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*Three Eventful Days-An Historic Event*

## PRESIDENT THORPE INAUGURATED

When the choir sang Berger's "The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee", during the combined choir-band concert Friday night, April 25th, the chain of events surrounding the inauguration of Dr. Marion D. Thorpe as the Sixth President of Elizabeth City State College were underway. The choir-band concert in Moore Hall Auditorium was in honor of the inauguration of Dr. Thorpe, who assumed duties at ECSC on July 1, 1968.

Miss Evelyn A. Johnson and Mr. David W. Williams, directors of the choir and band assembled a total of 129 vocalists and instrumentalists for the concert. Open to the public without admission, the musical treat featured spirituals, classical selections, marches, overtures, and contemporary selections.

One of the many highlights of the joint concert

was the participation of guest soloist, Clinton E. Patterson, a graduate of East Carolina University. Each selection was a musical expression of the sentiments and moods of the college and community in salute to Dr. Thorpe. The concert was preceded by a buffet supper in the College Cafeteria.

On Saturday, April 26th, when all of the instruments had been moved and the notes faded away, Moore Hall Auditorium was the scene of an important and informative symposium. Dr. Thorpe, before receiving the symbols of office the following day joined the members of the college and community in gathering valuable information. Four top educators and administrators joined Herbert R. Watson, moderator, and Ernest Bell, President of the Men's Government Association, in discussing, "The Changing Scene: The American College Today and Tomorrow." Visiting participants were Dr. Cameron P. West, Director, North Carolina State Board of Higher Education; Dr. Charles Lyons, Jr., Director of Admission, Howard University; Dr. James E. Cheek, President, Shaw University; and Dr. M.H. Bryant, Director, Higher Education, Region III, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The inaugural banquet

and ball for the ECSC students, faculty, and staff, alumni and invited guests of the college rounded out Saturday's activities.

On Sunday, April 27th, in the College Quadrangle, Dr. Thorpe, at 36, became one of the nation's youngest presidents of a four-year college. With music provided by the ECSC choir, and representatives from educational and professional associations; the learned societies; local, state and national governments; alumni chapters; and community agencies, schools, and businesses in attendance, the elaborate ceremony was the biggest and grandest at the college.

Words of greetings and the mellow voices of the College Choir waved their way into the ears of Dr. Thorpe. But nothing entered his ears and penetrated his mind as impressively as the inaugural address by Dr. Alfonso Elder, President Emeritus of North Carolina College. It was he who instrumentally guided the growth of NCC from 1948 to 1963. Eleven years ago Dr. Elder, D. Ed. and L.L.D., had the rare pleasure of awarding both the B. A. and M. A. degrees in Psychology to Dr. Thorpe, who graduated from NCC Magna Cum Laude, in 1958. His forceful and eloquent address filled with words of wisdom, will long be remembered. (Continued on page 5)

## ELABORATE ARTS FESTIVAL HELD

A very elaborate and cultural Fine Arts Festival is scheduled at Elizabeth City State College, beginning on Thursday, April 17 and running through Thursday, April 24. According to Dr. Vincent deGregorio, Chairman of the Art Department and Fine Arts Committee at the college, the annual event will open with a keynote address, "The Status of the Arts," by John D. Lawhorn, Supervisor of Music, Department of Public Instruction of Georgia. Music for the opening program in Moore Hall Auditorium, at 7:00 p.m. will be provided by the College Band. Opening of the exhibition of the works by Lorraine Bolton, Associate Professor of Art, at Hampton Institute, will follow in the ECSC Lighthouse College Center. The ECSC Choral Ensemble will sing during this exhibition at 8:30 p.m.

The festival of the fine arts at Elizabeth City State College will feature artistic performances and exhibitions during the entire week. Virginia State College's band and the Hampton Institute Players will appear at the college in concert and presentation on April 19 and April 24, accordingly. They join the ECSC Modern Dance

Group, that will appear on April 18, in helping to make the remainder of the festival a worthwhile affair.

In addition to the concerts, recitals, and dramatic presentations, exhibitions of: the "Wonderful World of the Theatre," April 18; Student Art, April 20; Photography, April 22; and "Fashion, the Year Around," April 22, will be placed for viewing. Filtered in between all of the events will be the showing of the popular movie, "A Raisin In The Sun," 7:30 p.m., Moore Hall Auditorium, Monday, April 21. The public is cordially invited to attend each phase of the festival of the fine arts at Elizabeth City State College.

echoingly blown by trumpeters Ervin Simon and Elton Poole, climaxed the homage to this "illustrious citizen of the world." A portrait of Eisenhower, surrounded by flowers and lighted candles, brought closer to home the memory of this hero and statesman, especially to the generation of students here who were born after World War II.

The most impressive memorial at Elizabeth City State College was held that evening, as the portrait of Dr. King dictated feelings of penitence and re-dedication. Following the singing of "Rock of Ages," Mrs. Paige Jenkins, Acting President, Women's Government Association, read from the sacred scriptures, after which Rev. David Pharr, Pastor, Mt. Lebanon A.M.E. Zion Church, prayed. Excerpts from Brownings' "Prospice," were read by Javon Brothers, Vice-President, Student Government Association.

Dr. Boone, in delivering the eulogy, stated, "We have assembled here to do homage to this good and great man. It is of historic and deeply spiritual significance that this service comes during Holy Week..." He spoke at length on the convictions of the late Dr. King, and of his peaceful and relentless efforts to move America progressively forward in civil rights and justice. Dr. Boone, comparing Dr. King with Jesus, spoke of him as a man who "went about doing good."

## Student Serves As ECSC President

How does it feel to be college president for a day? Well, James Diggs, senior business education major, got a good impression when he relieved Dr. Marion D. Thorpe. Taking his chair in the conference room, Diggs was surrounded by reports, pamphlets, letters, and other materials while he served as President of Elizabeth City State College on College Day at the institution.

When Diggs approached Dr. Thorpe's office he, like seniors who relieved administrative, faculty, and staff personnel of their duties, probably thought things would be relatively easy and make believe. The honor graduate of Springfield High School, Wilson, N.C., found out differently. Other than making sure that each senior carried out his or her assignments in running the business and activities of Elizabeth City State College, Diggs received an additional assignment that extended beyond the day.

Diggs shook his head when Dr. Thorpe handed him a copy of "Proposed Legislation Relating To Rights and Civil Disorders." He began immediately to study the report of the Governor's

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James Diggs and Pres. Thorpe shake hands as Diggs becomes President for a day.