

# Ridley named new President-Emeritus in Founder's Day Ceremony March 3

By Robin Pincus

"I can't think of any experience that is as poignant for me as this moment," said Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins. "I just want to say, 'Thanks for the memories.'"

Jenkins' comments came during the convocation ceremony for Walter Nathaniel Ridley, who was installed as ECSU's fifth President-Emeritus on March 3. The ceremony took place during the University's annual Founder's Day program.

"The drama has unfolded," said Jenkins, who recalled that he and his wife Faleese were students at ECSU when Ridley was president of the institution.



Mrs. Bessie Moore Wesley pauses in Oak Grove Cemetery, where the ECSU family and friends laid wreaths on the graves of the University's Founding Fathers. ECSU. Mrs. Wesley is the daughter of Peter W. Moore, president of ECSU from 1891 to 1928. Photo by Matthew Coates

*"I believe God's purposes are being achieved through us. On these beliefs I am anchored."*

Walter Nathaniel Ridley



"We've come full circle. Not even in my wildest dreams did I imagine I would stand here as chancellor, to have the honor and privilege of this moment."

Ridley, the first Black to earn a doctorate from a southern University, served as president of

ECSU from 1958-1968. During his administration, ECSU advanced from a small, black teacher's college into an interracial institution offering a rich diversity of career majors, and fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

"I came back to take a test," Ridley quipped, during the ceremony. The audience laughed and applauded.

"I believe God's purposes are being achieved through us," Ridley told the ECSU family. "On these beliefs I am anchored. I pledge that I will do all that is within my power to promote the welfare of ECSU."

Levin Culpepper, Chairman of ECSU's Board of Directors, described Ridley as "one of the country's most distinguished scholars and gentlemen," during the Greetings section of the ceremony.

Ridley's installation was the highlight of ECSU's 97th Founder's Day Observance, which honors the University's founders. Many relatives of the founders were in the audience.

Dr. Bishop Patterson explained the significance of Founder's Day in a speech during the Greetings section of the program:

"We have seen the visions and dreams of our founders continue to unfold. They were men of thought and action, who lit the torch and cleared the way for us. They were great builders, not of temples, but of men and women."

Chancellor Jenkins also spoke on the significance of Founder's Day:

"We are gathered here today to nurture our roots," said Jenkins,

"so we will be able to stand strong, and face the trials and tribulations, the wind and rain."

"We recognize that education is not just reading, writing and arithmetic, but learning to understand all facets of life, discovering the truth so that we might be liberated."

Malcom Corrin, President of the Interracial Council of Business Opportunities, was guest speaker for the event.

Corrin voiced concern for black males, adding that because of problems associated with drugs, and a high drop-out rate, "some people say the black male is an endangered species. But I want to say to the male student, you have to be stand and be counted. There's a lot of strength in the black race. Stand up for your families, be creative, go into business, and be shining examples."

Citing examples of black successes in business and politics, Corrin declared, "Yes, there is hope. People have faith in those who can produce."

The Founder's Day program also featured performances by the ECSU Choir, and the University Concert Band. Ms. Rachel Gragson was organist for the program.

Following the ceremony, the ECSU family participated in a pilgrimage to Oak Grove Cemetery, to place wreaths on the graves of ECSU's founding fathers.

## Counseling services assist ECSU students

By Nancy Porter

"You don't have to wait until something goes wrong to see a counselor," says Dr. Leon White. "Share the good things that are happening to you on campus."

White is understandably proud of the counseling services available to students here on campus. The services are only one of many activities White administers as ECSU's Director of Student Affairs.

The counseling services are provided by Student Services, and are responsible for New Student Orientation, the Commuter Student Program (VANS), Sattelite Course, Independent and Group Referral, ECSU Ambassadors and University testing.

"Freshmen orientation is a two-day period that is filled with activity," said White. During that time students are given placement tests and are oriented to campus life."

Counselors for New Student Orientation are Dr. Olive Wilson, Ms. Donna Davis and Ms. Brenda Creecy.

White explained that the members of ECSU's commuter program (VANS) have regular meetings and send out newsletters informing commuter students of events happening on campus.

"Some of these students are screened and serve as mentors to help with freshmen testing, and orienting new students to the campus," White said.

"They are part of a support group called 'Big Brother/Big Sister.' It makes life easier for the new student if the student has someone helping him or her on campus."

Student members of the Commuter Club meet with new students and answer any questions they have about campus," said Cynthia Ruiz, president of the Commuter Club, and a member of the Big Brother/ Big Sister group.

"Counseling has been very instrumental in my success on campus."

Donna Davis is counselor for the Commuter Club.

ECSU's Ambassadors program is aimed at extending ECSU's influence in the community. Student members of this program conduct outreach activities in the public schools-including helping students with preparing for the SAT tests.

The Sattelite Program is now on hold until it can be located in a facility. However this program promises much benefit to ECSU students.

Under this program, a counselor is assigned to a dorm, and will be there once a week during posted hours. This will benefit the student who may be reluctant to go to Student Services.

"About 30% of the students use the counselling service," said Dr. Olive White. She added that counseling is provided for academic, social, and personal problems.

Student Services offers counseling in Independent and Group Referral. The program will also counsel individuals with drug abuse problems, and, if necessary, arrange appointments at other facilities, should the person need additional help.

Counseling is also responsible for administering National and University tests, including the Graduate Record Exam, the National Teacher's Exam, The Scholastic Aptitude Test, and the Graduate Management Admissions Test.

Whatever the need, counseling services will meet it-including advising students who may be considering leaving school.

"Sometimes they can prevent a student from withdrawing from college," said Dr. Wilson. "The student needs to know someone cares."

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a. Fall  Spring  Summer School   
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