Introduction

This work is the culmination of research by the task force established to study the contributions of Black political scientists to the political science discipline to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS). The formal charge was to identify those Black political scientists who have made important contributions to the discipline in research, teaching, and service, then research and document the contributions that these persons have made to the discipline, and consider a tangible honor to bestow on these persons by the 50th Anniversary Meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The task force, co-chaired by Robert C. Smith and Sherri L. Wallace—with members Nikol G. Alexander-Floyd, Adolphus G. Belk, Jr., Gloria Braxton, Charisse Burden-Stelly, Tasha S. Philpot, and Wendy Smooth—held several teleconference meetings to determine and define the scope of the project. After some preliminary research findings, the task force settled on honoring our Founding Board of Directors (hereafter founders) as our contribution to the historical record. Members of the task force researched and prepared written profiles on each of our founders for a formal commemoration at a luncheon in their honor at the 50th anniversary meeting, and for publication and preservation in the inaugural National Review of Black Politics, published by University of California Press. This work serves as the historical record on the founders.

1 This report was commissioned and supported by the National Conference of Black Political Scientists Executive Council that established a task force on the Contributions of Black Political Scientists to the Political Science Discipline that was charged to research, interview and record the history of prominent Black political scientists. Each contribution on the founders were as follows: Adolphus G. Belk, Jr. researched R. Adams, M. Barnett and M. Jones; Gloria Braxton researched S. Lewis, L.B. McLemore and C. Miller; Charisse Burden-Stelly researched L. Henderson and M. King; Tasha S. Philpot researched C. Stone, H. Walton, and A. Willingham; Robert Smith researched W. Daniels, C. V. Gray, R. Holmes, and F. Morris, Sr.; Wendy Smooth researched J. Prestage and W. Robinson; and Sherri Wallace researched E. Jackson, and also F. Morris, Sr., J. Prestage and W. Robinson. Wallace compiled the historical record that was reviewed and endorsed by the task force members for publication. The task force committee took care to record accurate information. Our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions herein.
Brief History

The genesis and founding of the NCOBPS have been well-documented by Jones (1990), and Pinderhughes (1990), McCormick (2011), and Alexander-Floyd, Orey and Brown-Dean (2015), to name a few. The historical narrative describes an initial meeting of 35 Black political scientists from predominantly historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) met in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at Southern University and A&M College at a conference, co-sponsored by a grant from the Ford Foundation and the American Political Science Association (APSA) Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession, to discuss the “Political Science Curricula in the Predominantly Black Colleges.” A detailed, duly entitled report on the proceedings was written by the conference director, the late Jewel Limar Prestage, and the committee members: Russell Adams (North Carolina Central University), Mack Jones (Atlanta University), Robert Martin (Howard University), Lois Moreland (Spelman College), and Alex Willingham (then graduate student at the University of North Carolina). Prestage, Jones and Willingham—along with George Breathett (Bennett College), David Hazel (Central State University), Calvin Miller (Virginia State University), Adolph Reed, Sr. (Arkansas AM&N College), William Robinson (Norfolk State University), and Hanes Walton (Savannah State University)—presented the report to APSA leadership in the summer of 1969 (see historical photographs in Appendix A). The findings in their report and resulting sentiments from the conference planted seeds that sprouted and gave birth to the founding of an independent professional academic organization that officially became known as the NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK POLITICAL SCIENTISTS.

Eleven of the participants in the summer conference were among the eighteen founders (see surviving founders photograph in Appendix B). These Black political scientists were in a generation of visionary scholars, teachers, mentors, and advocates, who transformed academic disciplines and fields by founding this leading organization to study and promote Black politics
via a global African diaspora lens and to advance people of African descent in the profession and society. In alphabetical order, we provide a record of their personal histories as researched by members of the task force and taken from previously published oral interviews (Jewell 1990), personal interviews, online profiles, and published works.

The Founders of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists

Russell L. Adams

Dr. Russell L. Adams was born in Baltimore, MD, and raised in Quitman, GA in the Jim Crow South. He earned his BA in political science from Morehouse College, his MA (1954) and PhD (1965) from the University of Chicago. He worked in Chicago as a Cook County probation officer from 1958 to 1964 before his appointment as an assistant professor of political science at North Carolina Central University in Durham. In 1969, he joined the political science faculty at Federal City College (University of the District of Columbia), where he also served as acting director of the Division of Humanities. In 1971, he became chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies at Howard University during a time of students’ demands for Black studies programs. Under his guidance, he built such a program that the Ford Foundation credited as a premier model for an interdisciplinary Black studies curriculum and top producer in Black PhDs (Rojas 2007). During his 40-year career in higher education, Adams taught students together across two campuses—Howard and American University. He authored, Great Negroes, Past and Present ([1969] 1984), a volume for Black youth that offered biographies of important figures in Black history, and Leading American Negroes. Film. Chicago: Society for Visual Education, 1964. A
popular keynote speaker, Adams has lectured at the University of Maryland, Columbia University, Georgetown University, Rutgers University and Harvard University to name a few.

In addition to his work during a critical phase in the institutionalization of Black Studies, he also helped document the contributions of Blacks to political science. In the 1980-90s, he and other Black political scientists conducted interviews with senior Black scholars as a part of the African American Political Scientist Oral History Project, archived at the University of Kentucky’s Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History. He is listed as a history maker at the Historymakers.com under Education Makers. Retired, he is Professor Emeritus at Howard University. He and his wife Eleanor have two children.

Sources for this profile:


Adams, Russell (The HistoryMakers: Education Makers), The HistoryMakers Digital Archive. Session: Russell Adams details the history of Afro-American studies at Howard University, pt. 1 and Session: Russell Adams describes the social scene at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia during the late 1940s. Retrieved May 9, 2019 from https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/russell-adams-39


Marguerite “Margie” Ross Barnett
The late Dr. Marguerite “Margie” Ross Barnett was born in Charlottesville, VA, and raised in Buffalo, NY. She earned her BA (1964) in political science from Antioch College, and MA (1966) and PhD (1972) at the University of Chicago. In the course of completing her doctoral program, Barnett spent two years in India conducting field research. That work became part of a manuscript that launched an impressive career in academia.

She became known as a trailblazer in higher education as a scholar and college administrator. She held faculty appointments at the University of Chicago, Princeton University, Howard University, and Columbia University, where she served as department chair at Howard University, and as the director of the Institute for Urban and Minority Education at Columbia. She taught courses in comparative politics, urban politics, public policy, the politics of education, Black politics, and institutions. As a Comparativist, she authored, *The Politics of Cultural Nationalism in South India* (1976), which received the Ralph J. Bunche Award from APSA in 1981. As an Americanist, she edited four books, *Public Policy for the Black Community: Strategies and Perspectives* (1976), “The Congressional Black Caucus: Illusions and Realities of Power” (1982), *Race, Sex, and National Origin: Public Attitudes of Desegregation* (1985), and *Education Policy in an Era of Conservative Reform* (1986), and nearly fifty articles. With experience as a department chair and as a director, Barnett moved into the senior leadership ranks in the 1980s.

In 1983, Barnett joined the City University of New York (CUNY) to serve at the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs. From 1983 to 1986, she was responsible for academic planning and program development for the entire CUNY system, which then included 10,500 faculty members and nearly 200,000 students (Spectrum 1986). She was also instrumental in
creating a program to help low-income high school students transition to college life and find gainful employment upon graduation (DePalma 1992). In 1986, Barnett was selected as the fifth chancellor of the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL), becoming the first African American to hold the position. She was a “major force,” immediately earning a reputation as “an impeccable salesperson” and fundraiser.

During her first month at UMSL, John Ashcroft, then governor of Missouri, vetoed a bill that would expand USML’s Thomas Jefferson Library. Subsequently, Ashcroft gave Dr. Barnett a challenge: if she raised $1.2 million, he would approve the remaining $4.8 million needed for the library’s expansion. This seemed like an impossible feat as USML had only raised $30,000 at any given time. But Dr. Barnett not only accepted the challenge, she accomplished it and never looked back (Lucky 2012, 55).

