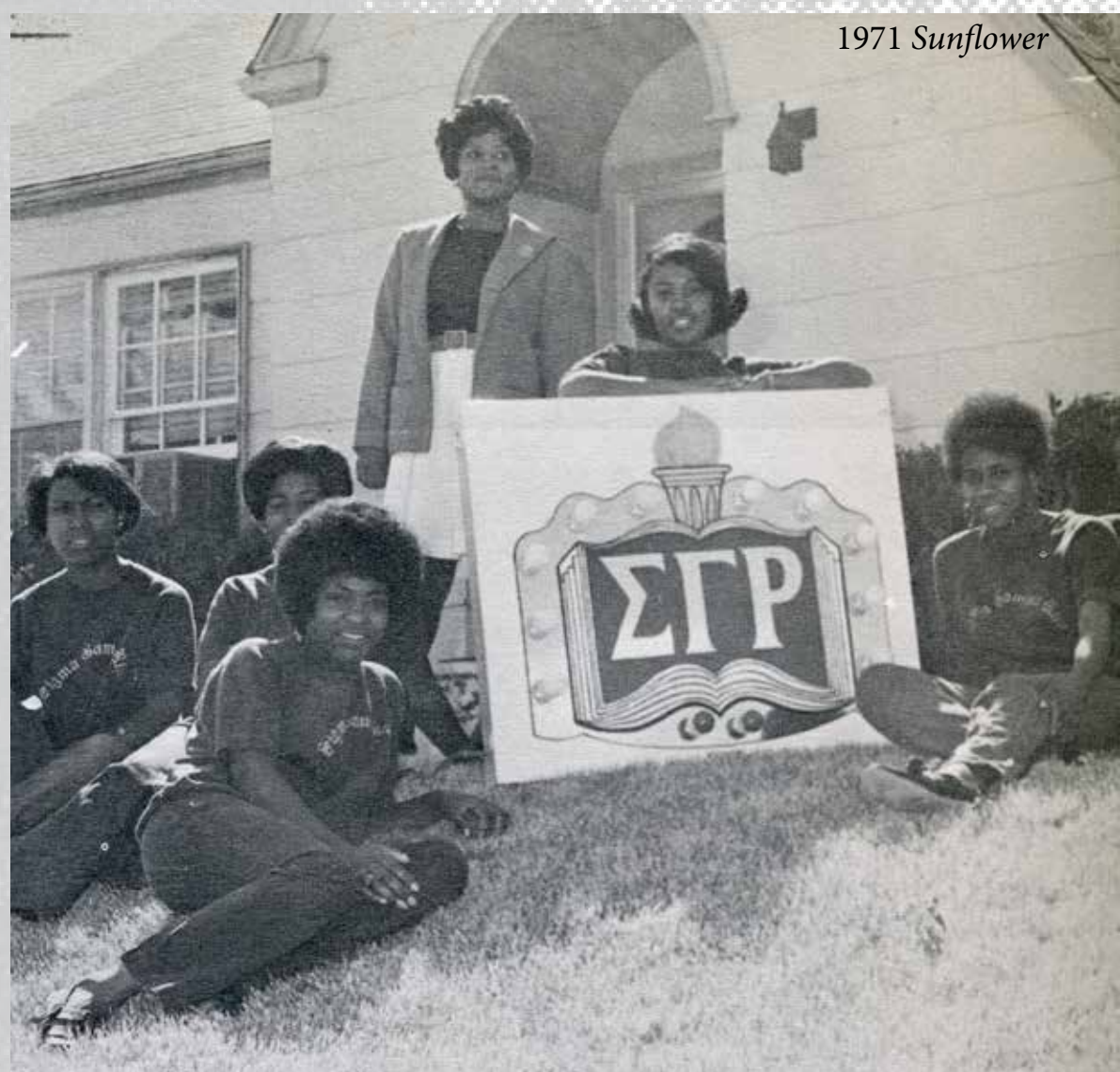




# Dr. Mary Bonner

Dr. Mary Winstead Bonner was born April 20, 1924 in Nash County, NC. In 1946, she received a BS in Education from St. Paul's Polytechnic Institute, followed by an MS in Elementary Education from Virginia State College in 1952, an EdD in Elementary Education with a specialization in reading and minors in Social Studies and English from Oklahoma State University in 1968, and an honorary Doctorate of Humane letters from St. Paul's College in 1979. She married Dr. Thomas Edison Bonner on August 11, 1945 in Champagne, IL, and came to Emporia with him in 1960 when he began teaching at Kansas State Teachers College (KSTC). In 1964 Mary joined the KSTC Education faculty, becoming the University's second African-American faculty member. Mary moved to the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in 1970, where she remained until her retirement in 1986. During her years in Emporia, she also taught as the sixth-grade supervising teacher at Butcher Elementary School.

