Chronicling Our Legacy of Leadership

The Task Force Historical Record on the Founders of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists

ABSTRACT This paper is a culmination of research by the task force established to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS). It presents a capsule history of the founding of NCOBPS and then profiles of the founders of the organization. The profiles focus on the founders’ educational backgrounds, careers, and contributions to NCOBPS leadership, to the profession in terms of scholarship and service, and to the Black community and the nation with respect to their work in civil rights and community organizations, the bureaucracy, and as elected and appointed officials. The purpose is to provide not only a distilled and concise record, but also a framework from which to develop future research. Keywords NCOBPS founders, NCOBPS presidents, historically Black colleges and universities, civil rights activists, elected officials

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 fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS). A task force is a common method for conducting research on an academic professional association’s founding, transitions, and future endeavors. The purpose for convening this task force was to research and record the histories of prominent scholars in Black Politics over the last fifty years. The formal charge was as follows: identify those Black political scientists who have made important contributions to their discipline(s) in research, teaching, and service; research and document those contributions; and consider a tangible honor to bestow on these persons at 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. Reflecting on fifty years of work in Black Politics and related disciplines yielded a massive treasure trove of salient and seminal works by prominent Black scholars that were too numerous for one task force. In fact, another task force was convened to cover other key figures, such as the past presidents, with some overlap between them.

After some preliminary research findings that revealed the absence of a collective document, 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 fiftieth anniversary meeting, and for publication and preservation in the inaugural issue of the National Review of Black Politics. Given the focus of this work, another piece—commissioned and published in this volume—discusses the unique and lasting contributions of the founders to the discipline, paying particular attention to their scholarship, teaching, mentoring, and civic engagement. This work serves as the historical record on the founders, and as a start for future explorations into their lives and that of other prominent scholars in the field.

**BRIEF HISTORY**

The genesis and founding of the NCOBPS have been well documented by Jones (1990), Pinderhughes (1990), McCormick (2011), and Alexander-Floyd, Orey, and Brown-Dean (2015), to name a few. The historical narrative describes an initial meeting of thirty-five Black political scientists from predominantly historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). They 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 titled report on the proceedings was written by the conference director, the late Jewel Limar Prestage, and 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’ photographs 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. Several NCOBPS founders were active at predominantly white universities in the movement to establish Black Studies programs. Black Studies, propelled by Black student protests, were an effort to create autonomous spaces for study of the Black experience from Black perspectives, to link the campus with the community, and to develop theories and strategies of Black liberation. Numerous studies document the history of the Black Studies movement (Rogers 2012). Suffice it to say, the evolution and formation of professional Black academic associations were, in a sense, a continuation of the work of the Black student protesters, whose work was, in a sense, a continuation of the work of W.E.B. Du Bois in the American Negro Academy and the Atlanta University studies; the work of Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Black History Month and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and other progenitors in the struggle for Black liberation (Rogers 2012).

Similar to the founding meeting, some of the founders’ administrative initiatives were supported by the Ford Foundation or other foundations that funded the expansion of Black Studies and related programs. As administrators, these founders successfully secured grants and institutionalized TRiO programs—the federal outreach and student services programs designed for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, and administered, funded, and implemented by the United States Department of Education—to create pathways to success for Black students, staff, and faculty in higher education, resulting in historical changes for generations to come.

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. Oral history is integral and important to African culture and tradition. Many of the founders knew this and used this research methodology over the course of their lives. Thus, we purposely use combined research methodologies to study Black political scientists and activists because non-Black scholars’ published research often does not cite these scholars. If we were to rely, primarily, on published works alone as an indicator of their impact and significance, many of these scholars as teacher-scholars, administrators, activists, and elected officials would be largely lost to history. By relying on these innovative sources, we can formulate and present more holistic, meaningful depictions of each founder’s life and career. Many of the sources are available in the NCOBPS historical archive stored at the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center. The archive includes early works published in NCOBPS refereed journals that were, at times, difficult to access. The first was the Journal on Political Repression, published from 1975–79. It was relaunched as the National Political Science Review (NPSR) and published from 1989–2019, and is being replaced in 2020 by the National Review of Black Politics as the official refereed journal.
NOTE
1. This report was commissioned and supported by the National Conference of Black Political Scientists Executive Council, which established a task force on the Contributions of Black Political Scientists to the Political Science Discipline that was charged with researching, interviewing, and recording the history of prominent Black political scientists. Contributions 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.

