

HCC: Utica Campus

A Concise History

Utica Institute MUSEUM



Hinds Community College — Utica Campus

Aerial view of Utica Junior College campus circa 1979



Cover photo of Utica Institute 1908 faculty courtesy of Utica Institute Archives

Hinds Community College –Utica Campus



INTRODUCTION

*Oh, Utica, dear Utica, fair child of Mississippi, the world now turns its longing eyes to thee.
Be brave and strong, nor stoop to wrong, strong in integrity.
The strength of youth inspires your heart; in faith and prayer, you've made your start
Now climb the rugged road, now climb the rugged road,
Now climb the rugged road and play your part.*

~ Utica Ode

Welcome to The Utica Institute Museum! This is the second iteration of a museum that chronicles the development of the Utica Campus of Hinds Community College. The exhibits are a celebration of the founding of the Utica Normal and Industrial Institute for the Training of Colored Young Men and Women by William H. Holtzclaw, the Institute's principal, Tuskegee graduate, student of Booker T. Washington, and author of *Black Man's Burden*.

This concise history gives an overview of the founding of the Institute and the years following the death of the founder in 1943. We welcome you to visit the museum and encourage you to find ways for your students, family, and friends to visit. It is our hope that the museum may be used as a catalyst to begin discussions for your classes, youth assemblies, community outings, and other group pursuits. Adapt the content into lessons which meet your students' capabilities, learning needs, and interests, guided by the rich historical content displayed in the high-quality exhibits.

Part I of this narrative comprises a Time Capsule, as presented by Dr. Shirley Hopkins-Davis, Dean Emeritus, which illuminates the background and early history surrounding the founding, administration, and expansion of The Utica Institute.

Part II voices how the Institute navigated Becoming Hinds-Utica, as presented by Daniel Fuller, Humanities Chair, which expounds upon the administrative and campus restructuring that occurred after the centennial milestone in 2003.

On behalf of Jean Greene, Museum Curator and Director, and I, we offer special notes of appreciation to all who have contributed to the rendering and documenting of this chronological history.

Enjoy the museum!

Dr. Marquise Loving Kessee
Dean of Instruction
Hinds Community College, Utica Campus

TIME CAPSULE

~ Dr . Shirley Hopkins - Davis
Dean Emeritus
H C C - U t i c a

After three unsuccessful attempts to found a school for educating Negroes in Mississippi, Dr. William H. Holtzclaw returned for the fourth time. This time, he had read Orison Swett Marden's book, *Pushing to the Front*. He was inspired by the book's message and by the philosophy of Dr. Booker T. Washington. This Tuskegee graduate and student of Dr. Booker T. Washington walked into Utica, MS in 1902, with two dollars and a dollar watch in his pocket and a strong determination to found a public school to train Negroes to read, write, compute, and develop their farmland communities. Under a tree, Holtzclaw began to teach about 20 students. He and the townspeople began to build a small schoolhouse with lumber from Curry Brothers' lumber yard.

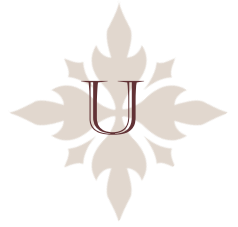


Utica Institute Founder
William H. Holtzclaw

In 1903, he founded the school in a rented log cabin, which served as his family's home, as well as home for two of the first boarding students. The school was chartered in the state of Mississippi as Utica Normal and Industrial Institute for the Training of Colored Young Men and Women.

From 1903-1910, the school operated in the town of Utica near St. Peter M.B. Church. About 1907, Holtzclaw sought property on which to relocate the school in order to move away from the distractions of the town and to be near subterranean water. By 1910, Holtzclaw had raised \$25,000 from friends to purchase 2000 acres of land located about five miles south of Utica, MS. Three structures on the site near St. Peter Church required relocation to the new site. Dr. Holtzclaw sold 400 of the 2000 acres of land to five teachers; he also purchased the property's plantation mansion for his family.

Holtzclaw's genius, good human relation skills, and support from friends guided the Utica Institute for forty years. He secured teachers of diverse ethnic backgrounds and races from within and outside the state, and he developed the curriculum to teach Negroes how to use their minds and hands. An impresario of educational outreach, Holtzclaw organized the Farmers' Conference to help raise the standards of Negro farms and farming at The Institute. He also organized the Black Belt Society to encourage economic self-sufficiency among rural Negroes through the sale of land to farmers. Up to 1935, The Institute had its own twenty-bed hospital for nurse



Booker T. Washington, head of Tuskegee Institute and mentor of William H. Holtzclaw.

training; the hospital was swept away by a storm. In 1915, Holtzclaw wrote and published *The Black Man's Burden*, making him one of the first Negroes to publish a book in Mississippi. In 1925, he organized the Utica Institute Jubilee Singers, taking the name from the Fisk Jubilee Singers. The group toured New York and New England on their first trip to help raise funds for The Institute. By 1926, The Utica Institute Jubilee Singers had their own bus in which to travel.

When William H. Holtzclaw died, the school had 22 teachers, 1600 acres of land, fourteen buildings, and over 400 students. The curriculum consisted primarily of academic and vocational courses, patterned after the curriculum of Tuskegee Institute. His mother, Addie Holtzclaw, graduated from the school at age 94, and all of his children graduated

from and taught at The Utica Institute: Robert Fulton, Jerry Herbert, Alice Marie, Ella Adelene, and William Jr.

After the death of Holtzclaw in 1943, his son William Holtzclaw, Jr., succeeded him as principal. Holtzclaw, Jr. kept the school alive for about four years (1943-47). During this time, the Brick Masonry Shop and Trades building (1944), the Health and Homemaking building (1945), the Music-Art building (1946) and Paine Hall (1946 - dining, recreation, and classes) were built. The campus had livestock, registered hogs, chickens, and farmland.

In 1946, Holtzclaw, Jr. and his mother, Mary Ella Holtzclaw, agreed to donate the school and property to Hinds County. The County Board of Trustees assumed control of The Institute; the school's name was changed to Hinds County Agricultural High School, Colored.

Following Holtzclaw, Jr. as superintendent of the school was Mr. J. W. Grantham (1947-51) of Collins, MS. During his administration, the Board of Trustees named the school Utica Institute--Hinds Agricultural High School; it had become a tax supported institution aiming to train youngsters



Mary Ella Holtzclaw,
wife of William Holtzclaw

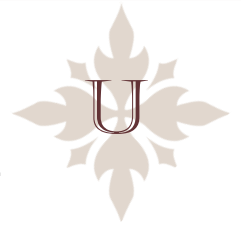


to become functional and productive citizens in a complex and changing society. Grantham raised the idea of changing to a junior college, but nothing ever materialized.

Mr. Grantham recruited well-trained, competent faculty -17 recruited his first year and 24 by the time he left in 1951. The curriculum changed; included was college preparation for those who wanted to go on to four-year-college and training in terminal programs for those desiring employment on the farms, in private homes, and industry. There were manual arts courses in shoe repair, laundry operation/dry cleaning, and home nursing. By 1948, enrollment had increased as programs had expanded, so the physical plant also was improved and expanded. Due to budget constraints, the school purchased used materials such as plumbing equipment and electrical wiring from Camp Van Dorn to make repairs to buildings. Six barracks from Camp Shelby were purchased to build the principal's first home; a farm shop building was constructed; and two homes for the vocational agriculture teachers were built.

In 1951, Mr. John Dewey Boyd, Wilkinson County, MS native, became the superintendent. During his administration in 1952, the Board of Trustees resolved to investigate the idea of the school's becoming a junior college. In 1954, the Board of Trustees acted on the proposed resolution of 1952, to form Utica Institute Junior College separate from the high school; Hinds County Agricultural High School, Colored. Eventually, the word 'colored' was dropped from the high school's name. The Board appointed Mr. G. M. McClendon, president of Hinds Junior College, as special consultant to Mr. Boyd, and reports indicate that Mr. McClendon contributed significantly to the success of Hinds AHS and the formation of Utica Junior College. Hinds Junior College and Utica Junior College/Hinds County AHS had the same Board of Trustees.

Mr. Boyd is said to have used the Holtzclaw strategy of getting the community behind the College. Under his leadership, Ginn Hall, built in 1924, during founder Holtzclaw's administration and named after contributor B.F. Ginn, president of Ginn Publishing Company, was used as the high school class and administration building until the main high school building and gym were constructed in 1953. Washington Hall (built 1923) was used to house single women faculty. From 1951-1955, the Music-Art (1946) building served as the Post Office and the grill. In 1955, Mr. Boyd converted it to the Band Room, and Mr. Louis Lee began developing the band for the school. The superintendent's home was remodeled in 1955, and in 1956, faculty apartments in the shape of an "H" were built. The Boyd administration realized the first junior college curriculum, increased enrollment and faculty, an organized student government and other clubs/organizations, adopted "The Utica Ode" - written by a graduate of the school, and initiated the first bus transportation system.



From 1957-1969, the process of separating the high school from the college continued. J.D. Boyd became president of Alcorn College in 1957; in the interim, Mr. Rudolph Waters - then Dean of Instruction - served the institution until Mr. Walter Washington, Hazlehurst, MS native, was selected as the superintendent (title later changed to president). Hinds Agricultural High School was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1957.

Walter Washington had been serving as principal of Sumner Hill in Clinton, MS. In Washington's first year as superintendent, 1958, the Board changed the school's name from The Utica Institute Junior College to Utica Junior College. Washington was titled president of the junior college and superintendent of the high school. Thus began the tradition of the College's president serving as superintendent of the high school.

Utica Junior College and Hinds County Agricultural High School grew and began taking on distinctions as a junior college and a high school in enrollment, programs, and physical plant development. The Washington administration realized the greatest physical plant expansion since founder William Holtzclaw's 40-year-tenure. The first vocational-technical department was established during 1957-58; carpentry was the initial program and secretarial science was the second. The following year, the first vocational-technical building was constructed. In 1960, construction on three faculty apartment buildings was completed; single men and women faculty units and married faculty units. The Old High School Annex was built in 1962.

In 1965-66, the Washington administration proposed the master plan for the college. Directly following the plan's completion, a student union building (1967), an academic-administration building (1968), and a second vocational-technical building (1969) were constructed. Dormitories were proposed to be built on each side of the student union building. A library was proposed for construction, and preliminary plans were drawn for a new dining hall. A principal was selected in 1966, to head Hinds County Agricultural High School: Mr. Dennis Jackson. Mr. Jackson served as principal for two years; then in 1968, Mr. George E. Barnes was selected as principal; he served as principal until 1972, when he moved to the College as Academic Dean. Mr. Charles Bell then became the principal of Hinds AHS. The new cafeteria of the high school was completed in 1969, and Paine Hall was torn down for construction on the library to begin.

