

# State Teachers College Newsletter

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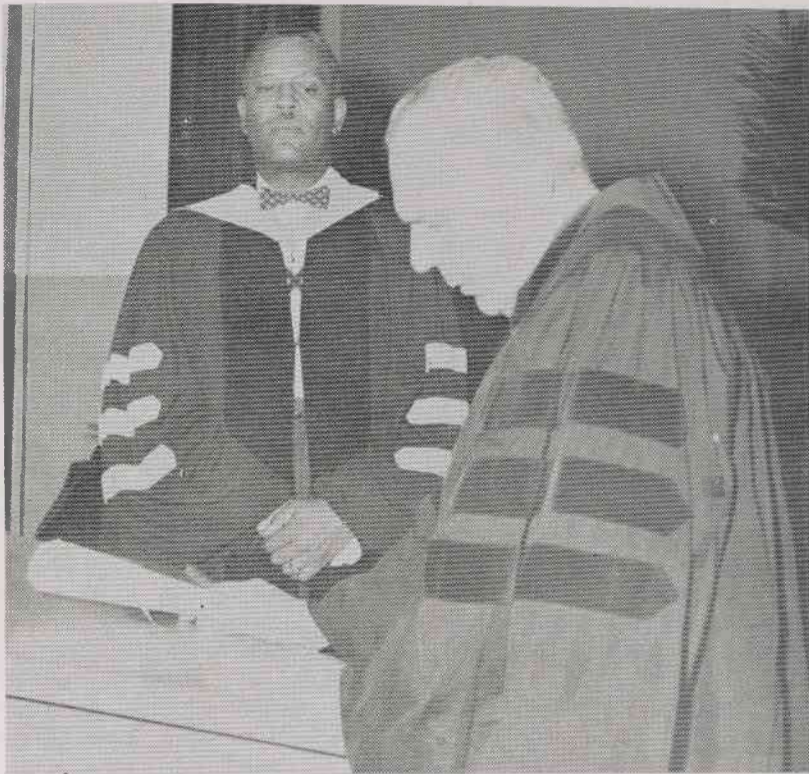
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## Sixty-Fifth Commencement Sun., May 24

### PRESIDENT RECEIVES CHARTER



President Walter N. Ridley is shown as he is being presented charter of the Elizabeth City State Teachers College by McDonald Dixon, vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees.

### John H. Franklin To Deliver Address

Dr. John Hope Franklin, chairman of the Department of History at Brooklyn College, will deliver the commencement address at Elizabeth City State Teachers College, Sunday afternoon, May 24, at 3:30 o'clock in Williams Hall. This year's class will include 90 graduates—72 of whom will receive the bachelor's degree and 18 of whom will receive certificates of completion of course in the Vocational-Technical Institute. These will be the first graduates of the Vocational-Technical Institute.

Included among the honor graduates in this year's class are: With High Honor: Esther Katrina Johnson, Enfield; Helen Delois Kates, Goldsboro; and With Honor: Georgianna Barnes, Robersonville; Sannie Lee Chamblee, Ahoskie; Geraldine Boston Cooper, Plymouth; Evelyn Louise Harris, Courtland, Virginia; Sara Marie Heckstall, Plymouth; Lizzie Geraldine Houpe, Goldsboro; Naomi Cousin Johnson, Roxboro; and Alfred Thomas Wright, Red Bank, New Jersey.

### Dr. Walter N. Ridley Makes Brilliant Inaugural Address

To go down as an important event in the history of the Elizabeth City State Teachers College is the inauguration of Dr. Walter Nathaniel Ridley as the fifth president.

To celebrate this outstanding occasion were hundreds of alumni and friends, including eighteen representatives from colleges and universities; twelve delegates from learned societies and educational associations; thirteen state and municipal officials; fourteen delegates from non-educational organizations; fifteen official representatives of alumni and students; and twelve members of the biracial Board of Trustees.

In the inaugural address Dr. Ridley stated his objectives and his fundamental beliefs. He emphasized more efficient teachers, an increase in enrollment, and an expanded curriculum.

"While we shall always remain within the bounds of economy and efficiency," declared the speaker, "we shall not refrain from presenting full requests for financial support necessary to build at Elizabeth City the kind of college in which we believe and for which we must sacrifice." The president showed his deep concern for the growth, improvement and progress of this institution.

Dr. Ridley closed his address by giving to the audience his fundamental beliefs in: the triumph of truth; the essential and undeniable dignity

of every human personality; democracy and the democratic processes; the direction and tide of history; human perfectibility; the educational process; and a Higher Power which directs our ends.

On these beliefs he took his stand to do all in his power to promote the common welfare of the people and to assure the institution of the type of program of which all can be proud and which we can believe and support.

This day took its place in the pages of the history of the Elizabeth City State Teachers College.

### Noted Leaders In Inaugural Program

The Honorable N. Elton Aydlett, member of the Board of Higher Education, presided at the Inaugural exercises in Williams Gymnasium.

The prelude "Chorale in A Minor" (Continued on Page 4)

### Honors Night Held May 20

The Honors Night program at Elizabeth City State Teachers College will be held on Wednesday, May 20, at 7:00 p.m. in Moore Auditorium. Honors, awards and special citations at this time will be presented to approximately 160 students for outstanding, scholarly citizenship and athletic achievement.

J. Saunders Redding, writer, lecturer and member of the faculty of Hampton Institute will deliver the Honors Address. Honors, scholarships and awards will be presented by members of the staff including the President and Dean.