After making a strong impression on campus and with key constituencies across the state, Barnett set out to transform UMSL by building bridges to the St. Louis community that opened it up to new groups of students. In her first address to UMSL, she remarked, “There is a pool of potential talent (of women, disadvantaged minorities and lower-income students), which is under-utilized in our society now. That pool of talent must be developed and encouraged if America is to maintain its position of technological leadership.” Barnett pursued this objective by creating the Partnership in Progress initiative, which connected a variety of educational programs designed to augment student capacities in STEM fields. This included a pre-collegiate enterprise that gave St. Louis students access to on-campus educational programs. Barnett often secured private dollars for these projects. Dr. Blanche M. Touhill, who served as her Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, observed, “Her message, to the corporations especially, was
that disadvantaged students were not going to move into science and technology given their high school preparation. So...companies donated to her programs” (Lucky 2012, 56). Under Barnett’s leadership, UMSL witnessed a 300 percent increase in private scholarships. Similarly, the racial diversity of both the student body and the faculty and staff also increased.

Following her tenure at UMSL, Barnett made history again in 1990 when she became the first African American and first woman president of the University of Houston (author’s italics). She arrived with an agenda informed by her successes in St. Louis, carrying the same vision of community engagement, economic development, fundraising, and inclusive excellence (Lucky 2012). She went to work molding UH into “the superb 21st century university,” delivering talks at more than 50 functions and securing major gifts, including $42.2 million in October 1990 and $51.4 million from John and Rebecca Moore in October 1991 (DePalma 1992; The Daily Cougar 1992). Ultimately, Barnett believed that urban universities could play a leading role in driving economic development and confronting societal ills. Although her time at UH was short, the university hired ten new faculty members of color and established the Texas Center for University-School Partnerships, which brought together business, educational, and civic leaders.

Barnett passed away from cancer on February 26, 1992, just four months shy of her 50th birthday. She was the nation's highest-ranked black woman college administrator at the time of her death (DePalma 1992). Amy DuBois Barnett, her only child, is the chief content officer for TheGrio and EVP, Digital for Byron Allen’s Entertainment Studios. She is also the mother of a son that Margie never experienced the joy of knowing.

Sources for this profile:


William “Bill” Daniels

Dr. William “Bill” Daniels, the third president of NCOBPS (1972-73), was born in Chicago, IL. He attended DuSable High School where one of his teachers was Timuel Black, a long time NCOBPS member and the legendary Chicago political activist. He received his BA in political science from Upper Iowa University, MA and PhD from the University of Iowa as a Woodrow Wilson fellow. Among his classmates at the University of Iowa was another NCOBPS founding member, Alex Willingham. From 1966-88, he served on the faculty of Union College in Schenectady, NY, as Professor, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, and Director of the
Congressional Internship Program. He was Adjunct Professor in Graduate School of Public Affairs and the Department of Afro-American Studies, SUNY Albany from 1969-70. In 1988, he left to become Professor of Political Science and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the Rochester Institute of Technology until 2004. While there, he was Director and Professor in the Summer Program in Dubrovnik, Croatia. He also spent two semesters as Professor of Political Science at the American College of Management and Technology. He authored *Governor Rockefeller of New York: The Apex of Pragmatic Liberalism in the United States* and has published articles and book reviews in *Congressional Quarterly; Presidential Studies Quarterly; National Political Science Review; Albany Law Review; Black Law Journal [UCLA]; and Texas Southern University Law Review*. He stays active in the local chapters of the NAACP and Urban League, where he served on the Board of Directors and as Chairman of the Advisory Council, his also served as a member on the Police and Citizens Together Against Crime, Rock City Scholars Program Board of Directors, New York State Dispute Resolution Association, Inc., and Police/Community Relations Advisory Board. He serves as a Rochester Institute of Technology, Institute of Fellows and has served on the Board of Directors for several local and political organizations, including: Hillside Children's Center, Hillside Children’s Center Board of Governors, Hillside Leader’s Council, Rochester-Monroe County Freedom Trail Commission, Urban League of Rochester New York, Urban League Advisory Council, Association of American Colleges and Universities, Elected State Representative, New York State Citizens Utility Board, Citizens for Law Order and Justice, New York State Certified Mediator; and other academic capacities as: Executive Council for Pi Sigma Alpha, National Political Science Honor Society, Consulting Editor, *Perspectives in Political Science*, NCOBPS Executive Council, Chairman, W.E.B. Du Bois Distinguished National Book Award Committee; Member, American Political Science Association (Vice President and Executive Council), Editorial Board,
American Political Science Review; and Faculty Mentor at Joseph Wilson Magnet High School, Rochester, New York.

In the Timuel Black’s second volume of his oral history of Chicago, *Bridges of Memory: Chicago’s Second Generation of Black Migration* (2008), Bill is one of thirty-one persons interviewed. In the interview he recounts his role in the founding of NCOPBS:

I always attended the meetings of the American Political Science Association, and in 1970, in Los Angeles, on my way to give a paper at a meeting, I believe, I became aware that there had been a heated discussion earlier that day about the relation between black political scientists and white political science, and they told me “You can’t go, you can’t give that paper”. And I said, “Why not? I came all across country to do it”. And they said, “Because now blacks are holding their own meeting”. So that’s when I got involved in some of the discussions involving whether we were going to continue to work within that organization or whether we should establish another organization of our own, and so the following year at Spelman – this was in 1971 – we had a series of discussions about how the black experience was being interpreted by white political scientists and the fact that there was a void that needed to be filled. Prior to that time as a matter of fact, I hadn’t really given a lot of thought to this issue. As a matter of fact, I was a black political scientist who was teaching basically white political science, and so at that point I began…. (pp. 275-76)

The recipient of numerous awards including: United Way of Rochester Howard Wilson Coles Society, Community Leadership Award (2016); Center for Dispute Settlement Janus Peacemaker Award (2014); Kathryn Terrell Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service (2011),
Outstanding Service to the Board of Directors, Urban League of Rochester (1992 and 2003); Distinguished Service Award, Urban League of Rochester (2003); Liberty Bell Award, Schenectady County Bar Association (1988); Distinguished Service Award, Center for Law, Order and Justice (1988); Certificate of Distinguished Service, National Conference of Black Political Scientists (1980 and 1984); Justice Tom C. Clark Award, Supreme Court of the United States (1979), Judicial Fellows Program Fellowship [Chief Justice Warren E. Burger], Supreme Court of the United States (1978-1979); Fulbright-Hays Lecturing Fellowship, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan (1973-1974); Alfred E. Smith Fellowship, Executive Chamber [Nelson E. Rockefeller], New York State Government (1970-1971); and Woodrow Wilson Fellowship (1962-1963). He still lives in upstate New York area where in retirement, he does occasional work as an arbitrator. He has been married to Fannie Pearl Hudson for over 55-years. They have a daughter and a grandson.

Sources for this profile:

Daniels, W. J. (2019, May 9). Dr William J. Daniels Curriculum Vitae.


C. Vernon Gray
Dr. C. Vernon Gray, the eighth president of NCOBPS (1971-78), was born in Sunderland, Maryland. He received his BA from Morgan State, his MA from Atlanta University, and PhD from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He was Assistant professor of Political Science at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, before joining the Political Science faculty at Morgan State, where he also served as chair, and spent thirty-years before he retired. He taught courses in American politics, public policy, civil liberties, and lobbying. He was also an adjunct Professor at Howard University, Goucher College, University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), and University of Maryland College Park. He was the former director of research at the Joint Center for Political Studies.

