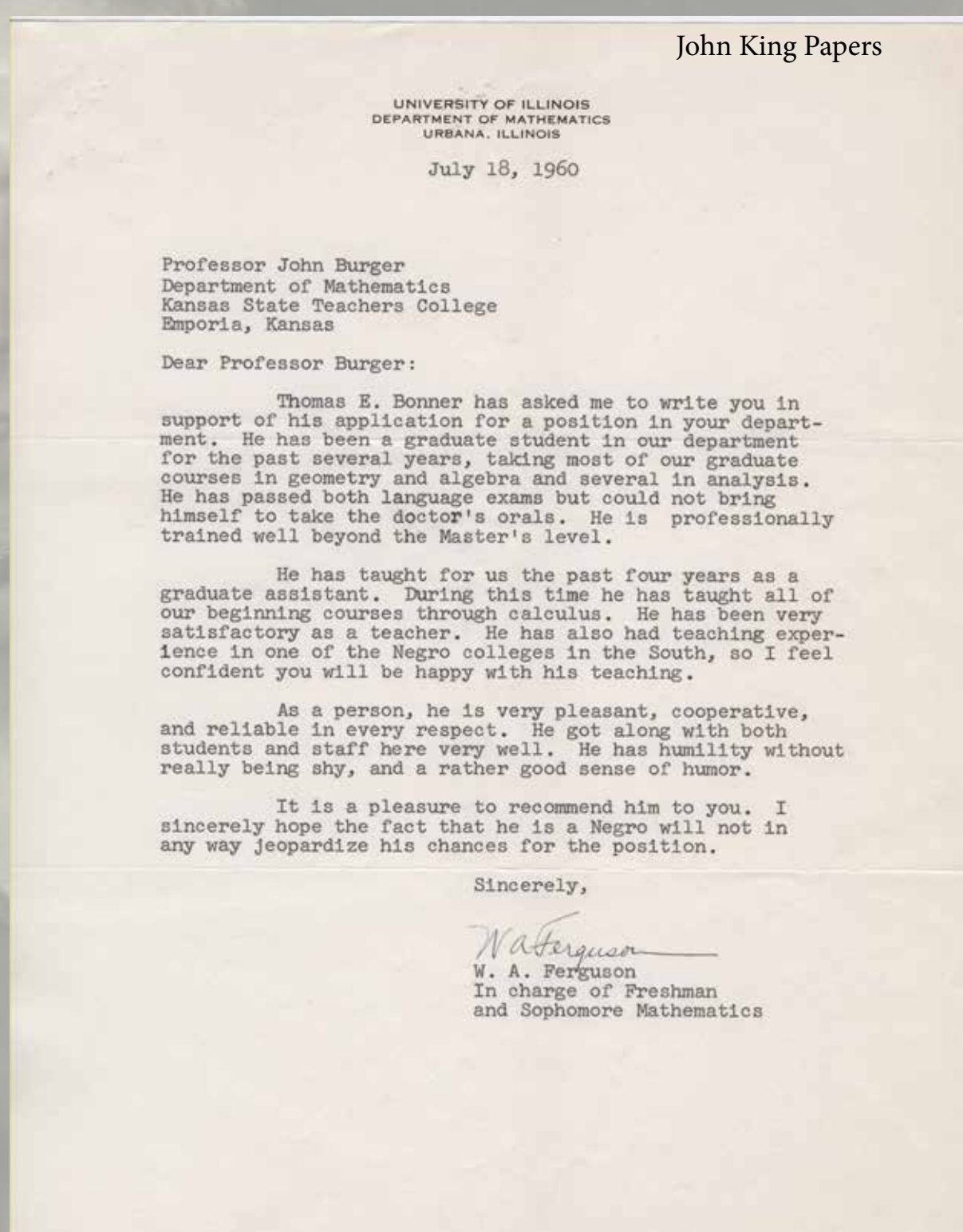




Dr. Thomas E. Bonner

Thomas Bonner was born on September 29th, 1921 in St. Louis, MO. In 1943, he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Lincoln University. He later received two Masters' degrees from the University of Illinois, a Master of Arts in 1949 and a Master of Science in 1953, followed by a Doctor of Education in Mathematics from Oklahoma State University. On August 11, 1945, Thomas married Mary Winstead in Champaign, IL. In 1960 Thomas became the first African-American to be hired as a faculty member at Kansas State Teachers College. Between 1960 and 1986 he taught in the Mathematics Department and was very involved on campus. Not only did he act as the advisor for the honor society Kappa Mu Epsilon, he also initiated efforts to establish a chapter of Omega Psi Phi, the first predominately black fraternity at KSTC.

