was turning to mush! I'd go shopping just to encounter other adults.

When I went back to work part-time at the Federal Reserve, I applied for and won an employee scholarship which paid for my college tuition. So when I got my degree [a bachelor's in economics from Philadelphia's Chestnut Hill College], it really meant a lot to me because I was so ready. I graduated on Mother's Day in 1979. Because of my experience, my sons understand why I'm so determined for them to stay in school.

## ORDER OF OMEGA OMEGA SERVICE

### Processional

### Officers

### Ritualistic Ceremony

*Soror President*  
*Lillian Holmes, Presiding*

### Eulogy

*Soror Chaplin*  
*Judy Fentress-Williams*

### Solo

*Soror Regina Edwards*

### Readings

### Delta Prayer

### Recessional

*Officers & Members*

## New Haven Alumnae Chapter Members

Betty Anderson  
Carolee Anderson  
June Ashley  
Deola Barfield  
Sharon Belton  
Carol Birks  
Malissa Bowles  
Eleanor Boyd  
Lillian Brown  
Carolyn Coleman  
Celeste Davis  
S. Davis-Stephens  
Carolyn Dickens  
Lisa Diggs  
Joy Donaldson  
Monica Dorkins  
Gloria Dover  
Regina Edwards  
Eydie Miller Ellis  
Adele Holmes Emery  
J Fentress-Williams  
L. Gilliams-Brown  
Shirley Gillis  
Okasamar Glover  
Delilah Gomes

Maxine Goodson  
Ledonia Gray  
Delores Greenlee  
Carrie Hammie  
Toni Harp  
Audrey Harrell  
Elizabeth Horton  
Mycki Jennings  
Jacqueline Johnson  
Thelma Johnson  
Shirley Joyner  
Frances Judson  
Surether Keels-Carr  
Juanita Kent  
Mattie Long  
Melissa Lowery  
Barbara Matthews  
Francis McCoy  
Valerie McEachern  
Mabel McKissick  
E. Paulette Moore  
E. Morris-Ferguson  
Shirley Norman  
Evelyn Pleasure  
Cynthia Redmond

Bermer Ridenhour  
Carolyn Rogers  
Gearlene Salters  
Bessie L. Scott  
Mildred Setzer  
Cheryl Shoulders  
Myra Simmons  
Betty Simon  
Luberta Sims  
Jessie O. Sizemore  
Brenda Smith  
Eva Smith  
Saundra Stephenson  
Cynthia Streeter  
Lisa Tavares  
Walterine Tolson  
Tracey Tucker  
Eleanor Turner  
Mozelle Vann  
Mary Williams  
Joanne Wright

## Local Officers

Lillian Holmes  
Robin Miller  
Ramona Gatison  
Janie Holmes  
Tori Williams  
Dorothy Libron Green  
Patsy Mayo

President  
First Vice President  
Second Vice President  
Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary  
Treasurer  
Financial Secretary

"Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp  
because the dawn has come." Tagore



Chapter

We Extinguish the Torch for  
Soror Cassandra Smith Rush  
who witnessed a New Dawn on -

January 31, 1996

NEW HAVEN  
ALUMNAE  
CHAPTER

DELTA  
SIGMA  
THETA, INC.

A  
PUBLIC  
SERVICE  
SORORITY



## Reflections Of A Life

Cassandra Elizabeth Smith Rush was born on July 4, 1945 to Warren Julian and Georgia Mickle Smith.

She departed this life on Wednesday, January 31, 1996, after receiving the Last Rites of the Catholic Church.

Cassandra affectionately called Sandi, was introduced at the Debutante Cotillion in 1962. She graduated from St. Anne's Academy, a Catholic Boarding School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as Valedictorian class of 1963.

While attending St. Anne's Academy, Cassandra applied for admission to Duke University. The university was still segregated and her application was denied. Later, she read that the university's board of trustees had voted to admit black undergraduate students, so she reapplied and was offered a scholarship to attend.

She entered Duke as a zoology major, but, after a rigorous anatomy course, switched her major to French. Sandi became caught up in the political and social currents of the time, specifically in the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

Unsure of her career goals, Sandi left the university after the first semester of her junior year. She later received a bachelors in economics from Philadelphia's Chestnut Hill College. She was employed as an Economic Forecaster at SNET and as an Instructor at Adult Education in the New Haven Public School System.

She was a faithful communicant at St. Aedans Roman Catholic Church. A very strong supporter of St. Aedan School and Norte Dame High School where her sons graduated. Sandi was a former member of St. Aedan's School Board, New Haven Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., New Haven Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc., and the New Haven Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Associates.

She leaves to mourn her much loved sons, J. Bristol Rush of Boston, MA & Warren A. Rush of New Haven, CT; her daughter-in-law Hilary G. Rush of Boston, MA; her parents Warren J. & Georgia Mickle Smith of Framingham, MA.; her brother and sister-in-law Warren J. & Anita Smith, Jr. of Louisville, KY; her sister and brother-in-law Timothy & Mycki Smith Jennings of New Haven, CT; three grandchildren: Alexis J. Ravis of New Haven, CT, Taylor J. Rush of Boston, MA & Raven L. Rush of Newport, RI; two nieces: Wendy J. Ingram of Columbia, MD & Gygi Jennings of Vineyard Haven, Martha's Vineyard; four nephews: Warren J. Smith, III of Cincinnati, OH, William J. Smith of Glen Burnie, MD, Cpl. Andrew J. Smith, USMC of 29 Palms, CA and Rashaun D. Smith of Framingham, MA; her former husband J. Bristol Rush, II of Philadelphia, PA.

## Funeral Mass

### Introductory Rite Selection

### Liturgy of Word Opening Prayers First Reading

### Psalm Response

### Second Reading

### Gospel(stand) Homily

### General Intercession Gift Bearers

### Selection

### Liturgy of Eucharist Selection

### Selection

### Eulogy

### Final Commendation Selection

### Rite of Committal

### Introit

*From the Latin Mass for the Dead*

Warren Julian Smith, Jr  
Brother

Warren Julian Smith, Sr  
Father

Father Joseph McCann

Wendy Jeanne Ingram  
Niece

Gygi deLondon Jennings  
Niece

### Into Your Hands

Grayson Warren Brown

### Panis Angelicus

Cesar Frank

### In The Garden

C. Austin Miles

John Bynum Mickle  
Uncle

### I'll Walk With God

Nicholas Brodzsky

## PALLBEARERS

Wendy Jeanne Ingram  
Gygi deLondon Jennings  
Timothy Jennings

Corporal Andrew Julian Smith  
Rashawn Daryl Smith  
Warren Julian Smith III

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Clifton Graves, Jr.  
William Lytle  
Reginald Mayo

Henry E. Moore  
J. Bristol Rush  
Lester Turner

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you called, or spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say. Perhaps  
you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.*

*Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much,  
whatever the part. May God ever bless you for your willingness to  
share. And may He continually bless and keep you in His care.*

*The Family*

### Professional Services Entrusted To:

Beecher & Bennett  
2300 Whitney Avenue  
Hamden, Connecticut

*Reception immediately following services in Parish Hall*

## FUNERAL MASS

For

**Cassandra Elizabeth Smith Rush**  
**July 4, 1945 - January 31, 1996**



Monday, February 5, 1996  
10:00 A.M.

St. Aedans Roman Catholic Church  
112 Fountain Street  
New Haven, Connecticut 06515

Father Joseph McCann, Pastor

Michael J. Etes, Jr., Organist/Soloist

First Block Medical Student

Delano Merriwether Sept. 3, 1963

possibly

later articles about him as an indoor track star  
maybe even in Olympics

## 239 women get sorority bids

239 women received bids to join a sorority Monday night at the close of formal rush. This is four more bids than were extended last year.

Of the women who did not drop out of rush, but participated until the last parties, eleven received no bids. Twenty women indicated that they would remain independent on the preferential bid sheet which each rushee must fill out indicating sorority preference.

Six sororities filled their quota this year, as compared to the eight groups who pledged a full number last year. The six sororities filling their quotas were Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Delta Tau, Pi Beta Phi, and Zeta Tau Alpha.

Among those women receiving bids was the first Negro to join a Duke sorority. Donna Allen who is also the first Negro student in the School of Nursing, pledged Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Asked to make a statement about the first Negro pledge in the sorority system, Connie MacLeod, Panhellenic president, said that "This is a personal matter between the woman and the sorority, but of course I'm delighted to see Pi Phi get a girl who wanted them."

Talking about sorority rush in general this year, Miss MacLeod said that "The general reaction in spite of the controversy about the value of sororities I've gotten from the people I talked to was 'rush was great.'"

## Duke University Archives

### Memo for the record

By: Tom Harkins. 2-21-95, 4:13PM

Subject: Firsts: African-Americans. Athletes and athletics.