Being a politically engaged scholar and active in Maryland politics, he was elected to the Howard County Council in 1982 in a majority white district, as the first Black elected to any office in that County. As a member of the Council, Gray focused on affordable housing, health care, and minority business. He was noted for his strong constituent service also. He was elected president of both the state of Maryland and National Association of Counties. Since 2006, he has been an administrator of the Howard County Office of Human Rights. He has served on the Foreign Service Selection Board at the US State Department. Today, Gray participates in a wide array of community activities including serving on Boards of Director of Community Action Council, Healthy Families-Howard County and the First Tee of Howard County, where he is the founder of these latter two programs. Healthy Families provides service to first time mothers and the First Tee promotes character development and life enhancing values through the game of golf. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Sigma Pi Phi
Fraternity (Boule), a life member of the NAACP, and served on the Board of Trustees at St. John Baptist Church. He is the recipient of numerous public service awards, including the Governor of Maryland’s citation for service. He lives in Columbia, MD, with his wife Sandra Trice Gray, CAE former U.S. Assistant Commission of Education and Executive Assistant to Under Secretary of Education and currently, President Center Light and Love. They have two children and one grandchild.

_Sources for this profile:_

Gray, C. Vernon (2018, May 9). _Dr. C. Vernon Curriculum Vitae._


**Lenneal J. Henderson, Jr.**

Dr. Lenneal J. Henderson, Jr. the twenty-fifth President of NCOBPS (1995-96), was born in New Orleans, LA, and raised in San Francisco, CA. He earned his BA, MA and the PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. As at student, he was active in the Afro-American Students Association. When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. visited the campus to protest the Vietnam War and to recruit volunteers for the Poor Peoples Campaign, Henderson joined and traveled to Washington, DC as one of the thousands of protestors who occupied the National Mall for time 42 days at Resurrection City (Diamond 2018). Henderson recalled that it was being “raised in the housing projects of New Orleans and San Francisco, and [having] parents [who] were very strong community advocates. [And having] witnessed the Black Panther Party emerge in Oakland in 1966. Stokely Carmichael’s call for Black Power focused on the need to transform our
communities first…” that led to his resolve for political activism. At age 19, he was the youngest of the NCOBPS founders. He has held faculty positions at St. Mary’s College and the University of San Francisco as Director of Ethnic Studies, in California, Xavier University, the University of Tennessee as Department Chair, Howard University, North Carolina Central as Daniel T. Blue Endowed Chair in Political Science, and at the University of Baltimore, MD, as Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the School of Public and International Affairs. Also, for more than a decade, he was a faculty associate of the Fielding Institute. In “retirement,” he is visiting adjunct at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA. His major areas of research are black politics and public administration, where he has published extensively, and he has done extensive work in the area of national energy policy. He authored, *Black Political Life in the United States: A Fist as a Pendulum* (1972), first Black Politics reader conceived from a clear Black perspective, and other works. He has worked for the US Department of Energy, the US Department of State, the Environmental Protection Agency, and with the Marion Barry mayoral administration. He was faculty associate at the Fielding Institute, and fellow and associate director of research at the Joint Center for Political Studies. He also performs his one-man “Thurgood Marshall” play. He and his wife Joyce have two sons, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Sources for this profile:**


Robert “Bob” A. Holmes

Dr. Robert “Bob” A. Holmes, the fourth president of NCOBPS (1973-74), was born in Shepherdson, West Virginia. He earned his BA in political science from Shepard College in West Virginia. A Woodrow Wilson Fellow, he earned his PhD from Columbia University under the tutelage of Robert Weaver, the first Black to serve in the Cabinet of a US President. In 1969, he was recruited by Jewel Prestage to join the political science faculty at Southern University. He left to join the political science faculty at Baruch College in New York as a professor and director of the “SEEK” program. He was recruited by Mack Jones to join Atlanta University’s (now Clark Atlanta University, CAU) political science faculty, where he helped to start the PhD program and retired in 2005. A prolific scholar, he authored *Maynard Jackson: A Biography* (2009) and an autobiography, *From Poverty to History Maker* (2014), over 50 articles. In Georgia, Holmes participated in multiple neighborhood and political associations in the City of Atlanta. He worked on the Andrew Young for Congress campaign and Maynard Jackson’s mayoral campaign before his own election to the Georgia General Assembly, where he served for 34 years from 1974-2008. In recognition of his outstanding community service, a portion of Interstate 285 in Atlanta is named in his honor. He was the director of the Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy and the editor of the
acclaimed *State of Black Atlanta* series from 1993-2005. In retirement, he has been as a consultant to the Nigerian Congress, and the National Popular Vote Project (NPVP). He has participated in over 150 races and is a member of the board of directors of the Road Runners Club of America. He is married to Gloria Carley Holmes, the father of three and the grandfather of eight.

**Sources for this profile:**


**Edward R. Jackson**

Dr. Edward R. Jackson, a native of New Iberia, Louisiana, earned his BA (1965) from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, his MA (1965) in Political Science from Marquette University and PhD (1968) in Political Science from the University of Iowa. He was hired as an assistant professor at Southern University in 1968, where he became acting department chair. Other teaching jobs included positions at Fisk University in Nashville, TN, Howard University in Orangeburg, SC, where he established an Honors College. He served as vice provost and vice president of academic affairs at South Carolina State before returning to Southern University & AM College-Baton Rouge campus to serve as dean of the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, executive vice president and provost before his
appointment as the seventh chancellor in 1988 by the Southern University Board of Supervisors. He also held positions in prestigious research organizations like the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Sources for this profile:

Mack H. Jones

Dr. Mack H. Jones, the first president of NCOBPS (1970-71), was born in Oakdale, LA, to a large family. In an oral interview, Jones (1994) recounts he was raised by parents who gave him “a very strong sense of race, pride, fight, and struggle.” His father was a laborer and a minister, so the church inculcated within Jones with a “sense of justice.” Together, his parents set a remarkable example because they would “defy white people” about things that mattered. The Joneses also placed a great emphasis on education. “[T]hey wanted us to have a better life than they had, and that to make that possible, we had to be educated.” Jones put those values into action at Southern University. He came of age at the height of the Freedom Movement. He was expelled in 1960 for protesting segregated facilities at an area bus terminal, launching a case that ultimately landed in the Supreme Court (Garner v. Louisiana 1961). Although he completed his BA degree at Texas Southern University and later enrolled as a graduate student at the University of Illinois, Jones did not forsake his commitment to the struggle. Instead, he continued organizing while earning both an M.A. and a Ph.D. In 1964, as president of the campus NAACP, Jones helped lead a demonstration against U.S. senator and
presidential candidate Barry Goldwater (R-AZ) during a visit to the university. Jones’ dedication to the movement did not waver as he transitioned from student to teacher.

In 1966, Jones returned to Texas Southern as an assistant professor—having been hired over the objection of the department chair. “Jones, along with three other young scholars from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, interacted with students on several issues and saw the world through lens different from some older, more conservative professors” (Pitre 2018). Branded a troublemaker, the administration declined to renew Jones' contract because of his support for student activists. Thus, after serving on the TSU faculty for one year, he headed to Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University).

As an activist, educator, and scholar at Atlanta University, Jones’ teaching and research offered an unremitting critique of the white supremacy and its role in shaping American politics and policy. Moreover, in establishing NCOBPS as a “self-directed and self-defining” association, he wanted to develop “a black political science” to push the boundaries of knowledge and to use that scholarship to promote black liberation worldwide (2014, 32). Over the course of a career that spanned five decades, Jones held appointments at historically black colleges across the South, including Howard University, Prairie View A&M University, Kentucky State University, and Mississippi Valley State University. Now retired, Jones holds emeritus status at Valley and Clark Atlanta.

When it came to undergraduate instruction, Jones (1994) argued that while most students were taking courses from “the dominant American worldview,” he was more interested in generating knowledge that black folk could use to transform their condition. It was imperative, then, for students to get a foundation in “the philosophy of the social sciences” so that they understood how knowledge was generated. With regard to training graduate students, Jones’ work at CAU was especially noteworthy for its impact on the discipline. As chair of the political
science department in 1968, Jones helped establish a PhD program with a $1.7 million grant from the Ford Foundation ($12.6 million in 2018 dollars). In appealing for funding, the department contended it was vital to develop a new political science and that “it would make sense to have at least one place where black folk would develop curriculum that came out of our own experiences.” With the grant secured, the department hired new professors, funded graduate fellowships, and built one of the top producers of black political scientists in the nation.