Mary was an active member of the campus community, establishing a Sigma Gamma Rho chapter in 1969 and serving on the Faculty Senate as a member of the Kansas Standardization Committee. In 1992 Tom and Mary established the Bonner and Bonner Lecture Series, which annually brings a nationally-known speaker to campus. Throughout her career Mary received a number of awards recognizing her accomplishments, including a certificate of service to Emporia State University (ESU) in 1983, the Ruth Schillinger Award in 1998, and the ESU Presidential Award for Distinguished Service to Diversity in 2000.



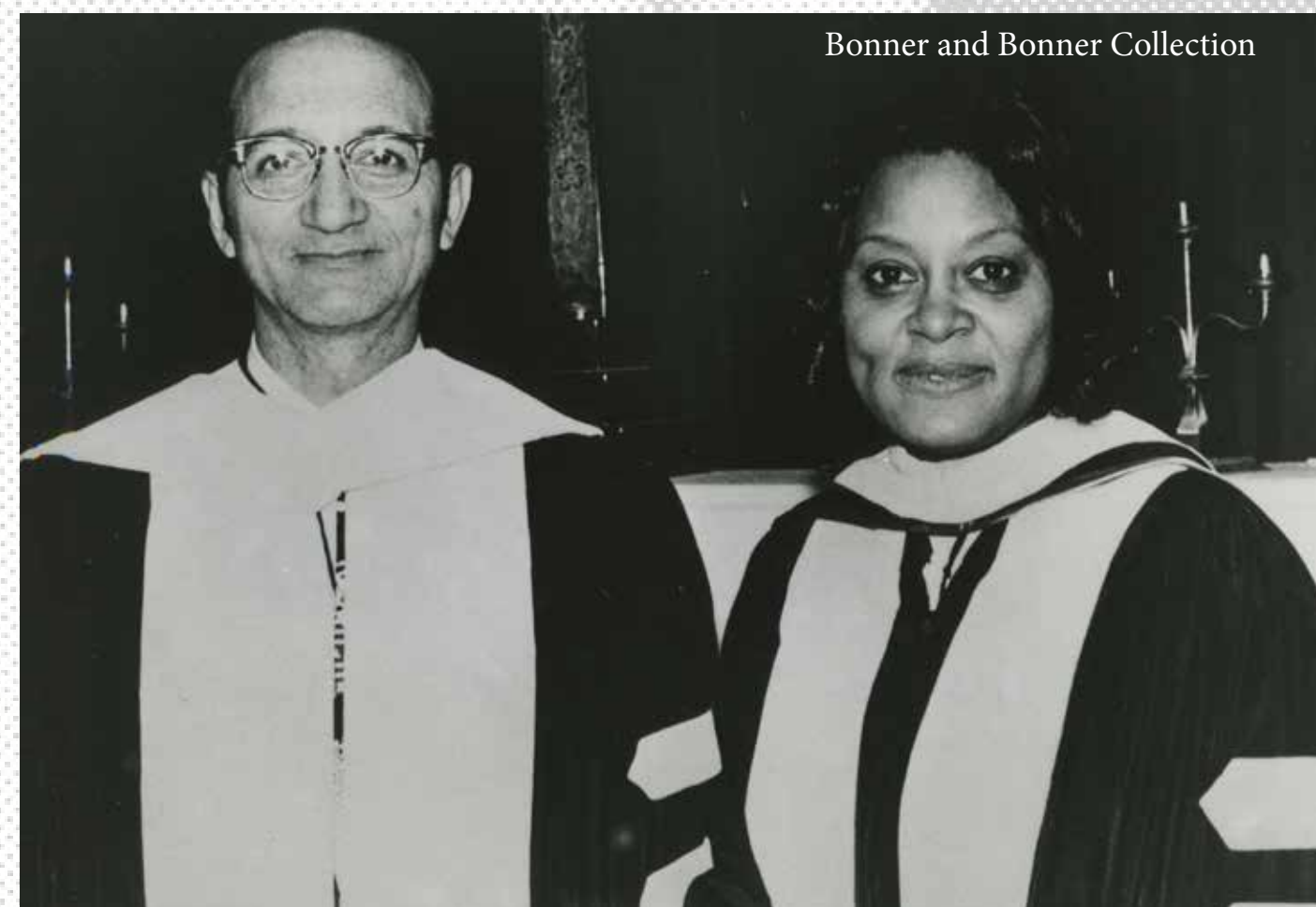
1971 Sunflower

The girls of Sigma Gamma Rho pose outside their new house at 1307 Merchant. Standing is their sponsor, Dr. Mary Bonner.

Dr. Mary Bonner, president of the Emporia chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), received the national organization's "Unsung Heroine" award in 1988.