#### Track

James Dorsey (A.B., 1970; M.D., 1974) was Duke's first black athlete in track, and also the first African-American alumnus to go to the Duke Medical School. Dorsey was from Clemson, S.C., and ran the 800 meter and the mile relay. He's now a surgeon.

#### Basketball (Men's) :

Claudius .B. Claiborne, '69, was the first black player, entering in the Fall of 1965.

#### Basketball (Women's):

Kim Matthews, ca. 1978 or '79.

#### Football:

Ernie Jackson (1968/69-1971/72), All-American, ACC player of the year.

Clarence G. Newsome, (1968/69-1971/72)

5637

FIRST BLACK UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED AT DUKE UNIVERSITY

FALL 1963

Kendall, Gene Roger - Greensboro, NC

W/D Sumter -

6-7-65

? \* Mitchell, Mary Vastie - Durham, NC

A.B. 4/5/67

Smith, Cassandra E. - Winston-Salem, NC

W/D Wed 5-21-66

White, Nathaniel Bradshaw, Jr. - Durham, NC

B S 6-5-67 WITH

Reuben, Wilhelmina Matilda - Sumter, SC

A B 6-5-67 PS

\* Appears in Chanticleers 1964 & 1965 (Freshman, Sophomore)  
Does not appear after 1965

Nancy Ackmore called a friend and learned that  
Mary V. Mitchell married - is Mary M. Harris  
Completed requirements for A.B. 1/28/67, degree  
conferred 4/5/67 - She also has a Ph.D. in Psychology  
and is Asst Prof



*Wilhelmina Kueber,*

Divinity School - First Black Student Enrolled

Ruben Lee Speakes - special student

Took 2 courses in Fall Semester, 1961, and 3 courses in Spring Semester, 1962. Also enrolled in Fall of 1962 but withdrew.

He was a special student because he already had a B.D. degree from Drew University and an S.T.M. degree from Temple University. At the time he was pastor of St. Marks A.M.E. Zion Church on Roxboro Road in Durham and presently he is a Bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church residing in Salisbury, N. C.

This note came via the Divinity School Records Office, the University Registrar, and personal confirmation.

W. E. King  
February 20, 1990

BLACK STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE LAW SCHOOL, DUKE UNIVERSITY

Walter Thaniel Johnson, Jr.

Registration: September 18, 1961  
First day of classes: September 21, 1961  
Graduation: June 1, 1964  
Degree: LL.B. (JD)

David Robinson\*

Registration: September 18, 1961  
First day of classes: September 21, 1961  
Graduation: June 1, 1964  
Degree: LL.B.

\*David Robinson sometimes signs David Robinson, Jr., and sometimes, David Robinson, II. Law School records indicate father is David Robinson, Sr. Transcript: David Robinson.

**Duke University Archives**

341 Perkins Library  
thark@mail01.adm.duke.edu

Box 90202  
684-5637

**MEMO for the record**

**7-24-95**

From: Thomas Harkins, Associate Archivist  
Subject: First black graduate (B.A.)

Memo: Anthony Oyewole, a student from Nigeria, transferred into Duke in 1964. He recieved his A.B. in 1966 (Political Science), A.M. in 1968, and Ph.D. in 1970. He is (1990) a professor of Political Science at Ife University, Dept. of Political Science, Nigeria, Ife-Ife.

*Antelcor, 1966 p. 343*

**First row:**

NEWBY, Thomas A., Jr., Air, Va.; *Political Science*; *Who's Who*; MSGA 4; House Pres. 4; AIH, Pres. 4.  
 NEWMARK, Howard, Atlanta, Ga.; *Chemistry*; Theta Epsilon Phi; *Archive* 1; Bench and Bar 1, 2; Campus Chest 1; Debate 1; Outing Club 1, 2; Pre-Med Society 1, 2, 3, 4; YMCA 1, 2, 3, 4; Swimming 1.  
 NEWSOME, Carol Anne, Los Angeles, Calif.; *History*; Kappa Kappa Gamma; Freshman Advisory Council 4.

**Second row:**

NEWTON, Richard B., Hagerstown, Md.; *Mathematics*; NROTC 1, 2, 3, 4; Track 1, 2, 3, 4.  
 NICHOLS, Barbara Carolyn, Bay Village, Ohio; *Chemistry*; Sigma Kappa, Pres. 4; Pan-Hellenic Council 2, 3; YWCA 1, 2, 3, 4.  
 NICOLL, Christine, Colorado Springs, Colo.; *History*; Sandals; Delta Delta Delta, Pres. 4.

**Third row:**

NORBY, Laurence Harvey, Osage, Iowa; *Zoology*.  
 NORRIS, Katherine Cecelia, Salisbury, N. C.; *Mechanical Engineering*; Phi Beta Kappa; Ivy; Pi Mu Epsilon; Pi Tau Sigma; ASME 4; *Chronicle* 1; Engineering Student Coun. 4; YWCA 4.  
 NORWOOD, Larry Randell, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; *Electrical Engineering*; Order of St. Patrick; Delta Tau Delta, Sec. 3; *The Dukengineer* 2, 3, Editor 4; Engineers Guidance Coun. 2, 3, 4, Jr. Chm. 3; Engineering Student Coun. 4; Pub Board 4.

**Fourth row:**

NURKIN, Harry Abraham, Durham, N. C.; *Political Science*; Delta Tau Delta; Y-FAC 2, 3, 4; IFC 4; MSGA 2.  
 NUZUM, Linda Lee, Aiken, S. C.; *Psychology*; YWCA 1, 2, 3, 4.  
 O'CONNOR, Eileen Theresa, Atlanta, Ga.; *English*; Alpha Chi Omega; Pan-Hellenic Coun. 4; YWCA 1, 2; Social Standards 2.

**Fifth row:**

ODOM, David Stanley, Greensboro, N. C.; *History*; Phi Delta Theta; YMCA 1, 2, 3, 4; ICFV 1, 2, 3, 4; Baseball 1, 2, 3, 4; Football 1, 2, 3, 4.  
 OMAN, Laura Virginia, Scranton, Pa.; *Nursing*.  
 OSMUN, Richard George, Toledo, Ohio; *Mathematics*; Pi Kappa Phi; Swimming 1, 2.

**Sixth row:**

OYEWOLE, Anthony, Nigeria; *Political Science*.  
 PAGE, James Frederick, Oxon Hill, Md.; *Civil Engineering*; ASCE 3, 4; Outing Club 2, 3, 4; YMCA 1, 2, 3, 4.  
 PAGE, Robert Foster, Rocky Mount, N. C.; *Political Science*; Pi Kappa Alpha, Sec. 3.

**Seventh row:**

PALMER, John Albert, Jr., Woodstock, Va.; *Psychology*.  
 PARSONS, Donald Oscar, Pittsburgh, Pa.; *Economics*; Phi Beta Kappa; Outing Club 2, 4; YMCA 1, 2, 3, 4.  
 PATCH, Teresa Ann, San Francisco, Calif.; *Spanish*; *Who's Who*; Phi Beta Kappa; Sigma Delta Pi; Ivy; Alpha Delta Pi; House Pres. 3; Class Sec. 1; Cheerleader 2, 3, 4; Student Union 1, 2, 3; WSGA 3.



## Duke divinity grad now top Army chaplain

Chaplain Matthew A. Zimmerman Jr., a 1965 graduate of the Duke University Divinity School, has been sworn into the office of U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains, assuming the rank of major general.

Zimmerman, who took office Wednesday, has served as deputy chief of chaplains since 1989. He will be returning to Duke to deliver the Martin Luther King Jr. Lectures at Duke Divinity School on April 3-5, 1991.

A native of Rock Hill, S.C., Zimmerman graduated from Benedict College with a bachelor of science degree in biology and chemistry. At Duke Divinity School, he was one of the first two African-Americans officially enrolled in the master of divinity program.

His enrollment was the culmination of the Divinity School's drive for racial integration. The Divinity School was the first school of Duke University to petition university trustees to admit black students.

By Soror Cassandra Smith Rush  
July 1993



I'm proud to say I went to Duke, and sometimes I wish I'd stuck it out. But at the time, I wasn't happy and I didn't know what I wanted to do. I was tired of the fights with townspeople, who could be absolutely hostile and very brutal. And even some of the students would cross the quad rather than speak to me. Or they would look the other way when they walked past.

I grew up in a very sheltered environment and it really hurt. I hadn't ever been treated like that. For a long time I put it out of my mind because it was so unpleasant, especially the off-campus encounters.

I was arrested in Chapel Hill in early 1964. Martin Luther King, Jr. had spoke[at Duke], and our CORE group walked from Durham to Chapel Hill to hold a sit-in protest in front of a [segregated] restaurant there. We were thrown in jail for trespassing and resisting arrest. But it was fine, because we were all together....

