



Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University
founded 1875



Normal, Alabama

149TH FOUNDER'S DAY CONVOCATION

The Legacy of William Hooper Council:
“From Vision to Reality:
Celebrating the Journey of Alabama A&M University”



HONORING CLASS OF 1974
THE ALUM OF THE YEAR
UNIVERSITY STAFF EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

Friday, May 3, 2024
BRADFORD AUDITORIUM - 12 NOON



Dr. William Hooper Councill
FOUNDER & FIRST PRESIDENT

BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM HOOPER COUNCILL

While William Hooper Council founded Alabama A&M University in 1875, his list of other accomplishments is extensive. His many successes include the establishment of the Lincoln School in 1869, serving in the Alabama Legislature in 1873, being admitted to the bar for the practice of law in 1883, organizing the St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1885, and serving as publisher and editor of the Huntsville Herald from 1877 to 1884. He was an orator and a visionary.

Council was born July 12, 1848, in Fayetteville, North Carolina. His parents were slaves on the Council plantation. His father escaped in 1854 to Canada, but William, his mother Mary Jane, and his brother Cicero were sold to D.C. Humphreys in Huntsville, Alabama, who during the war became known as a champion of Negro rights. Council, with his brother and mother, was able to go north for the remainder of the war. When he turned 17, he returned to gain formal training in Stevenson, Alabama, at the Quaker freedmen's school.

In 1868, he became a school teacher in Stevenson. Council would later relocate outside Huntsville in 1869 and established the Lincoln School. Council's hard work, devotion, and management skills caused the Lincoln School to gain prominence and it soon became recognized throughout the county.

In 1872, he moved to the state capital and became an assistant enrollment clerk for the House of Representatives for two years. Prior to this position, at the Alabama State Equal Rights convention, he urged Congress to enact Charles Sumner's Civil Rights Bill without deleting its provision for integration. Council said he "wanted all the rights that the white man enjoyed, for justice hath no color."

The legislature in 1873 created the Huntsville Normal School. The school was first opened in May 1875 with a \$1,000 appropriation. With Council as the first president, the school was

designed to educate blacks to teach black children. The enrollment was 61 students with two teachers.

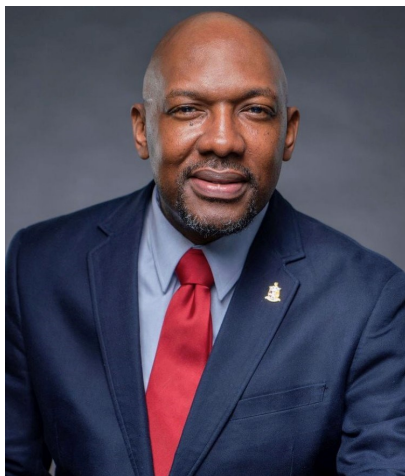
Over the next 35 years, Council worked hard to establish the school he founded. The name changed to the State Normal and Industrial School, then to the State Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes. Relocating the school in 1890, four miles north of Huntsville, helped to make "Council's school" stronger. By 1898, the school offered college degrees and boasted an enrollment of 422. The school was also designated as an 1890 land grant institution by the Legislature of the State of Alabama in 1892.

In addition to serving as president of the school, Council published and edited the Huntsville Herald between 1877 and 1884. He also studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1883. Council wrote several books during his lifetime, including *Lamp of Wisdom* (1898), *Negro Development in the South* (1901) and *The Bright Side of the Southern Question* (1903). From 1883 to 1900, he was an ordained minister of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church organizing the St. John A.M.E. Church in 1885.

William Hooper Council was married to Maria Weeden Howard Council. The Councils were the parents of two children; a son, Dement Council and a daughter, Ida Council Buchanan, the wife of the second president of the university, Walter Solomon Buchanan.

On April 9, 1909, Council died at age 61 at his home on the campus of his beloved university. A crowd of 5,000 attended his funeral, and special music, originally composed for the funeral of Governor J.W. Clay, was sung at Council's service by members of the Governor's family.

PANELISTS



Eddie Davis Jr. is a native of Birmingham, Alabama. In 2002, he graduated from Alabama A&M University with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science with a minor in Chemistry. In 2004, he received a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a concentration in Environmental Planning, also from Alabama A&M University.

He is the author of *The Greatest Negro The Race Ever Produce: Dr. William Hooper Council, Jr.*



Dr. Jeanette Jones is a native of Fort Valley, Georgia and has provided more than 28 years of committed and dedicated service to Alabama A&M University (Huntsville, AL) in various capacities. She holds the position of Professor, specializing in Medical Mycology, and is currently President of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Trustee on the University Board of Trustees and Senior Advisor to the University President.