Jones’ commitment to black liberation informed both his teaching and scholarship, which engaged the epistemology, theory, and practice of black politics, as well as race and policy. Reflecting on how his work aided the institutionalization of the study of race and inequality, Robert C. Smith wrote, “Beginning with his 1969 essay ‘A Frame of Reference for Black Politics,’ Jones wrote a series of important articles and book chapters that constitute ‘a foundational stone for the edifice of scholarship that makes the case for and sketches the contours of black politics’” (2014, ix). With the publication of Knowledge, Power, and Black Politics: Collected Essays the public now has easy access to seminal papers that “trace the development, evolution, and maturation of a Black perspective in the scientific study of politics and its impact on the discipline.” What is more, not only did Jones write for scholars, he also wrote for undergraduates who were new to the study of black politics. Collaborating with Lucius J. Barker and Katherine Tate, Jones brought forth African Americans and the American Political System, a major contribution to undergraduate education that was first published by Barker and Jesse McCorry in 1976. It was published in four editions from 1976 to 1999.

Lastly, in working with a diverse group of scholars to launch NCOBPS as an independent organization, Jones (2014) and others wanted “to involve the membership in the political life and struggles of the black nation,” both nationally and internationally (33). It was vital to him that black political scientists not go mainstream, but “form the core of the colony of dissenters” so
they might develop “a liberating scholarship” to help black folk attain freedom, justice, equality, and peace. He served as the group’s first president from 1970 to 1971. He is married to Dr. Barbara Ann Posey Jones, an economist, university administrator, and activist in her own right. They have three children and a host of grandchildren.

Sources for this profile:


Mae Coates King

Dr. Mae Coates King was born in Lee County, Arkansas, to a farmer and preacher father and a housewife mother. It was her grandfather, Robert, who piqued her interest in Africa that would shape her career. In March 1960, Mae C. King went to jail. As a twenty-one-year-old student at Bishop College, an HBCU, and Chairman of the local chapter of the National Student Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), she was at the forefront of student challenges to racial
discrimination in local community of Marshall, TX. There, she helped to lead sit-ins and other forms of direct action after being trained in nonviolent tactics by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. This commitment to justice and equality was met with violent repression from law enforcement and she, along with hundreds of other student protestors, were arrested, jailed, and put on trial. Undeterred, King continued to struggle against structural racism and to speak out about her experience of confinement. These acts of courage and commitment garnered the respect and praise of her peers. While at Bishop College, she developed an interest in international relations through the mentorship of Dr. Jenkins, the Dean of Women at the College, and through her work with students from several countries in the YWCA. King went on to earn her BA (1960) in social study with a minor in history. She went directly to graduate school on a National Defense Education Fellowship, choosing Political Science as her area of study at the University Idaho. After writing a thesis on contemporary nationalism in Ghana, she earned her MA in 1962. She went on to obtain a PhD in 1968, concentrating her dissertation research on the United Nations and the Congo crisis. In between these degrees, she took time off in 1963 to teach Political Science at Texas Southern University; there she met a few Black political scientists, including Mack Jones.

From 1975-89, she taught and conducted research at the University of Benin in Nigeria. She was hired at American Political Science Association (APSA), as the first Black and first woman to work on its professional staff, leading what came to be known as the Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession and the Committee on the Status of Women. Though the situation was often tense, she was able to persist because she had Jewel Limar Prestage—the first Black to earn PhD in political science—as a model and mentor. When NCOBPS was founded, King was a key figure in APSA. In 1970, these two trailblazing women worked together to organize the pivotal, now infamous, conference in Baton Rouge, LA, that birthed NCOBPS. King ultimately
understood NCOBPS as an organization committed to the work that APSA had long neglected, namely the engagement of Black political scientists. After the founding of NCOBPS, she served as membership secretary and secretary-treasurer of the Graduate Assistantship Program, where she was in direct contact with Black political scientists and helped to cultivate a strong and enduring network among them.

Her dedication to Black freedom and the flourishing of African people did not abate with the end of de jure segregation; indeed, it is her persistent scholar-activism on behalf of the continent and its descendants in the Diaspora that makes her one of the most important Black political scientists of our time. Along with co-founding NCOBPS, Dr. King has been instrumental in building, leading, and representing other organizations germane to African descendants, including the National Council of Negro Women and the African Studies Association. When the latter continued to undermine the work of Black scholars on Africa, Dr. King helped to form the African Heritage Studies Association, of which she is a lifetime member and a former Director.

In recognition of her significant work, the Association for the Study of Black Women in Politics created the “Mae C. King Distinguished Paper Award on Women, Gender, and Politics” in her honor. Given her seminal text on Nigerian politics, *Basic Currents of Nigerian Foreign Policy* (1996); critical work on U.S. foreign policy toward Africa, entitled “Race and U.S. Foreign Policy: Reflections on West Africa” and groundbreaking interventions on Black women in politics, including, “The Politics of Sexual Stereotypes” (1973) and “Oppression and Power: The Unique Status of the Black Woman in the American Political System,” (1975), it is fitting that an award in her name is bestowed each year upon the best paper presented in political science on women, gender, and Black Politics at a national or regional political science conference. Following in the footsteps of her mentor, Jewel Prestage, King has paved the way
for a generation of Black political scientists generally, and Black female political scientists particularly, to engage in activist-scholarship across the discipline, including in international relations, comparative politics, and Black politics. She has made a significant contribution to the modern Black Liberation Movement, and to other fields of study, including African studies, Black studies, and Black women’s studies. In this way, she serves as a model for leaving our disciplines, institutions, and communities in a better condition than we found it.

Sources for this profile:


Shelby Faye Lewis
Dr. Shelby Faye Lewis, the twelfth president of NCOBPS (1981-82), was born in Plain Dealing, a small town in Bossier Parish, Louisiana. She earned her BA (1960) in political science from Southern University (SU), under the tutelage of noted political scientists, Rodney Higgins, Jewel Limar Prestage, Twiley Barker, and Arthur Penson. She earned her MA (1963) from the University of Massachusetts, and PhD (1973) from the University of New Orleans. Her career spans nearly six decades holding positions as a teacher, scholar, consultant and administrator in academic institutions globally, where she has made a profound impact as a consummate scholar and highly respected professional within the fields of African Politics, international development, and Africana women studies and women in development. With a focus on addressing the challenges of international development within Global Africa, the impact of her work is evident on five of the world’s continents where she has skillfully served in positions of strategic administrative and managerial positions at higher education institutions, non-profit organizations, and government agencies.

She began her career in 1962 in Uganda working for the Teachers for East Africa (TEA) Project. In 1967, she became Director of the Council of the Africa American Institute in NY. She left to join the Political Science Faculty at SU in 1968. For 22-years, she was a faculty, administrator and published scholar at Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University, CAU) and did short-term teaching, research and consulting in Africa, Asia, Latin American and the Caribbean. At CAU, Morris Brown and Dillard University, she served as Vice President Academic Affairs; Vice President of Research and Sponsored Programs: Dean of Arts and Sciences and Coordinator of International Programs until 1995. She promoted networks across
continents and changed the way faculty and students practiced education, civic education, human rights, women studies, democratization, internationalization, and international development. The most significant of these collaborations was the development and implementation of the first interdisciplinary doctoral programs in the United States—the Africana Women’s Program—that continues to provide graduate instruction at CAU. Likewise, other such endeavors have included the creation of the Women’s Institute of the South East, the Black Women’s Coalition of Atlanta, and the Director of the Conference on Human Rights in Southern Africa. While serving as a Fulbright Professor at the National University of Lesotho, she founded and edited the *Network: A Pan African Women’s Journal* and co-founded the Development Consultants Network in Zimbabwe. She has participated in curriculum assessment and program design teams in Tunisia, Lesotho, Niger, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, Ghana, Zambia, Liberia, Nigeria, and the United States.