SOURCES:
The Founders of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists

RUSSELL L. ADAMS

Dr. Russell L. Adams was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and raised in Quitman, Georgia, in the Jim Crow South. He earned his BA in political science from Morehouse College and 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 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 it as a premier model for an interdisciplinary Black Studies curriculum and top producer of Black PhDs (Rojas 2007).

During his forty-year career in higher education, Adams taught students 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 scripted the 1964 film *Leading American Negroes*, which was produced by the Society for Visual Education in Chicago. 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 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 Historymakers.com under “Education.
Makers.” Retired, he is professor emeritus at Howard University. He and his wife Eleanor have two children.

**SOURCES:**
The late Dr. Marguerite “Margie” Ross Barnett was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, and raised in Buffalo, New York. She earned her BA (1964) in political science from Antioch College, and her MA (1966) and PhD (1972) from 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.

Barnett 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, serving as department chair at Howard University and as 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 three books—*Public Policy for the Black Community: Strategies and Perspectives* (1976); *Race, Sex, and National Origin: Public Attitudes of Desegregation* (1985); *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 as 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 [Dr. Barnett’s] 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. 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 fifty 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; 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 fiftieth 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 whom Margie never experienced the joy of knowing.

SOURCES:
Dr. William “Bill” Daniels, the third president of NCOBPS (1972–73), was born in Chicago, Illinois. He attended DuSable High School where one of his teachers was Timuel Black, a longtime NCOBPS member and legendary Chicago political activist. He received his BA in political science from Upper Iowa University, and MA and PhD from the University of Iowa as a Woodrow Wilson fellow. Among his classmates was a future NCOBPS member, Alex Willingham. From 1966–88, Daniels served on the faculty of Union College in Schenectady, New York, as professor, associate dean for undergraduate studies, and director of the Congressional Internship Program. He was adjunct professor in the 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 co-authored *Governor Rockefeller of New York: The Apex of Pragmatic Liberalism in the United States* (1982) 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*.

Daniels 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; he 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 is a member of the Institute of Fellows at the Rochester Institute of Technology 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, New York State Citizens Utility Board, Citizens for Law Order and Justice. He has been an elected state representative and New York state-certified mediator. His other academic capacities include the Executive Council for Pi Sigma Alpha; National Political Science Honor Society; consulting editor for Perspectives in Political Science; NCOBPS Executive Council; chairman of the W.E.B. Du Bois Distinguished National Book Award Committee; member of the American Political Science Association (also serving on the Executive Council and as vice president); member of the editorial board of American Political Science Review; and faculty mentor at Joseph Wilson Magnet High School, Rochester, New York.

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

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. (275–76)

Daniels has been 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 (1978–79); Fulbright-Hays Lecturing Fellowship, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan (1973–74); Alfred E. Smith Fellowship, Executive Chamber [Nelson E.
Rockefeller], New York State Government (1970–71); and Woodrow Wilson Fellowship (1962–63). 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 fifty-five years. They have a daughter and a grandson.

**SOURCES:**
Daniels, W. J. (2019, May 9). “Dr. William J. Daniels Curriculum Vitae.”
Dr. C. Vernon Gray, the eighth president of NCOBPS (1971–78), was born in Sunderland, Maryland. He received a BA from Morgan State, 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 there before he retired. He taught courses in American politics, public policy, civil liberties, and lobbying. He was also 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, Gray 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, he focused on affordable housing, health care, and minority business. He was also noted for his strong constituent service. He was elected president of both the 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 the boards of directors of Community Action Council, Healthy Families–Howard County, and First Tee of Howard County; he is the founder of these latter two programs. Healthy Families provides service to first-time mothers, and 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, Maryland, with his wife, Sandra Trice Gray,
CAE former US Assistant Commissioner of Education and Executive Assistant to Under
Secretary of Education. They have two children and one grandchild.