PANELISTS



Dr. Carl Harris Marbury was born in Leeds, Alabama. After high school he continued his studies at Alabama A&M University and graduating in 1957.

He also attended, Oberlin College (B.D. & M.A.), Vanderbilt University (M. Div.) and Harvard University (Ph.D.).

In 1987, Dr. Marbury was chosen as the Interim President and of Alabama A&M University. He served as President from 1989-1991.

Dr. Marbury, now retired to his hometown of Leeds is serving in volunteer roles to improve his community. He is also active in many civic organizations and his church.



Dr. Alease Sims is a native of Birmingham, Ala. She received her Advanced Academic Diploma from Westfield High School in Birmingham. In 1969, she earned her B.S. degree and in 1974 her M.S. degree in Secondary Education from Alabama A&M University.

She was the perpetual force throughout the long-running Alabama higher education desegregation lawsuit. The State of Alabama awarded hundreds of millions as a result of Knight/Sims v The State of Alabama.

Dr. Sims, resides in Birmingham, AL where she enjoys spending time family and especially her grandchildren.

FOUNDER'S DAY CONVOCATION PROGRAMME

Dr. Daniel K. Wims, Presiding University President

PRELUDE

Piano Music

Dr. Mira Kruja, *Professor Pianist*

PROCESSIONAL

Andante Molto Expressivo

Johannes Brahms

Dr. Mira Kruja, *Professor Pianist*

*PRESENTATION OF COLORS

AAMU ROTC "Bulldog" Battalion

*NATIONAL ANTHEM

AAMU Choir

Dr. Horace Carney, *Interim Director*

Dr. Mira Kruja, *Professor, Pianist*

GREETINGS

Mr. Jamal Ali '81

Vice President, Marketing, Communication & Advancement

INVOCATION

Mr. Melvin Summerhill '74

POEM

Ms. Hadassah Meralus '24

"The Old Normal Spirit"

Elizabeth "Tricia" Gregg '80

MUSIC

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

- J. Rosamond Johnson

University Choir & Audience

Dr. Horace Carney, *Interim Director*

Dr. Mira Kruja, *Professor, Pianist*

INTRODUCTION OF PANELIST & PANEL DISCUSSION

Dr. Daniel K. Wims

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

J. Rosamond Johnson

*Lift every voice and sing, 'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;*

Let our rejoicing rise

High as the listening skies,

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the
present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our
new day begun,*

Let us march on 'til victory is won.

*Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet
with a steady beat,*

Have not our weary feet

*Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been
watered,*

*We have come, treading our path through the blood
of the slaughtered, Out from the gloomy past, 'Til
now we stand at last*

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

*God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;*

Thou who has by Thy might

Led us into the light,

Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

*Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where
we met Thee, Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine
of the world, we forget Thee; Shadowed beneath
Thy hand, May we forever stand,*

True to our God, True to our native land.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF ALUM OF THE YEAR

Mr. Michael Miller '84

*President, Alabama A&M University
Alumni Association, Incorporated*

PRESENTATION OF THE MORRISON AWARD

Dr. Daniel K. Wims

PRESENTATION OF THE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Dr. Daniel K. Wims

UNIVERSITY HYMN

Words by Dr. J.F. Drake,

AAMU President, 1927-62

Music Arranged by Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr.

University Choir & Audience

Dr. Horace Carney, *Interim Director*

Dr. Mira Kruja, *Professor, Pianist*

RECESSIONAL

Andante Molto Expressivo

Johannes Brahms

Dr. Mira Kruja, *Professor, Pianist*

UNIVERSITY HYMN

Words by Dr. J.F. Drake, AAMU President, 1927-62

Music Arranged by Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr.

Alabama A&M

Rich in heritage divine

Bless'd by the life of Council Brave

Who gave his all that thou might'st shine.

Many thy brave and loyal sons

Sent from thy shrine on Normal's Hill

*Filled with a Zeal for tasks well done Anxious thy man-
dates to fulfill.*

Long may you live to bless the world

For right and justice take a stand

As from your rocky heights you view

Your children's work throughout the land.

Chorus

Alma Mater, blest be thy name.

Long live thy fame, long live thy fame!

