



# The Pen



## Of St. Augustine's College

Raleigh, NC

'Unity Begins With You'

February 1981

# One - Hundredth and Fourteenth Founder's Day Convocation

By Sammie W. Brown

On February 12, 1981 at 11 a.m. hundreds of faculty, staff and students gathered into the Emery Gymnasium to celebrate the institution's one-hundredth and fourteenth Founder's Day service.

The prelude by college organist, Jack Biggers, began the program. Dr. Prezell R. Robinson, President, presided. The invocation and scripture were rendered by The Reverend Ronald Fox, college chaplain.

Following the musical selection, *The Blue and The White* greetings were extended by The Honorable Smedes York, Mayor, City of Raleigh, who emphasized, "The importance of St. Augustine's past accomplishments" and challenged "it to make many more in the future."

Dr. John D. Epps, President of the National Alumni Association and Mr. John Jolly, President of the Student Government Association, emphasized the importance of the student body "reaching for the sky." Ms. Lois Shyllon, "Miss International Student," and Ms. Magdalene Johnson, "Miss St. Augustine's College," emphasized the importance of St. Augustine's paying special tribute to those who are responsible for our being here.

Musical selections were rendered by the college band, directed by Mr. Harold Jeffreys, the college choir, directed by Dr. Addison Red, and the Gospel Choir, directed by Mr. Robert Lewis.

Remarks and presentation of the speaker were advanced by Dr. Prezell R. Robinson. He emphasized that Dr. Wright has obtained five degrees and numerous honors and awards. He's also an ordained Episcopal priest, civil leader, political activist and the author of more than fifteen books.

Some of his works are: *What Black Educators are Saying, Let's Work Together, and Good Manners for Good People*. Dr. Wright is a native of Shreveport, La.

The Founder's Day convocation address was delivered by Dr. Nathan

Wright, Jr., Chief Editorial Consultant, Black Media Incorporated, New York, N.Y. Dr. Wright emphasized that "St. Augustine's is designed to meet the shifting needs of our times."

His subject was "The Readiness for Freedom." During the address he reflected upon Booker T. Washington, Frederick Douglas and the pillars: Self-reliance, self-assessment and self-protection.

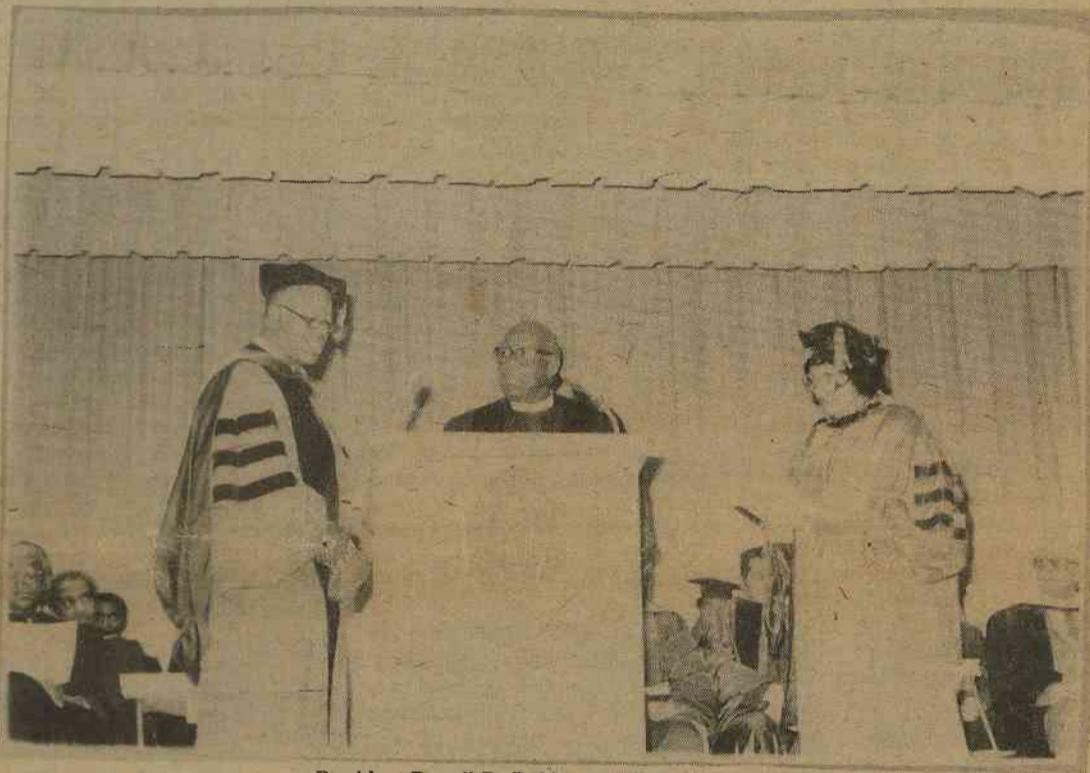
He feels that when we are in need of a helping hand we must take it, because God moves in a mysterious way: Those who have laid the foundation have done so for our freedoms.

Dr. Wright feels that we do not support our institutions as we should, and this is in no way to our gain. "We must pledge to support our own initiative and institutions." Self-reliance is needed today as well

as self-assessment. Emphasis should be put on basic reading skills for both the classes as well as the masses. Blacks should plan and assess programs for our own self-image and strive for mastery.

Dr. Wright feels blacks must strive to become models of human excellence. "Black institutions have educated blacks better than any institutions in America as of today." In conclusion, Dr. Wright stated, "There is ultimately but one power in the universe."

Special remarks were made by Dr. Joseph Gordon, Chairman of the



President Prezell R. Robinson, The Reverend Canon St. Julian Aaron Simpkins, and Dr. Thelma Roundtree, Vice President for Academic Affairs. (Lewis Ligon, photographer)

Board of Trustees, St. Augustine's, who emphasized the importance of having a political choice.

The conferring of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Civil Laws was presented to The Reverend Canon St. Julian Aaron Simpkins, Jr. He expressed that St. Augustine's taught him to pursue and unders-

tand the cost of discipleship. "I pledge to you always my loyalty and devotion."

Special recognition was given to Dr. Robert Bridges, Assistant Superintendent for the Wake County Public School System, who is a graduate of St. Augustine's for distinguished service, and Dr. Nathan Wright, for outstanding

leadership.

Dr. Prezell Robinson recognized Dr. James Boyer, President Emeritus and visiting guests.

Acknowledgements and announcements were made by Dr. Thelma Roundtree, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The Benediction and recessional closed the extravagant occasion.



Dr. Nathan Wright, Jr., Guest Speaker. (Lewis Ligon, photographer)



Mr. John Jolly, President SGA. (Lewis Ligon, photographer)



Ms. Lois Shyllon, Miss International Student. (Lewis Ligon, photographer)



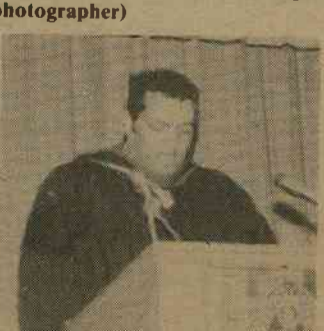
Ms. Magdalene Johnson, Miss St. Augustine's College. (Lewis Ligon, photographer)



Dr. John Epps, President, National Alumni Association. (Lewis Ligon, photographer)



The Honorable Smedes York, Mayor, City of Raleigh. (Lewis Ligon, photographer)



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