SOURCES:
in/c-vernongray-54460636.
Dr. Lenneal J. Henderson, Jr., the twenty-fifth president of NCOBPS (1995–96), was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and raised in San Francisco, California. He earned his BA, MA, and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. As a 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 forty-two days at Resurrection City (Diamond 2018). Henderson recalled what led to his resolve for political activism: “[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.” At age 19, he was the youngest of the NCOBPS founders.

Henderson has held the following positions: faculty member at St. Mary’s College, Xavier University, and Howard University; director of ethnic studies at University of San Francisco; political science department chair at University of Tennessee; Daniel T. Blue Endowed Chair in Political Science at North Carolina Central University; Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the School of Public and International Affairs at University of Baltimore; and currently dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Virginia State University. Also, for more than a decade, he was faculty associate of the Fielding Institute, and fellow and associate director of research at the Joint Center for Political Studies. In “retirement,” he is visiting adjunct professor at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Henderson’s major areas of research are Black politics and public administration, where he has published extensively, and national energy policy, to which he has
contributed significant work. He authored *Black Political Life in the United States: A Fist as a Pendulum* (1972), the 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 also performs his one-man “Thurgood Marshall” play. He and his wife, Joyce, have two sons, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**SOURCES:**


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 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); an autobiography, *From Poverty to History Maker* (2014); and over fifty 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 thirty-four 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 director of the Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy and editor of the acclaimed *State of Black Atlanta* series from 1993–2005. In retirement, he has been 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:
Dr. Edward R. Jackson, a native of New Iberia, Louisiana, earned his BA (1965) from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, MA (1965) in political science from Marquette University, and PhD (1968) in political science from the University of Iowa. He was hired as assistant professor at Southern University in 1968, where he became acting department chair. Other teaching jobs included positions at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and Howard University in Orangeburg, South Carolina, 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, and 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 such as the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**SOURCE:**
Dr. Mack H. Jones, the first president of NCOBPS (1970–71), was born in Oakdale, Louisiana, to a large family. In an oral interview, Jones (1994) recounts how 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, and the church inculcated 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 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 MA and a PhD. In 1964, as president of the campus NAACP, Jones helped lead a demonstration against US senator and presidential candidate Barry Goldwater (R-AZ) during a visit to the university. Jones’s 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 a lens different from some older, more conservative professors” (Pitre 2018). Branding him a troublemaker, the administration declined to renew Jones’s 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’s teaching and research offered an unrelenting critique of 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 (Jones 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’s 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” (Jones 1994). 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’s 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” (ix). 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. Three editions followed, the last in 1999.

In working with a diverse group of scholars to launch NCOBPS as an independent organization, Jones (2014: 33) and others wanted “to involve the membership in the political life and struggles of the black nation,” both nationally and internationally. 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. As noted above, 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:**


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 21-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 the local community of Marshall, Texas. 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, King developed an interest in international relations through the mentorship of Dr. Jenkins, 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 of 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. 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, King 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. Although the situation was often tense, she was able to persist because she had Jewel Limar Prestage—the first Black to earn a 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 notorious, conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 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, 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 organization continued to undermine the work of Black scholars on Africa, 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 various publications—the seminal text on Nigerian politics, Basic Currents of Nigerian Foreign Policy (1996); her critical work on US foreign policy toward Africa, “Race and U.S. Foreign Policy: Reflections on West Africa”; her 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 better conditions than we found them.