GRAVESITE CEREMONY

115TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF
DR. WILLIAM HOOPER COUNCILL
FOUNDER, ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

TRIBUTES

Mr. Mike Davis, Jr. '24

Executive President, Student Government Association 2023-2024

Mr. Michael Miller '84

*President, Alabama A&M University
National Alumni Association, Inc.*

Dr. Daniel K. Wims

President, Alabama A&M University

POEM

Mr. Van Dyke Walker, IV '24

"The Founder" - Thomas M. Elmore '20

LAYING OF THE WREATH

MUSIC

"God Moves in a Mysterious Way" - Conper
University Choir and Audience

BENEDICTION

Mr. Melvin Summerhill '74

TAPS

Mr. Carlton Wright '86

AAMU Director of Bands



GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY

Conper

*God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.*

*Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill.
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sovereign will.*

*Blind unbelief is sure to err And scan His work
in vain God is his own interpreter And He will
make it plain.*

BRIEF HISTORY

ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University is a land-grant University. It receives support from the State of Alabama and through federal funds appropriated to assist in carrying on work stipulated by the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890. The University is under the control of a board of trustees appointed by the Governor, who serves as ex officio Chairman.

The University was organized in 1875 as the result of a bill passed in the State Legislature in 1873 and through the continued efforts of its first principal and president, William Hooper Council, an ex-slave. The school opened on May 1, 1875, as the Huntsville Normal School with an appropriation of \$1,000 per year, 61 students, and two teachers.

Industrial education was introduced around 1878. It attracted wide attention, and the school was assisted financially by the Slater and Peabody Funds, along with private contributors. The work in industrial education was so successful that the State Legislature authorized the name to be changed to the "State Normal and Industrial School at Huntsville." The appropriation was increased by the State to \$4,000 per year.

In 1891, the school became the recipient of a part of the Federal Land-Grant Fund provided by an act of Congress, approved August 30, 1890. The purpose of this fund was to further training in agriculture and mechanical arts in the various states at the college level.

The name of the school was changed again to "The State Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes," and a new location was provided at Normal, Alabama, where the school would have ample room for the development of its trades and agricultural programs. In 1919, the institution became a junior college, and its name was changed to "The State Agricultural and Mechanical Institute for Negroes."

In 1939, by authority of the State Board of Education, the Institute was permitted to offer work on the senior college level. The first graduation class since 1920 received the bachelor's degree in 1941, and on January 14, 1948, the name was again changed to "Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College." On June 26, 1969, the Alabama State Board of Education, the governing body of the institution, adopted a resolution changing the name of the institution to "Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University."

The University received a “Class A” rating by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in August 1946 and became a fully accredited member of the Association in December 1963.

There have been three principals:

William Hooper Council, 1875-1887

Peter H. Clark, 1887-1888

William Hooper Council, 1888-1890

And, twelve presidents have served the institution:

William Hooper Council, 1890-1909

Walter S. Buchanan, 1909-1921

Theophilus R. Parker, 1921-1927

Joseph Fanning Drake, 1927-1962

Richard David Morrison, 1962-1984

Douglas Covington, 1984-1987

Carl Harris Marbury, 1987-1991

David Bernard Henson, 1992-1995

John T. Gibson, 1996-2005

Robert R. Jennings, 2006-2008

Andrew Hugine, Jr., 2009-December 31, 2021

Daniel K. Wims, 2022-Current

THE PRESIDENT'S OF ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY



WILLIAM HOOPER COUNCILL

1875-1909



William Solomon Buchanan
1909-1920



Theophilus Robert Parker
1921-1927



Joseph Fanning Drake
1927-1962



Richard David Morrison
1962 - 1984



Douglass Covington
1984 - 1987



Carl Harris Marbury
1987 - 1991



David B. Henson
1992 - 1995



John Thomas Gibson
1996 - 2005



Robert R. Jennings
2006 - 2008



Andrew Hugine, Jr.
2009 - 2021



Daniel K. Wims
2022-Present

GOLDEN CLASS HONOREES

CLASS OF 1974

Debra Faye King Alexander
 Emory Anthony, Jr.
 Felicia Summers Anthony
 Betty Kelly Austin
 Vallanda Gillis Baker
 David S. Barley, II
 LaJuan Harris-Barnes
 Charlie M. Barnes
 Christopher Bennett
 Linda Hinton Bishop
 Ruby Friend Blackburn
 Debra Brewer Blair
 Jacqueline Berry Carter
 Willie James Cheatham
 Veronica P. Curtis-Richie
 Clementine Dailey Brown
 Linda Lee Dennison
 Bobby D. Dennison
 Helen Y. Dodson
 Wilhelmina M. Evans
 Beverly Burnett Ferguson
 Shannon Rooks Fletcher
 Jacqueline Mack Freeman
 Rosa Pearl Goston
 Russell J. Green
 Adline Gulley
 Brenda Harris Beale
 Brendolyn Rutledge High
 Doris Hines Hunt
 Ecleave Hampton Jackson
 Loretta Maria Jennings
 Gloria Kirksey Burks
 James Maurice Lane
 Fletcher Law
 Willie Tom Littlepage
 * Harriett Sampson Littlepage
 Willie Earl Lloyd