For my sons, it is so, so different. They were born and raised in integrated neighborhoods and schools. They grew up in an environment where we didn't label people black, white, Chinese, whatever. Our house always looked like a United Nations meeting. My sons would describe their new friends to me and tell me how old they were, where their parents lived and more. But until I met them, I would have no idea what race they were. I taught them to look at other people as human beings. And maybe I've done them an injustice because we live in a racist society. But as little kids, they were never aware of racism. And it shouldn't be an issue that children have to deal with. Consequently, they fit right in and feel they're entitled to the same rights as anyone else. When they see instances of [racism] they ask me "Why? Why do people raise their children that way?" And I tell them that it's a form of child abuse when parents raise their children to be racist.

After I left Duke, I worked in Washington, D.C., for the government and then the navy. I went as far as I could go without a college degree; not having that piece of paper kept me from going ahead to the next level. So I started thinking about returning to school, but it wasn't until I was at home with my first child that I really felt I was vegetating. I felt that my brain was turning to mush! I'd go shopping just to encounter other adults.

When I went back to work part-time at the Federal Reserve, I applied for and won an employee scholarship which paid for my college tuition. So when I got my degree [a bachelor's in economics from Philadelphia's Chestnut Hill College], it really meant a lot to me because I was so ready. I graduated on Mother's Day in 1979. Because of my experience, my sons understand why I'm so determined for them to stay in school.

One of the first blacks to enter  
Duke University - fall of 1963.

## ORDER OF OMEGA OMEGA SERVICE

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### Officers

### Ritualistic Ceremony

Soror President  
Lillian Holmes, Presiding

### Eulogy

Soror Chaplin  
Judy Fentress-Williams

### Solo

Soror Regina Edwards

### Readings

### Delta Prayer

### Recessional

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June Ashley  
Deola Barfield  
Sharon Belton  
Carol Birks  
Malissa Bowles  
Eleanor Boyd  
Lillian Brown  
Carolyn Coleman  
Celeste Davis  
S. Davis-Stephens  
Carolyn Dickens  
Lisa Diggs  
Joy Donaldson  
Monica Dorkins  
Gloria Dover  
Regina Edwards  
Eydie Miller Ellis  
Adele Holmes Emery  
J Fentress-Williams  
L. Gilliams-Brown  
Shirley Gillis  
Okasamar Glover  
Delilah Gomes

Maxine Goodson  
Ledonia Gray  
Delores Greenlee  
Carrie Hammie  
Toni Harp  
Audrey Harrell  
Elizabeth Horton  
Mycki Jennings  
Jacqueline Johnson  
Thelma Johnson  
Shirley Joyner  
Frances Judson  
Surether Keels-Carr  
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Mattie Long  
Melissa Lowery  
Barbara Matthews  
Francis McCoy  
Valerie McEachern  
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E. Paulette Moore  
E. Morris-Ferguson  
Shirley Norman  
Evelyn Pleasure  
Cynthia Redmond

Bermer Ridenhour  
Carolyn Rogers  
Gearlene Salters  
Bessie L. Scott  
Mildred Setzer  
Cheryl Shoulders  
Myra Simmons  
Betty Simon  
Luberta Sims  
Jessie O. Sizemore  
Brenda Smith  
Eva Smith  
Saundra Stephenson  
Cynthia Streeter  
Lisa Tavares  
Walterine Tolson  
Tracey Tucker  
Eleanor Turner  
Mozelle Vann  
Mary Williams  
Joanne Wright

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"Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come." Tagore



Chapter

We Extinguish the Torch for  
Soror Cassandra Smith Rush  
who witnessed a New Dawn on -

January 31, 1996

NEW HAVEN  
ALUMNAE  
CHAPTER

DELTA  
SIGMA  
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SORORITY



*Reflections Of My Life*  
*By Soror Cassandra Smith Rush*  
*July 1993*



I'm proud to say I went to Duke, and sometimes I wish I'd stuck it out. But at the time, I wasn't happy and I didn't know what I wanted to do. I was tired of the fights with townspeople, who could be absolutely hostile and very brutal. And even some of the students would cross the quad rather than speak to me. Or they would look the other way when they walked past.

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Mycki Jennings  
Jacqueline Johnson  
Thelma Johnson  
Shirley Joyner  
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Mabel McKissick  
E. Paulette Moore  
E. Morris-Ferguson  
Shirley Norman  
Evelyn Pleasure  
Cynthia Redmond

Bermer Ridenhour  
Carolyn Rogers  
Gearlene Salters  
Bessie L. Scott  
Mildred Setzer  
Cheryl Shoulders  
Myra Simmons  
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# ΩΩ

Chapter

*We Extinguish the Torch for  
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*January 31, 1996*

**NEW HAVEN  
ALUMNAE  
CHAPTER**

**DELTA  
SIGMA  
THETA, INC.**

**A  
PUBLIC  
SERVICE  
SORORITY**



## Reflections Of A Life

Cassandra Elizabeth Smith Rush was born on July 4, 1945 to Warren Julian and Georgia Mickle Smith.

She departed this life on Wednesday, January 31, 1996, after receiving the Last Rites of the Catholic Church.

Cassandra affectionately called Sandi, was introduced at the Debutante Cotillion in 1962. She graduated from St. Anne's Academy, a Catholic Boarding School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as Valedictorian class of 1963.

While attending St. Anne's Academy, Cassandra applied for admission to Duke University. The university was still segregated and her application was denied. Later, she read that the university's board of trustees had voted to admit black undergraduate students, so she reapplied and was offered a scholarship to attend.

She entered Duke as a zoology major, but, after a rigorous anatomy course, switched her major to French. Sandi became caught up in the political and social currents of the time, specifically in the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

Unsure of her career goals, Sandi left the university after the first semester of her junior year. She later received a bachelors in economics from Philadelphia's Chestnut Hill College. She was employed as an Economic Forecaster at SNET and as an Instructor at Adult Education in the New Haven Public School System.

She was a faithful communicant at St. Aedans Roman Catholic Church. A very strong supporter of St. Aedan School and Norte Dame High School where her sons graduated. Sandi was a former member of St. Aedan's School Board, New Haven Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., New Haven Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc., and the New Haven Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Associates.

She leaves to mourn her much loved sons, J. Bristol Rush of Boston, MA & Warren A. Rush of New Haven, CT; her daughter-in-law Hilary G. Rush of Boston, MA; her parents Warren J. & Georgia Mickle Smith of Framingham, MA.; her brother and sister-in-law Warren J. & Anita Smith, Jr. of Louisville, KY; her sister and brother-in-law Timothy & Mycki Smith Jennings of New Haven, CT; three grandchildren: Alexis J. Ravis of New Haven, CT, Taylor J. Rush of Boston, MA & Raven L. Rush of Newport, RI; two nieces: Wendy J. Ingram of Columbia, MD & Gygi Jennings of Vineyard Haven, Martha's Vineyard; four nephews: Warren J. Smith, III of Cincinnati, OH, William J. Smith of Glen Burnie, MD, Cpl. Andrew J. Smith, USMC of 29 Palms, CA and Rashaun D. Smith of Framingham, MA; her former husband J. Bristol Rush, II of Philadelphia, PA.

## Funeral Mass

### Introductory Rite Selection

*Introit*  
From the Latin Mass for the Dead

### Liturgy of Word

Opening Prayers  
First Reading

Warren Julian Smith, Jr  
Brother

Psalm Response

Second Reading

Warren Julian Smith, Sr  
Father

Gospel(stand)  
Homily

Father Joseph McCann

General Intercession  
Gift Bearers

Wendy Jeanne Ingram  
Niece  
Gygi deLondon Jennings  
Niece

Selection

Into Your Hands  
Grayson Warren Broum

### Liturgy of Eucharist

Selection

Panis Angelicus  
Ceasar Franck

Selection

In The Garden  
C. Austin Miles

Eulogy

John Bynum Mickle  
Uncle

### Final Commendation

Selection

I'll Walk With God  
Nicholas Brodsky

### Rite of Committal

## PALLBEARERS

Wendy Jeanne Ingram  
Gygi deLondon Jennings  
Timothy Jennings

Corporal Andrew Julian Smith  
Rashawn Daryl Smith  
Warren Julian Smith III

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Clifton Graves, Jr.  
William Lytle  
Reginald Mayo

Henry E. Moore  
J. Bristol Rush  
Lester Turner

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you called, or spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say. Perhaps  
you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.*

*Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much,  
whatever the part. May God ever bless you for your willingness to  
share. And may He continually bless and keep you in His care.*

*The Family*

Professional Services Entrusted To:  
Beecher & Bennett  
2300 Whitney Avenue  
Hamden, Connecticut

*Reception immediately following service in Parish Hall*

## FUNERAL MASS

*For*

*Cassandra Elizabeth Smith Rush  
July 4, 1945 - January 31, 1996*



*Monday, February 5, 1996  
10:00 A.M.*

*St. Aedans Roman Catholic Church  
112 Fountain Street  
New Haven, Connecticut 06515*

*Father Joseph McCann, Pastor*

*Michael J. Etes, Jr., Organist/Soloist*

From lists of first black students enrolled at Duke University.