Before becoming Vice President of International Development at the United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation (UNCFSP), Lewis authored the proposal that funded the U.S. Agency for International Development $30 million Tertiary Education Linkages Project in South Africa. Her most broad-ranging contribution was the design, development, and implementation of programs under the Global Center that spans 32 countries. The Center included higher education partnerships, international fellowships, collaborative research, academic and cultural exchanges, student academic training and development, consultations on international policy, special seminars and policy forums, small grants, and special projects. Lewis also served for two terms on the Board of the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) where she established a teaming partnership agreement between with UNCFSP and CIES. President Barack Obama appointed Lewis to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board in 2010, where she also served as the Board’s Vice Chair.
Lewis was the motivating force behind the creation of the Jewel Prestage Mentorship Foundation (later renamed the Jewel and James Prestage Mentorship Foundation) and provided the critical leadership during its formative years. She worked closely with the Robert Woodruff Archival Research Center within the CAU to create the James and Jewel Prestage Archival Collection. As a Board Member of the Foundation, she became the lead person to ensure the preservation of documents related to the Archival Collection that houses the papers and photographs that chronicle Prestages’ lifetime contributions at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and other historically black universities and colleges.

As Professor Emeritus at CAU, Lewis founded and serves as the Executive Director of the John C. and Mary D. Lewis Foundation, a family foundation that was named for her parents. Her father was a barber and her mother a school cafeteria worker. The Foundation focuses on providing scholarships and educational enrichment programs for deserving students in her hometown of Plain Dealing, Louisiana.

As a NCOBPS founding member who also participated in the first gathering of Black political scientists held at Southern University in 1969, she has also served on the APSA’s Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession. In addition to serving as NCOBPS president, she served on other committees, including as Chair of the Katrina Task Force, where she edited its publication, *Historical Inevitability: The Role of Hurricane Katrina in the New Orleans Saga* (2009). She currently serves as the Co-Chair of the NCOBPS Council of Presidents. She is the mother of two.

Sources for this profile:


Leslie Burl McLemore

Dr. Leslie Burl McLemore, the fifth and sixth president of NCOBPS (1975-76), was born in Walls, Mississippi. Growing up very close to Memphis, Tennessee, he was educated in the public schools of DeSoto County and Memphis. He was raised by a single mother and his maternal grandfather, Leslie Williams, an independent businessman and landowner, who strongly encouraged his political consciousness and interest in public office. His father, Burl McLemore, was a sharecropper. A pioneering civil rights and skillful scholar-activist, he earned his BA in social science and economics from Rust College on a full scholarship. (Although he earned a full scholarship to attend Mississippi Valley State University, he chose Rust College because of a warning given him by his social studies teacher that he would not last long, at what was known at the time Mississippi Vocational College, because of his high school activism.) McLemore earned his MA in political science at Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University, CAU) and PhD in government at the University of Massachusetts. He also completed postdoctoral work at The Johns Hopkins University and Harvard University.
He first became seriously involved in the Civil Rights Movement as a freshman at Rust College, where within in month, he participated in a boycott of a theatre in Holly Springs because of the refusal to allow Blacks to sit in the downstairs section. While at Rust College, he became the founding Chapter President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As an active participant in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) with various voter registration drives in 1963, he became the northern regional coordinator of the Freedom Vote Campaign and later the Vice Chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. McLemore served as a delegate to the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, where the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party challenged the seating of the all-white delegation from the Mississippi Democratic Party. He was also a member of the Platform Committee of the 1988 Democratic National Committee.

McLemore attended all the NCOBPS formative and founding meetings in Baton Rouge, New York, and Atlanta. He was the first to serve two terms (1974-76) as NCOBPS president because the fifth duly elected president, Tandy Tollerson from Fisk University, resigned shortly after beginning his term. He remembers being overwhelmed in Baton Rouge by the gathering of so many Black Political Scientists in one place as this became a pivotal meeting not only for Black political scientists, but Black sociologists, psychologists, and other Black social scientists who modeled their organizations after NCOBPS. Attending the initial founding meeting at Southern University as a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts along with a number of other Black political science graduate students, he recalled many of those who were at that meeting and the institutions they represented, including participants from historically black colleges and universities and predominantly white institutions. He describes, in an interview, the founding meetings as great gatherings of women and men who were so young and full of energy and ideas, having great debates and even greater parties.
In 1971, he was the founding chair of the political science department at Jackson State University (JSU), where he spent most of his professional career, serving in a variety of strategic administrative roles. He was the Dean of the Graduate School, Founding Director of the Office of Research Administration and the Fannie Lou Hamer National Institute on Citizenship and Democracy—which focuses on engaging schoolchildren, community members, teachers, and college faculty more directly in the work of democracy—and established the first Department of Public Policy and Administration. In 2010, he served as the Interim President of the University. Having played a leading role in the development of linkages and alliances between universities and major research institutions, he has also served as the Chair of the Council of Graduate Schools Committee on Minority Graduate Education and Chaired the Task Force on Minority Graduate Education of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools.

McLemore’s research contributions to the discipline have focused on his involvement in Southern Black electoral politics. Beginning with his dissertation, his research became the first formal study of the impact and influence of a local political movement, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, where he has maintained his interest in the potential impact of political engagement and making substantive change. He is the author of several articles on Black Politics, the Civil Rights Movement, and Environmental Politics. Notably, his co-authored works include, “The Fannie Lou Hamer National Institute on Citizenship and Democracy: Engaging a Curriculum and Pedagogy,” (with Michelle D. Deardorff, Jefferey Kolnick, and Thandekile R.M. Mvusi in History Teacher, 38(4):441, 2005) and Freedom Summer: A Brief History with Documents (with John Dittmer and Jeff Kolnick, Bedford/St. Martin’s Press, New York, 2017).

For the State of Mississippi, he served as the acting director of the University Center, chair of the Mississippi Humanities Council and vice chair of the Board of the Federation of
State Humanities Councils, receiving many awards for his life-time contributions to the humanities. Actively involved in protest and electoral politics, McLemore ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Congress in 1980, however, won a 1999 special election to fill a vacant seat on the Jackson City Council where he served for ten years, five as President of the Council and later serving for a brief period as the acting Mayor after the passing of the sitting Mayor. While serving on the City Council, he served as the Vice Chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and a member of the Veterans of Mississippi Civil Rights Movement. He serves as a member of the Walls, MS Board of Aldermen where he made history as one of two African Americans elected to the Board, and continues to serve as an advisor to the Office of Alumni Development at Rust College and recently completed a stint (2013-2017) as a coach-mentor with the W.K. Kellogg Community Leadership Network. McLemore has mentored young people through the Jackson Chapter of 100 Black Men. He is the founding chair of the Youth Leadership Development Program for middle school students in Jackson and is currently mentoring student at Walls Elementary School, which is in his former high school in Delta Center.

McLemore civil rights work has been shared with national audiences through his appearances on the C-Span network in six videos when he served as the Chair for the Mississippi Board of Directors of the Mississippi Freedom 50th Foundation and as the Project Director of the National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History Project. He is married to Attorney Betty A. Mallet, the father of one son, who is married with one child.

Sources for this profile:

Dr. Leslie Burl McLemore. (2017, December 12). Biographical Sketch

Calvin Miller

The late Dr. Calvin Miller was born in the Jim Crow south, rigidly segregated Bessemer, Alabama. He enrolled at Morehouse College in 1942; however, two years into his undergraduate studies, he was drafted into the army during World War II. Upon completion of military service, he earned his BA and MA in Political Science from the New School for Social Research in New York City, NY, while working at the United Nations. According to the 1972 Biographical Directory, he earned another MA (1963) from New York University, and later his PhD in Political Science from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. Miller was a practitioner, scholar and activist, who actively marched in protest with the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He participated in the 1965 March for voting rights in Selma, Alabama.