Irene Woods Lloyd
 Mary Bernice Jackson Lockett
 Dolline Langham Marshall
 Queen Tolbert Martin
 Margaret Mason Morgan
 Tyrone McClain
 Bradley Jay McDonald
 Cleo B. Miller
 Isom J. Morgan, Jr.
 Vivian Ivy Morrow
 Selena Pollard Pearson
 Evelyn Penn
 Byron P. Poole
 Sametta Raybon Brown
 Linda Battle Readus
 Dan R. Ridgeway
 Maxine Hughes Rooks
 Ola Goode Sanders
 Josephine Dill Smith
 Florastein Caudle Stallworth
 John L. Stallworth
 Lillie M. Stanford
 Elaine Stewart McGuire
 Paulette Stinson Lavender
 Melvin Lee Summerhill
 Lois Norwood Thompson
 Ardean D. Turnbull
 Jacqueline Watts Poole
 David Washington West
 Zebedee Readus Williams
 Lizzie Askew Williams
 Dorothy Yvonne Knox Wilson
 Mary Wilson
 James F. Wilson

**Deceased*

2024 ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

Mary Jones Moore



Mary Jones Moore is a proud 1983 graduate of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (AAMU), Mary will let you know that she is a “Bulldog for Life” and she loves her Alma Mater!

Born in Toney, Alabama, Mary was raised in Huntsville. She is the daughter of the late John and Mable Leatherwood Jones. Mary was educated in the Huntsville City Schools and is a 1978 graduate of the “great” James Oliver Johnson High School. After graduating high school, Mary attended Alabama A&M University where she received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology. While in college, she played and lettered in volleyball (4 years) for the university as well as served as a member of the cheerleader squad. Mary serves as a test engineer with KBR Government Solutions (formerly CAS /Wyle CAS).

Mary is very active in her community as well as her church. She is the immediate past President of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association with a Silver Life–Membership; currently affiliated with the Huntsville Madison County Chapter. She serves as a volunteer with the AAMU Alumni Affairs office and is a member of the Alabama A&M University Bulldog Club. Mary is also a financial donor to the university and believes in giving back to her alma mater.

Strong in faith, Mary is an active member of Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, AL, where she serves as an usher, church and pastor anniversary committees and chairperson of the Scholarship Committee.

Mary is a life member of the NAACP where she serves as President of the Huntsville Madison County Branch. She has served in several leadership roles within the organization.

Mary is also a life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority where she has served as Vice President and on several committees. Mary has served on Delta Sigma Theta Alabama State Social Action Committee for several years. She believes that everyone “who can vote should vote”. Serving as a change agent in the community, Mary is aware that the struggle of systemic racism, police brutality, unfair housing, and the lack of affordable healthcare is real in the African American community. Mary is a member of Friends of Laura Hall and the Madison County Democratic Executive Committee, where she also serves as a member of the Minority Caucus. Mary has served as the team captain for Delta’s Relay for Life Team for several years and supports other organizations such as RiahRose for Children, Inc., Huntsville Community Drumline and the North Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation.

Mary is a graduate of the Leadership Huntsville/Madison County Masters Leadership Class 5. After her graduation, she served as a volunteer for the organization.

Enjoying helping young people, Mary is a co-founder of the Alabama A&M Baby Bulldog Cheerleaders (BBC). The cheerleaders not only cheer at Alabama A&M home football and basketball games, but they perform community service projects as well. Mary is proud to say that some of the former cheerleaders are either in college or have graduated college and are working in their field of study.

Mary enjoys spending time with her family, sports (especially Alabama A&M University), serving her community and Alma Mater, cooking and shopping (especially for cowboy boots). Mary’s favorite saying is “God Favors Me”!

THE NORMAL LEGACY SOCIETY

The Normal Legacy Society recognizes magnanimous contributions to Alabama A&M University to fulfill its noble mission of teaching, research and service.



