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# FACING THE WINDS OF CHANGE WITH DIGNITY, COURAGE AND WISDOM

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A SALUTE TO THE 1956 BLACK UNDERGRADUATES



*in celebration of the*  
**60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENROLLMENT OF THE  
FIRST UNDERGRADUATE AFRICAN AMERICANS**  
*at*  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

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**SEPTEMBER 9, 2016**

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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CELEBRATING  
THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN UNDERGRADUATES

60

*years* on the 40 Acres

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

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**BLACK STUDIES**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



AFRICAN & AFRICAN DIASPORA  
STUDIES DEPARTMENT



WARFIELD CENTER FOR AFRICAN &  
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES



INSTITUTE FOR URBAN POLICY  
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Gordon-White Building | The University of Texas at Austin | 210 W. 24th St | Austin, TX 78712

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# FACING THE WINDS OF CHANGE WITH DIGNITY, COURAGE AND WISDOM

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A SALUTE TO THE 1956 BLACK UNDERGRADUATES

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



LLOYD DOGGETT  
TEXAS

## Official Greetings

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

Dear Friends,

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

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

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

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

Hook ‘em,

Lloyd Doggett

300 EAST 8TH STREET, SUITE 763  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701  
(512) 916-5921

TOLL FREE: 1-866-916-5921

201 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4865



**STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



**Greetings:**

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott  
Governor



THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

## Senate Proclamation

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

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

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

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

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

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

SENATOR RODNEY ELLIS, DISTRICT 13  
SENATOR ROYCE WEST, DISTRICT 23  
SENATOR KIRK WATSON, DISTRICT 14  
SENATOR JOHN WHITMIRE, DISTRICT 15  
SENATOR JUDITH ZAFFIRINI, DISTRICT 21  
SENATOR SYLVIA R. GARCIA, DISTRICT 6

SENATOR JUAN "CHUY" HINOJOSA, DISTRICT 20  
SENATOR EDDIE LUCIO, JR, DISTRICT 27  
SENATOR JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ, DISTRICT 26  
SENATOR JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ, DISTRICT 29  
SENATOR CARLOS I. URESTI, DISTRICT 19

# Dawnna DuKes

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910



District 46  
Travis County (512) 463-0506

September 9, 2016

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



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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawnna DuKes".

Dawnna DuKes  
State Representative, District 46



## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

---

*Gregory L. Fenves, President*  
110 Inner Campus Drive, G3400 • Austin, TX 78712-3400  
512-471-1232 • [president@utexas.edu](mailto:president@utexas.edu)

To The Precursors:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Fenves".

Gregory Fenves  
*President, The University of Texas at Austin*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. J. Vincent".

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





# Proclamation

*Be it known that*

*Whereas,*

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

*Whereas,*

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

*Whereas,*

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

*Now, Therefore,*

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

*September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

*as*

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

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

*Steve Adler, Mayor, City of Austin*





September 8, 2016

To the Precursors:

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

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

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

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John H. Massey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

John H. Massey  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie Cedar". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Leslie Cedar  
CEO and Executive Director



P.O. BOX 7278 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78713-7278 • TEXASEXES.ORG



P.O. Box 201404 • Austin, TX 78720



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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Cloteal Davis Haynes, President, The Precursors, Inc.

**THE PRECURSORS, INC. • BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Cloteal Davis Haynes  
Leon Holland  
Charles Miles

Fred Alexander  
Harriet Murphy  
Carl Huntley

Judith Jenkins  
Lonnie Fogle  
Jacquelyn Hawkins

## Special Thanks

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**DR. GREGORY L. FENVES**

President, The University of Texas at Austin

**DR. GREGORY J. VINCENT**

Vice President for Diversity  
and Community Engagement (DDCE)

**DR. EDMUND T. GORDON**

Chair, Department of African and  
African Diaspora Studies (AADS)

**ARTHUR JOHNSON**

Executive Senior Associate Athletic Director  
for Administration, Department of Athletics

**EARL CAMPBELL**

Honorary Event Chair

**ERICA SÁENZ**

Associate Vice President for Community  
and External Relations, DDCE

**YVONNE LOYA**

Executive Director for Community  
and External Relations, DDCE

**LESLIE BLAIR**

Executive Director of Communications, DDCE

**RON BOWDOIN**

Art Director, DDCE

**THAÏS BASS-MOORE**

Program Coordinator for Community  
and External Relations, DDCE

**VIRGINIA CUMBERBATCH**

Director, Community Engagement Center, DDCE

**BRENDA BURT**

Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate  
and Alumni Relations, AADS