He served as the Chair of the Department of Political Science at Virginia State University (VSU) for 26-years. His first political science teaching positions were held in his home state at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, AL, and Jackson State University (JSU) in Jackson, MS,
before joining the faculty at VSU in Petersburg, Virginia. Upon his retirement from VSU in 1992, he returned to teach at JSU, where he ended his 35-year storied teaching career. At VSU, he taught courses in civil rights, state and local government, American Government and electoral politics. Miller garnered tremendous respect from students, colleagues, and administrators. He also served as the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Education. The chair of the VSU Department of Political Science, Gary Baker, remarked in a 2008 tribute for Miller:

He helped shape his students’ understanding of civil rights, grassroots politics, and government and election…It is because of his teaching, community activism, and nurturing of students that he gained the respect of students, colleagues and administrators. Dr. Miller’s legacy of teaching and commitment to community activism will continue to live through the generations of students who lives he has touched and changed (p. 636).

Nealy, who was also his student, wrote that Miller was a thought-provoking scholar who was not timid about pontificating on issues affecting the African American Community. Stating, Miller was a professor who was deeply committed and dedicated and rooted in advancing the African American race collectively. One of the critical issues that concerned him was the proliferation of young African American males becoming incarcerated in America’s industrial prison complex (p. 637).

Miller’s first wife, D. Antoinette Handy-Miller, was a renowned jazz flutist and jazz historian who also taught music at Virginia State University. She later directed the Music Grants Program for the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C., where she helped establish a national jazz support group. The Millers were married for 43 years. D. Antoinette Handy-
Miller passed in 2002. His second wife also preceded him in death. At the time of his passing on December 4, 2007 in Nashville, TN, Miller’s survivors were two sons, one daughter, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. At his request, his body was donated to Meharry Medical College in Nashville.

**Sources for this profile:**


**Frank Morris, Sr.**

Dr. Frank Morris, Sr., was born in Cairo, IL. He earned his BA with honors from Colgate University with high honors, and his MA in Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. He completed all requirements for the MA in International Affairs from Georgetown University before transferring to complete his PhD in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Over the span of his career, he served as the Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University of Maryland at College Park; a visiting professor in the O’Connor Chair at Colgate; as an associate professor at Northwestern University; and as a visiting professor in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Texas, Dallas. He was Dean of Graduate Studies and Urban Research at Morgan State University until he retired in 1995. His areas of expertise include international management and development policy analysis with specialization in immigration, poverty, environmental and educational policies which have differential impact upon African Americans and other low-income Americans. Through his numerous congressional testimonies, he helped Morgan and eight other HBCU graduate schools gain access to graduate funding under
Title III of the Higher Education Act. He helped win a $5 million grant designating Morgan as a national transportation center, which he supervised. He also served on 30 doctoral committees in educational administration.

Outside academia, he held key positions as Executive Director at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Special Assistant to the Director of the National Institute for Education while serving as a national Educational Policy Fellow, Senior Foreign Service Officer for the Agency for International Development in the US State Department, Chief of Planning and Policy Analysis for the federal war on poverty agency, as a federal management intern and multiply promoted manager in urban renewal for the federal department of Housing and Urban Affairs while stationed in the Pacific Northwest, and as a researcher at Syracuse for the New York State Mental Health Research Unit.

In the 1990s, he was a member of the Board of the Center for Immigration Research and the 911 Families for a Secure America. He was president of the Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools, served on the NAACP National Educational Advisory Board, the Education Testing Service GRE Advisory Committee, the AARP National Policy Council, as a trustee of Huston Tillotson University, as a chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Sustainable America (AS-USA), and moderator/chairman of the Domestic Mission Board of the United Church of Christ (UCC). He has received honors and awards from NAACP, the US State Department, and Chicago Defender as father of the year. He is listed as a history maker at the historymakers.com under notable educators. He and his wife Winston Baker have been married over 60-years. They have four children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren and live in DeSoto, TX.

Sources for this profile:

Jewel Limar Prestage

The late Dr. Jewel Limar Prestage, the seventh- and first-woman president of NCOBPS (1976-77), was born in the town of Hutton, Vernon Parish, Louisiana. She earned her BA from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, where she graduated summa cum laude. She earned her MA and PhD from the University of Iowa in 1954, as the first Black woman, and one of the youngest, to earn a PhD in political science in the US. She was hired on the faculty at Prairie View A&M University in Texas; however, she returned to the political science department at Southern University A&M (SU) where she would make her indelible mark as a faculty member, department chair, Dean of the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs and founder of NCOBPS and mother of Black Politics. Her storied, professional career as a scholar-educator-citizen activist, political scientist, author, and beloved teacher/mentor spanned over five decades. She would change the consciousness of the discipline through her institutional capacity building within and across the political science profession.

Martin (2005) recounts the scholar-educator-citizen activism of Jewel Prestage. She details how Prestage, along with husband and fellow academician, James, became a political activist in the community surrounding Southern University in the early to mid-1960s. The Prestages joined the Second Ward Voters League to get Louisiana Blacks registered to vote, even before the landmark Voting Rights Act in 1965. After the adoption of VRA, they trained Blacks to run for office via the newly established Louisiana Center to Assist Black Elected
Officials and registered citizens to vote. She even fought and won her battle to get quality civic education incorporated into the school curriculum. Working through the National Defense Education Act Civics Institute (1967-69) and the Robert A. Taft Seminars for Social Science Teachers (1979-92), Prestage led the way for over 500 teachers to learn and teach civic education in the state of Louisiana.

As a political scientist in 1968, from her office at SU, her clarion call to action gave voice to a group of 35 Black scholars who attended the infamous meeting on “Political Science Curricula in the Predominantly Black Colleges.” In her simple action of calling a meeting, she galvanized these Black scholars to challenge and transform a hegemonic discipline and set in motion the founding of National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS), planting a seed that shaped the future of the study of Black Politics and the careers of countless blacks in the profession. Her astute organizing skills and steadfast insistence that rather than wait on full inclusion into the discipline, Blacks needed to organize their own organization. As a result, NCOBPS was founded as an independent professional academic organization in 1969. In founding this organization, she created an institutional home for the study of Black Politics where practitioners and students continue to keep race and racial politics central in public debates.

An institutional builder at the core, Prestage recognized the need to sustain and broaden the training of Black political scientists beyond HBCUs. The Ralph Bunche Summer Institute (RBSI) in 1986—a major undertaking given the declining enrollment of Black political science graduate students in the early 1980s—was her brainchild (Preston and Woodard 1984). RBSI created through a partnership between the APSA, the Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession, and Prestage and Peter Zwick of Louisiana State University. Originally started as a summer program for Black students, Bunche “aimed to increase diversity within the discipline
by introducing students to the graduate experience and to senior scholars in the discipline” (2016). It continues at Duke University, expanded to include underrepresented and first-generation students.

As an author, she is among the first to critically examine the role of Black women in politics, making an argument for the unique contributions they make informed by the intersection of race and gender. Her book, A Portrait of Marginality: The Political Behavior of the American Woman (1977), co-authored with Marianne Githens, has been described as a classic study of women and politics (Martin 2005). She also wrote a series of scholarly articles that chronicled the rise in Black women elected officials following the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

While Jewel Limar Prestage will be remembered for many great things, the ultimate marker of her gift to academia was the founding of the NCOBPS and her teaching and mentoring of countless students. Mack Jones, one of the NCOBPS founders, was also a student of Prestage. He credits her with him becoming a political scientist. Jones recalled, “[a]fter reading my first exam in her freshman American government class, she concluded that I had potential and shared the exam paper with the department chair, who, in turn, called me into his office for a chat and that is how I became a political scientist” (Proclamation, 2014). It became a custom for those who were taught by Prestage to call themselves “Jewel’s Jewels;” however, so many scholars are part of her legacy having felt Jewel’s gentle touch on their careers through her numerous personal letters and telephone calls. Well known for spotting a student’s potential early, there are hundreds of students who have their own personal stories of how they were informed and transformed by what she saw in their educational futures, simply because Prestage made it her mission to invest in preparing generations of Black students for careers in the academy, namely 45 PhDs and over 200 lawyers, judges, elected officials, administrators, commissioned military officers, and business executives. When asked about her teaching philosophy, she remarked,
“you must always keep your students in mind, because if your students do not achieve you are nothing, because the essence of teaching is reflected in changes we make in the human condition” (Martin 2005, 97).