CLASS OF 2010

Dr. Henry * & Mrs. Nell Bradford

Miss Bertha M. Jones *

Dr. Ernest & Mrs. Marion Knight

Dr. John & Mrs. Ella McCain *

Rev. Lucien M. Randolph *

Tom Joyner Foundation

Ms. Velma Walker *

Mr. Elbert & Mrs. Geneva Wright *

CLASS OF 2011

Judge W. Troy & Mrs. Sue C. Silmon Massey

CLASS OF 2013

Mr. Ronald & Mrs. Patricia McIntosh

Huntsville Hospital

CLASS OF 2015

The Reverend Dr. Belvie &

Mrs. Dorothy P. Brice

CLASS OF 2018

Mr. Dewayne O. Carter

Mrs. Annie Carter

CLASS OF 2019

Mr. John & Mrs. Margaret Davis

Dr. Andrew & Mrs. Abbiegail Hugine, Jr.

City of Birmingham, AL

CLASS OF 2022

Mr. Michael & Mrs. Chala Ford

Mr. Michael & Mrs. Robin Miller

Mr. Alvin* & Mrs. Boyette Presnell

Mr. Larry* & Mrs. Julia Shealey

** Deceased*

THE RICHARD D. MORRISON AWARD

The award is named for the fifth president of Alabama A&M University. Prior to his death, Dr. Morrison granted permission to have this award named in his honor. Dr. Morrison's tenure saw significant growth in the university and her transition into the mainstream of higher education as evidenced by acceptance for full membership into the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the regional accrediting body for higher education. He understood the significance of engaging the community in advancing the university. Dr. Morrison was revered as an exemplary educator, legendary advocate for 1890 land-grant institutions and viewed education as the springboard for bringing about economic development and freedom. Recipients of this award possess and demonstrate through their dedication and commitment a similar quest to better humankind through civic engagement, community service, and education.

Richard D. Morrison Award Recipients

2012

Dr. Homer McCall
Dr. Henry Bradford

2018

Commissioner Bob Harrison
Representative Jim Patterson

2013

Dr. Bernice Richardson

2019

Dr. Virginia Caples
Mr. Ron Poteat

2014

Ms. Beth Martin
Mrs. Cathy Miller

2022

The Honorable Linda
Coleman-Madison

2015

Mrs. Brenda Martin
Dr. Sonny Hereford

2023

Mrs. ShaVonne Cammack

2016

J.O. Johnson High School
Butler High School

2024

Mr. Daniel Kasambira

2017

Dr. Richard Showers
Attorney Jocelyn Boustani

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Dr. Daniel K. Wims, President

Dr. John Jones, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Dr. Majed Dweik, Vice President of Research and Economic Development
Mr. Carlton Spellman, Vice President of Business and Finance/CFO
Dr. Braque Talley, Vice President of Student Affairs
Mr. Jamal Ali, Vice President of Marketing, Communication, and Advancement
Dr. Kylie Nash, Vice President, Chief Information Officer
Mr. Shannon Reeves, Sr., Vice President Governmental Affairs and Special Relations
Ms. Rochelle Conley Esq., General Counsel
Dr. Paul Bryant, Jr., Athletic Director

UNIVERSITY CEREMONIAL & SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Dr. Rosetta Howard

Interim Associate Vice President, Faculty and Undergraduate Studies



Ms. Erika Baldwin
Dr. Bonnie Banks
Ms. Talietha Battle
Dr. Horace Carney
Mr. Marcell Craft
Dr. Ala'Torya Cranford
Mrs. Petura Mccaa-Burke
Ms. Debra Green
Mrs. Carla Draper-Holloway
Ms. Nicole Jackson
Ms. Jacobie Kelsey
Dr. Mira Kruja
Ms. Janae McDowell

Mr. Michael Morns
Dr. Kandace O'Neal
Mrs. Daryka Reeves
Mr. Jeffrey Robinson
Mrs. Lisa Spencer
Mrs. Sandra Stubbs
Ms. Retrina Taylor
Mrs. Taynetta Tibbs
Mr. Aaron Thompson
Ms. Erica Washington
Ms. Brenda Williams
Mr. Carlton Wright

FOUNDER'S CONVOCATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Sandra S. Stubbs, Chair

Director of Alumni Affairs



Ms. Kim Davis
Mr. Jamarcus Duncan
Ms. Susan Eason
Mr. Elvin Jenkins
Mr. Timothy Lemons

Ms. Symone Moore
Mr. Michael Morns
Mr. Jeffrey Robinson
Dr. Verlindsey Stewart
Mr. Aaron Thompson

Ushers

Ms. Linda McClellan, Chair
University Staff

SAVE THE DATE



150TH
FOUNDER'S DAY
Celebration

**Celebrating the Life and Legacy of
Dr. William Hooper Councill**

**FRIDAY
MAY 2, 2025**



www.aamu.edu