**THE TEXAS EXES**

**BRIAN RICTER**

Networks Coordinator, Texas Exes

**STEPHANIE JOHNSON**

Chair, Black Alumni Network

**LORI LEWIS-CONERLY**

Black Alumni Network

**KELVIN JAMES**

President, Innovative IP Communications

**RONALD MEANS**

Austin Cab Company (Shuttle Service)

**DOTTIE L. WATKINS**

Vice President, Bus and Paratransit Services,  
Capital Metro

**THE PRECURSORS**

Board of Directors and Members

**JACQUELYN HAWKINS**

The Precursors Board of Directors  
and Event Chair

**LEON HOLLAND**

The Precursors Board of Directors  
and Event Planning Team

**CHARLES M. MILES**

The Precursors Board of Directors  
and Event Planning Team

**CLOTEAL DAVIS HAYNES**

President, The Precursors  
and Event Planning Team

## *Sponsors*

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# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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COCKRELL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

DIVISION OF DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

DOLPH BRISCOE CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY

GRADUATE SCHOOL

JOHN L. WARFIELD CENTER FOR AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MOODY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LIBRARIES

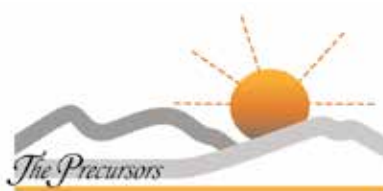


The University of Texas at Austin

## Founding and Mission

### THE PRECURSORS

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



#### OUR MISSION

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

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

BLACK STUDIES, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

INSTITUTE FOR URBAN POLICY  
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

AFRICAN AND AFRICAN DIASPORA  
STUDIES DEPARTMENT

JOHN L. WARFIELD CENTER FOR AFRICAN  
AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

JOHN HALL PUBLIC AFFAIRS, INC.

HAWKINS PUBLIC POLICY CONSULTING

HAYNES-EAGLIN-WATERS, LLC (HEW)

# Undergraduate Admission and Living on the Forty Acres

## THE PRECURSORS

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

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

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



1



2



3



4

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

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

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# FACING THE WINDS OF CHANGE WITH DIGNITY, COURAGE AND WISDOM

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A SALUTE TO THE 1956 BLACK UNDERGRADUATES

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MR. EARL CAMPBELL, Honorary Chairman

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## PROGRAM

### *Opening Remarks*

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

### *Invocation*

REV. SHERRYL GRIFFIN-BOZEMAN

### *Welcome & Occasion*

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

### *Board of Regents Resolution, July 8, 1955*

MR. WILLIAM H. MCRAVEN  
Chancellor, The University of Texas System

### *A Video Remembrance*

*"Sixty Years of Struggle and Progress"*

### *Remarks & Proclamations*

THE HONORABLE KIRK WATSON  
Texas Senator, District 14

THE HONORABLE STEVE ADLER  
Mayor, City of Austin

THE HONORABLE DAWNNA DUKES  
Texas House of Representatives, District 46

MR. GARY BLEDSON  
President, Texas Chapter NAACP

### *The Year 1956 and Reflections from First Black Undergraduates*

MRS. JACQUELYN HAWKINS  
COL. (R) LEON HOLLAND

MRS. EDNA RHAMBO  
MR. CHARLES M. MILES

### *Monologue*

*"As She Saw It"*

MRS. THAÏS BASS-MOORE



## *Introduction of Keynote Speaker*

MRS. CLOTEAL DAVIS HAYNES

## *Keynote Address*

THE HONORABLE RODNEY ELLIS  
Texas Senator, District 13

## *Tribute in Song*

“One Moment in Time”

MRS. SONDRAL DILWORTH JOHNSON

## *A Salute to the 1956 African American Undergraduates*

DR. GREGORY J. VINCENT

Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement  
The University of Texas at Austin