Professor Redding has just returned from travels in Italy, France and Austria on a tour sponsored by the American Society for African Culture. Since his return, he has been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship in writing. Mr. Redding was a member of the faculty at State Teachers College during which time two of his books, "No Day of Triumph" and "To Make a Poet Black", were published. He has to his credit five other books, the last of which is the "Lonesome Road."

A special feature of Honors Night will be a reception honoring Mrs. Estelle A. Eaton in recognition of her book of poems, "Out of My Dreams", recently published by Christopher Press. At the reception Mr. Redding will comment on the book of poems.

### President and Mrs. Ridley at Home

President and Mrs. Walter N. Ridley will be At Home to members of the graduating classes and their families, along with alumni and friends at the president's residence from 5:00-6:30 following the commencement exercises at Elizabeth City State Teachers College on Sunday, May 24.

First Freshman: My mother has a beautiful pop-up toaster.

Second Freshman: My mother's toaster is an Indian model . . . it sends up smoke signals.

### Congratulations S. T. C. Graduates of 1959



College Presidents Assemble for the Inauguration

### ALUMNI DAY

Saturday, May 23, will be Alumni Day at Elizabeth City State Teachers College. Alumni from many communities and states will meet and in addition to transactional business and events will culminate the day with an alumni dance to be held Saturday evening in Williams Hall.

### Adviser Entertains Staff

Members of the Newsletter staff were entertained at the home of Mrs. E. H. Mitchell on Monday, May 4. After a business period with Sara Heckstall presiding, each of the seven graduating seniors gave expressions of appreciation for the experience with the Newsletter. Others commented on making the paper better next year. Visiting the staff were Adrian Jones and Doretha Williams who expressed interest in the publication.

Refreshments were served buffet style. During this time members engaged in lively conversation, telling of some of their escapades while at the CSP. Reluctantly, the affair had to break up, and the students returned to the campus, having had a pleasant evening.

### Family Week-End Held At S.T.C. May 15-17

The week end of May 15-17 was set aside as Family Week End. All parents were invited to come to the campus to see and find out more about campus living.

Many of the parents arrived on Saturday morning, and by Saturday noon a large number was on the campus.

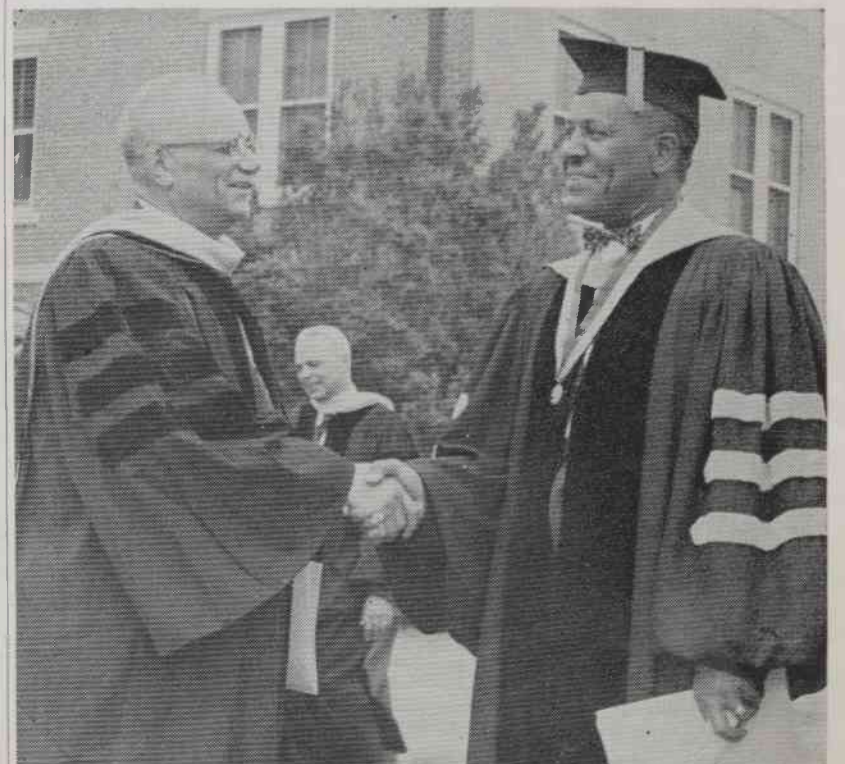
"Parents Want to Know", an informal discussion, was held on Saturday afternoon. It was led by Coach Caldwell, Dean of Men, who answered many questions that parents have about college life.

A program on Saturday evening featured a commencement, with Helen Johnson writing to her mother a letter which explained some of the activities at the college. Performances by the Dance Group, Women's Glee Club, Class in Gymnastics; a piano solo by Catherine Bartlett; and a monologue by Lula Roberts were activities that were enjoyed by the visitors.

Waiter: "Here's your soup, sir."  
Sir: "There's a fly in my soup."  
Waiter: "That's o.k. we won't charge you for it."

### Baccalaureate Service May 24

Students, parents, faculty, alumni and friends will participate in a specially planned baccalaureate service at Elizabeth City State Teachers College on Sunday morning, May 24, at 10:30 o'clock in Moore Auditorium. Among the participants on this program are Hezekiah Cooker, president of the graduating class; Sara M. Heckstall, president of the Women's Government Association; Mrs. Itonia E. Rogerson, alumnae; Mrs. Helen M. Caldwell and Mrs. Estelle A. Eaton, members of the college faculty. President Walter N. Ridley and Dean Leedell W. Neyland will give opening and closing statements on the program. Special musical selections will be rendered by the Choral Ensemble under the direction of Miss Evelyn A. Johnson, with Mr. Winston A. Bell, organist.



Former president, Dr. S. D. Williams, greets Dr. Ridley immediately after the close of the inaugural ceremonies.