Undergraduate (Entered Fall 1963 with first black undergraduate students at D.U.)

Smith, Cassandra E. - Winston-Salem, NC  
(Cassandra S. Rush)

*A/D May 21, 66*

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

*6* Eaton, James Nathaniel (entered 1962)

*She last attend Spring '69  
She was June*

*Can't find all  
matron*

*6* Ida Virginia Stephens Owens (entered 1962)

*6 Graduated June 5 67*

*6* Reuben, Odell Richardson (entered 1962)

*Graduated June 1, 70*

*6* Fuller, John Fred (entered 1964)

*last attend Fall 65*

*6* Wright, William (entered 1964)

*died 19 8 2 Dec, 11 A*

*238-52-501 9*

*Deceased*

*5-1-84*

# Three Don Caps And Gowns As First Of Their Race To Be Duke Alumni

By CLETIS PRIDE

Wilhelmina ("Mimi") Reuben, Mary Mitchell Harris and Nathaniel ("Buddy") White will make up a very small minority among the some 1400 students who will graduate this morning at Duke University.

In many ways, they are no different than their classmates. They have worked just as hard to earn the degrees. And their hopes for the future are just as bright.

But in one major respect, Mimi, Mary and Buddy are unique. They are what remains of the first group of undergraduate Negro students admitted by Duke.

The group was never large; it consisted of only five members back in 1963. In the course of the four-year-long quest for sheepskins, one of that number left school to take a job and a second to join the armed forces.

Mimi and Buddy plan to continue their studies beyond Monday's commencement, both aiming toward Ph.D. degrees. Mary, who attended one session of summer school and thus was able to complete her studies in psychology and pre-medicine last January, now is married and working at Duke's Aging Center. She, too, hopes to do graduate study eventually.

Mimi will begin work toward her doctorate in American studies next fall at Harvard University with the aid of a coveted Woodrow Wilson fellowship. Her ultimate goal is a career as a college professor.

The academic atmosphere will be nothing new to her. Her father is president of Morris College, Sumter, S.C., and is currently completing requirements for his Ph.D. degree in theology at Duke. Mimi's mother, holder of a doctorate from Columbia University, is professor of American history at Morris.

One of Duke's most popular students, Mimi was this spring elected May Queen by her fellow students at the Woman's College.

Her popularity has not been gained by sacrificing principle. She identifies closely with the civil rights movement and participated in a number of demonstrations at nearby Chapel Hill during her freshman year.

But she does not feel bound by anyone's definition of civil rights.

"You can't take an entire race and say they all feel this way

or that way about any specific issue," she argues.

Mimi has found her race to be neither handicap nor help at Duke. During her first year, she was a bit annoyed by the limitations placed on her social life by the fact that the university's total undergraduate Negro population was three girls and two men. But, she remembers, she came to Duke to study, not primarily for the social life here.

"I have met some fine people at Duke and made friendships that I hope will continue through the years," Mimi says.

White, who has been on the dean's list for each of the last two semesters, has received a research assistantship from the University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill. He will begin studies there this fall toward a Ph.D. in statistics. At Duke, he has worked as a part-time consultant to an undergraduate computer programming course in mathematics.

A graduate of Hillside High in Durham, Buddy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel White. His father is a printer and a graduate of Hampton Institute.

Like Mimi, he says that his race has made no difference in his student career at Duke. Although he has not been active in civil rights, he feels the national movement is progressing too slowly, partly because of disagreements in the leadership.

Mrs. Harris went through elementary, junior and senior high

schools, as well as the university, in many of the same classes with White.

Soon after her sophomore year at Duke, she married Michael William Harris of Raleigh, a North Carolina College graduate who now works with the North Carolina Fund. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Willie Lee Mitchell of Durham.

She had always dreamed of attending Duke and when the time came to decide on a college, Duke was her first—and only—choice.

Mary found that being one of the university's first Negro students was occasionally convenient.

"At least everyone knows who you are," she says.



Historic Graduates At Duke

"Mimi" Reuben, left, "Buddy" White and Mrs. Mary Mitchell Harris were among the first Negro undergraduates admitted to Duke back in 1963. On Monday, they will don caps and gowns to receive their degrees, together with some 1400

other students. Here they walk through the Campus Drive underpass which separates the Duke East and West campuses, traditionally used as a bulletin board and message center by artistically inclined Duke students.

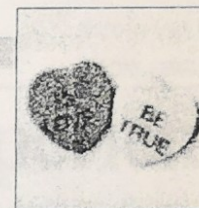
[June 5, 1967]

# THE CHRONICLE

**RECESS**

Pucker up

Valentine's Day is upon us and, like any good old friend, *Recess* wants to help you get some play. Our thoughts on making V-Day... special.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2000

CIRCULATION 15,000

THE INDEPENDENT DAILY AT DUKE UNIVERSITY

WWW.CHRONICLE.DUKE.EDU

VOL. 95, NO. 93

## Integrating

Beginning on  
MARCH 8, 1961 with  
Duke's graduate and  
professional schools,  
BLACK STUDENTS were  
officially admitted to the  
University.

By CHERAINE STANFORD

# Duke



THE FIRST THREE BLACK GRADUATES of the University walk past the East Campus bridge. From right, Wilhelmina Reuben-Cooke, Nathaniel White and Mary Mitchell Harris.

Newton's idea that people can see further by standing on the shoulders of giants should have particular meaning and resonance for today's black students who have benefitted from the giants who integrated Duke's campus more than 30 years ago.

The first black Duke students to step onto University grounds began an era of change for the school and provided the foundation for other black students to follow in their footsteps.

"Our purpose there was to be part of a general movement," said Constance Jackson Carter, a member of the second class of black undergraduates. "We were there to allow students after us to go to schools wherever they wanted to. Decades have seen the fruit of that struggle."

Carter came from a family

in the civil rights movement and a feeling that her presence at Duke was her contribution to the larger struggle. "I came in there as a fighter," Carter said. "But I wasn't prepared to deal with some of the subtleties of the fight."

According to Legacy—a publication celebrating 30 years of black students at Duke—the University's official integration policy was instituted March 8, 1961, when the Board of Trustees announced students would be admitted to the University's graduate and professional schools without regard to race, creed or national origin.

University Archivist Bill King said this move came after years of

of which came from the Divinity School. "The issue was debated on the moral side, saying 'This is the right thing to do,'" he said. "But obviously that wasn't working."

King said the final integration decision was probably motivated by moral concerns, the fear that the federal government would withdraw funding from the school and a change in the makeup of the University's governing body. "The authority was in the Board of Trustees," he said. "A change of leadership and infusion of new members probably did change the vote."

While the administration grappled with the decision, students were contemplating integration as well. According to documents from

See INTEGRATION on page 8

## Faculty critique long-term plan

During a series of information sessions about the University's campus master plan, faculty members expressed concern that a "walkable" campus would be inconvenient.

By RICHARD RUBIN  
The Chronicle

The draft campus master plan is built around eight broad, cheery principles that reaffirm Duke's commitment to having memorable spaces, creating a walkable campus and remaining a university in the forest. "They're a little 'God, mother, country,' so it's hard to argue against them," said master planning consultant Lee Copeland.

But when faculty members start applying these principles to their daily commutes, this pie-in-the-sky talk becomes a little messier, more like a pie in the face.

During three public master plan discussion meetings this week, faculty worried about the feasibility of a more walkable campus, wondering particularly how closing some internal streets to traffic and pushing parking toward the perimeter of campus would affect their ability to move around Duke.

"Parking is a big issue," said Tom Metzloff, an associate dean of the law school. "I wish it said in there, 'Duke is an accessible campus.'"

At all three meetings, faculty peppered Copeland and University Architect John Pearce with questions about the accessibility of both academic buildings and campus performance facilities. "There are people who don't go around in a wheelchair, but for whom it's not easy to walk long distances, especially if they carry things," said a music professor.

Copeland countered that the more pedestrian-friendly campus helps develop an academic community by fostering discussions on the quadrangles.

However, said Professor of Romance Studies David

# First black Duke students recount their experiences

► **INTEGRATION** from page 1

the archives, Graduate School Dean Allan Carter remembered a poll showing that 89 percent of the University's graduate students favored the change.

Mary Mitchell Harris, one of the first five black undergraduate students, said her initial welcome to Duke was positive. "It wasn't unnerving at all. It was great receptiveness," she said. More than anything else, Harris said, she was treated as a curiosity, but the students, especially women, were well prepared for her arrival.

Classmate and fellow Durham resident Nathaniel White said he thinks the integration was not very dramatic because of the paucity of black students. "The numbers were so small, we were fairly negligible."