EARNESTYNE YVONNE BELL-TERRY  
JOYCE ALETHA BENNETT  
JERRY BONNER\*  
JERRY ANN CANNON-HUNTER  
JOHN CARROLL  
GARFIELD CLARK  
IRA CLAY  
WRIGHT BETTS COLLINS\*  
BARBARA L. SMITH CONRAD  
OCTAVINE DAVIS  
NATHANIEL DICKERSON  
JAMES DILWORTH\*  
WALTER JOE DUNCAN  
SENOR EDWARDS  
MARION G. FORD\*  
JENNIE ELIZABETH FRANKLIN  
EVA GOINS-SIMMONS  
JOHN GREEN\*  
NORMA JEAN HANCOCK-LAWRENCE  
MAMIE HANS-EWING  
JOHN HARGIS\*  
LOLA HAWKINS-FORD  
NORCELL DAN HAYWOOD\*  
ROBERT EUGENE HENDERSON  
ANTHONY RAY HENRY\*

DONALD HILL\*  
AGNES HILL-KNIGHT  
ROBY WALDO HILLIARD  
HERMAN HINES\*  
LEON LAFOREST HOLLAND  
THOMAS LEE HORTON  
RAYMOND HUMPHRIES\*  
EDNA ODESSA HUMPHRIES-RHAMBO  
WALKER EUGENE HUNT  
MELISSA HURT-BOOKER  
CHARLES HUTCHINSON\*  
BOBBYE JEAN HYDER-ARNOLD  
FRANKIE JERLENE JACKSON  
HENRY LOUIS JAMES\*  
MIRIAM JONES\*  
WALTER CHRISTOPHER JONES  
WILLIE CLEVELAND JORDAN, JR.  
GEORGE KELLY  
JOHN LEWIS KELLY  
I. G. LAKEY  
BETTYE JANE LANCASTER  
IRA VERDELL LOTT  
RUTH MADISON  
ERNEST WINDROW MCBRIDE\*  
JOE MCBRIDE\*

CHARLES MURRAY MILES  
CLEVE EDWARD MOTEN  
LOIS NEWBY-BELL  
DORIS PRICE-CASEY\*  
JOHN DAVID RANGER\*  
DAVID RANSOM\*  
ALVIN REYNOLDS\*  
IMA LERESTER ROBINSON  
ERVIN ROLLINS\*  
JOHNNIE BEATRICE RUCKER-VAN DYKE  
REUBEN S. SHERMAN  
MARY FRANCES SIMPSON-MCFALL  
JUNE FRANCES SINGLETARY-MCCOY  
L. G. SLIDER\*  
SUSIE LOUISE THOMAS  
CHARLES HENRY WASHINGTON\*  
DAVID WASHINGTON  
FRANK LOUIS WAYNEWOOD  
ROY WEST  
LODIE WHITTINGTON-HARRIS  
IRA DALTON WILLIAMS  
ELIJAH MAE WILLIAMS-DOTSON  
GIRLENE MARIE WILLIAMS-GILFORD  
CHARLES WESLEY WRIGHT  
\*Deceased

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

## *Acknowledgments & Closing*

“The Eyes of Texas”

INNERVISIONS GOSPEL CHOIR

**W**E CONCLUDE THAT, IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION,  
THE DOCTRINE OF 'SEPARATE BUT EQUAL' HAS NO PLACE.  
Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore,  
we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom  
the actions have been brought are, by reason of the segregation  
complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the laws  
guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.”

*Brown v. Board of Education, 347 U.S. 483 (1954) (USSC+)*  
*Chief Justice Warren, Opinion of the Court, May 17, 1954*

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

# *Black Alumni Homecoming Weekend*

*celebrating the*

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

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

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### *Thursday, September 8, 2016*

#### **THEN and NOW**

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

---

### *Friday, September 9, 2016*

#### ***Facing the Winds of Change with Dignity, Courage and Wisdom***

##### **A SALUTE TO THE 1956 BLACK UNDERGRADUATES**

**President's Reception for  
Honorees and Their Families**  
*(Private event)*

**Public Program Honoring the  
1956 African American Undergraduates**  
*LBJ Auditorium*

#### **Legacy Celebration Dinner**

A celebration of the 60th anniversary of the first African American undergraduates enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin. The Texas Exes Black Alumni Network celebrates students, faculty and alumni. Buffet dinner, silent auction, cash bar, Black Alumni Network Awards, and Precursors special tribute. *Crowne Plaza Hotel*

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### *Saturday, September 10, 2016*

**Precursors Annual Meeting and Luncheon**  
The Precursors, Inc. conduct their annual meeting and will honor the first African American undergraduates at their annual luncheon.  
*Crowne Plaza Hotel*

**Homecoming Tailgate and Game Viewing**  
Sponsored by the Office of the President and co-sponsored by the Black Ex-Students of Texas (B.E.S.T.) and the Eta Theta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
*MLK Statue, University of Texas East Mall  
Darrell K. Royal Memorial Stadium*

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### *Sunday, September 11, 2016*

**Sunday B.E.S.T. Brunch** *Iron Cactus*

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Haynes-Eaglin-Waters, LLC (HEW) applauds the courage and accomplishments of the first African American undergraduates who enrolled in The University of Texas at Austin 60 years ago. You opened the doors widely for many who followed.