Other accomplishments during Washington's administration included development of the football field with new bleachers, tennis courts, a modern sewage with a lagoon, a modern natural gas system, a new water system and storage tank (replacing Holtzclaw's of 1913), additional sidewalks and an addition to the library. Student enrollment increased beyond 1500, faculty increased beyond 40, the bus fleet was over 40, and more than seven vo-tech courses were offered by the time Washington decided to leave Utica Junior College.

In 1967, campus parents organized a childcare facility, which was operated in one of the apartment complexes behind the newly constructed campus union. By 1968, the child care technology program



was begun and by the time the new vo-tech building was completed in 1969, the child-care program was moved to this facility. The child care technology program was the first child care program in the state accredited by the State Vocational Department. Later, during the early 90s, the child care technology program was accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Dr. Ginger Smith, then Director of Title III's Teacher Education Program, led the application process for the NAEYC accreditation of the Child Development Program.

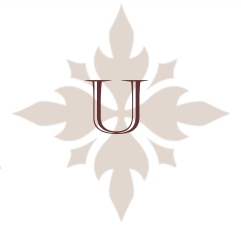
When the Higher Education Act of 1965 was passed, historically black colleges began applying to the US Department of Education for Title III federal funding to develop needed programs for instruction and student services. Utica Junior College (a historically black two-year college) received a grant to implement the Developmental Studies Program for students entering college under-prepared to pursue mainstream college courses. Mr. Eddie Dawson was director of the program to begin. He was followed by Dr. Eugene Gaston as director.

Holtzclaw Mansion, which was located on the Covich County side of the campus, served as Ginn Line Elementary School until 1965-66; then, the college began using the house for special federally funded programs. For the first time, the College administration initiated in 1968, two Adult Basic Education Centers in Hinds County.

During the fall of 1969, Walter Washington became the first Negro to receive his doctorate degree from a predominantly white institution in the state, the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. His dissertation was titled, "Utica Junior College, 1903 - 1957: A Half Century of Education for Negroes." Dr. Walter Washington left Utica Junior College in 1969, to become president of Alcorn College (later becoming Alcorn State University).

Mr. J. Louis Stokes, a native of Tennessee and business manager during 11 years of the Washington administration, became the next president of Utica Junior College. Stokes continued physical plant expansion efforts begun by Dr. Walter Washington. In 1971, the beautifully constructed William H. Holtzclaw Memorial Library was completed and dedicated. However, during this time, Stokes had taken a leave of absence for further graduate study, and Mr. Arthur Kinnard, who had been serving as Dean of Academic Instruction, was made acting president from 1970 through 1973. Principal George Barnes then became Dean of Academic Instruction in 1972, and Mr. Charles Bell was appointed principal of Hinds AHS.

For the dedication of the Holtzclaw Library, Holtzclaw's son, Robert Fulton Holtzclaw (then residing in Cincinnati, OH), was the keynote speaker. In 1972, while Mr. Kinnard



was serving as acting president, Utica Junior College was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Also in 1972, the master plan developed during Washington's administration in 1965 - 66, was revised, and the barbering and cosmetology complex, instead of proposed dorms, was constructed near the student union building. This two-story complex was named the H. H. "Shine" Davis Building in honor of the Board member and friend of the college and community.

Of particular note during the Stokes administration is the fact that Opera South, one of two black professional opera companies in the country and the only one based in a university setting, was launched in 1970. Donald Dorr, artistic director and Dolores Ardoyno Dorr, general manager, were the husband-wife team who helped organize the opera company. Professional faculty/staff and student talents from Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, and Utica Junior College were used for management and performances. The mission of Opera South was to introduce minorities and rural communities to opera and to give students the chance to work with opera professionals. Opera South presented operas only in English so the performances would be understood by a general audience.

Students of Utica Junior college were an integral part of the productions of Opera South. Mrs. Ouida Kinnard, music instructor, began working with music students to prepare them for Opera South. Then in 1972, Dr. Bobby Cooper came to Utica to work with the music program, and the students were involved in productions such as *Aida*, *Turandot*, *Othello*, *A Bayou Legend*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *Jubilee*, *Elixir of Love*, and *Hansel and Gretel*. Among those serving as presidents of Opera South Board were Utica Junior College President, Mr. J. Louis Stokes, and Academic Dean, Mr. George E. Barnes. Dr. Bobby Cooper served as Opera South's Chorus Master. During 1980 - 81, Opera South cancelled the opera, *A Bayou Legend*. Thereafter, performances continued through 1987, when the last performance of Opera South was *Hansel and Gretel*.

Around 1973, Dr. Jordan Utsey, Dean of Education at Kansas State University, implemented a grant-funded consortium between Utica Jr. College, Kansas State and Iowa State Universities. The consortium focused on increasing the number of African Americans with doctorate degrees at historically black colleges and universities. By 1973, Dr. Arthur Kinnard was accepted into the K State doctoral program and was preparing to leave as Acting President of Utica Jr. College.

Following Dr. Kinnard's departure from the College, Mr. George E. Barnes served as Acting Vice President. Mr. Barnes pushed qualified faculty and administrators to pursue the doctoral degree through the consortium arrangement. Those following Dr. Arthur Kinnard and receiving doctoral degrees (PhD) included Drs. William Cornelius (K State), Cleon McKnight (Iowa State), Worth and Linden Haynes (Iowa State), Eddie Dawson (K State), Eugene Gaston (K State), Shirley Hopkins-Davis (K State), Willie C. Johnson (Iowa State), Mae Cathryne Broach-Jackson (K State), and Hazeltine Woods-Fouche' (K State). As part of the agreement of the consortium, all faculty and administrators re-



turned to continue work at Utica Junior College for at least two years. Most exceeded the two-year minimum and went on to retire from the college.

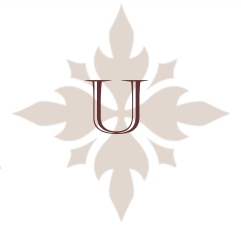
In 1975, while serving as Acting President of the College, Mr. George E. Barnes earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree from The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS. His major was Educational Administration; his minor was Educational Research.

The high school and college were growing by 1976. Mr. Charles Bell was transferred to the College as campus Student Union director, and Mr. Arthur Dampier was hired as high school principal. Mr. Dampier remained as principal until 1987, with the distinction of having served longer than any principal selected after 1966.

By 1976, the Vocational-Technical programs were expanding. The TV/Radio Broadcasting Technology Program was begun with the first instructor, Mr. George McQuitter. This was the only program in Mississippi's two-year colleges. Mr. McQuitter would remain the instructor of this developing program until his retirement in 2003, following the 100-year celebration of Utica Junior College.

Still without dormitories, the College became known as the "institution on wheels," and students commuted from five counties: Hinds, Claiborne, Copiah, Warren, and Rankin. Enrollment climbed beyond 1600 students during the Stokes administration in 1978-79. In 1978, following tornado damage to several campus buildings, the gymnasium was completed and named in honor of J. D. Boyd. During the late 70s, Washington Hall, built in 1923, as a girls' dormitory and used later for several other purposes, was torn down - the space it occupied was developed into a playground for the Child Development Technology laboratory program. As enrollment increased in the high school, Hinds AHS Superintendent Stokes was instrumental in having another High School Annex completed in 1978.

During the late 70s, Dr. Bobby Cooper organized The Jubilee Singers. Dr. Cooper, who joined the faculty as music instructor and choir director in 1972, was bringing back the kind of group who had sung Negro spirituals to help raise funds for the school during the 40-year Holtzclaw era. Cooper was moved by the original group's history, dedication, purpose, and the sheet music of old plantation songs. So, he organized the Jubilee Singers and taught them the songs from the original music sheets. The Jubilee Singers eventually became ambassadors for the Utica Campus, singing at most general assemblies and receiving invitations to sing for major events throughout the U.S. and other countries. Their most memorable invitations came from Italy and France.

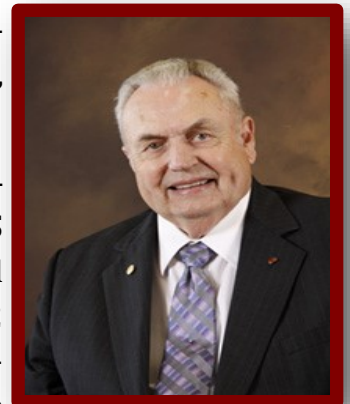


An accomplishment during the Stokes era was the receipt of a 3.5 million dollar loan from the Federal Housing Urban Development Program to build dormitories. Dr. Shirley Hopkins-Davis, who was Acting Title III Coordinator at the time, completed an application to secure a loan to build dormitories. Several administrators had attempted to secure a loan; however, efforts had proved unsuccessful.

At the same time as the campus was trying to get dormitories, the two junior colleges of Utica and Hinds were involved in a court decree to merge; they were said to be creating racial dualism since they were within 21 miles of one another. Both schools operated under the same Board of Trustees, with the exception of two additional members from Copiah county on the Utica Board. From 1981-1983, Mr. J. L. Stokes returned to graduate school, and Dr. George E. Barnes served as acting president until Hinds and Utica were merged in 1982, and named in state legislation, Hinds Junior College District. Dr. Clyde Muse was appointed president in 1982, and Dr. Barnes served as acting vice president of the Utica Campus through the 1982-83 school year.

Senator Thad Cochran notified the College of loan approval to build the dormitories. After the Board of Trustees approved the 3.5-million-dollar housing loan in 1983, construction of the dormitories was completed and the dormitories were dedicated in 1985. The dormitory complex consisted of four major structures. During the 82nd Founder's Day, March 19, 1985, the complexes were dedicated and named in honor of men and women who had rendered services to the institution and community: B. E. Lewis Hall, Newton-Walker Hall, Maggie Dunson Hall, and McGriggs-Williams Cafeteria. The complex also included a two-story director's residence, replete with vending-laundry services, office/storage space, and living quarters on the second floor.

Mr. J. Louis Stokes served the Utica Campus as vice president from 1982-1987. Upon Mr. Stokes' retirement in 1987, Dr. George E. Barnes, Collins, MS native, became the vice president of the Utica Campus. Dr. Barnes had served in various capacities of the high school and college since 1962 (served as Academic Dean in Stokes administration) and had been transferred to the Raymond Campus a year following the merger in 1983, to serve as District Vice President of Student and Administrative Services. Dr. Barnes maintained the former position and added to it was the position of vice president of Utica Campus and Vicksburg/Warren County Branch.