White, like Harris, experienced few racial incidents while at Duke. "It was an insulated community," he said. "Duke could create their own environment." He said seemingly small incidents like playing "Dixie" at sports games and finding a black cat in his dresser drawer were daily reminders of where he was.

White, Trinity '67, said the University's racial climate only began to mirror that of the surrounding community during his senior year, when black student enrollment rose. "That's when, as the white people would say, the trouble began," he said jokingly. When word got around that the first five black students would be graduating, White said, there was a bomb threat at the ceremony.

Carter, Woman's College '68, experienced a more hostile Duke climate following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. her senior year. "After the Dr. King assassination, there was an immediate emergence of anger in the black students," she said. She participated in several picket lines and protests, for the rights of both students and black employees. She said the employees pro-

vided students with a link to the black community.

Though a native of Durham, Harris said she experienced culture shock when she stepped onto Duke's campus. "The experience was surreal," she said. "It was like another world altogether."

Both Harris and White were chosen as part of Duke's search for promising black students, and while the majority of their peers attended predominantly black institutions, they understood the importance of being the first black students at a private southern institution. "Our presence meant change for everybody," Harris said.

Wilhelmina Reuben-Cooke, another of the first five black undergraduates, said she and her peers knew it would be a trying time. "In the midst of all the other adjustments you had to make, you also had the stress... of being seen as different," said Reuben-Cooke, now a member of the Board of Trustees. "The kind of support structures that people take for granted were not there."

Nevertheless Reuben-Cooke, who was crowned the May Queen while at Duke, said she never regretted her decision to matriculate. "It wasn't easy," she said. "It was at a point in time when everyone was involved and committed to the civil rights movement. It was my part."

Although Duke had a fairly smooth and slow integration process, both faculty and students were involved in the more acrimonious battles that were raging just outside the University's walls.

Zoology research professor and civil rights activist Peter Klopfer came to Duke from England's Cambridge University in 1958. What he anticipated would be a three-year stint at the University turned into more than 30 years filled with protests, arrests and Supreme Court rulings. "I spent a lot of time in jail," he said.

Klopfer decided to get involved in the movement

when he began picking student protesters up after demonstrations so that they would not be mobbed by civil rights opponents. After a while, he said, he was no longer satisfied with this minimal role, and he decided to become more active.

He first participated in a faculty sit-in. "We never got inside," he said. "We were jumped by Klansmen and beaten to the ground." Incidents like these did not deter Klopfer, but rather led him to more protests and an arrest and subsequent hearing before the Supreme Court. The resulting decision, *Klopfer v. North Carolina*, applied the Sixth and 14th amendments to North Carolina.

Klopfer called Durham's racial climate "really grim." He told himself that all his struggles would not be in vain, thinking, "This is the price we pay for progress." While he thought that progress was inevitable, he didn't know how quickly things would change. He said he thought, "Maybe my children, or at least my grandchildren, will benefit."

Looking back on their years at Duke, the alumni speak fondly of the past and the changes that have come about because of it, but also stress the work that is left to be done.

"The richness of Duke was that it forced me into relationships and forced learning about people and dealing with people [of a different race]," said Reuben-Cooke.

Harris said given the Duke's diverse student body today, learning from other cultures should be a priority. She also applauded the University's handling of racial issues. "The University setting is open and honest enough in its racial evolution to grapple with it in public," she said. "At least you're talking. This allows students to pick apart the fabric of their thinking and weave a new one."

## TIME LINE

Looking back at forty years

Source: Legacy, 1963-1993

March 8

1961

Board of Trustees announces that students will be admitted to the graduate and professional schools without regard to race, creed or national origin.

Sept.

1962

Matthew Zimmerman and Donald Ballard (Divinity School), James Eaton, Ida Owens and Odell Reuben (Graduate School) are the first black students to enroll in the University.

Nov. 17

1964

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. addresses Page Auditorium.

Feb. 13

1969

Allen Building Takeover: 60 members of the Afro-American Society occupy the building for eight hours and present the administration with a list of demands. Over a hundred police officials are on campus, making arrests and using tear gas. National Guard troops stand by off campus.

1983

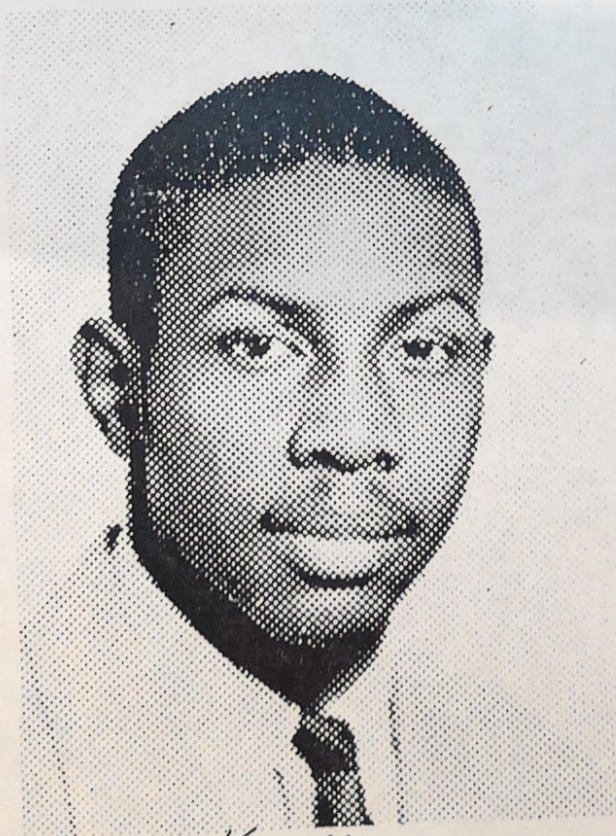
The Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture is established. It is named for the popular jazz musician and campus artist-in-residence for several years.



*Mary Mitchell*



*Nathaniel White*



*Gene Kendall*



*Cassandra Smith*

## DUKE DESEGREGATES:

# THE FIRST FIVE

BY BRIDGET BOOHER

IN THE FALL OF 1963, FIVE UNDERGRADUATES ARRIVED ON CAMPUS FOR THEIR FRESHMAN YEAR. LIKE THEIR CLASSMATES, THIS GROUP EXPERIENCED THE USUAL NERVOUS EXCITEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH STARTING COLLEGE.

BUT THEY HAD AN ADDED ELEMENT OF APPREHENSION. ALTHOUGH ALL FIVE WERE FROM THE SOUTH, INCLUDING TWO FROM DURHAM, THEY ENTERED A FOREIGN ENVIRONMENT. THEY WERE THE FIRST BLACK UNDERGRADUATES TO ENROLL AT DUKE, AND,

BY THE TIME COMMENCEMENT TOOK PLACE FOUR YEARS LATER, ONE HAD GOTTEN MARRIED, MOST HAD CHANGED THEIR UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS, AND TWO HAD DROPPED OUT ALTOGETHER.



And then there were three: by their 1967 graduation, Wilhemina Reuben-Cooke, Nathaniel White, and Mary Mitchell Harris had made history

# ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR GRADUATION YEAR, ALL FIVE REFLECT ON WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO MAKE HISTORY, AND HOW THE EXPERIENCE CONTINUES TO SHAPE THEIR LIVES.

## WILHELMINA REUBEN-COOKE

From childhood, Wilhelmina Reuben-Cooke recognized the power and importance of education. The eldest of six children, Reuben-Cooke learned about social issues and the application of ideas from her parents' after-work conversations. Her father, Odell Reuben Ph.D. '70, was president of Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina, and her mother was on the faculty there.

As it turned out, she and her father were both on campus at the same time, earning their respective undergraduate and graduate degrees. At the suggestion of her father's graduate school adviser, Professor Emeritus of Christian Ethics Waldo Beach, Reuben-Cooke applied. Until then, she'd planned to enroll at either her mother's alma mater, Fisk, or at Oberlin, where her father earned his master's. But a visit to Durham changed all that; she fell in love with the Duke Gardens and campus.

As a first-year student, the highly-motivated South Carolina native immersed herself in the social and

academic whirl. By the time she graduated in 1967, Reuben-Cooke had been selected Phi Beta Kappa, held leadership positions with the YWCA and the university's religious council, and was listed in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." To crown her achievements, the political science major was elected May Queen by a majority of her Woman's College peers. (There was no slate of candidates; each student nominated whomever she wanted and Reuben-Cooke won with the most write-in votes.) She also signed in 1967 the open letter protesting the membership of key administrators and faculty at the then all-white Hope Valley Country Club.

After graduation, Reuben-Cooke began work on a doctorate in American studies at Harvard, but took time off to get married. She switched her sights to law school.

She taught and then practiced communications law in Washington, D.C., until 1986. Now a law professor and associate dean at Syracuse University, Reuben-Cooke has maintained her ties to Duke: She was appointed to a five-year term on the board of trustees in 1989.



had a sense of personal commitment; it was the Sixties and the quest for change and civil rights was gaining momentum. It seemed to all of us that we had a role to play.