## Thank You!

**Cloteal Davis Haynes, CEO**

B.A., The University of Texas at Austin, 1972

M.P.A., LBJ School of Public Affairs, 1977



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*salutes*

---

## THE PRECURSORS

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*and celebrates the*

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN UNDERGRADUATES  
ENROLLED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
1956



### JOHN HALL

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

---

#### **JOHN HALL PUBLIC AFFAIRS, INC. (JHPA)**

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60th ANNIVERSARY SALUTE TO INTEGRATING THE 40 ACRES

## HAWKINS PUBLIC POLICY CONSULTING

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

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

ISSAC NEWTON

### ALBERT HAWKINS III

B.A. Government, UT Austin, 1975  
Masters of Public Affairs, LBJ School, 1978

*Distinguished Alumnus*

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

#### **HAWKINS PUBLIC POLICY CONSULTING**

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The Austin Area Black Contractors Association

*Congratulates The Precursors,*

**Charles M. Miles**

and the other men and women who were  
the First African American Undergraduates  
to enroll at

The University of Texas at Austin in 1956



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**TEXAS**  **EXES**<sup>®</sup>  
BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK

*recognizes the*

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN UNDERGRADUATES ENROLLED AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN IN 1956

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

*Thank You and Congratulations*



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

NELSON MANDELA

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

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

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

### Charter Members

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

\* 1956 Black Undergraduate

### Thank You

Alpha Kappa Alpha Delta Xi Chapter Charter Members  
& All 1956 Black Undergraduates  
for

**Facing the Winds of Change  
With Dignity, Courage and Wisdom**



# 60-YEAR CELEBRATION

## FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN UT UNDERGRADUATES

Best Wishes  
*from the*  
Dunn and Berry Families



### DUNN AND BERRY FAMILIES

Sheri Dunn Berry, Community Partners, Director of Programs  
Brian Dunn, Esq., The Cochran Firm California, Managing Partner  
Amara Berry, Brown University  
Mikaela Berry, Fordham University  
W. Paul Dunn, UT Alum (1962, Civil Engineering) *In his memory*  
Dr. Alnita Rettig Dunn, UT Alum, 1962





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*“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”*

— John F. Kennedy

---

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

**Congratulations on your 60th Anniversary!**

— *Hoover Alexander* —

*Huston-Tillotson University Salutes  
the First Black Undergraduates of  
the University of Texas at Austin*