Dr. Clyde Muse
President Emeritus
HCC District

In 1987, the Mississippi legislature changed the name "junior college" to "community college"; thus, the new name was Hinds Community College District. At the same time, the major public four-year institutions' names were changed in legislation from "college" to "university." The Utica Campus, one of six locations of Hinds Community College District, continued to thrive and grow under the presidency of Dr. Clyde Muse, Sebastopol, MS native, and the vice presidency of



Dr. George E. Barnes. Drs. Eugene Gaston and Jesse Killingsworth served as deans of instruction and career and technical education, respectively. Continuing the tradition, which was begun during the Washington administration, President Clyde Muse also served as superintendent of Hinds Agricultural High School. Vice President George Barnes served as assistant superintendent.

Ginn Hall, the oldest of the three remaining historic structures on the Utica Campus, collapsed in 1990, while a Board of Trustees committee was meeting in the Walter Washington Academic-Administration building regarding the condition of the building. All activity had ceased several years before and the building was vacant, so discussion was about the possibility of renovating and restoring Ginn Hall. The two remaining historic structures were then Holtzclaw Mansion and the Bell Tower.

Following the retirement of Hinds AHS Principal Arthur Dampier, Mr. Charles Langston was selected as high school principal, and he led the high school for eight years; then, he retired during the 1994-95 school year. Mr. Johnny Hughes became principal and served through the 1997-98 school year. Following Hughes was Mr. Carl Palmer, who served as principal for two years, 1998-2000; during his principalship, construction on the high school technology building was completed and the building was dedicated in March 2000. The following school year, 2000-2001, Mr. Robert Strong became principal. Mr. Strong had worked in the high school for 34 years as industrial arts teacher and as football, tennis, and basketball coach.



Dr. George E. Barnes,
Retired Vice-President
HCC-Utica

Under the vice presidency and assisting superintendence of Dr. George E. Barnes, the Utica Campus and Hinds County Agricultural High School focused on excellence in academic, vocational-technical, and continuing education. Additionally, the leadership strove to improve student services and administrative services. In the late eighties and early nineties, the College strongly emphasized technology, and eventually, Hinds Community College and the Utica Campus were deeply involved in computer/information technology, student and administrative services, and faculty development. In 1995, the Hinds Community College Five-Year Master Plan for Information Technology was developed. Key features of the plan included building an infrastructure to implement wiring and connectivity on and between locations and allow for computer communication between campuses and on the Internet/World Wide Web: online student registration, databases of student information/services and financial management; computers on the desks of every secretary/administrative assistant, adminis-



trator, and instructor; computer learning labs; video conferencing; and online instruction/distance learning classes.

By 1996, The Jubilee Singers, with Dr. Bobby Cooper still serving as director, had begun receiving so many invitations that they were unable to accept them all. However, the choir and Dr. Cooper gladly accepted an invitation from Congressman Bennie G. Thompson of Bolton, MS, and they performed for the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. in September 1996. By 1999, the group and the director accepted the invitation to represent the state of Mississippi in the American Celebration of Music in Italy. They performed concerts in Rome, Florence, Venice, and Milan. According to Dr. Cooper, the highlight of their performance was at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the largest Cathedral in the world. In March 2001, the Jubilee Singers received an invitation to perform at the 83rd International Phi Theta Kappa Convention in the Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado. Each year in March, the Campus Choir and Jubilee Singers would go on tour. By 2002, they had toured the East Coast and Mid-west several times; three performances had been in New York City.

Around 1997, under the Vice-Presidency of Dr. Barnes and Title III Coordination of Dr. Shirley Hopkins-Davis, the College began converting the Amphitheater of the Walter Washington Academic-Administration building to a computerized presentation and two-way interactive video conferencing center; work was completed in 1999. Computer labs were set up in four rooms of the Walter Washington Academic-Administration building, on the second floor of the Holtzclaw Memorial Library, in the Ples McCadney building, in two rooms of the D. W. L. Davis building, and the J. L. Stokes Student Union Building (Student Support Services Program). The high school was also equipped with computers in several classrooms and the library.

Plans - with use of Title III funds - to construct a technology building on the Utica Campus were completed in 1997. Midway the construction on the college technology building, plans were drawn to construct a high school technology building. The College technology building was completed December 1999, and the high school technology building was completed April 2000, with Mr. Robert S. Strong as principal; both buildings were dedicated during the 97th Founder's Day Program.

The two-floor college technology building housed the Title III administration; the Student Learning Assistance instructors and multimedia specialist's offices and a multi-station; networked computer learning assistance lab; an electronic classroom; an executive conference room; and the TV/Radio Broadcasting Technology Program (TV studio, editing suite, multi-station computerized classroom, simulated radio station, audio control room). The one-floor Hinds AHS technology building housed an audio-visual room, an integrated technology classroom of modules for career and technical programs, labs for learning assistance, and faculty offices.



Further improvements on the Utica Campus included renovations and transformations in the Holtzclaw Memorial Library: 1999-2001 - converted one side to three rooms of The Black Heritage Collection, The Utica Normal & Industrial Institute Archives, and the Children's Collections/Resource Room. During the 98th Founder's Day Program (March 2001), the Black Heritage Collection and the Archives rooms were named in honor of Mr. William Holtzclaw, Jr.



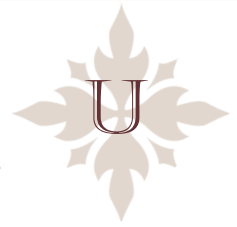
Dr. Shirley Hopkins-Davis,

Dean Emeritus

Between the years 1987 and 2002, Vice President Barnes worked with other interested parties to re-connect the college and community. In 1997, he and a few town citizens joined forces to organize Friends of Utica, Inc. (FOU). Dr. Barnes as FOU president, and Friends of Utica, Inc. began working collaboratively with other local organizations and local governance officials to develop neighborhoods around the college and to revitalize the local economy. By 1998, Friends of Utica, Inc. was founded and incorporated. Dr. George E. Barnes served as president of Friends of Utica until he retired in 2013.

About 1999-2000, funds were sought to restore Holtzclaw mansion - one of two remaining historic structures on the campus, the other being the Bell Tower. The College sought funds to document Holtzclaw Mansion history and to restore the mansion. Dr. Hopkins Davis worked officially and collaboratively with Restoration Architect Robert Parker Adams (recommended from the MS Department of Archives and History) to develop the application. Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis wrote the Significance of the Holtzclaw Mansion as a result of the funding. The African American Historic Preservation Grant Program funded the college \$21,000 to document the history; the College matched with \$21,000. Once documentation was completed, federal funds to restore the home were sought from the Dept. of the Interior but to no avail.

Director of Holtzclaw Library, Mrs. Alma Fisher, retired in 2000. She had served the college nearly 30 years. Ms. Jean Greene was hired as the Director of Holtzclaw Library services; she had a Bachelor's degree in Journalism/History from the University of Mississippi (Oxford, MS) and a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Southern MS, Hattiesburg, MS. She was also quite adept at using computer technology. Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis teamed with Ms. Greene to begin the work of building the newly renovated sections of Holtzclaw Library: the Black Collection, Archives, and the Children's Resource/Learning Center. Thus began the team work on the Holtzclaw legacy. Ms. Greene's interest and work increased progressively in the history of Utica and the development of



the Archives Children's Resource sections with updated components and computer technology. She became a key resource in preparations for the Centennial celebration of the College and high school's history in 2003.

During the 2000 academic year, Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis and college administration completed plans to build a workforce development center (WDC) to house Title III career counseling and Teacher Education Program services. While the WDC was under construction, Dr. Barnes and Friends of Utica, Inc. received a community development grant from the HBCU-HUD Program to hire a program manager/staff, initiate a business incubation center, renovate a town facility for social programs, and revitalize the Utica community and businesses. This facility was completed May 2002. Mr. Bobby Pamplin was hired as director. The WDC would also house this program's management team.

By March 2000, Raymond Campus Cain Hall had burned. The College administration launched a Buy-A-Brick Campaign to raise funds to rebuild Cain Hall. The process of rebuilding Cain Hall called for involvement of every employee in the Hinds Community College District. A Buy-A-Brick Campaign, under the coordination of Mrs. Jackie Granberry, became one of the fundraising strategies. Employee leaders from each campus were selected and charged to get 100% employee participation in contributing to the building fund. Employee participation with a donation of \$1 on up was important since investors/sponsors needed to be assured that everyone at Hinds supported the project. Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis was selected as the leader from Utica Campus. Utica Campus/Hinds Agricultural High School reached 100% participation. For the work, a brick with her name inscribed on it was placed on a pedestal at the entrance of the Walter Washington Administration building. When the new building was later dedicated, it was named Cain-Cochran Hall in honor of former President Judson Cain and the Honorable Thad Cochran, US Senator from Mississippi. The display with Dr. Hopkins-Davis' name on it remained in the Walter Washington Administration-Utica Campus building until 2013, when then Dean Shirley Hopkins Davis asked Library Services Director Ms. Jean Greene to allow placement of the display in Holtzclaw Library.

Under the leadership of Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis, Title III Coordinator/Faculty Development Activity director, and Dr. Mae Cathryne Jackson, Minority Science Engineering Improvement Program director, the first Technology Institute for Faculty and Administrators was launched in 2001. Approximately 15 faculty/staff participated in training to develop knowledge and skills in using computer/media technology for instruction and administration. The program continued for two years, training over 30 faculty/staff from the Utica Campus and the Hinds Community College District. When Eagle Ridge Conference Center was completed in 1996, Hinds Community College District implemented the Professional Development Institute as one of the services. All College/Hinds AHS faculty/staff began training through the Institute. Participants received what was called PDIs as credits toward faculty/staff development. PDI credits became a part of end-of-year evaluations in the Hinds CC District.



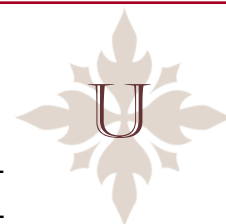
Between 2000 and 2003, Dr. George Barnes and the College prepared to celebrate the 100-year history of the college and high school in 2003. With an organized steering committee and other related committees, projects launched and completed before the celebration included a bricked framing of the original site of The Utica Institute, updating Holtzclaw Memorial Cemetery with an iron and gated fence, a Buy-a-Brick Campaign to renovate the Bell Tower to create Centennial Plaza around the Bell Tower, and the Holtzclaw Legacy Panel Display and Traveling Exhibit. Staff/administrators leading on those projects were Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis and Ms. Jean Greene.