SOURCES:


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, nonprofit 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 New York. She left to join the political science faculty at SU in 1968. For twenty-two 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 America, and the Caribbean. At CAU, Morris Brown, and Dillard University, she served respectively as vice president of Academic Affairs, vice president of Research and Sponsored Programs, and dean of Arts and Sciences and Coordinator of International Programs. 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 acting as director of the Conference on Human Rights in Southern Africa. While serving as Fulbright professor at the National University of Lesotho, she founded and edited *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, 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 US Agency for International Development’s $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 thirty-two 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 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 which chronicle the 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, Lewis 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 co-chair of the NCOBPS Council of Presidents. She is the mother of two.

**SOURCES:**
Dr. Leslie Burl McLemore, the fifth and sixth president of NCOBPS (1974–76), 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 to him by his social studies teacher that he would not last long, at what was known at the time as 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 a month, he participated in a boycott of a theater 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 northern regional coordinator of the Freedom Vote Campaign and later 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 of 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 for Black sociologists, psychologists, and other Black social scientists who modeled their organizations after NCOBPS. Having attended 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, McLemore was 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 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 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 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, no. 4 [2005]: 441) 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 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 lifetime contributions to the humanities. Actively involved in protest and electoral politics, McLemore ran unsuccessfully for the US Congress in 1980; however, he 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 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, Mississippi 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. He recently completed a stint (2013–17) 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 students at Walls Elementary School, which is in his former high school in Delta Center.

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

SOURCES:
The late Dr. Calvin Miller was born in the Jim Crow South in 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, 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, Pennsylvania. 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 chair of the Department of Political Science at Virginia State University (VSU) for twenty-six years. His first political science teaching positions were held in his home state at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama, and then at Jackson State University (JSU) in Jackson, Mississippi, 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 thirty-five-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 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 (Baker and Nealy 2008: 636).

Nealy, who was also his student, wrote that Miller was a thought-provoking scholar who
was not timid about speaking out on issues affecting the African American community,
and 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 (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, DC, where she
helped establish a national jazz support group. The Millers were married for forty-three
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, Tennessee, Miller
was survived by two sons, a daughter, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.
At his request, his body was donated to Meharry Medical College in Nashville.

**SOURCE:**
Dr. Frank Morris, Sr., was born in Cairo, Illinois. He earned his BA 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 associate dean of the Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University of Maryland at College Park; visiting professor in the O’Connor Chair at Colgate; associate professor at Northwestern University; and 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 specializations in immigration, poverty, and environmental and educational policies that 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 thirty doctoral committees in educational administration.

Outside academia, Morris 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; 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 researcher at Syracuse for the New York State Mental Health Research Unit.
In the 1990s, Morris was a member of the boards 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, and served on the NAACP National Educational Advisory Board, the Education Testing Service GRE Advisory Committee, and the AARP National Policy Council. He was a trustee of Huston Tillotson University, 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 Historymakers.com under “Notable Educators.” He and his wife, Winston Baker, have been married over sixty years. They have four children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren and live in DeSoto, Texas.

SOURCES:
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 United States. 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.

Sheila Harmon 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 register Louisiana Blacks to vote, even before the landmark Voting Rights Act in 1965. After the adoption of the 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 five hundred 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 thirty Black scholars who attended the 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 the 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. Relying on her astute organizing skills, she pushed forward with steadfast insistence rather than waiting for full inclusion into the discipline, believing that Blacks needed to establish their own organization. As a result, NCOBPS was founded as an independent professional academic organization in 1969. In helping to found NCOBPS, 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 to 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 was created through a partnership between the American Political Science Association (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” (“RBSI” 2016). It continues at Duke University, expanded to include underrepresented and first-generation students.

As an author, Prestage was among the first to critically examine the role of Black women in politics, arguing for the unique contributions they make as 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 her role in 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, there are many scholars who 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 on, Prestage is remembered by hundreds of students who have their own personal stories of how they were informed and transformed by what she saw in their educational futures—Prestage made it her mission to invest in preparing generations of Black students for careers in the academy, namely forty-five PhDs and over two hundred 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 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’s most renowned and effective advocate. For her distinguished service to the profession, she received prestigious accolades, including the APSA’s Goodnow Award, the NCOBPS’s Fannie Lou Hamer Outstanding Community Service Award, and SPSA’s Manning Dauer Award. She was appointed by President Jimmy Carter and confirmed by the US Senate to serve on the National Advisory Council on Women’s Educational Programs in the US Department of Education. Eventually, she was named chair of the council, becoming the first woman of color to hold the position. In September 2003, she was honored by the US House of Representatives as her former student, Congressman William Jefferson (D-LA), read her contributions to the field of political science into the 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 her honor and presented at the SPSA Annual Meetings.