— DR. COLETTE PIERCE BURNETTE, PRESIDENT —



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

MAYA ANGELOU

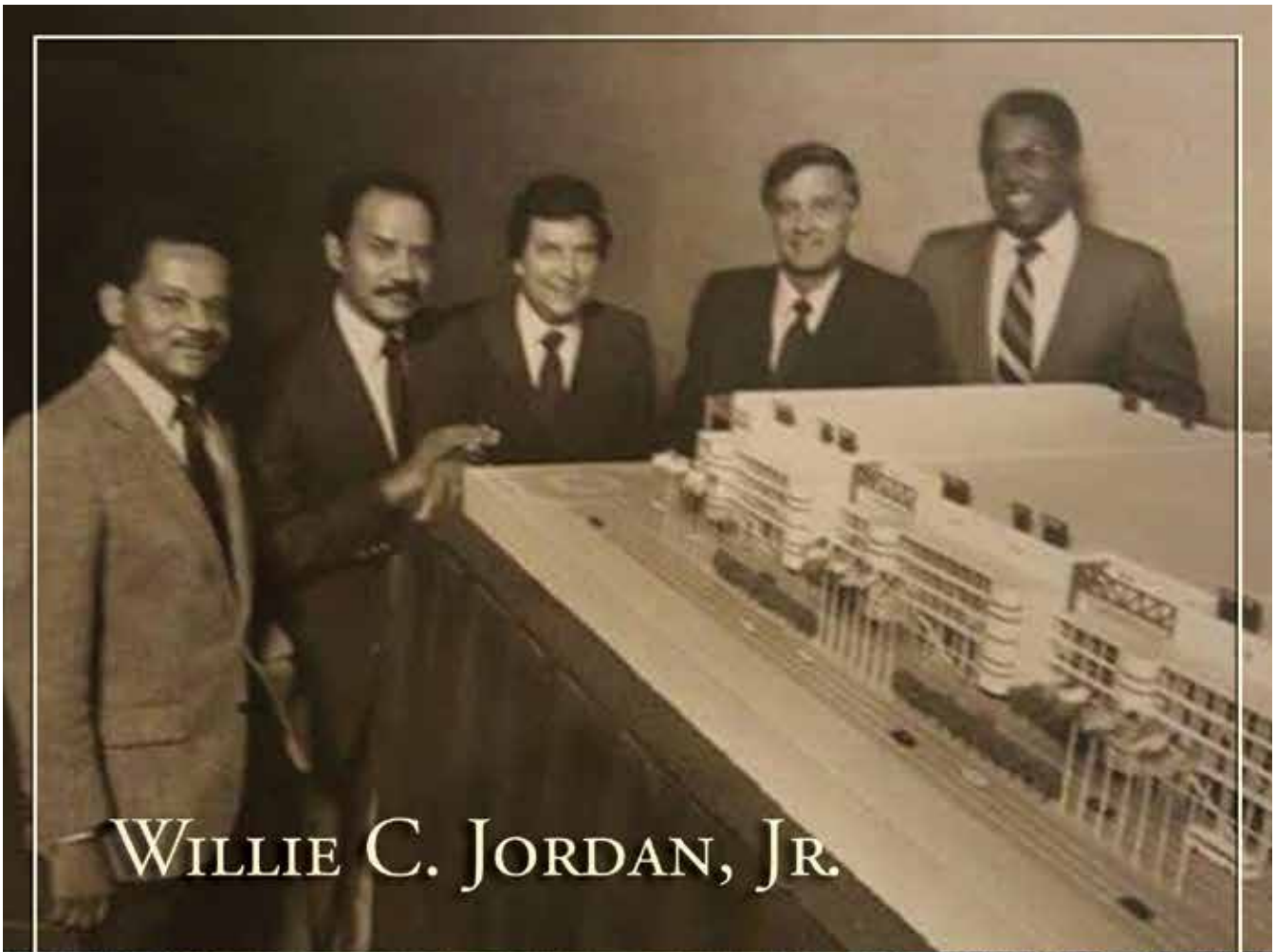
To the undaunted black students who  
enrolled in the University of Texas in 1956 to  
*receive* higher education:

*MANY THANKS,*  
for *giving* our world much more.

**BENNY L. HAWKINS**  
*U.T. School of Architecture*  
*Class of '69*

Member, American Institute of Architects  
President, CEO  
BLGY ARCHITECTURE





WILLIE C. JORDAN, JR.

**"TOUGH TIMES DON'T  
LAST, TOUGH PEOPLE  
DO."**

# *Best Wishes to the Undergraduate Class of 1956*

*and particularly to my mother,*

---

## MAMIE EWING

---



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

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

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

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

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

**Hook ‘em!**

— Perry Ewing



*Thanks for Being a Trailblazer*

CHARLES MILES



*from the*

**MEN FROM THE BARRACKS &  
KAPPA INTEREST GROUP**

Fred Alexander, Lonnie Fogle, Matthew Mullone,  
Cleo Jenkins, Bill Spearman, Elliott Knotts,  
*and the Miles Family*

*Thanks for Being a Trailblazer*

LEON HOLLAND



*from the* MEN FROM THE BARRACKS & ALPHA

Howard Ammons, Carl Huntley, Charles Urdy,  
Cleo Jenkins, Lonnie Fogle, and Bill Spearman

*Thanks for Being a Trailblazer*

WILLIE JORDAN



*from the* MEN FROM THE BARRACKS & KAPPA INTEREST GROUP

Cleo Jenkins, Lonnie Fogle, Bill Spearman,  
Freddie Alexander, Matthew Mullone, and Elliot Knotts