Leading up to the Centennial celebration, Holtzclaw family members, who were accessible and available, returned to the campus as guest speakers for various programs in 2002-03. Most notably was the return of Opera Singer Anita Johnson, great granddaughter of Founder William H. Holtzclaw. In 2002, the College organized a program to raise funds to go toward restoration of the Holtzclaw Mansion. Invited back were two opera singers, Anita Johnson – great-granddaughter of Mr. Holtzclaw, and William Brown - renowned tenor/former Hinds AHS instructor, to be featured in the first program held in newly constructed Cain-Cochran Hall at Raymond Campus. Funds from the Opera Singers' performances went toward restoration of Holtzclaw Mansion. Dr. Shirley Hopkins-Davis served as chair.

Held for the first time on March 17, 2003, was the Sports Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony. The Utica/Hinds AHS Alumni Association, Mrs. Monocia Daniel-Connors as President, worked cooperatively with College administration to give partial sponsorship to this event. Coach Ralph Moore was head HCC Basketball coach at the time and was a member of the committee. First inductees were Alonzo Bradley, Cleveland C. Green, James Kinnard, Robert Moreland, Earl Joe Nelson, Louise F. Harris Nichols, Lester Owens, Dr. Roderick Paige, Robert S. Strong and Booker T. Young. This event would continue through AY2013, on the HCC-Utica Campus. Dr. Debra Mays-Jackson was Utica Campus Vice President when the athletic induction ceremony was discontinued and replaced with the Vice President's Scholarship and Hall of Honors Gala, the first held during AY2015-2016.

The Honorable Rod Paige, US Secretary of Education and former employee at Utica, was the guest speaker for the Centennial Founder's Day on March 19, 2003. Many of the projects completed during the centennial year were dedicated on Founder's Day 2003. Among those dedicated was the Workforce Development Center, a Title III funded project.

The Business Incubation Center of the Title III Entrepreneurship Program was completed by 2006, under Title III coordination of Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis. Mr. Howard Gib-



son, a graduate of Jackson State's Business Entrepreneurship program, became the director of the program. With collaboration and funding between Title III and HBCU-HUD Program, an old home on the campus was renovated to house modular offices for five clients, a meeting/presentation room, and computer and printing equipment. The center was dedicated in March 2007.

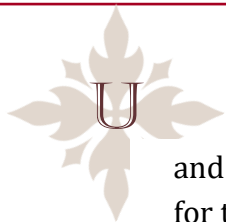
Dedicated March 2008, was the 35,000 square foot fine arts complex. Although Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis had retired effective January 2004, she had returned in a part-time position as Title III Coordinator the same year. Upon request of President Clyde Muse, she worked collaboratively with the administration to coordinate plans and secure funding for the new facility. This facility enabled the arts and humanities to offer programs in music, art, drama for the campus and community. This project was funded by Title III, the Dept. of Agriculture, and Hinds Community College District's Capital Improvement funds.

During 2008-9, Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis coordinated plans - with use of Title III funds - to renovate a building to house a health and wellness program. The facility would enable implementation of the Title III Health and Wellness activity. The old Brick Masonry program section of the DWL Davis building was renovated and remodeled to house the Health and Wellness Program for services to students, faculty, staff, and community. Other parts of the building (bathrooms, offices, classrooms, choir space) were updated to accommodate new programs and services. This facility was completed August 2010, and later dedicated during Founder's Day, March 2013.

The administrations of President Clyde Muse and Vice President George Barnes, with Dr. Barnes also being responsible for grants and services, realized increases in state and federal funding for full-time and summer enrichment programs: Title III Institutional Aid, Workforce Investment Act Programs, National Youth Sports Program (NYSP, 5-week program funded first in 1998, with Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis as proposal developer), National Science Foundation and NASA (Dr. Mae Cathryne Jackson, Director), Student Support Services, Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound, and Student Institutional Aid. Such programs enabled the College to offer enriching activities to the College and high school students, and pre-high school youths of the surrounding communities. These summer programs contributed significantly to students' enrollment in the summer.

The Utica Campus, by its 110-year anniversary, had undergone tremendous growth and development. The leaders had each contributed to the Utica Campus's being the great campus it had come to be. From founder Holtzclaw to the present-day administration, priority had been to "embrace the legacy, uphold the promise" of providing an atmosphere conducive to quality teaching and student learning and to fostering positive community relations/development.

The 100th year of rich, rewarding Utica Campus history prompted the administration, faculty, and staff to revisit the history; take stock of the institution, its alumni, and the surrounding community;



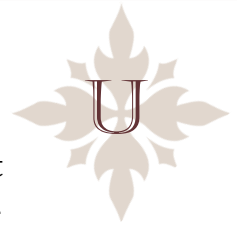
and prepare to renovate, restore, celebrate, and honor the legacy in 2003. The theme for the Utica Campus Centennial celebration was, "Embracing the Legacy, Upholding the Promise." The logo reflected this theme and founding date in the outlying border of the circle. Displayed in the circle's center is the bell tower, one of the Utica Campus's oldest remaining structures, which symbolizes the start of the school and the freedom to educate African Americans and eventually, a diverse student body.

Ten years after the centennial celebration, the Utica Campus experienced some major changes in administration. In 2013, Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis was selected as Dean of Instruction, Academic/Career-Technical Education (first as combination of academic/career-tech programs on Utica Campus and in HCC District), the first female to hold the position of dean. Serving as her Assistant Dean of Career-Tech Instruction (first-time position on the campus) was Mrs. Chris Tanner-Watkins, who was also the first female in this position. During Utica Campus Homecoming in fall 2013, the new technology building, which was completed in 2000, was named the George E. Barnes Technology Building during a ceremony in front of the building. Dr. Barnes returned to the campus for the ceremony.

The year 2013, was a time of history-making retirements for Utica Campus. The first female who served as Registrar for 43 years, Mrs. Ellestene Pilate-Turner, retired after 61 years of committed and dedicated service at Hinds AHS and Utica Campus. Dr. Jesse Killingsworth, Dean of Career and Technical Education, retired after serving 35 years at Utica. Dr. George E. Barnes, after 51 years of service in the high school and college, retired.

In July 2013, Hinds CC President Dr. Clyde Muse recommended to the Board of Trustees Dr. Debra Mays-Jackson to take the vice presidency of Hinds CC-Utica and Vicksburg-Warren County Campuses. On July 22, 2013, Dr. Mays-Jackson officially took the torch passed to her, making her the first female Vice President of the Utica Campus. Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis served during 2013-14, as Dean of Instruction of Academic/Career-Technical Education. Mrs. Chris Tanner-Watkins served as Assistant Dean in 2013-14.

In 2014, the institution's 111th year of service, Hinds Agricultural High School was closed at the recommendation of the MS Legislature. During the spring commencement of the high school and college, Vice President Debra Mays-Jackson invited back to the campus as speaker, US Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, a 1965 graduate of Hinds AHS. His was the testament to the great legacy embraced and upheld by this Historically Black educational institution in rural Mississippi. The class of 1965 presented a \$15,000 check to the College for an endowed scholarship in the name of the Hinds AHS Class of 1965. As Dean of Instruction and the administrator to



Holtzclaw Mansion circa 1926

work with the 50-Year Reunion class that year, Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis was honored to receive the check on behalf of the College during graduation that year 2014.

June 30, 2014, Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis retired officially for the second time from Hinds Community College-Utica Campus. Assistant Dean Mrs. Chris Tanner-Watkins also retired. She had served the College 38 years. Dr. Hopkins-Davis' last official acts, at the request of VP Dr. Debra Mays-Jackson, were to write a profile of Mr. Louis Lee, long-serving band director at Hinds AHS and to seek approval to demolish the Holtzclaw Mansion. Civil Engineer evaluation revealed

that Holtzclaw Mansion could not be saved as a historic site. Approval was granted from the MS Department of Archives, and History. Holtzclaw Mansion was demolished during the 2014-15 Academic Year.

The numbers of long-serving faculty and administrators were decreasing annually; a new generation of educators was moving into historical Utica Campus. The Utica Campus would continue to progress under new leadership. The upbuilding of the legacy would continue through Campus VPs Dr. Tyrone Jackson and Ms. Sherry Franklin. Ms. Jean Greene and English instructor, Mr. Dan Fuller worked cooperatively to build on the legacy of Holtzclaw.

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Resources Used to Compile History

"After a 41-year journey of serving in various capacities at Utica Junior College, I have used every resource related to the development of Utica Campus (high school and college). In addition to the sources which follow, I was very much an integral part of the growth and development of Utica Junior College's history. Much of the history I've written comes as a result of my working on many projects and my witnessing the work of many other educators through the years, so I myself am a resource."

- Dr. Shirley Hopkins-Davis



Resources Used to Compile History (continued)

Other Resources:

Centennial Celebration Souvenir Journal - 100 Years: Embracing the Legacy, Upholding the Promise. 1903-2003 Utica Campus & Hinds County Agricultural High School

Dr. George Everett Barnes' Curriculum Vitae

Holtzclaw family members since 2000 – planning for the Centennial of 2003

Holtzclaw, R. Fulton. William Henry Holtzclaw: Scholar in Ebony. Dillon/Liederbach, Inc. Cleveland, OH., 1977.

Holtzclaw, William Henry. The Black Man's Burden, Reprint: Negro Universities Press, New York, 1970. Originally published 1915, The Neale Publishing Company, New York.

Washington, Dr. Walter. "Utica Junior College, 1903 - 1957: A Half Century of Education for Negroes." Dissertation Abstracts, The University of Southern MS, Hattiesburg, MS.

William H. Holtzclaw Library Archives (Campus Bulletins, Special Annual Programs, College Catalogs)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Belt_\(U.S._region\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Belt_(U.S._region))

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normal_school

<http://www.historycooperative.org/btw/index.html>

<http://www.archive.org/details/blackmans00holtrich>

Sources:

William H. Holtzclaw Library Archives

William H. Holtzclaw, *The Black Man's Burden*

Robert Fulton Holtzclaw, *Scholar in Ebony*

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Booker_T_Washington

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Belt_\(U.S._region\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Belt_(U.S._region))

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<http://www.historycooperative.org/btw/index.html>

<http://www.archive.org/details/blackmans00holtrich>



Becoming Hinds-Utica

~ D a n F u l l e r

H u m a n i t i e s C h a i r
H C C - U t i c a C a m p u s

As promised by the board in their merger discussions with Utica administrators, a new dormitory was constructed on campus, adding much-needed residential capacity to the campus. Limited housing was previously available for out of town students in the form of the C Unit, a group of three small brick buildings next to the high school. Ralph Russell (83-85) a choir student from Champagne, Illinois described the makeshift dorm in stark terms:

The C Unit was three little brick [buildings] and that was our dorm. So when I was dropped off my first day on campus and saw where I was going to be staying, [I told] the guy who dropped me off, 'take me back to the train station. I'm ready to go home.' I wasn't impressed. But he told me 'well, give it a try.' So I gave it a try and I'm glad I stayed. But it started off kind of shaky."¹



Dormitories on the Utica Campus 2008.