In service to the profession, Prestage served as Vice President of the American Political Science Association (APSA), President of the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) and President of the Southwestern Political Science Association (SWPSA), and in every role, she remained NCOBPS' most prestigious and effective advocate. For her distinguished service to the profession, she received prestigious accolades, including the APSA’s Goodnow Award, the NCOBPS’ Fannie Lou Hamer Outstanding Community Service Award, and SPSA’s Manning Dauer Award. She was appointed by President Jimmy Carter and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve on the National Advisory Council on Women’s Educational Programs in the U.S. Department of Education. Eventually, she was named the chair of the council, becoming the first woman of color to hold the position. In September 2003, she was honored by the U.S. House of Representatives as her former student, Congressman William Jefferson (D-LA), read her contributions to the field of political science into Congressional Record.

In commemoration of her commitments to mentoring, the Jewel and James Prestage Mentorship Foundation Award is awarded annually to political science and public administration faculty who display outstanding mentorship commitments to students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities at NCOBPS Annual Meetings. SWPSA has honored Prestage by creating an award in her name to recognize outstanding academic achievement in the areas of race, gender, and politics. And, the Prestage-Cook Award is a travel grant named in honor, presented at the SPSA Annual Meetings.
In her social life, she was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and the Links, Inc. (charter member of La Capitale Chapter) and participated with her husband as an Archousa of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity - Alpha Xi Boule.

She was conferred the status of Distinguished Professor Emerita at Southern University A&M. In 1989, she returned to Prairie View A&M University as a professor in political science and Dean of the Benjamin Banneker Honors College until 2002. At the time of her passing on August 1, 2014, she had been married to James Jordan Prestage for 60-years. They had five children, nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild.

Sources for this profile:


“RBSI: Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence.” 2016. The Ralph Bunche Summer Institute, the American Political Science Association. https://www.apsanet.org/rbsi30for30/


“SU mourns passing of beloved educator Dr. Jewel L. Prestage” Southern University A&M
The late Dr. William P. Robinson Sr., the second president of NCOBPS (1971-72), was born in Norfolk, VA. He graduated from Booker T. Washington HS, received his BA and MA from Howard University, and PhD from New York University. He also pursued postdoctoral studies at Harvard University and the University of Michigan. At Howard, he was mentored by Ralph J. Bunche, the renown political scientist, diplomat and Nobel Peace Prize recipient. He dedicated his life to serving the Black community through his teaching and public service. He researched, published and taught Black Politics—from local, national and international perspectives—political behavior, and applied Black Politics in the public sector as an elected official.

His career reflected his staunch commitment to HBCUs, where he was professor of government at Southern University, dean at Alcorn State College (University), assistant to the president and business manager at Morris Brown College, and department chair at Texas Southern University. In 1962, he headed to his hometown in the state of Virginia, where he founded the political science department at Norfolk State University, where he and served as chair for sixteen years. In 1968, he was able to secure a federal grant from the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Office of Education to run a seven-week for a summer civic engagement program, entitled, “The Negro and the American Political Process” for Black students. This program ran for at least two years offering a black politics-centered civics
education for 22 high school students to fill in the gaps of their high school curriculum and invest a commitment to civic engagement for black students using as Robinson described the “political science methods of analysis.” He retired from NSU as head of the social science division. Aside from NCOBPS, he was affiliated with numerous organizations, including APSA (where he served on the Executive Council and received a tribute in 1980 from the Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession, where he also served), the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, he American Academy of Political and Social Science, the American Sociological Association, the International Platform Association, the Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists, the NAACP and the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions.

As Gordon (1981) wrote, “[t]he call of public office became irresistible and the professor plunged into politics in 1965 by running for the Virginia House of Delegates. Robinson lost by approximately 1,200 votes, due in large measure to a split in the black political leadership. To correct this major disadvantage, he immediately set about the task of mending the split” (p. 364). In 1969, with united Black support, Robinson won the seventh and last seat to become the first Black elected to the Virginia House of Delegates since Reconstruction, representing his inner-city district in Norfolk for eleven years. He piloted several pieces of landmark legislation including passage of a bill that equalized the retirement pay of Black teachers, who for decades had received only half of the salary of their white counterparts. He was also instrumental in winning the passage of a fair housing bill, whereby the governor cited this piece of legislation as the “most significant of his administration” (p. 364). In 1980, he also became the first Black delegate to chair a House committee—the Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee, contributing to significantly to education and public aid, and the Conference of Black Elected Officials of Virginia, and the Steering Committee of the “Concerned Citizens of Norfolk,” where
the lasting legacy of his leadership is evident in their publication, the “Golden Rod Guide Ballot,” which became a symbol of the Black community’s “official” endorsement of a candidate (p. 364).

A building on the campus of Norfolk State University is named in his honor, The William P. Robinson, Sr. Technology Building, stands as a memorial to his innumerable contributions to this institution. “While saddened by the passing of ‘Doc,’ [Gordon writes] we are nonetheless heartened by the realization that the tenacious and compelling spirit and the constant pursuit of truth and justice which exemplified the late William P. Robinson, Sr. will serve both as a model and as continuing source of inspiration to us all” (p. 364). He had one son, his namesake, and four grandchildren.

Sources for this profile:


Charles “Chuck” Sumner Stone, Jr.

Charles “Chuck” Sumner Stone, Jr., was born in St. Louis, MO, to Madalene (née Chafin) and Charles Sumner Stone, Sr. Raised in Hartford, Connecticut, he graduated from Hartford Public High School in 1942. and raised in Hartford, CT. During World War II, he was a flight navigator with the Tuskegee Airmen. After his completion of military service, he returned to Wesleyan College to earn his BA (1948) in political science and economics. He earned his MA (1951) in sociology from the
University of Chicago and studied law for one year (1954-55) at the University of Connecticut before embarking upon a professional career in journalism.

After completing his education, Prof. Stone embarked on a distinguished professional career, beginning with his appointment as Carson Pirie Scott’s first Black executive. From 1956 to 1958, he traveled to India, Egypt, and Gaza as an overseas representative for Cooperative for American Remittances to Everywhere (CARE). When he returned to the U.S. in 1958, he began a career in journalism, working for some of the nation’s most prestigious Black newspapers, including the New York Age, the Washington Afro-American, and the Chicago Daily Defender. From 1965 to 1967, Prof. Stone served as the chief administrative aide and press secretary to Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. (D-NY), for whom he wrote speeches and directed activities for the House Education and Labor Committee. In 1970, he was hired as the Director of Minority Affairs at the Educational Testing Service (ETS), where his primary mission was to investigate the Black-White gap in Standard Aptitude Tests (SAT) scores. Citing institutional racism and apathy, Prof. Stone resigned from ETS in 1972 and subsequently helped found the National Center for Fair and Open Testing (FairTest) in 1985. From 1972 to 1991, he was hired by Philadelphia Daily News, as the first Black columnist and senior editor.

He was a staple on national and local television and radio shows. He was the first Black hired by a Chicago station WCIU-TV to do television commentary. From 1969 to 1970, he was a contributor to NBC’s Today show; and throughout the 1970s and 1980s, hosted various Philadelphia media talk shows, including the Black Perspective on the News on PBS.