What I discovered was that I never had any regrets [about choosing Duke]. I was socially active and had a lot of friends. And an important part of that experience was being forced to meet people and develop relationships that I probably wouldn't have made in another context. That created in me a sense of optimism about the ways people can grow and change.

I still ask myself how I managed to do everything I did. I guess it goes back to the way I grew up. My parents believed that you should be involved in your community. So that would have been my way of life no matter where I went to school. You have a responsibility to create the environment you desire; you can't criticize what you don't participate in. Duke made it a comfortable possibility for me. And it was fun! I'm making it sound so deadly serious, but it was always fun....

One of the things that concerned me about Duke at the time was that I wondered how political we really were. I was at Harvard when I heard that students had taken over the Allen Building [in 1969].

To embrace issues and feel strongly about them was a good thing for Duke. And it was part of a general awakening across the nation. Those were tumultuous times. For a school not to have had demonstrations and marches would have said something negative about the intellectual commitment of the institution.

In terms of numbers and comfort levels, that continues to be a question. Not only did I not have any African-American professors, but I only had one class in which there was another black student. And that does make a difference in your learning. The basic dynamic of a white institution is that the comfort or 'safety' level is far different for students of color than it is for the majority. That's the beginning point and it colors everything.

As a trustee, I have been impressed with the concern for diversity. We should be looking not only at increasing numbers of African-American students, but also at how we educate overall. We should be moving toward a society where all kinds of people work together. The demographics of the twenty-first century will be far different than today's. And part of our responsibility is to educate students on how to live and work with other people. These are the challenges we face."



When I decided to come to Duke, I knew it wouldn't be an easy task.

The majority of the students were from the South, and most of them had never dealt with African-Americans as peers. I assumed my social life wouldn't be great, and I knew my expectations about college would be tempered by reality. But I



While attending St. Anne's Academy, an all-girls Catholic high school in Winston-Salem, Cassandra Smith Rush decided her life's goal was to be a doctor. Because of Duke's reputation for its outstanding undergraduate and medical schools, she applied for admission during her junior year. At that point, the university was still segregated and her application was denied.

Months later, she read that the university's board of trustees had voted to admit black undergraduate students, so she reapplied—and was offered a scholarship to attend. Her family was "absolutely thrilled," she says, especially her father. (His boss' daughter had

applied and been turned down.)

As a first-year student, Rush was a zoology major, but, after a particularly rigorous comparative anatomy course, she switched to French. Other changes were taking place as well. Rush became caught up in the political and social currents of the time, specifically in the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), a national organization that established a Duke chapter in 1963.

Unsure of her career goals, Rush left the university after the first semester of her junior year. She now works as a staff specialist at Southern New England Telephone in New Haven, Connecticut, where she lives with her two sons.



were born and raised in integrated neighborhoods and schools. They grew up in an environment where we didn't label people black, white, Chinese, whatever. Our house always looked like a

United Nations meeting. My sons would describe their new friends to me and tell me how old they were, where their parents lived—everything you could think of—but until I met them, I would have no idea what

race they were.

I taught them to look at other people as human beings. And maybe I've done them an injustice because we live in a racist society. But as little kids, they were never aware of racism. And it shouldn't be an issue children have to deal with. Consequently, they fit right in and feel they're entitled to the same rights as anyone else. When they see instances of [racism] they ask me, 'Why? Why do people raise their children that way?' And I tell them that it's a form of child abuse when parents raise their children to be racist....

After I left Duke, I worked in Washington, D.C., for the government and then the Navy. I went as far as I could go without a college degree; not having that piece of paper kept me from going ahead to the next level. So I started thinking about returning to school, but it wasn't until I was at home with my first child that I really felt I was vegetating. I felt that my

brain was turning to mush! I'd go shopping just to encounter other adults.

When I went back to work part-time at the Federal Reserve, I applied for and won an employee scholarship which paid for my college tuition. So when I got my degree [a bachelor's in economics from Philadelphia's Chestnut Hill College], it really meant a lot to me because I was so ready. I graduated on Mother's Day in 1979. Because of my experience, my sons understand why I'm so determined for them to stay in school."

**II** In August of 1963, I was in the March on Washington. An uncle from New York was there, as was another one who lived in Washington...we

#### NATHANIEL WHITE, JR.

**H**is family lived only three miles from campus, but Nathaniel White Jr. remembers little about the university from his childhood in Durham. Segregation meant that he and his classmates at Hillside High School only interacted with white stu-

dents during weekly science seminars at Durham High. White recalls that the prospect of going from a completely black academic environment to a nearly all-white one was "an appealing challenge"; once there, White discovered it was "like going to a whole new city."



all met there. It was probably the last family reunion we had. Within a week of that, I was starting my classes at Duke.

There seemed to be a lot of advance preparation for our arrival. My roommate had been pre-picked; he was a sophomore. I got the impression that the faculty, undergraduates, and graduate students were ready [for desegregation] and that it was the board of trustees that delayed it from happening as long as it did.

We were a novelty effect because we were new; you know, 'What are they really like?' My bottom-line approach became, as a function of that, that I had high expectations for my friends [regardless of color], so the people who I had problems with, who didn't live



I'm proud to say I went to Duke, and sometimes I wish I'd stuck it out. But at the time, I wasn't happy and I didn't know what I wanted to do. I was tired of the fights with townspeople, who could be absolutely hostile, very brutal. And even some of the students would cross the quad rather than speak to me. Or they would look the other way when they walked past.

I grew up in a very sheltered environment and it really hurt. I hadn't ever been treated like that. For a long time I put it out of my mind because it was so unpleasant, especially the off-campus encounters.

I was arrested in Chapel Hill in early 1964. Martin Luther King Jr. had spoken [at Duke], and our CORE group walked from Durham to Chapel Hill to hold a sit-in protest in front of a [segregated] restaurant there. We were thrown in jail for trespassing and resisting arrest. But it was fine, because we were all together....

For my sons, it is so, so different. They

to my expectations, I wasn't interested in being around. As a result, the number of people I associated with was much smaller than if I'd attended my father's alma mater, Hampton Institute, where I'd been planning to go before I got accepted to Duke.

You have to remember that not only was Duke all white when I was there, but it was also very Southern. I remember having a discussion with an athletics administrator about how we ought to be recruiting black athletes, and he gave me a lecture about how Duke had high academic standards. I told him I didn't think I'd gotten in without meeting those academic standards....

The basketball team was as hot then as it is now, and my roommate and I were both big fans. But back then they would play 'Dixie,' which was practically like the national anthem because everyone would stand up. We would organize sit-downs. We eventually had a whole section that wouldn't stand when it was played. They finally stopped playing it. They were beginning to learn.

It's interesting to look at what we were working toward back then and whether we've gotten there. I would say we haven't. I think the gap between the haves and the have-nots is widening; look at the L.A. riots, for example. Now, it's not so much a matter of whether a restaurant will serve you, it's how you're going to pay for your meal once you're there.

One thing that's happening at Duke which I think is positive is the move toward a multicultural environment. That is a critical step, because the world is multicultural, and if you're turning out students who aren't exposed to that, or equipped to live in it, they're at a real disadvantage.

The resistance to changes in the curriculum is part of that. You have people who say they don't want to 'dilute' the curriculum, but the idea that you can write about history and completely ignore the contributions of minority [populations], and pretend that certain things never happened, is wrong. As I got older and learned about all the contributions of minorities, it made me really mad that I'd never heard about these people in my classes....

In my current job, I'm director of the Public Health Sciences Institute at Morehouse College. Our primary emphasis is to encourage undergraduates to pursue careers in epidemiology and statistics. Our fourteen-week summer program matches juniors and seniors from historically black colleges with researchers at the Centers for Disease Control. We also want to start a club

for students interested in public health. It would be like a pre-med group; there would be internships for students who had been research assistants and who wanted to focus on public health problems."

#### GENE KENDALL



**B**orn the second of six children, Greensboro native Gene Kendall was approached by MIT, Princeton, and most of the historically black colleges to apply for admission. But Duke offered him a full scholarship, and Kendall's decision, he says, was thus essentially made for him. With his sights on a mechanical engineering degree, Kendall took the mandatory pre-major classes, only to find that his high school coursework left

him unprepared for the university's math and science requirements. A low grade on the semester's first physics exam left him scrambling to catch up, and by sophomore year, Kendall knew he would lose his scholarship. Financial considerations forced him to drop out.

Now a captain in the Navy, where he is director of the U.S. Naval Academy's math and science division, Kendall says his Duke experience was a turning point in his personal and professional life.

"I attended James B. Dudley High School, in Greensboro, which was a large, segregated school. There were 230 people in my graduating class. I knew that Duke had no blacks in their undergraduate programs, but I didn't really consider any other school once I was offered the scholarship.