Ralph went on to become one of the founding members of the resurrected Jubilee Singers, along with his brother Kevin Russell singing bass, fellow tenor John Jones, and baritone Clayton Brown. Kevin recalled the C Unit as a place where three to five students were housed in a room without air conditioning – “hot as you wouldn’t believe” – but while barebones, “you were able to form relationships and have memories that last a lifetime.”²

The campus received a 3.5 million dollar housing loan from the Federal Housing and Urban Development Program, which was approved by the Hinds board in 1983 to fund construction of the new dorm. The new dorms were dedicated in 1985 and named during Founder’s Day ceremonies for supporters of the institution: B. E. Lewis Hall, Newton-Walker Hall, Maggie Dunson Hall, and McGriggs-Williams Cafeteria.³ With a capacity of approximately 350 students, the dormitory complex added residential capacity not seen since William Holtzclaw’s era.

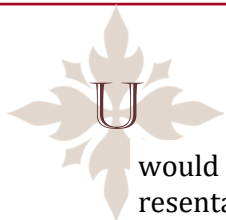
Opposition to the merger was based on the desire to maintain the historical values of the institution. According to Magnolia Hampton, an English instructor on the Utica campus, it was believed that the unique history of Utica would be lost during a merger with Hinds: “an institution that was founded by a Black man for educating Black people is very special to a small community.”⁴ Opponents to the merger argued in a Clarion-Ledger article⁵ that the plans were vague on how programs

¹ Jubilee Reunion interviews, April 23, 2016.

² Ibid.

³ Shirley Hopkins-Davis. “History of the Utica Campus.” <https://web.archive.org/web/20111122190700/http://lrc.hindscc.edu/Archives/Utica/History.aspx>

⁴ Stephanie Williams. “Hinds-Utica Merger: History, Heritage, Legacy.” Dec. 2009. Unpublished manuscript. Collection of Hinds-Utica Archives, 11.



would be improved for the Utica students. There was also concern about African American representation on the new board and the demotion of Utica Junior College President Stokes to vice president. However, as the merger proceeded, Hampton notes there were several positive outcomes for the Utica campus: Faculty salaries were increased to match salaries across the district; additional funds were invested in the physical plant with the construction of new dormitories; the curriculum was aligned as many departments developed uniformed course syllabi and outcomes.

Despite the concerns over the merger, the focus for most Utica faculty members remained firmly on the students. In 1982, with new limitations on federal student aid programs enacted by the Reagan administration, the faculty and staff joined together to form a Special Needs Fund to help students purchase classroom materials. Members of the fund committed themselves to a monthly contribution and funds were distributed to students who had lost financial aid. Despite fears of losing its unique identity, this and most other Utica campus traditions continued beyond the merger. The Thanksgiving community dinners, instituted by Holtzclaw, are a long-standing tradition at the college which continues today in the form of the Thanksgiving scholarship banquet. The election of Mr. and Miss Utica, Founder's Week programs, Utica commencement exercises, and homecoming week celebrations are all uniquely Utica traditions helping Hinds-Utica maintain its HBCU heritage.

George Everett Barnes

On the retirement of J. Louis Stokes in 1985, leadership of the campus was given to a familiar face on campus with the return of Dr. George E. Barnes. Barnes had served in a variety of roles on campus in the Utica Junior College era, both at the college and high school. Barnes came to Utica in 1962 as a mathematics instructor at Hinds AHS. Over his long history with the school prior to his appointment as Vice President for the Utica campus, Barnes served as an assistant basketball coach, principal of Hinds AHS, director of public relations and academic dean for the Utica campus, and vice president for administrative and student services.

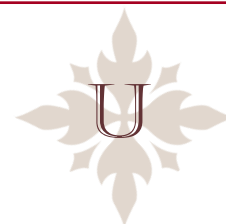
Barnes continued a commitment to educational excellence on the Utica campus. As noted earlier, Utica Junior College supported previous presidents of the college, both Walter Washington and J. Louis Stokes, with sabbaticals to pursue advanced degrees. That support didn't stop with the president's office. Barnes encouraged his staff to pursue advanced education and Utica was proud of the high number of staff with doctoral degrees.

Barnes, a Collins native, received his Bachelor of Science degree from Jackson State University, a master's degree from Louisiana State University, an Educational Specialist degree from Mississippi State, and a doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi. Barnes' doctoral research – "The Status of Institutional Research in the Junior Colleges of Four Southeastern States"⁶ – allowed him important networking opportunities with his peers across the South and is evidence of his ongoing interest in higher education administration.

Barnes' wife, Doris, was also a fixture on campus, beginning her teaching career at Hinds AHS in 1963 before becoming the high school librarian for 36 years. Long-serving staff members recalled with fondness the grand Christmas celebrations held at the Vice President's home on the

⁵ Clarion-Ledger, July 2, 1982

⁶ George Everett Barnes. *The Status of Institutional Research in the Junior Colleges of Four Southeastern States*. Dissertation, University of Southern Mississippi. Ann Arbor: ProQuest/UMI, 1975. (Publication No. 7522487.)



Utica campus. The Barnes' decorated the house with artwork from around the world and opened their home for elegant occasions with the entire staff gathering together to celebrate as a family.

It was during the Barnes administration that the transition from Utica Junior College to Hinds-Utica was completed. The close working relationship between Muse and Barnes, and their long tenures as administrators, provided much-needed stability for a challenging time in Utica's history. As fears of Utica losing its unique history and identity were assuaged, faculty members began to embrace the campus' new position within the Hinds system. For students attending Utica, very little changed in terms of campus traditions after the merger except the name on their diploma and the sign entering campus welcoming them to Hinds Junior College-Utica.

Men's basketball for the Hinds district has been housed on the Utica campus since the merger, after the retirement of Raymond campus coach Robert Garrison in 1988. In 1989, the college completed a renovation project adding air conditioning to both the J.W. Boyd gym and the D.W.L. Davis buildings, as the last part of a district initiative to install air conditioning in all district teaching spaces.⁷ Perhaps inspired by their new cool climes, the 1989-90 Hinds Bulldogs fought their way to a state championship. Led by team captain Marvin Kelly and longtime Utica coach Earl Joe Nelson, the Bulldogs became the 5th combined Hinds basketball team to win State, with two wins by Utica Junior College in 1974-75 and 1978-79 and two wins by Hinds Junior College in 1966-67 and 1970-71. Both Kelly and Nelson went on to receive statewide honors, with Kelly selected as the Mississippi Junior College Player of the Year and Nelson named Coach of the Year.

Women's basketball also experienced great success in this era, with the 1991 team winning the Region XXIII tournament, becoming the first Hinds team to represent the college at the NJCAA tournament. The Lady Bulldogs ended the year ranked number 6 in the country, under the powerful scoring of Donna Washington, Gwen Wilson, and team captain Zelda Bowman. Head coach Lester Owens was thrilled to have the opportunity to represent Region XXIII and ended the season with a 23-13 record.

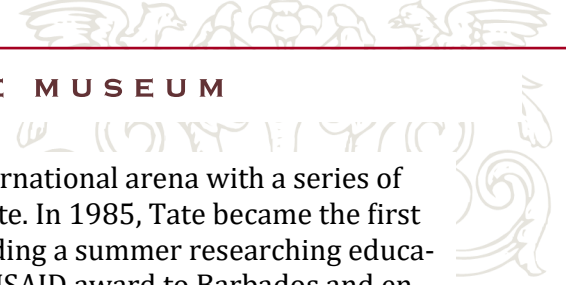
In 1988, one of the last remaining structures from the Holtzclaw era met with an ignoble end. Ginn Hall, constructed in 1924 at a cost of \$79,704, had fallen into disrepair. The building was named for B.F. Ginn, one of Holtzclaw's northern friends and president of Ginn & Company, a major college and high school textbook publisher based in Cambridge, MA.⁸ The building had served many purposes since its construction, including the primary high school instruction space and later, the primary college classroom space for the academic division. The building had been vacant and, as the story goes, while a board of trustees committee was meeting in the neighboring Walter Washington Academic-Administration building to discuss renovations, the building collapsed.⁹ Long-time English instructor and Utica Junior College alumnae, Bessie Brown, eulogized Ginn Hall as the place where "thousands who are now teachers, doctors, lawyers, politicians, salesmen, businessmen, secretaries, welders, beauticians, and so on, walked daily through her two-story design, with stairs on the east and the west wings, well-kept restrooms, a conference room, and water fountains of 'cool' water. We remember her: Ginn Hall, the building where excellent training was displayed and portrayed."¹⁰ The collapse of the building left only the Holtzclaw Mansion and the Bell Tower as Holtzclaw-era structures.

⁷ Clyde Muse. Annual Letter to Hinds Community. *Maroon & Gold Flash*, Sept. 1989, 3.

⁸ "Ginn & Company" *Industry in Cambridge*. <http://www.cambridgehistory.org/discover/industry/ginncompany.html>

⁹ Hopkins-Davis.

¹⁰ Bessie Brown. "Gone are Her Days – We Remember Ginn Hall." *Maroon & Gold Flash*, March 5³²², 6.



Utica faculty continued to expand their horizons into the international arena with a series of cultural exchanges, led by social sciences instructor Floyd Tate. In 1985, Tate became the first Utica faculty member to receive a Fulbright fellowship, spending a summer researching education in Central America. In the following year, he received a USAID award to Barbados and encouraged other faculty members to explore opportunities for cultural exchange. In 1987, he and Title III Director, Dr. Hazeltine Woods-Fouche' received Fulbright fellowships to travel to Kenya. With all three trips, Tate shared his experiences with his students and the campus community at large through special programs and articles.

One of the most successful programs on the Utica campus during this era was the Early Childhood Development program. Originally organized in 1967 as a daycare by campus parents and housed in one of the apartment complexes, an official childcare program was started the following year. The childcare program was the first in the state to be accredited by the State Vocational Department.¹¹ Under the direction of Freddie Jean Jackson, the program grew in both the number of community children served and in the number of students trained to enter the profession. The campus was rocked by Jackson's death in a tragic car accident in 1990. Jamie Berry, a childcare major, described Jackson as "my role model, friend, and instructor. She provided me many opportunities that changed my life greatly." Her coworker Marilyn Binion was also inspired by her friend's legacy and decided to push for national accreditation of the child care center in Jackson's honor. After several years of work, the newly renamed Freddie J. Jackson Child Development Center became the first in Mississippi to receive national accreditation. Binion was also instrumental in starting the annual Early Childhood Conferences on the Utica campus which continue to bring hundreds of teachers together each year for continuing education in the latest trends of the field.