Emporia Gazette, July 7, 1988



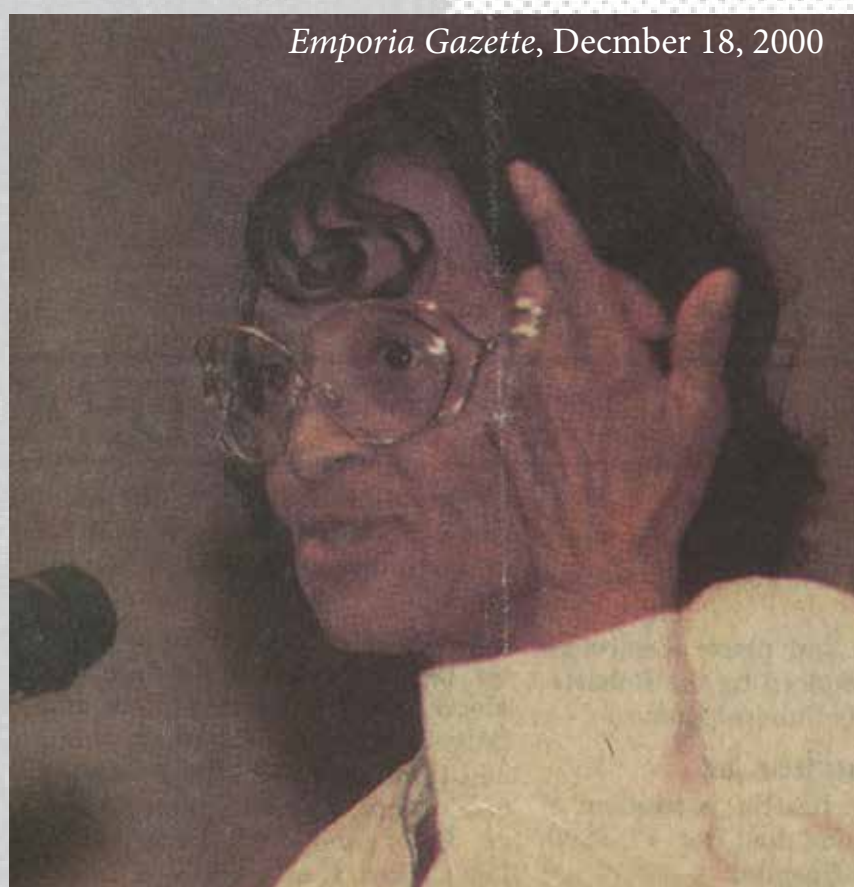
Bonner and Bonner Collection

Dr. Mary Bonner receiving her Doctor of Humane Letters from St. Paul's College in 1979.



Bonner and Bonner Collection

Dr. Mary Bonner's first 6th grade class at Butcher Elementary School in 1964-5.



Emporia Gazette, December 18, 2000

Dr. Mary Bonner speaks at the Emporia State University Winter Commencement. That year Drs. Thomas and Mary Bonner were awarded the Presidential Award for Distinguished Service to Diversity.



Emporia Gazette, April 28, 1997

Dr. Mary Bonner and Suzie Oliphant (right), the speaker at the 1997 Bonner and Bonner Lecture Series.



www.emporia.edu/news

Drs. Mary and Thomas Bonner in 1998 at the White Glove Event, which honored the University's biggest scholarships donors.

Background: Butchers Childrens School Faculty, 1966 Sunflower.