My community was ecstatic and my family was happy, but there was really no pressure [to be the exceptional child]. I was simply going away to college.

The single most difficult thing about coming to Duke was that I had no reference for how things would be. My high school had prepared me well for liberal arts courses but I was woefully ill-prepared for science and math. And that feeling prevailed throughout: 'My God, what have I gotten myself into?' There was no hostility or anything like that on campus or with any of the people I associated with. I was very well received and was expected to participate in the university, and I did.

My score on the [freshman] physics exam was so low that it was impossible for

me to pass the course at that point. If I'd known that I was in that much trouble, I would have gone for help earlier, but I thought I knew the material. I really did.

You've got to remember that I was coming from a high school environment where I was at the top of everything. Nothing had ever been difficult; my studies came easily. I was devastated by my failure and I asked myself, 'Hey, am I as smart as everyone says I am, or has it all been a terrible joke? Should I have taken a lesser scholarship in a more caring environment and given myself a chance to grow?'

In retrospect, my chances at Duke were very, very slim. Even though my SATs were the highest of anyone at my high school, they were below the average for other Duke students and way lower than those of the average engineering student. I didn't know that when I arrived, and things started piling up and before I knew it, I realized I would essentially be flunking out because my scholarship wouldn't be renewed.

I joined the Navy and did quite well, so the Navy wanted to send me back to school. I asked them to send me back to Duke, but because of tuition costs, they would only agree to send me to UNC (within the state). And I figured if I couldn't go to Duke, there was no point in going to Carolina. Stanford was my next choice, but the military science building had been burned down by students the year before, so the Navy wasn't send-



ing anyone there. So I went to the University of Kansas, where I earned an engineering and physics degree. I graduated with honors and was president of the physics society.

My Duke experience put things into perspective. It showed me that no matter how you think things are, there are always holes in your preparation. It taught me to look for whatever I was uncomfortable with and work on that, rather than assume everything is okay because the surface seems fine. It also taught me how to recover from adversity and setbacks—how to return from the end-of-the-world syndrome. And it reinforced some interesting beliefs that sometimes even the most noble experiments don't work."

Both my parents worked at American Tobacco, so I was aware of the Duke family and their influence on the tobacco industry. But I never considered what it would be like to attend the university. Once I was there, it was like being in a world inside a world I'd known all my life. My only connection was with the people who worked in the dining and residence halls. And that connection was friendly, but loose and detached.

The transition was a lot easier than I thought it would be. I did spend a few nervous moments wondering if the strength of my elementary and high school academics would stand up at Duke. But I made the dean's list the first year.

By my second year, I had fallen in love and [my fiancé's and my] grades were slipping. So we decided to get married and stabilize our lives. Marriage was a big surprise to me and the people who knew me. It's one of those decisions that rushes its way into your life without it really being your choice. But at the time, it wasn't that unusual for people to marry young.

I was pre-med throughout my undergraduate career, although I changed from biology to psychology my junior year. I don't remember classes interacting that much with the social issues of the time. There was an anthropology course that addressed the origins of humanity, and I recall that the professor included supportive statements about the role of Africans.

We didn't have open conversations about racial issues, not even informally. I guess my just being there was enough of a statement. It really was. What conversations we did have focused more on com-

## MARY MITCHELL HARRIS

Mary Mitchell Harris made up her mind in the tenth grade that she wanted to attend Duke.

An honors student at Durham's Hillside High School, Harris wasn't dis-

suaed by a well-intentioned guidance counselor who told her she might want to make alternative plans. By the time Harris was valedictorian of her senior class, the trustees had voted to desegregate and Harris was offered admission.



monalities, things that we shared that weren't in the context of race. Things like,

'Oh, you mean this happened to you when you were ten years old, too?' Friendships were based on the pleasant discoveries we made about things we all went through.

Last fall I decided to sit in on a class at Duke, and it totally satisfied my view of what the university is doing in the classroom. It was an English course that looked at a multicultural approach to life through the eyes of various writers. The professor chose some of my own personal favorite references as well as current writers; it updated me considerably. And the involvement of the class was spectacular. My experience showed me that a liberal arts education is

alive and well; professors are comfortable with the approach and are open to the ideas and orientations of their students...

One of the things I'm interested in is corporate psychology. There are some communications theories regarding race relations in the corporate world. Often, there are [surface] acquaintances which are comfortable and polite, but that never move beyond the cursory level. And moving beyond that to real friendships is necessary because whenever issues come

up that can be divided along racial lines, a demarcation is in place.

It's the same thing for academic institutions; there have to be real, true friendships among faculty and administrators [that cross racial lines] in order for students to think that there's really something new under the sun. When you talk about creating a multicultural environment, you have to look at the staff and administrative level as much, if not more so, than the student level." ■



Plans are now under way to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the board of trustees' resolution to admit qualified applicants without regard to ethnicity. A committee chaired by university vice president Leonard Beckum will oversee the celebration, which is expected to kick off on Founder's Day weekend. For details, call 919-684-4736.

## THE WAY IT WAS (AND SOMETIMES STILL IS)

For the first black students at Duke, joining a racially uniform community was both formidable and exciting. In the years that followed, the country's social and political upheavals touched Duke as well. Soon, racial discrimination and disparity became a burning issue.

For Divinity School professor William Turner, who matriculated in 1966, black students' hopes and ambitions were tempered by an unspoken understanding of how to follow the guidelines already in place.

"You have to remember that we grew up in a pre-

civil rights era," says Turner B.S.E. '71, M.Div. '74, Ph.D. '84. "Our experience was one of segregation: segregated communities, segregated churches, segregated schools. We remember separate water fountains. We remember sitting in the back of the bus. It was American apartheid, and we grew up learning rules of behavior and conduct around that reality. It's hard to describe for someone who wasn't there what an alien world it was."

Despite the alienation, Turner never considered leaving "because there was

a pioneering spirit among us. You weren't just doing it for yourself; you were doing it for your parents, your school teachers, and for your community. Back home, we were celebrities; we were doing something new and revolutionary.

"And you always knew what the rules were. Eventually it became a matter of deciding which rules you were going to follow and which you were going to break. You do that according to your own personal and moral integrity. You break them when you just can't continue with the way things are. And you

don't break them when you don't feel like putting up that energy.

"That is something that many people never fully comprehended about [the difference between] segregation and separation. Some things that we've developed—forms of expression, cultural conventions—are things that we as African-Americans like [more than the white equivalent]. In many cases, we've never been sold on the superiority of the white culture or the white way of doing things. So you don't break the rules and put out the energy when you are

going to like what you get less than what you had. But that was never the issue.

The issue was the equality of opportunity: how funds, privileges, and benefits are allocated....

"Even after twenty-five years, I still have the feeling that I'm breaking rules by being here. My son feels at home here; he can run around the Gardens and go to the top of the Chapel and he feels that this place is his. And on one level I feel like that, too. But on a deeper level, I know the history of my presence here."

September 4, 1985

Chris Howard  
History Honors Thesis  
904  
D877  
1983-HO  
pp. 60-61

We can find no confirmation of a student entering the Divinity School in 1961. The resolution approved by the Trustees on March 8, 1961...applied to all graduate and professional schools.

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Also, the Chronicle Year-in-Review, 1962-63--article pertains to undergraduate desegregation in fall, 1963--and notes graduate schools were desegregated in fall, 1961.

student began coursework on the Duke campus in September, 1961. Walter Thaniel Johnson, Jr. and David Robinson II enrolled as regular day students and would graduate three years later. R.L. Speaks was the first black student at the Duke Divinity School, although he was never registered as a regular student since he already had a B.D. degree.<sup>101</sup> Not unexpectedly, the arrival of black students was uneventful. No angry alumni letters resulted from their presence on campus, and their arrival was not covered by the student newspaper or local papers. The favorable response aided administrative efforts to change the admissions policy for the undergraduate colleges.

The desegregation of the graduate schools directly affected the eventual desegregation of the undergraduate colleges. The March vote had indicated the position of individual trustees, and as Taylor Cole noted, "the joint had been cased so to speak." Deryl Hart recalled that during the fall, 1961, the administration continued a "campaign with the trustees for desegregating the undergraduate schools."<sup>102</sup> Taylor Cole noted that "we continued off-the-record consultation with a number of Trustees to whom we made our viewpoints clear."<sup>103</sup> While administrators continued to press for complete desegregation, a vocal minority of University faculty urged desegregation.

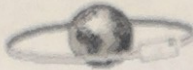
"The question of integration receives a considerable amount of vigorous attention at the hands of faculty and students and poses continuing problems for the administration," the

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<sup>101</sup> The first officially enrolled black divinity students, Mathew A. Zimmerman and James Donald Ballard, matriculated in the fall of 1962. See "Directory of the The Divinity School of Duke University, 1962-1965," Duke University Archives; the first black medical student, Delano Meriweather, matriculated in the fall of 1963; the first, documented black graduate students, James Nathaniel Eaton, Ida Virginia Stephens Owens, and Odell Richardson Reuben, matriculated in the fall of 1962. See "Admissions and Financial Aid," Blacks at Duke, Duke University Archives.