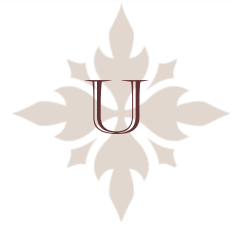
"If you're not here for business, you have no business here." Just about every Utica graduate from the mid-1960s through the 1980s knows this catchphrase of Johnny Joseph Halsell, a long-time mathematics instructor at Utica who retired with 38 years of service in 1990. In a 1982 interview, Halsell noted that "my philosophy is students should develop a positive mental attitude toward education, improve study skills, and be persistent."¹² His love of math was infectious with many students finding new understanding with Halsell's focus on practical applications. As one of his students, Bessie Brown, remembered that Halsell "reminded us that we cannot live without math. We use it in the kitchen and in the lunchroom, the living room and the classrooms, in the bathrooms and the restrooms, along the sidewalks and on the buses."¹³ Halsell was an active member of the campus community, served on numerous committees, and was the Dean of Men for twenty years starting with the Boyd administration.

One of Barnes many contributions to the campus was his work in establishing the Friends of Utica in 1997, a joint partnership with town leadership and the college to promote economic development in Utica. With the closure of many local businesses, an aging population, and the continued migration of younger families from the area, the town had fallen on hard times. Barnes envisioned an organization that would seek state and federal funds to reinvigorate the neighborhoods around the campus and build a stronger connection between the town and the

¹¹ Hopkins-Davis.

¹² *Maroon & Gold Flash*, Sept. 5³ 26, 9.

¹³ Bessie Brown. "Gone Are Her Days – We Remember Ginn Hall." *Maroon & Gold Flash*, March 5³ 22, 7.



college. In 2001, these efforts resulted in the first of a series of federal HBCU-HUD grants to fund a business incubation center, renovate a town center for social programs, and assist in the revitalization of Utica neighborhoods and businesses.¹⁴

Recognizing the need for enhanced facilities and programs, the campus continued to receive HBCU/Title III funds to support the campus. In 1999, a new technology building was constructed featuring an electronic classroom, conference room, office space, multiple computer labs, and an up-to-date television studio with a control room, post-production editing bays, audio recording studio, and production lab. Students pursuing degrees in radio and television production now had a fully functional studio to practice what they would encounter when taking their jobs at area media outlets. A new technology building was also constructed at the high school in 2000, which included an audio-visual room, computer lab, and a technology classroom for career-tech programs.

In 2000, the William H. Holtzclaw Memorial Library was renovated. With the move of Radio and Television to the new studio, space was freed in their former home in the library. The library added a Children's room, dedicated space for the William Holtzclaw Jr. Black Heritage Collection, and permanent housing for the Utica Normal and Industrial Institute archives. Utica Director of Library Services and Archives, Jean Greene, envisioned the Children and Family Center as a place where programs for the campus and the entire community could be showcased. The Children and Family Center hosts frequent book talks and readings for area children, along with enrichment opportunities through puppets, dramatic presentations, and computer learning games.

The Black Heritage Collection was begun by former library director Alma Fisher and has also undergone considerable expansion by Greene to become an outstanding special collection featuring works by and about African Americans. Greene notes that given the HBCU status of the institution, showcasing positive depictions of African Americans provides students with an important and affirming resource. During this period, the library also increased its collaboration with the larger academic community, becoming an active member in the newly formed HBCU Library Alliance, a consortium of over one hundred HBCU libraries from across the country.¹⁵

In 2002, the Workforce Development Center was dedicated with new space to meet the needs of adults seeking employment in rapidly changing industrial fields. The building houses offices providing GED assistance, assessment and testing, Student Support Services, and work-based learning programs. In 2004, renovations were completed on the building housing the new Business Incubation Center. Former faculty apartments constructed in 1967 behind the Student Union were also converted into incubation space for business start-ups. In addition to office space, the Incubation Center provided logistical support, training, shared secretarial services, and business plan development consulting to individuals launching new enterprises.

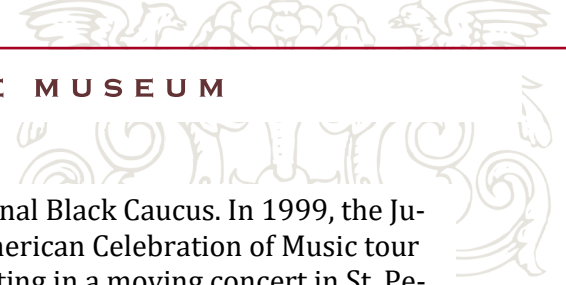
"Once a Jubilee, Always a Jubilee"

The resurrected Jubilee Singers continued to perform and tour to increasing fame and recognition during the Barnes era. By the mid-1990s, requests for Jubilee performances outpaced their availability and Dr. Cooper had to turn down numerous worthy requests. In 1996, at the invitation of Representative Bennie G. Thompson, a Utica alumni and ardent supporter of the college, the Jubi-

¹⁴ Hopkins-Davis; "Announcement of Funding Awards for Fiscal Year 2009" HUD.

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2009-10-02/html/E9-23845.htm>; "Announcement of Funding Awards for Fiscal Year 2007" HUD. <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=HUD-2007-0010-0008>; "Announcement of Funding Awards for Fiscal Year 2004" HUD. https://www.doleta.gov/usworkforce/awn-news/eta_default.cfm?id=475

¹⁵ "Timeline of the HBCU Library Alliance." <http://www.hbculibraries.org/images/hbcuhistory.jpg>



lee Singers performed in Washington, D.C. for the Congressional Black Caucus. In 1999, the Jubilee Singers were invited to represent Mississippi on the American Celebration of Music tour in Italy with concerts in Florence, Venice, Milan, and culminating in a moving concert in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, the largest cathedral in the world.¹⁶ In 2001, the Jubilee Singers were invited to perform at the 83rd International Phi Theta Kappa Convention in Denver, Colorado. The choir's annual tours have become a highlight for the members, with trips to Chicago, Atlanta, New York and Dallas. In Spring 2016, current and former members of the Jubilee Singers gathered for their grand reunion concert. In interviews with those members, one theme remained consistent – their love for “Doc” and his impact on their lives. Kenneth Thrasher ('83-'83) shared a story that many Jubilee Singers would echo:

When I got here, I found that I was kind of lost. I wasn't exactly sure what I wanted to do. I didn't really have a focus. I knew that I wanted a college education, but exactly what I wanted to do in life – even though I just graduated from high school – I hadn't a clue. So coming here, working as a student under Dr. Cooper and participating in the music program was the highlight of my experience here at Hinds because I always styled the music program here as what the champion football teams and basketball teams are to other colleges and universities. With the choir being the basic representation of this campus, it was the image of this campus and it instilled a lot of pride in us.¹⁷

For many of the students, Cooper was a towering figure in their lives. Tracy Jefferson James ('77-'79) maintained her connection with the choir even after moving to Ohio. In her work as a school choir director there, she frequently invited Cooper and the choir to tour in her neck of the woods. She describes Cooper as a second father figure:

Even when I left Hinds and went to Tougaloo, he would be at all my recitals. When I was working on my paper, I would call and say 'Doc, I'm going to stay with my auntie, but I don't have a ride.' He would come take me to campus for my class and then drive me back. He made me feel like one of his special students and he means a lot to me. Even to the point when I went home to visit my mom in graduate school, she'd ask me, 'Did you call Doc?' He's always been there and it's been a family affair.¹⁸

When speaking with Utica choir members, time and again, they refer to Cooper as a father figure. As Kenneth Thrasher put it:

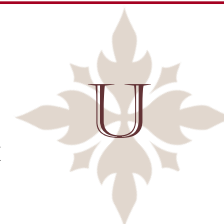
I affectionately call him 'Daddy' and he let me get away with it. For many of us, especially African American males, he was the positive, successful, father figure and role model that many of us did not have growing up. He garnered a lot of respect from us watching his professionalism, standards and his genuine concern for all of his students. It was remarkable and that left an indelible impression on me that I try to pass it forward wherever I go.¹⁹

¹⁶ “Utica Jubilee Singers.” <http://www.hindsuticamusic.com/#!jubilee-singers>

¹⁷ Jubilee Reunion interviews, April 23, 2016.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.



In the largest construction project on campus since the building of the dormitory complex in 1985, the 35,000 square foot Fine Arts Center was completed in 2008. This 8.3 million dollar facility features a 500 seat auditorium for college and public events and is the home of the Utica Jubilee Singers and the college choir. The Fine Arts Center was constructed at the entrance to the campus to provide a focal point on Highway 18 for the college and blends modern architectural elements with a design in keeping with the existing buildings on campus. Since opening, the Fine Arts Center has hosted many campus events, concerts, lectures, and dramatic performances. The building offers practice facilities for voice and music majors, a studio for an Entertainment Arts degree program, a photography studio and classroom, an art gallery, a dance studio classroom, and office space. In 2014, the college rededicated the building as the Bobby G. Cooper Fine Arts Center in honor of the long-serving humanities chair and choir director responsible for resurrecting the Jubilee Singers. As Muse noted during the naming ceremony, Cooper “is one of the best ambassadors this college has and we appreciate him.”²⁰ For his part, Cooper was moved by the recognition: “My love affair with this campus started in August 1972. Little did I know that that love affair would someday be turned into a building that would bear the name Bobby G. Cooper Fine Arts Center. What a thrill! I am indeed humbled by this honor.” After 52 years in education, including 45 on the Utica Campus, Dr. Cooper retired in June 2018 and is currently writing a book on the history of the Jubilee Singers.

A major initiative on the Utica campus was started in 2009 with a grant from the National Science Foundation under the leadership of Barnes, Dr. Mae Cathryn Jackson, Mathematics and Science Chair, and Dr. William McHenry, director of the Mississippi e-Center at Jackson State University. As described by the NSF, the STEM-UP program “seeks to develop educational bridges that provide greater opportunities in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce for their students.”²¹ The Utica team implemented a program designed to bring in additional students interested in STEM careers for a highly structured program providing students with additional support and mentoring, along with scholarships for their study. Students participating in the STEM program receive targeted instruction at the community college level allowing for a seamless transition into the STEM program at Jackson State.

In 2010, the Health and Wellness Center opened as a new addition to the original 1958 vocational building constructed during the Washington era. The Health and Wellness Center provides a full range of fitness machines, free weights, cardio equipment, and an exercise studio for group classes. As part of the college’s commitment to the local community, public memberships are partially subsidized by a Title III community improvement grant. The Wellness Center also sponsors a number of healthy living programs such as breast cancer awareness walks, health screenings, blood drives and informational fairs to help educate students about the long-term benefits of making healthy choices.