In 1992, the Drs. Bonner established the Bonner and Bonner Lecture Series, which brings nationally known leaders in diversity to campus to discuss important issues in diversity. In 2000, Thomas received the Emporia State University President's Award for Leadership in Diversity. On the 30th of April in 2004, he passed away. In his and his wife's honor, Emporia State University created an endowed scholarship known as the Bonner and Bonner Mathematics Scholarship, which is still in existence at Emporia State University to this day.



A letter of recommendation supporting Dr. Thomas Bonner's application for a position in Kansas State Teachers College's mathematics department.



Dr. Thomas Bonner and the members of the mathematics department at ESU, c.1980.



Dr. Thomas Bonner around the time he joined the faculty at KSTC.



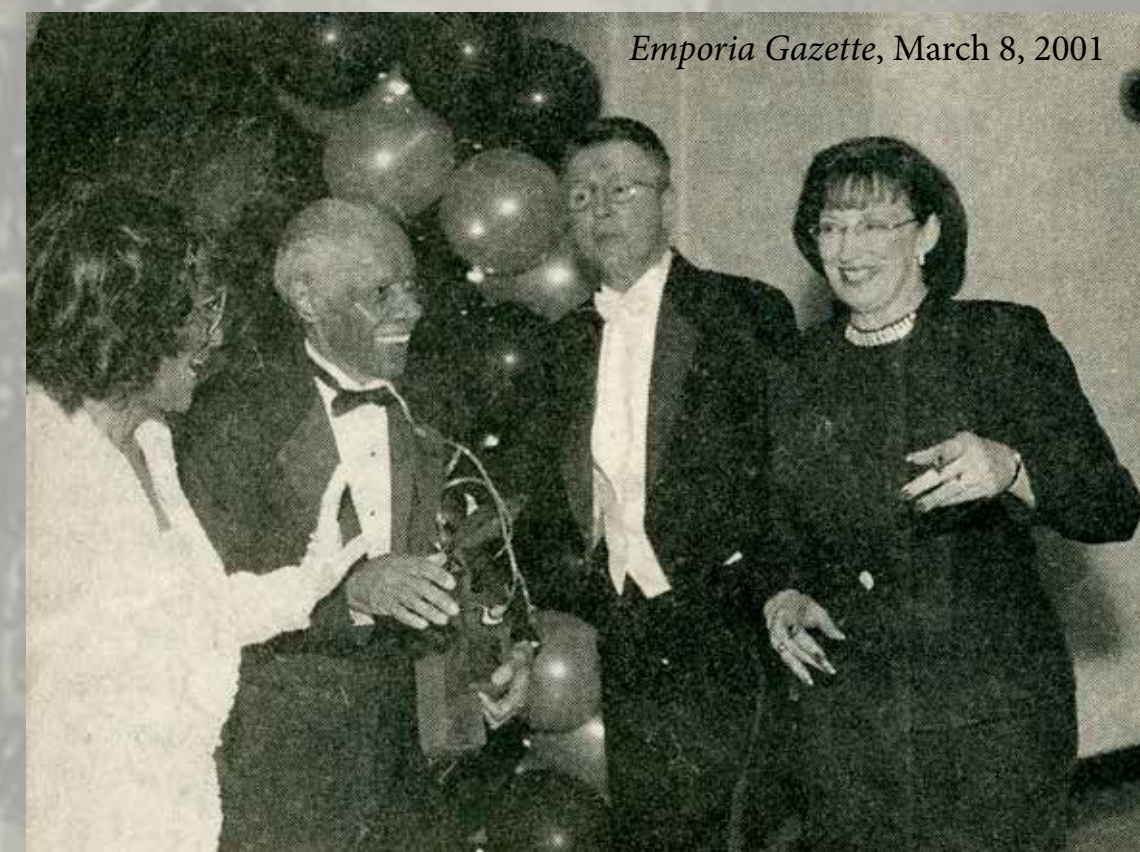
Dr. Bonner served as faculty sponsor of Kappa Mu Epsilon, a student organization to recognize achievements in mathematics.



Dr. Thomas Bonner and members of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity on April 17, 1948. Dr. Bonner help establish the fraternity, which was the first predominately African-American faternity at KSTC.



Thomas graduated from the Dunbar Elementary School in St. Louis, MO in June of 1934 at the age of 13.



Dr. Mary Bonner (left) and Dr. Thomas Bonner (second from left) are greeted by ESU President Kay Schallenkamp (right) and husband, Ken, at the 2001 White Glove Event.

Background: Dr. Thomas Bonner at Lincoln University, Bonner and Bonner Collection