<sup>102</sup> Reminiscences of Deryl Hart, tape recording, 1 February 1974, Medical Center Archives.

<sup>103</sup> Cole, *The Recollections of R. Taylor Cole*, 160.



Elisabeth Stagg <estagg@div.duke.edu> on 06/15/2001 10:45:50 AM

To: "william.king@duke.edu" <william.king@duke.edu>  
cc:

Subject: First African-American Divinity graduates

Bill: Marie Smith tracked down this information:

Matthew Zimmerman, M.Div.'65, was the first African-American graduate. The second was Syl Shannon, B.D.'66, Th.M.'93. Students were given the option of changing their degrees from B.D. to M.Div. after the degree name was changed in 1966: Zimmerman did; Shannon did not.

Hope this is helpful, Elisabeth

# Duke's first blacks look back to '67

By Foon Rhee

In the fall of 1963, the *Chronicle* (called the *Duke Chronicle* back then) announced a significant event rather quietly — in the last paragraph of a general story on the class of 1967. "Included among the freshmen are five Negro students, the first of their race to enroll as undergraduates at the University."

Now almost two decades later, the five history-making students are firmly entrenched in careers and family life — and all have achieved generally accepted notions of success.

On June 2, 1962, the Board of Trustees resolved, "That qualified applicants may be admitted to degree programs in the undergraduate colleges of Duke University without regard to race, creed or national origin," ending almost 15 years of frustration and controversy and paving the way for the entry of the five freshmen. Duke's graduate schools had

been integrated the preceding year.

In 1963-64, a year when segregationist Alabama governor George Wallace spoke in Page Auditorium and Congress of Racial Equality leader Floyd McKissick spoke 11 days later in the East Duke Building music room, Duke students were beginning to become active in the civil rights movement.

The *Duke Chronicle* addressed some of the issues of race relations in a special series on the status of blacks. "The Tower of Campus Thought and Action" also became the forum for increasing numbers of letters and editorials concerning racial discrimination.

Also during the year, Ralph Ellison, author of *Invisible Man* spoke on campus and the Duke CORE chapter protested segregated eating facilities in Chapel Hill.

A memorial service was held for assassinated President



The first five Black Duke freshmen (clockwise from upper left) Gene Kendall, Mary Mitchell, Wilhelmina Reuben, Cassandra Smith, Nathaniel White.

John F. Kennedy and an inauguration ceremony was held for Duke's fifth president

Douglas Knight, who was later to resign primarily because of his inability to deal with issues arising from civil rights protests within the University.

Four of the original five who could be contacted recalled their

historic "Duke experience" and their days of activism.

Lt. Cmdr. Gene Kendall, who had to leave Duke after two years due to financial considerations, is now executive officer of the U.S. Willamette, an oiler based at Pearl Harbor.

See BLACK on page 4

Chronicle 11 Jan 83

Chronicle

Tuesday, January 11, 1983

## Black students

BLACK from page 1

"I still have fond memories [of Duke]," he said. "I would have liked to continue."

Of his decision to attend Duke, Kendall, 37, said, "It was not much of a choice where to go as soon as Duke offered me admission. It was the best school in the area and one of the best in the country."

He said he remembers the University as being "genuinely interested" in him. "I was treated with kid gloves and there were instances of special treatment. But Duke was characteristically laissez faire. I was not simply a token."

Kendall, who helped found the campus CORE chapter, characterized his Duke experience, at a time of social activism, as "very interesting." "Once I left the campus, there was a different feeling because of segregation. Durham was still a Southern town."

Another fond recollection of Duke, according to Kendall, was the camaraderie between the five freshmen. "Because there were only five of us, we knew each other very well," he said. "We spent a lot of time listening to each other's problems."

But since he left Duke, he has lost track of his fellow freshmen. "I tried to keep in touch with them, but the further I moved away, I lost track."

Kendall, who has a wife and a 15-year-old son, speaks glowingly of his Navy career. "It's been an extremely rewarding experience," he said. "I'm very happy with the Navy except for the separations from my family."

The first black undergraduate to receive a degree, Mary Mitchell, is now married, the mother of three children, and a professor of psychology at Spellman College in Atlanta.

Now known as Mrs. Harris, Mitchell remembers her Duke experience as unique because Durham is her hometown. "The first year was comfortable," she said. "It was not the situation of being away from home and in a new atmosphere."

"With any kind of newness, there is an element of apprehension, and the racial tensions were added to that," said the Durham Hillside high school valedictorian.

"But I was in the unique position of having the family to support me. The apprehension was not from

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## discuss being the first

what I would experience directly but generally starting college. But as time went on I was reassured that I made the right choice."

Mitchell's summation of her experience addresses the continuing issues of Duke-Durham relations. "The most immediate impression and the most lasting was my discovery that Duke was in Durham," she said. "I knew the name but I had never really been aware that it existed. It was like another world within the world I was in all the time."

A fellow Hillside graduate of Harris also was among the first group of black freshmen. Nathaniel White, now a mathematical statistician at the National Institute for Environmental and Health Studies, located in the Research Triangle Park, returned to Durham after spending 12 years in the Washington, D.C. area.

Residing in a house just off East Campus, he is also president of the Hayti Development Corporation, a non-profit organization committed to rebuilding the Hayti district of Durham.

White was more candid than his fellow freshmen about his Duke experience. "I remember there was bit of preparation for our arrival," he said. "I thoroughly understand that under the circumstances. It was appropriate that students and faculty be prepared because of the long integration battle. Our coming was a bit anti-climatic."

The decision to attend Duke, he said, was a difficult one. "I was programmed to go to Hampton Institute. But the challenge of it all appealed to me and I was encouraged by people at my high school to attend Duke."

Of his overall Duke career, White said it had its "positives and negatives." "With so few blacks in the class, there were disadvantages. But there are only a few of the horror stories about integration compared to other schools because Duke waited so long to do so."

According to White, the most viable was the bomb scare at the graduation of

the three black freshmen from the first group who completed their schooling at Duke. "It was probably the most exciting thing that happened," he said. "I presume it was because of our graduation."

White drew comparisons between his experience at the University and that of more recent black students. "It should be said that when there are more students, it's more obvious that some black students are having problems," he said.

According to the most recent information from the Office of Alumni Affairs, the fourth of the group, Cassandra Smith, is now married and a computer programmer in Philadelphia. Mrs. Rush could not be reached for comment.

The last of the five freshmen, Wilhelmina Reuben, is now married and a mother of two. Now named Mrs. Cooke, Reuben, practices communications law in Washington, D.C.

She recalled her Duke career fondly. "For me, it was very positive overall. I had a very good relationship with many students and faculty. My experience was very important in terms of my development."

"At the time, there was more distinction between East and West Campus which had certain advantages. Academically, my Duke experience was a very good one and I was very involved in student activities."

But Reuben also recognized the unique situation she entered when she enrolled in the University. "There are many ambiguities and uncertainties about being black at Duke," she said. "During my undergraduate years, I only had one class with another black. It created subtle pressure to do well in addition to the normal pressures of the college experience — of social and academic adjustment."

"The pressures were accentuated by the social situation — a weird one in which people look at you not only for you but for other black people also."

NEGRO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES DUKE UNIVERSITY

May 24, 1965

James Nathaniel Eaton

Entered: 1962

Undergraduate College: Fisk University 1952 A.B.; 1959 M.A.

Major: History

Ida Virginia Stephens Owens

Entered: 1962

Undergraduate College: N.C.C. at Durham 1961 B.S.

Major: Physiology

Odell Richardson Reuben

Entered 1962

Undergraduate College: Benedict College 1942 B.A.; 1945 B. D.

Graduate School: Oberlin College 1946 B. D.; 1947 S. T. M.

Major: Religion

James Roland Law

Entered: 1963

Undergraduate College: Lincoln University 1947 A. B.

Graduate School: New York University 1949 A. M.

Major: Psychology

Jesso L. Allen

Entered: 1964

Undergraduate College, N.C.C. at Durham 1953 B. S.

Major: Education

Willa Coward Bryant

Entered: 1964

Undergraduate College, Fayetteville Teachers College, 1944-45

N.C.C. at Durham 1950 A. B., Temple Univ. 1961 M. Ed.

Major: Education

John Frea Fuller

Entered: 1964

Undergraduate College, N.C.C. at Durham 1964 B. S.

Major: Zoology

William Wright

Entered: 1964

Undergraduate College, Paine College 1957 B. A.; McGill Univ., 1962 Certificate

University of Kentucky Summer 1963

Major: Romance Languages