Dr. Lionel H. Newsom

College President/Educator

Inducted July 22, 2002

Lionel Hodge Newsom was born on November 11, 1919 in Wichita Falls, Texas. However, he was raised in St. Louis, Missouri where he attended public school. He attended Lincoln University in 1934 and graduated 1938 with honors, having earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History. He went on to study at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor where he received a Master's of Arts Degree in Sociology and later a Ph.D. in Sociology and Anthropology from St. Louis' Washington University. Dr. Newsom served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He rose from the rank of Private to that of Second Lieutenant and was honorably discharged. In pursuit of his dreams of service to all mankind, he was a life member of the NAACP, life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. Dr. Newsom also actively participated in Pi Gamma Nu, Alpha Kappa Mu and Alpha Delta honorary fraternities.

In pursuit of his professional dreams, Dr. Newsom was a Rosenwald Fellow at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee; served his alma mater, Lincoln University, as an instructor of History and Sociology following discharge from the military; taught at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana as an Associate Professor of Social Sciences, History, and Sociology. Dr. Newsom later served as Chairman of the Department of Sociology and Pre-social Work at Southern. His last full-time classroom educational experience as a professor was at Morehouse College where he was Professor of Sociology and the Director of the Woodrow Wilson General Honors Program.

The challenges of the nation's historically black colleges provided Dr. Newsom with additional opportunities for service as college president, of Barber-Scotia College, Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina and Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio.

Throughout his stellar career in education, Dr. Newsom served on the board of dozens of civic, fraternal, educational and professional organizations and associations and received numerous awards, citations and honorary degrees from these institutions. Three universities have named buildings in honor of Dr. Newsom; The Lionel H. Newsom Administration building at Central State University, The Lionel H. Newsom Humanities building at Johnson C. Smith

University and the Lionel H. Newsom Gymnasium at Barber Scotia College in Concord North Carolina.

Dr. Newsom was married to the former, Maxine J. Emerson. Their only daughter, Jacqueline Newsom Sturgies is a 1969 graduate of Lincoln University.