

Fayetteville State University Has Long And Interesting History

Fayetteville State University is the most recent name given to an institution with a long and interesting history.

At the close of the Civil War, the need to provide for the schooling of black children was a crucial problem over the South. In 1867, seven progressive black citizens - David Bryant, Nelson Carter, Matthew N. Leary, A. J. Chesnut, Robert Simmons, George Grainer, and Thomas Lomax - paid \$140 for a lot on Gillespie Street in Fayetteville and converted themselves into a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees to maintain this permanent site for educating black children in Fayetteville and the surrounding area. One of the first known friends of black education, General O. O. Howard of the Freedman's Bureau, erected a building on this site. In his honor, the institution became known as the Howard School. Robert Harris was chosen as the first principal and served until his death in 1880.

By legislative act in 1877, the North Carolina General Assembly provided for the establishment of a Normal School for the Education of

black teachers. Because of the small amount of the proposed appropriation, it was felt that the money could be used more effectively if given to an existing school. Several areas of the state competed to become state-supported, but the Legislature chose the Howard School as the most promising because of its success record during the previous 10 years. It was designated a teacher training institution and its name was changed to the State Colored Normal School. Charles Waddell Chesnut, formerly assistant to Principal Harris, became the second principal of the institution in 1880.

In 1883, Principal Chesnut resigned and Dr. Ezekiel Ezra Smith was selected to fill the vacancy. On two occasions, Dr. Smith was called to serve the U.S. government. During his first absence between 1888 and 1895, George Williams was chosen to guide the destiny of the institution. During Smith's second absence from 1898 to 1899, Reverend L. E. Fairley became acting principal of State Normal School.

When Dr. Smith retired as President of the State Normal School in 1933, the institution had moved to its present location on Murchison Road in Fayetteville. The size of the new campus had expanded by 42 acres, and there were eight bright buildings and several cottages on the campus grounds.

In 1929, all high school work was discontinued at the Normal School. In May of 1937, the State Board of Education authorized the extension of the course of study to four years with authority to grant the Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. In 1939, the name of the institution was changed to Fayetteville State Teachers College under the leadership of Dr. James Ward Seabrook who served as president from 1933 until his retirement in 1956.

Dr. Rudolph Jones was elected President in 1956. During his administration, the curriculum was expanded to include majors in Secondary Education and programs leading to degrees outside the teaching field. The name of the institution was changed to Fayetteville State College

in 1963.

Under Dr. Jones' leadership, six additions to the physical plant were provided to accommodate a rapidly expanding enrollment. When Dr. Jones resigned in 1969, a new Administration Building was under construction and the Rudolph Jones Student Center was on the drawing board.

In 1969, the institution acquired its present name - Fayetteville State University - and Dr. Charles "A" Lyons Jr. was elected President of the newly designated "regional university." By legislative act, on July 1, 1972, FSU became a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina and Dr. Lyons became its first Chancellor.

Hallmarks of progress attributed to the present administration's building program are the Rudolph Jones Student Center, the George L. Butler Learning Center, and the New Residence Hall. A \$4.8 million ultramodern Science Complex named for Chancellor Lyons was completed and occupied in the spring of 1981. In the fall of that same year, construction of the Administration Build-

ing Annex was completed.

The Center for Continuing Education Building represents a part of the first private philanthropic grant of over \$1 million to the University given by the Kellogg Foundation. A new library is now under construction which will provide stacking space for over 350,000 volumes and meet the needs of the University for some years to come. FSU has also been authorized to plan for a new business administration complex. The institution's facilities have improved from a one-building school, 118 years ago, to a campus of 156 acres and 36 buildings with a current value of over \$35 million.

In addition to physical facilities, the quality of the faculty is an area in which there has been steady improvement. During the administration of Dr. Lyons, the percentage of faculty with doctorate degrees has increased from 25 percent to over 60 percent, one of the highest in the UNC system. Academically, FSU seeks to provide an atmosphere that encourages intellectual creativity and rewards outstanding scholarship by providing excellent grad-

uate and undergraduate programs. The basic philosophy at the institution is development of the whole person.

Educational opportunity for military personnel and others with full time jobs is provided through the University's Fort Bragg-Pope Air Force Base Extension Center and through the Weekend and Evening College. Through these programs, students are able to further their education without interrupting their professional responsibilities.

No longer exclusively a teacher training institution, FSU is now classified as a Comprehensive Level I University. Within its College of Arts & Sciences, School of Education, School of Business & Economics and Division of Graduate Studies, FSU offers the Bachelor of Arts Degree in 10 disciplines, the Bachelor of Science Degree in 24 disciplines, and Master's Degree programs in four disciplines including the areas of education and business administration.

Fayetteville State University is a proud institution with an outstanding history.

Society is changing, and so are we!

- * Bachelor's Degrees in 34 disciplines
- * Associate Degrees in 23 disciplines
- * Master's Degrees in 4 disciplines
- * Center for Continuing Education
- * Weekend & Evening College
- * Pre-Engineering Curriculum

To learn more about our programs in the College of Arts & Sciences, School of Business & Economics, School of Education and Division of Graduate Studies, call the university where quality and excellence are our primary goals.

FSU

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A Constituent Institution of the University of North Carolina