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Dean Lowell Davis Dies At St. Pete



Lowell E. Davis, 58, dean of the USF St. Petersburg campus, died Sept. 30 at Bayfront Medical Center. He was hospitalized after suffering a stroke on Aug. 23.

Davis was USF's first black dean. He came to the St. Petersburg campus in August 1986 after a 17-year career at Syracuse University in New York, where he was a biology professor and an administrator. At Syracuse, he served as associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, overseeing 17 schools and colleges. He did extensive research in developmental biology, electron microscopy and biochemistry. He was a full professor of biology at USF.

Davis, an energetic and enthusiastic

man, once said he wanted to leave an everlasting imprint on the campus. He joked that the "E" in his middle name stood for "Everlasting."

"I want to feel that I have made my mark, put my signature to something that is real quality," Davis said in 1986, upon accepting the USF position. He had hoped to leave a legacy to St. Petersburg.

His colleagues say he did.

"He was a strong, articulate leader for the St. Petersburg campus, and very sensitive to the role blacks should play in higher education," said USF President Francis T. Borkowski.

"He was a very caring human being and had a way of getting through to you almost immediately, a way of getting through to the heart," said Ralph McKay, development director of the St. Pete campus.

Davis was born in Port Antonio, Jamaica, the youngest of seven children. He left the island in the mid-1950s to come to the United States, where he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in biology from Howard University in Washington, D.C. He earned a doctorate in biology from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

At USF St. Petersburg, he concentrated on expanding the campus, faculty and course offerings available to students. New buildings at the campus during his tenure include a \$1.2 million Campus Activities Center that will open soon, and the acquisition and renovation of the Studebaker Building which houses the U.S. Geological Survey's Center for Coastal Geology. As dean, he

strove to establish the university's largest regional campus as a center for academic excellence.

"He worked hard to bring additional programs and courses to that campus, and was very successful in doing so," Borkowski said.

"I appreciated his ability to speak for his campus, to develop good relationships with the community," said USF Provost Gerry G. Meisels.

Davis was very active in the community. He recently was named chairman of the board of Pinellas County Urban League, was a member of the board of trustees of All Children's Hospital, and was a member of the board of governors of the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation's advisory committee, and belonged to the St. Petersburg Rotary Club.

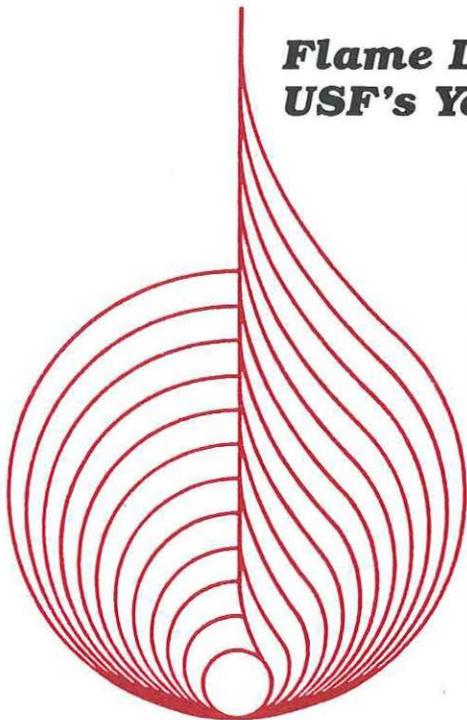
He was also president of the Black Faculty and Staff Association of USF.

The family suggested memorial contributions be made to the Lowell E. Davis Scholarship fund at USF St. Petersburg.

A nationwide search for a new dean will begin shortly. Karen Spear, associate dean of USF St. Petersburg, will be acting dean in the interim.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley; two sons, Christian of Syracuse, and Ivan of St. Petersburg; his mother and stepfather, Lena and Julius Dawes of Brooklyn, N.Y.; three brothers, Vincent and Eric Davis of Boston, and George Davis of Toronto; and three sisters, Selma Henry of Port Antonio, Lucille Duncan of Syracuse and Dorothy Davis of Toronto.

Flame Draws Significance To USF's Year Of The Liberal Arts



The chosen symbol for USF's Year of the Liberal Arts is a series of 12 curved eccentric circles. They represent a flame, a gentle flame, that might be rising from the spout of a scholar's brass lamp of learning. The design is the work of Richard A. "Scotty" Scott, graphic designer for *USF Magazine* and other university publications.

Of this particular logo, Scotty comments, "Donna Parrino in the President's Office had suggested the lamp of learning — maybe something like the one at the bottom of the USF seal — that would suggest the liberal arts disciplines be used. But as I considered that, my artistic sense was lured more by the flame.

"I asked myself, 'What's important here?' I felt the flame was where the excitement lived.

"I wanted an exact expression. I wanted it to be inspirational. I wanted it to reach the heights, to say all the things they wanted it to say about the Year of the Liberal Arts. I found myself working with circles, pulling, really pulling the circles apart.

"If there's anything hidden or subliminal here, it is the pulled circles. There are 12 of them, one for each month of the year."

President Borkowski has proclaimed the 1989 - 90 academic year at USF as the Year of the Liberal Arts. This includes a series of events each semester — speeches, debates, films and discussions dealing with liberal arts in education. For an updated calendar of events or for more information about the programs, call Donna Parrino at 974-2791.