By 2011, the campus had grown significantly. Riding a wave of higher community college enrollment in the state generally, the Utica campus’ growth outpaced that of the rest of the district, posting a 10% increase to over 1250 students. Campus officials attributed this growth to the hard work of a campus recruiting team, consisting of Charles Bell and long-time employees Bobby Cooper, Leonard Knight, Lester Owens, Deloris Green, and Frank Brown. The team specifically recruited students from their hometowns as one member noted, “I believe in the place where I work and the people from my hometown trust me, therefore, it is not hard to sell a good product, the Utica campus.”²²

²⁰ “Hinds CC Utica Campus music directors honored with building dedications.” *Hindsight*. Sept. 74, 6458. <http://news.hindscc.edu/index.php/hinds-cc-utica-campus-music-directors-honored-with-building-dedications/>

²¹ “Award Abstract: Implementation Project: Utica Campus Community College Transformation HBCU-UP Initiative.” National Science Foundation, Sept. 2010. https://nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1036239&HistoricalAwards=false

²² “Utica Campus Boasts Record Enrollment.” *Maroon & Gold Flash*, Oct. 6455, 5.

After 51 years of service to the institution, Barnes retired in May 2013. Dr. Shirley Hopkins-Davis, dean of instruction for the Utica Campus, said during a retirement tribute dinner held in his honor, "Dr. Barnes has been on a roller coaster, striving over five decades to keep pace with educational developments on the campuses and in areas he's supervised at Hinds. His interests in building humanity, specifically, have been time consuming yet fulfilling. He has worked tirelessly to build the cultural character in the surrounding communities and has been a mentor to many, including me. He leaves a legacy of dedicated and committed leadership in multiple areas of the college."²³ In 2015, the new technology building he championed was renamed the George E. Barnes Technology Building in honor of his many years of service to the Utica campus.

Debra Mays-Jackson

In July 2013, Dr. Debra Mays-Jackson was selected by the board to replace Barnes. As Muse noted in his announcement of her appointment, "She is uniquely suited to this leadership position at the college and to the duties associated with Hinds Agricultural High School. As an alumnus of the Utica Campus, she fully appreciates the mission of the college and the Utica Campus' special historical significance."²⁴

Mays-Jackson's connections with Utica began long before she ever set foot on campus. Her mother was the 1965 salutatorian at Hinds AHS and graduated from Utica Junior College in 1967, going on to earn her bachelor's degree in accounting from Jackson State and as Mays-Jackson notes, "mom was adamant that I continue in her footsteps."²⁵ In fact, her mom's entire extended family graduated from Hinds AHS and her aunt and uncle drove busses for the campus, making Utica a family tradition in the Mays home.



Dr. Debra Mays-Jackson

Originally, Mays-Jackson planned on entering accounting like her mother, but when she arrived on campus, her long seated love for music grabbed her. She joined the choir with Dr. Cooper and found herself "living" in the choir room. Cooper had a profound impact on her life as one day he caught her playing the piano and asked if she played by rote or if she had read the music. Having played the piano since the age of 4, Mays-Jackson could read music and when she told that to Cooper, he replied "This is where you need to be. You should be a music major. Why are you wasting your time? You're here 24/7 anyway."²⁶ She thought about it and decided that she really did love music and just needed someone to believe in her to pursue that dream. She and some of the other female members of the choir started up the Daughters of Bobby group as a counterpart to the famous all-male Jubilee Singers.

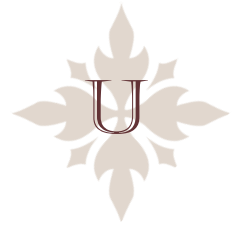
Mays-Jackson continued her music career with bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Jackson State, a Specialist of Education degree in Educational Administration also from Jackson

²³Cook, Lauren. "Retiring vice president tribute to benefit education scholarship." *Hindsight*. May 74, 6457. <http://news.hindscc.edu/index.php/retiring-vice-president-tribute-to-benefit-education-scholarship/>

²⁴"New vice-president named for Utica, Vicksburg/Warren campuses." July 8, 2013. <http://news.hindscc.edu/index.php/new-vice-president-named-for-utica-vicksburgwarren-campuses/>

²⁵ Personal interview, February 3, 2016.

²⁶ Ibid.



State, and her Doctorate in Education from Mississippi State University. Prior to taking the helm on the Utica campus, Mays-Jackson worked as a choir director, high school principal, and Executive Director of Academic Support for High Schools in Jackson Public Schools. Her homecoming was one that she didn't take lightly: "the relationships that I found here are why I am so passionate about this campus. I owe it to the community to get us back to the 14-1500 students we know were here. Maybe times were different and our choices were different, but we have to offer competitive programs to bring them here."²⁷

One of her first challenges on campus involved the future of Hinds Agricultural High School. Mays-Jackson inherited a school in crisis, with falling enrollment and low state ratings, which along with general legislative interest in consolidating school districts led to 2012 legislative report recommending that Hinds AHS be closed. As assistant superintendent for Hinds AHS, Mays-Jackson embarked on a series of town hall meetings throughout the district with Muse, to rally the communities to support the high school by sending their students. A number of alumni contributed to the lobbying effort to save AHS, but ultimately, the legislature decided to proceed with the recommendation, closing AHS at the end of the 2014 school year. The closure of AHS was a certainly a blow to the community, with the last joint commencement programs marking the end of an era. One high note in an otherwise difficult year was the track team's winning of a third consecutive state title. While the closure has impacted enrollment numbers at the college, Mays-Jackson continued to remind the community of the AHS legacy and worked to maintain the AHS spirit on campus.

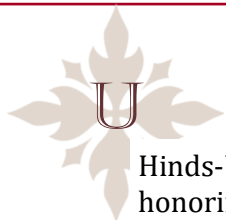
Mays-Jackson began work on a master plan designed to increase enrollment, improve campus facilities, and reinvigorate academic and vocational offerings on campus. Drawing inspiration from William Holtzclaw's efforts to solicit funds from a variety of sources, Mays-Jackson developed relationships with industry and foundations to fund new buildings and programs on campus. In December 2016, the newly renovated J.L. Stokes Student Union was opened providing students with centralized services and meeting space, including a modern cafeteria and grill, outdoor patio, student services offices, lounge space, and meeting facilities for student organizations. Work was begun on a full remodeling of the cosmetology and barbering building to update salon and teaching space for one of the largest vocational programs on campus. All classroom spaces were renovated with new student furniture and up-to-date technology.

In addition to physical remodeling, Mays-Jackson directed departments to reinvigorate their programs. For example, Food Services Technology shifted focus to Culinary Arts, while Clothing and Textile Services Technology, a program started in 1969, became Clothing and Fashion Design. Both changes involved a full redesign of the curriculum to meet the needs of today's students and industry. The campus also started new programs, including an associate's degree in Entertainment Industry Mechanics, a hands-on program allowing students to learn the skills needed for a career in the entertainment industry, including digital sound, lighting, editing and stage craft.

Agriculture Science, a foundational portion of Holtzclaw's mission, also returned to the campus, through a new degree program supported by a US Department of Agriculture grant and a partnership with Alcorn State University. Utica alumnus, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service officer, and local farmer Delmer Stamps assisted in the efforts to launch the program. Greenhouses were erected on campus and a farmer's market was started in Utica to provide fresh produce after the town's only grocery store closed.

Mays-Jackson continued efforts to embrace the alumni community of Hinds AHS, Utica Junior College, and

²⁷ Ibid.



Hinds-Utica. In 2016, the first Vice President's Scholarship and Hall of Honors Gala was held honoring fourteen distinguished graduates and supports of Hinds' Utica campus. The event raised over \$50,000 for scholarships.

Tyrone Jackson



Dr. Tyrone Jackson

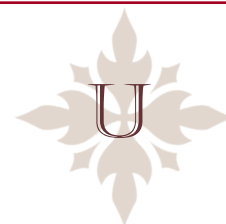
In August 2017, after Mays-Jackson accepted a position as Vice President and Chief of Staff at Jackson State University, Dr. Tyrone Jackson was promoted as the new Vice President of the Utica Campus and Administrative Services. Jackson, a Rosedale native, received his bachelor's degree, Master's of Education degree and Doctor of Education degree from Delta State University where he also worked in student housing and Graduate Studies. After leaving Delta State, he served as Dean of Students at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, before coming to Hinds in 2013 as the Dean of Students for the Raymond Campus. Since arriving at Utica, Jackson has continued to support efforts to increase community involvement and engagement. As he noted on his arrival, "I am eternally grateful that Dr. Muse has afforded me the opportunity to serve the Utica Campus in the capacity as Vice President. The Utica Campus has a rich history and has maintained a strong presence as an HBCU."²⁸ With his background in student services, Jackson's mission is one focused on students' success – both inside and outside the classroom – at this historic HBCU.

Supporting the legacy of Holtzclaw's mission, the campus announced the receipt of a new grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, "The Black Man's Burden: William H. Holtzclaw and the Mississippi HBCU Connection."²⁹ This grant, co-directed by English instructor Dan Fuller and Director of Library Services Jean Greene, focused on integrating the history of the institution into humanities courses by developing summer faculty workshops; creating curriculum and teaching toolkits; and designing a new team-taught Introduction to Humanities course focused on the legacy of Holtzclaw. The grant brought nationally recognized scholars to the campus to work with Utica faculty and students, as well as with the public through the creation of the Holtzclaw Lecture Series. This annual lecture series has featured talks by Dr. William Andrews, E. Maynard Adams Professor of English at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Dr. Jacqueline Jones, Mastin Gentry White Professor of Southern History at the University of Texas at Austin, and Dr. Bobby Cooper, Humanities Chair and Choir Director at Utica. Building on the success and critical interest in Holtzclaw inspired by the grant activities, work has begun on a new Utica Institute Museum on campus. In July 2018, the college received a Mississippi Humanities Council planning grant to develop exhibits for the museum related to the history of the Jubilee Singers.

In June 2018, the Utica Campus was selected as the Tom Joyner School of the Month, the first time a community college has been so honored. Tom Joyner, a nationally syndicated radio show host, has worked to support HBCUs through his foundation for over twenty years and has raised more than \$65 million for student scholarships. Joyner kicked off the school of the

²⁸"Hinds CC Names New Vice Presidents" August 3, 2017. *Hinds CC Newsroom*. <http://news.hindscc.edu/index.php/tag/dr-tyrone-jackson/>

²⁹"Hinds-Utica Awarded NEH Grant." <https://holtzclawinstitute.org/2015/12/27/hinds-utica-awarded-neh-grant/>



month honors by serving as commencement speaker for the 115th graduation celebration in Utica and the first under Tyrone Jackson's leadership.