Stone began his academic career as a visiting lecturer at Bryn Mawr College’s Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. In 1982, he became a fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; and in 1985, a professor at the University of Delaware, where he taught journalism. He was named the Walter Spearman
Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1991, where he taught censorship and magazine writing and won multiple Excellence-in-Teaching awards.


Prof. Stone was both a founding member of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists and a founding president of the National Association of Black Journalists. Over the course of his career, Prof. Stone was awarded countless awards and honors, including the Freedom Forum’s Free Spirit Award in 1993; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s Thomas Jefferson Award in 2002; and the Trailblazer Award from Greensboro, North Carolina’s Sit-In Movement, Inc. in 2005. He also received six honorary doctorates, was nominated twice for the Pulitzer Prize, and was inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame. On March 29, 2007, Prof. Stone (along with other veteran Tuskegee Airmen), was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by Pres. George W. Bush in recognition of his World War II service. He passed away on April 6, 2014. He was the father of three children.
Sources for this profile:


Hanes Walton, Jr.

The late Dr. Hanes Walton, Jr. was born in Augusta, GA. Educated in Georgia public schools, he graduated from high school with honors in 1959. In 1963, he earned his BA in political science from Morehouse College (earning membership into Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Kappa Mu, and Pi Sigma Alpha), his MA (1964) in political science from (Clark) Atlanta University, and his PhD (1967) as Howard University’s first doctorate in Government, three years later. He taught one year (1971-1972) at CAU before joining the faculty at Savannah State College (now Savannah State University), where he was named the
Fuller E. Calloway Endowed Professor. In 1992, he joined the faculty as professor of political science at the University of Michigan (UM), where he was also appointed to UM’s Center for Political Studies as faculty associate, then promoted to senior research associate (2002) and later research professor (2003). During his career at UM, he served multiple terms as secretary to the faculty in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Walton was an inspiring and accomplished teacher, who taught a wide range of courses including: Introduction to American Politics; American Political Parties; The American Chief Executive; and Black Americans and the Political System.

As a trailblazer, he was a co-founder of the NCOBPS and helped codify the field of Black Politics within political science. His scholarship primarily focused on race and politics; however, his research spanned a wide range of topics including the presidency, elections, political parties, bureaucratic politics, political theory, and foreign policy. Walton was one of the most prolific scholars in political science to emerge from the civil rights era—publishing 25 books and over 100 book chapters, sections in encyclopedia, book reviews, and peer-reviewed articles, including *Black Politics: A Theoretical and Structural Analysis* (1972, J. B. Lippincott), *When the Marching Stopped: The Politics of Civil Rights Regulatory Agencies* (1988, State University of New York Press), *Black Women at the United Nations: The Politics, A Theoretical Model and the Documents* (1995, Borgo Press), and *Liberian Politics: The Portrait by African American Diplomat J. Milton Turner* (2002, Lanham Press). Moreover, with his seminal work, *Invisible Politics* (1985, State University of New York Press), he revolutionized the way we thought about Black Politics. Almost 30 years later, despite “racial progress” *Invisible Politics* is still as relevant today in explaining Black political participation as it was when first published, particularly as we see challenges to the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Undoubtedly, the legacy of *Invisible Politics, When the Marching Stopped*, and the rest of Prof. Walton’s catalog of work
will continue to inform contemporary Black Politics and serve as a starting point from which political scientists can develop new questions and answers.

In addition to his faculty positions, he held visiting scholar positions at the Division of Political History at the Smithsonian Institution (1985-86), the Institute for Urban Affairs and Research at Howard University (1982-84), the Office of Civil Rights Compliance (1975-76), and the Africana Research Center at Cornell University (1988). He taught and mentored a legion of undergraduate and graduate students. He served on 12 review boards and was APSA Vice President from 2012-13. He received over 25 awards and grants, including being named a Social Science Research Council Fellow, John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, National Endowment of Humanities Fellow, Educational Testing Service Fellow, American Society of Public Administration Fellow, Rockefeller Foundation Fellow, APSA Congressional Fellow, and a United Negro College Fund Distinguished Scholar.

Over his 45-year career, he was a caring and supportive mentor to his countless graduate and undergraduate students, many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers in academia and industry. In commemoration of his distinguished scholarship and career, The Hanes Walton, Jr. Endowment for Graduate Study in Racial and Ethnic Politics, was created by his students in his honor at the Institution of Social Research at the University of Michigan. And, the American Political Science Association named established an award, The Hanes Walton, Jr. Career Award is named in his honor to recognize a political scientist whose lifetime of distinguished scholarship has made significant contributions to our understanding of racial and ethnic politics and illuminates the conditions under which diversity and intergroup tolerance thrive in democratic societies (https://www.apsanet.org/walton).

He will be remembered for his encyclopedic knowledge, sense of humor, ability to connect with his students, and of course his signature Nike baseball cap. He was a gifted
photographer, wrote and published a book of poetry, collected the soundtracks to Blaxploitation films, and was a movie buff. He even wrote, produced, and shot his own film complete with soundtrack and movie poster. He passed away on January 7, 2013. He was the father of two sons.

Sources for this profile:

“Hanes Walton: Deceased Emeritus Faculty.” Center for Political Studies, Institution of Social Research, University of Michigan. Retrieved May 9, 2019 from https://www.isr.umich.edu/cps/people_deceased_hantonjr.html


Alex Willingham

Dr. Alex Willingham was born in southwest Arkansas and grew up on northwest Louisiana. He earned his BA (1963) from Southern University, his MA (1965) from the University of Iowa, and his PhD (1974) from the University of North Carolina. He returned to Southern University, his alma mater to begin his academic career. In 1989, he joined the political science faculty at Williams College in Boston, MA, where he
has also served as the Chair of the African American Studies Program, the Director of the Multicultural Center, the faculty advisor for the Williams College Law Society, and the Schumann Professor for Democratic Studies. Willingham is a national expert on U.S. voting laws and electoral opportunities for minorities and has taught courses in civil rights, voting rights, and Southern politics. Motivated by his upbringing during the Jim Crow Era in the South and a desire to dismantle racial segregation, his conducted research on national elections, the movement to develop affirmative voting and election procedures, and the redefinition of the political community resulting from increasing empowerment of national minoritized groups. He authored, *Beyond the Color Line? Race, Representation and Community in the New Century* (Editor, 2002, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law); “Voting Reform after the 2000 Election: Special Studies and Reports” (2004, *Readings in American Political Issues*, 2nd ed., Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co.); and “New Bottle, Same Drink? The Opinion of the U. S. Supreme Court on the Indiana Voter Identification Law” (2009, *Journal of Race and Policy*). As a scholar and activist, he actively supported voting rights litigation brought by civil rights groups including the Georgia Legal Services, ACLU, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and the Southern Poverty Law Center. Retired, he is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Williams College, and has two sons.

*Sources for this profile:*


Acknowledgments

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References


APPENDIX A: Historical photographs of the meeting with APSA leadership

Below are historical pictures taken at the conference and published in *PS* as part of the report:

![Historical photographs](image1)

Source: *PS*, v2, n3 (Summer, 1969), p. 326: Erron M. Kirkpatrick, Executive Director, APSA, and David Hazel, Central State University (Ohio)

Source: *PS*, v2, n3 (Summer, 1969), p. 328: James W. Prothro, University of North Carolina, Alex Willingham, graduate student, University of North Carolina, and Adolphe Reed, Sr., Arkansas AM&N College

![Historical photographs](image2)

Source: *PS*, v2, n3 (Summer, 1969), p. 331: Calvin Miller, Virginia State College, George Breathett, Bennett College, and William Robinson, Norfolk State College

Source: *PS*, v2, n3 (Summer, 1969), p. 332: Jewel Prestage, Southern University, Mack H. Jones, Atlanta University, William Buchanan, Washington and Lee University, and Hanes Walton, Savannah State College

APPENDIX B. Surviving founders who attended the NCOBPS 50th anniversary meeting

*Source:*

*Taken at the NCOBPS 50th Anniversary Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA on March 14, 2019.*