

**Jackson State University  
Margaret Walker Alexander Center  
Archives and Record Division**

**Manuscript Collection**

**Collection Title:** James E. Lyons, Sr. Memorabilia (Select)

**Dates Covered:** 1992-1999

**Collection Number:** AF024

**Volume:** 5 linear feet

**Original** (x)

**Duplicate** (x)

**Microcopy** ( )

**Photocopy** ( )

**Provenance:**

This collection was delivered to the Margaret Walker Alexander National Research Center from the President's house on June 18, 1999.

This collection was processed in May 2000.

**Restrictions:**

None

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## Biography/History:

Dr. James Earl Lyons, Sr. assumed the presidency of Jackson State University on July 1, 1992. He became the eighth president of Mississippi's fourth largest institution of higher learning, one of the nation's premier historically black universities.

Dr. Lyons served as president of Bowie State University (Maryland) from 1983 until his appointment at Jackson State University. As the chief executive officer of Maryland's oldest Historically Black College or University (HBCU), Dr. Lyons compiled a formidable list of Achievements, including increasing the university's operating budget from \$12 million to more than \$30 million over eight years, a 150 percent increase; raising admission standards; arresting a decline in enrollment by approximately 77 percent; and attaining university status and establishing the institution as a regional comprehensive university.

Prior to his tenure as president of Bowie State, Dr. Lyons served as vice president and dean of academic affairs, chief negotiator and professor of education at Delaware State College in Dover, Delaware, from 1978 to 1983. As the chief academic officer for the college, Dr. Lyons supervised eighteen academic departments, the offices of Admissions, Records and Continuing Education, Institutional Research and Planning, Career Planning and Placement, the Honors Program, the Black Studies Program, the Testing Center and the Learning Skills Center.

Other administrative posts held by Dr. Lyons include vice president for academic affairs and professor of education at Barber-Scotia College, Concord, North Carolina, from 1975 to 1978; a assistant to the vice chancellor for academic affairs and director of summer school at Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, North Carolina, 1974 to 1975; administrative assistant to the vice president for academic affairs, director of institutional research and associate professor of education at Kentucky State University, Frankfort, Kentucky, from 1973 to 1974; assistant dean of students, director of the Afro-American Cultural Center, black student advisor, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, and director of the Conscience Educational Day Camp of Temple University, North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 1967 to 1969.

Dr. Lyons also worked as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ecuador during late 1960's and as a tutor counselor with the Rodman Job Corps in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

A native of New Haven, Connecticut, Dr. Lyons holds degrees from the University of Connecticut (B. A. Spanish, 1965; M. A. Student Personnel. 1971; Ph.D. Professor Higher Education, 1973), and has done postdoctoral study at the Harvard University institute for Educational Management.

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Dr. Lyons serves on the boards of directors of a number of organizations including the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), The Institute for Technology Development (ITD), and Basic Technologies International (BTI). He is a reviewer on the Objective Review Committee that evaluates grants for the Division of Programs for Special populations-Department of Health and Human Services, and is a member of the editorial board of the Educational Record. He is the Public University Representative to the Board of Directors, Mississippi Association of Colleges (MAC), and secretary of the Board of Directors, American Council on Education (ACE).

A widely published author, Dr. Lyons has written articles on subjects ranging from the United States Constitution to integration and race relations. His works have appeared in such publications as the Educational Record, the Howard Law Review, The Journal of Negro Education, Today's Education and Essence Magazine.

He has made numerous appearances before school, community and professional groups and has often testified before Congress as spokesman for such groups as the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), and ACE, and AASCU.

Dr. Lyons is a member of a number of organizations including the Office for the Advancement of Public Black Colleges, Phi Delta Kappa; Phi Kappa Phi; 100 Black Men of Jackson, Inc.; Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce; Information Resource Council, Mississippi Central Data Processing Authority (CDPA); Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Beta Mu Boule.

Dr. Lyons is married to the former Jocelyn Massie and is the father of three sons: James, Jr., Jamal and Jack.

### **Scope and Content:**

This collection includes memorabilia of Dr. James E. Lyons Sr. who served in many positions in the Institution of Higher. A great deal of the information was given concerning his life at Jackson State University during his Presidency.

This collection has been arranged into series and sub-series:

### **Series I: Plaques 1992-1999; Photographs**

### **Series II: Miscellany**

#### **Sub-series A: Book**

#### **Sub-series B: VHS Tapes**



## Oversized Box

### James E. Lyons, Sr. Memorabilia (Select) [AF024]

#### Series I: Plaques, 1992-1999

##### Box 1

Clock: The Prince George's Chamber of Commerce  
Dr. James E. Lyons, Sr.  
President of Bowie State University 1983-1992  
Presented May 12, 1992  
9 ½ x 12 7/8

Framed Photograph of President James E. Lyons, Sr.  
5x7 of Dr. Lyons in Chicago with friends  
Framed photograph of Dr. Lyons, Miss JSU and friends 12 ½ x 9 ½

##### Box 2

Presented to  
Dr. James E. Lyons  
For Dedicated and Outstanding Leadership  
As President of Jackson State university  
April 29, 1999  
12 x 9

Jackson State University National Alumni  
Association salutes Dr. James E. Lyons, Sr.  
Administrator of the Year 1998-99  
9 x 7

Jackson State University presented to  
Dr. James E. Lyons, Sr. 1998-99  
Educational Administrator of the year  
Jackson State University AEOP October 28, 1998

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West Jackson Community Development  
Corporation Honors Dr. James E. Lyons, Sr.  
May 6, 1999  
10 ½ x 13

JSU Second Century Club 1995  
Dr. James E. Lyons, Sr.  
10 x 8

The Senate of the State of Mississippi  
The Lieutenant Governor as President of the  
Senate and Senator Alice Harden  
Dr. James E. Lyons  
1992-1999  
9 ¼ x 11 ½

### **Box 3**

Dr. James E. Lyons, Sr.  
In appreciation for your Dedicated and  
Outstanding Leadership as President of  
JSU Gulf Coast Alumni 2-28-98, 12 x 15  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual Stellar Awards  
Male Vocalist (Traditional)  
Rev. James Moore 1996  
13 ½ x 5 3/8

## **Series II: Miscellany**

### **Box 1**

#### Sub Series A: VHS Tapes

Walter Payton on the Oprah Winfrey Show on Monday, February 8, 1999  
to: Dr. Lyons From: Mr. Bender.  
1/24/99 Mrs. Judy Alsobrooks and Staff-taping  
AUMC Speaker Rev. Jesse Jackson, 2 copies.

G. N. Smith Elementary Promotion Day.  
May 28, 1999. Speaker: James E. Lyons, Sr.  
Sea Banquet (Dr. Lyons).

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The Professional Golfers' Association of America  
1998 National Minority College Golf Championship.  
Promotional Video.

Sub Series B: Book

A Century of Caring: the Upjohn Story by Robert D.B. Carlisle  
Souvenir Booklet of Coronation of Her Majesty Lori Jean Jackson (Miss.  
Jackson State University 1998-99.)  
Boston Rocker: Folder with a Xerox copy of the Boston Rocker in the JSU  
Seal.  
Tan-Brief Folder: National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher  
Education.  
Blue Cross Blue Shield State of Maryland Family Coverage (Traditional  
Confirming Consultation).  
CD LDDS Kick Off Classic Showdown in Jackson.  
Leather wallet.

**Oversize Box**

Posters 1996 Olympic Torch Relay University of Asmara.  
Proclamation May 6, 1999.