Since its founding in 1903, the Hinds Utica campus has been focused on meeting the needs of the local community. The mission envisioned by the founder, William Holtzclaw, lives on through the work of Utica's dedicated faculty and staff. Throughout its history, countless Utica employees have given their entire professional careers to the institution in service of the students, retiring with 30, 40, 50, or even 60+ years of service in the case of Ellestene Turner, retired college registrar. This love of the institution and its mission is just one reason why Utica is such a special place.



The Utica Junior College Seal once hung over the stairway in the J. Louis Stokes Student Union. It was removed during 2014 renovation.

Photo courtesy of Utica Institute Museum.

The Bell Tower

at The Utica Normal & Industrial Institute

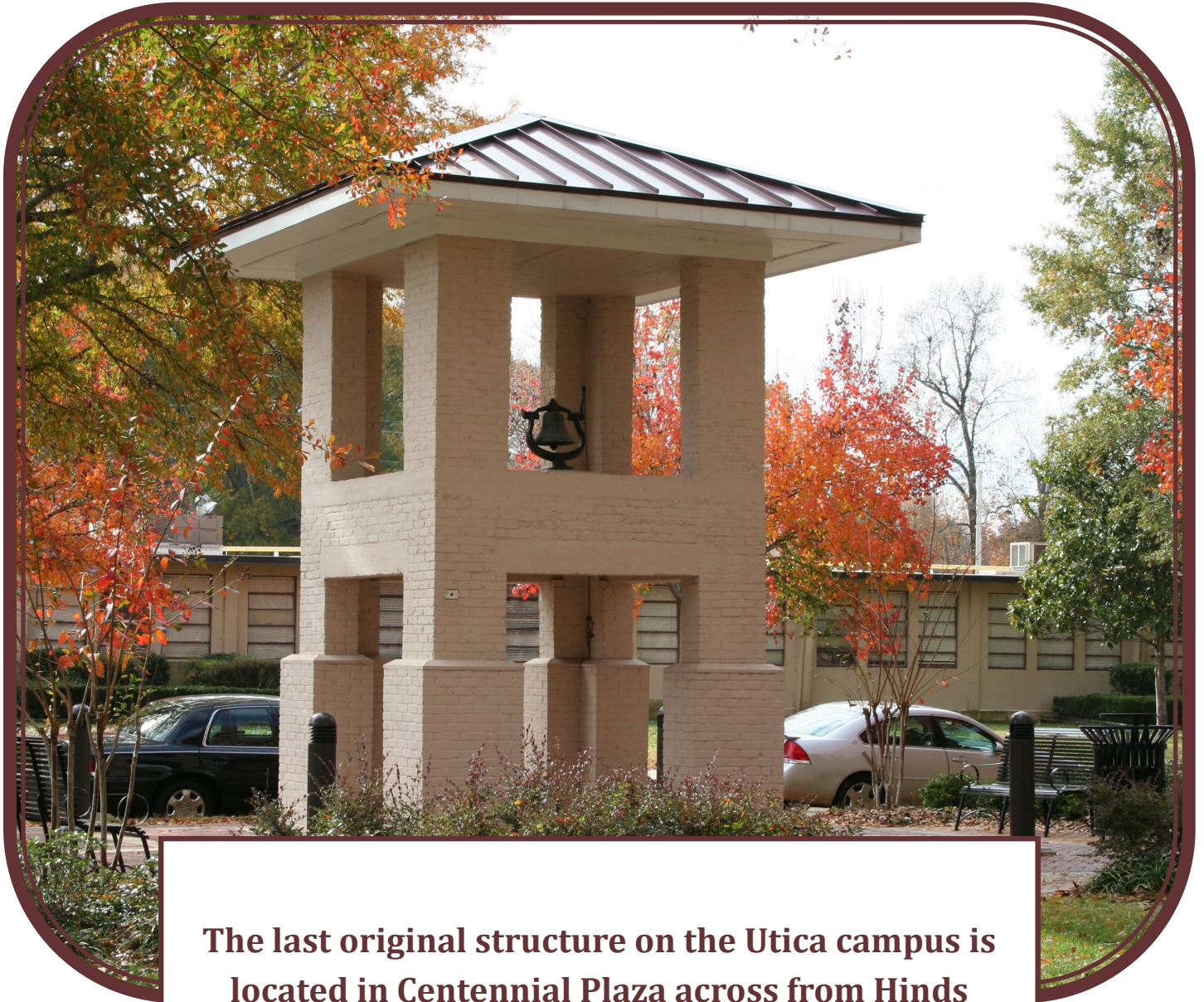
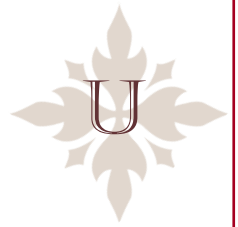
Constructed Around 1910-11

When the Institute was Relocated to Present Site off Highway 18

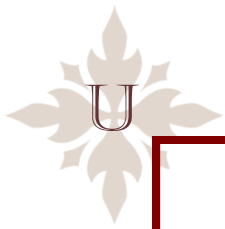
Holtzclaw mentions the **BELL-RINGING schedule** in **1913**, in his book *The Black Man's Burden*. He thought it significant to include the daily schedule of the bell-ringing process.

5:10 AM	Bell rang to signal everyone's <i>rising for the day</i> .
5:50 AM	<i>First breakfast bell rang.</i>
6:00 AM	<i>Breakfast bell rang.</i>
6 :25 AM	Bell rang for <i>work to begin</i> .
7:25 AM	Bell rang for <i>morning study</i> to begin.
8:20 AM	Bell rang for <i>school to begin</i> .
8:25 AM	Bell rang for <i>inspection of young men on battalion grounds</i> as to their toilet.
8:40 AM	Bell rang for <i>morning devotion</i> .
8:55 AM	Bell rang to signal <i>current news period</i> .
9:20 AM	Bell rang to signal the <i>beginning of class work</i> .
12:00 PM	Bell rang to signal <i>all work closed</i> .
12:10 PM	Bell rang to signal <i>dinner</i> .
1:00 PM	Bell rang to signal <i>resuming work</i> .
1:30 PM	Bell rang to signal <i>resuming of class work</i> .
3:30 PM	Bell rang to signal the <i>end of class work</i> .
5:30 PM	Bell rang to signal the <i>end of the work day</i> .
6:00 PM	Bell rang for <i>supper</i> .
6:30 PM	Bell rang to signal the <i>start of study hour</i> .
7:00 PM	Bell rang to signal the <i>beginning of night school</i> for those who worked during the day and went to school at night.
8:40 PM	Bell rang to signal the <i>beginning of evening devotion</i> .
9:20 PM	Bell rang as <i>first signal of retirement for evening</i> .
9:30 PM	Bell rang as signal of <i>retirement for the evening</i> .

Sunday's bell-ringing schedule varied. In the afternoons, the teachers went out into the community to check on the progress in the various homes and make suggestions for improvements.



The last original structure on the Utica campus is located in Centennial Plaza across from Hinds Agricultural High School.



HOLTZCLAW QUOTES

In his last speech to students April 1943 to graduating class:

“Go into the rural districts of the South and wrestle with its problems. It will prove gymnastics for your body, exercise for your mind and balm for your spirit.”

and

“I have suffered little because I have had no time to think of my personal life. My mind is fixed on the cause for which I live and work. I have no time for minor notes. I have long since determined that the tune of my life shall be played in major keys. For this cause I live; for this cause I suffer; for this cause I shall give my life.”

In reference to others calling his fundraising trips “begging trips”

“I never beg. I simply remind people of their duty to humanity, and they usually perform it.”

“The man who can make a better mousetrap than his neighbor, even though he may dwell in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door.”

“Life is 10% inevitability, 10% meditation, 10% planning, and 70% hard work.”

“You are mature when what you want in life and what you do to get it balance like two children on a see-saw.”

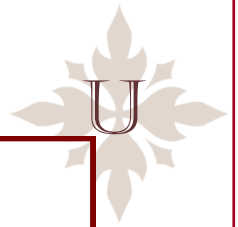
“You can’t know everything. But if you know how to use a library, that’s everything.”

Holtzclaw’s Credo (based on the Hampton Institute mission):

Hand, Head, Heart

which meant that students would be trained in *vocation, academics* and *faith*.

Holtzclaw’s Favorite Recreation: Horseback Riding and Croquet (he learned croquet as a boy from his Alabama teacher, C.N. Findlay)



FROM THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE
BLACK BELT IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

ORGANIZED 1904

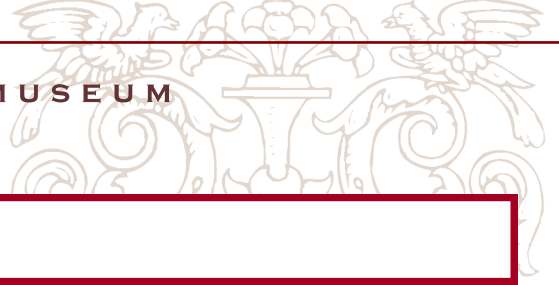
BY WILLIAM H. HOLTZCLAW

Holtzclaw organized the **Black Belt Improvement Society** “to help the colored people who were at the very bottom of the pit of mental darkness by showing them how to make a start and build themselves to the status of property-owning citizens.” One way of accomplishing this objective was the **TEN DEGREES** in the society.

- 1st Degree: Members of the first degree shall be those who have and show a desire to better their condition.
- 2nd Degree: Members of the second degree shall be regularly employed at some occupation.
- 3rd Degree: Members of the third degree shall be required to own at least one cow, one mule, or a horse.
- *4th Degree: Members of the fourth degree shall possess twelve chickens, two pigs, and a cow, together with an orderly house.
- 5th Degree: Members of the fifth degree shall be required to own livestock and to have purchased land and to be striving to pay for it.
- 6th Degree: Members of the sixth degree shall be required to own at least one acre of land and have erected upon it a neat and comfortable dwelling house.
- 7th Degree: Members of the seventh degree shall own forty acres of land.
- 8th Degree: Members of the eighth degree shall own one hundred acres of land.
- 9th Degree: Members of the ninth degree shall own five hundred acres of land.
- 10th Degree: Members of the tenth degree shall own one thousand acres of land and shall possess such other qualifications as the central society may require.

**Exceptions: Any member who is educating a son or daughter in some institution may be permitted to hold the 4th degree, regardless of the other qualifications mentioned.*

No member is in good standing so long as there is a mortgage on any of his substance.



NOTES

[illegible]

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SATELLITE PHOTO OF UTICA CAMPUS CIRCA 2013



Satellite image courtesy Google Earth

UTICA INSTITUTE MUSEUM

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visit our website:

<http://www.uticainstitute.org>



Portrait of William Holtzclaw by
Mississippi Artist Marie Hull



Utica Campus



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