*Phillis Wheatley High School, San Antonio, Texas • Class of 1956*

## ***Congratulations***

*to our classmates*

**LEON L. HOLLAND**

**&**

**HENRY L. JAMES (DECEASED)**

*as having been the*

*First African Americans from San Antonio  
to enroll as undergraduates at  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**  
September 1956*

*Alma Ruth Sheppard Owens, President, PWHs Class of 1956*

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BLACK UNDERGRADUATES OF 1956!**

*My journey would not have been possible without your sacrifice.*

***Thank you!***



*With Nelson Mandela,  
President of South Africa*



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



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

**RODNEY GRIFFIN**

Precursor '65 • UT Alum, B.A. Mathematics, 1970 • White House Guest, LBJ Civil Rights Summit

# CONGRATULATIONS 1956 BLACK UNDERGRADS!

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



## Special Congratulations to Charles Murray Miles

*With Love and Admiration,*



### YOUR SIBLINGS

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

\*Deceased

### YOUR CHILDREN

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

## “ACHIEVING IN EVERY FIELD OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR”

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

*salutes*

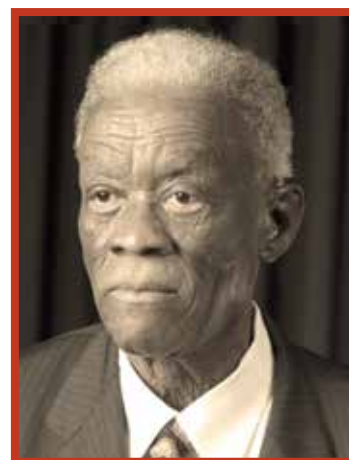
**CHARLES M. MILES**



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

#### *Memberships:*

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



***Congratulations to all the courageous Black UT undergraduates of 1956!***

# 60TH ANNIVERSARY

## University of Texas First African American Undergraduates!

*Best wishes to my dear friend and classmate,*

**LEON HOLLAND**



**Jack Boone**  
Financial Advisor



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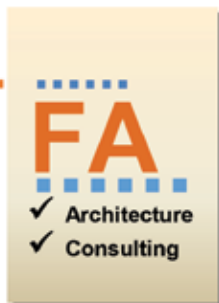
*We salute the 1956 Black  
Undergraduate Enrollees  
at the  
University of Texas*

**Facing the Winds of Change with  
Dignity, Courage and Wisdom**

***Fred Alexander***  
Architect Emeritus

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

email.fred\_alex@msn.com



Fred Alexander  
Bachelor Architecture, 1974

• Dallas

Norcell Haywood  
(1935-2015)  
Bachelor Architecture, 1960

San Antonio •

UT Austin

• Houston

Willie Jordan  
Bachelor Architecture, 1963

**We started here and changed Texas.  
Texas changed the world.**

***Facing the Winds of Change with  
Dignity, Courage and Wisdom***

# 60TH ANNIVERSARY

## University of Texas First African American Undergraduates!

*“The lessons of the past...prepare us to face the challenges of the future.”*

L. TOM PERRY

Almetris Duren Residence Hall  
The University of Texas at Austin



*As we celebrate this milestone,  
heartfelt gratitude is extended to*

### DR. FLOYD HOELTING

Former Executive Director  
Division of Housing and Food Services  
&  
Almetris Duren Residence Hall Visionary

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

## Congratulations to UT's First Black Undergraduates



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



LT. COL.  
DORIS J. WILLIAMS  
US Army, Retired  
Class of 1964

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

*and to*

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Mailing Address: PO Box 380777, Duncanville, TX 75138

The Texas NAACP would like  
to congratulate the first  
African American students to  
enroll as undergraduates at  
The University of Texas at Austin.

You have made a difference for  
our state, our nation,  
and for us all.

**Gary Bledsoe, President**   **Bob Lydia, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**   **Aubrey Hooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

**Linda Lydia, Secretary**   **Lawrence Myers, Asst. Sec.,**   **TaNeika Driver-Moultrie, Treasurer**   **Brian Rowland, Asst. Treasurer**



The University of Texas at Austin



The Barbara Jordan statue at The University of Texas at Austin

---

DR. GREGORY L. FENVES

PRESIDENT, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

&

DR. GREGORY J. VINCENT

VICE PRESIDENT FOR DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*congratulate*

The Precursors

*and the*

1956 Black Undergraduates

*as we celebrate the*

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

*at*

The University of Texas at Austin

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