In her social life, Prestage was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and 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.

Prestage was conferred the status of Distinguished Professor Emerita at Southern University A&M. In 1989, she returned to Prairie View A&M University as 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 sixty years. They had five children, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

SOURCES:


The late Dr. William P. Robinson, Sr., the second president of NCOBPS (1971–72), was born in Norfolk, Virginia. He graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, 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.

Robinson’s 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, 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 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 twenty-two high school students to fill in the gaps of their high school curriculum and to invest in 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, Robinson 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, the 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: 364) 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.” 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” (364). In 1980, he also became the first Black delegate to chair a House committee—the Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee—contributing 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 (364).

On the campus of Norfolk State University stands the William P. Robinson, Sr. Technology Building, 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” (364). Robinson had one son, his namesake, and four grandchildren.

SOURCES:

Charles “Chuck” Sumner Stone, Jr., was born in St. Louis, Missouri, to Madalene (née Chafin) and Charles Sumner Stone, Sr. Raised in Hartford, Connecticut, he graduated from Hartford Public High School in 1942. 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, 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 United States 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, 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 director of Minority Affairs at the Educational Testing Service (ETS), where his primary mission was to investigate the Black-White gap in Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) scores. Citing institutional racism and apathy, 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 its first Black columnist and senior editor.

Stone 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, he hosted various Philadelphia media talk shows, including *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.


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, he 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, Stone (along with other veteran Tuskegee Airmen) was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President 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:**


The late Dr. Hanes Walton, Jr., was born in Augusta, Georgia. 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 three years later became Howard University’s first doctorate in government. He taught one year (1971–72) 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 faculty associate to UM’s Center for Political Studies, then promoted to senior research associate (2002) and 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, Walton 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 twenty-five books and over a hundred 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 thirty-five years later, despite “racial progress,” *Invisible Politics* is still as relevant today in explaining Black political participation as it was when first published, particularly with regard to current challenges to the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Undoubtedly, the legacy of *Invisible Politics, When the Marching Stopped*, and the rest of 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, Walton 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 twelve review boards and was APSA vice president from 2012–13. He received over twenty-five 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 forty-five-year career, Walton 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. The American Political Science Association established the Hanes Walton, Jr. Career Award 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 (APSA n.d.)

Walton 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:**


126 NATIONAL REVIEW OF BLACK POLITICS JANUARY 2020


Dr. Alex Willingham was born in southwest Arkansas and grew up in 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 to begin his academic career. In 1989, he joined the political science faculty at Williams College in Boston, where he has also served as chair of the African American Studies Program, director of the Multicultural Center, faculty advisor for the Williams College Law Society, and the Schumann Professor for Democratic Studies.

Willingham is a national expert on US 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, he 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 edited *Beyond the Color Line? Race, Representation and Community in the New Century* (Brennan Center for Justice, NYU School of Law, 2002), and wrote “Voting Reform after the 2000 Election: Special Studies and Reports” (in *Readings in American Political Issues*, 2nd ed., Kendall/Hunt, 2004) and “New Bottle, Same Drink? The Opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court on the Indiana Voter Identification Law” (*Journal of Race and Policy*, 2009). 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:

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APPENDIX A. HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE 1969 MEETING WITH APSA LEADERSHIP
Below are historical pictures taken at the 1969 APSA-sponsored conference and published in PS: Political Science and Politics as part of the report:


APPENDIX B. SURVIVING FOUNDERS WHO ATTENDED THE NCOBPS 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING