



ALABAMA AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

BEYOND

THE BOOK

THE ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE

ALABAMA AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

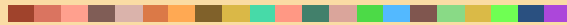


BEYOND THE BOOK

In 2019, The Alabama Bicentennial Commission African American Heritage Committee published ***The Future Emerges from the Past: Celebrating 200 Years of Alabama African American History and Culture***. This book highlights the history, people, events, institutions, and movements that contributed to the Great State of Alabama, the nation, and world during the state's first 200 years.

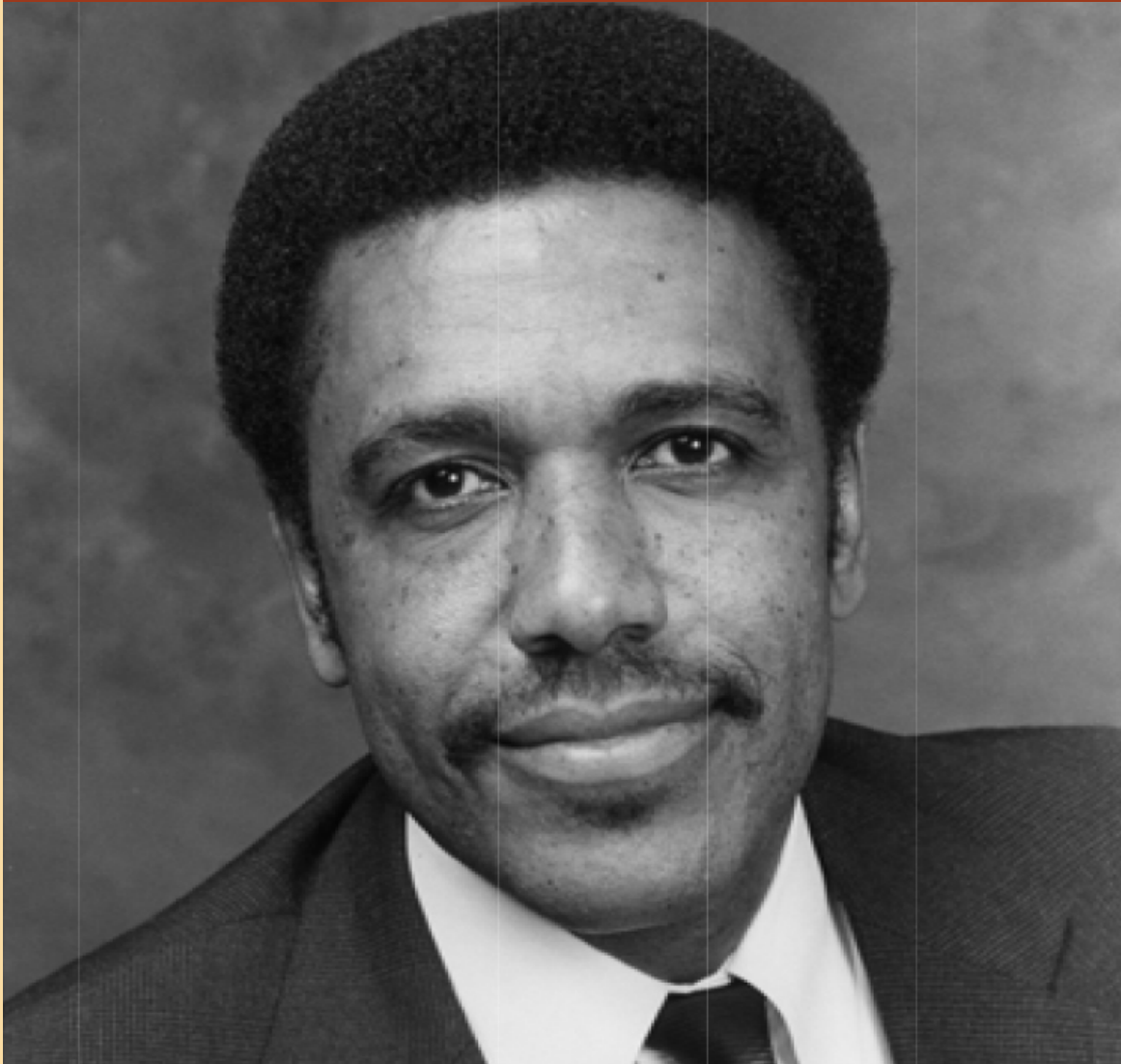
The **Alabama African American History Beyond the Book** website continues the journey and goes beyond what could be included in the book's 244 pages. On a monthly basis this site will not only highlight past Alabama African American history makers and events, it will also contain present day icons, unsung heroes/heroines, and current events. Short articles along with links to videos, photos, reference material, and additional information will be uploaded monthly for all to enjoy.

The website's goal is the same as the book's: to inspire the young and young at heart to dream big and never allow obstacles to stop their march toward achieving those dreams.



JAMES EARL MCLEOD

Habits of Achievement: Lessons for a Life Well-Lived



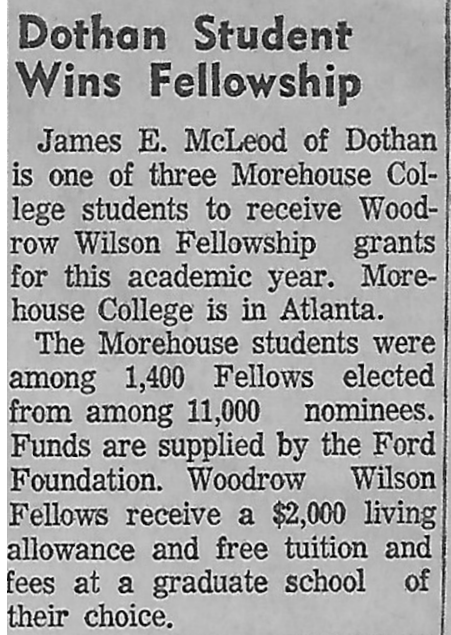
James Earl McLeod was born in Dothan, Alabama on July 29, 1944, the second of five children of James Clarence (J.C.) and H. Earline Jackson McLeod. McLeod was educated at Carver High School in the Dothan City School System and entered Morehouse College at age 16. While at Morehouse, he soared academically and for two years was able to study abroad in Vienna, Austria with the Institute of European Studies at the University of Vienna. During that time, and shortly after graduating from Morehouse in 1966 with a degree in German and chemistry, he took German studies and did his graduate work as a National Defense Education Act Fellow and Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Rice University, Houston, Texas.



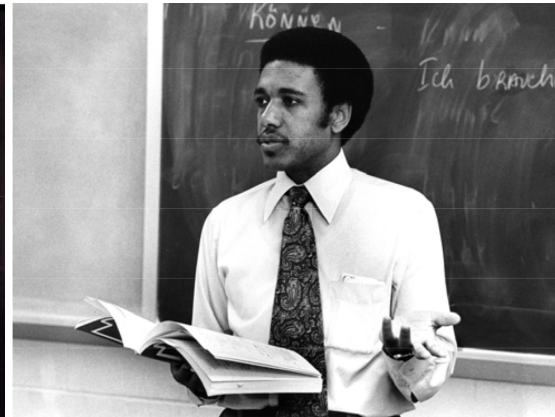
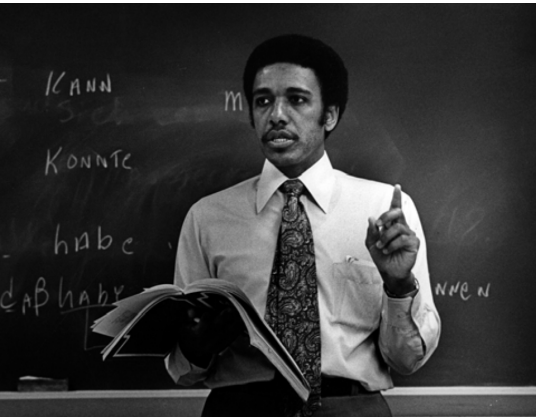
In *Habits of Achievement: Lessons for a Life Well-Lived*, Wayne Fields, PhD, a close friend of McLeod wrote: “Remember that James Earl McLeod was born into an apartheid America, born at a time when efforts to dehumanize on the basis of skin color were everywhere visible. No opportunity for diminishment was too small, whether the issue was a drinking fountain or a public toilet; no person, no matter how young, was too innocent to brutalize ...” James and his family, as well as others – both Black and white – were aware of the injustices and racism faced in education and otherwise. Though he did not speak of it often, as a student at Morehouse, James participated in sit-ins and marches as he played his small part in struggling for equality for all.



Newspaper clippings from James McLeod's hometown paper *The Dothan Eagle*, early-1960s.



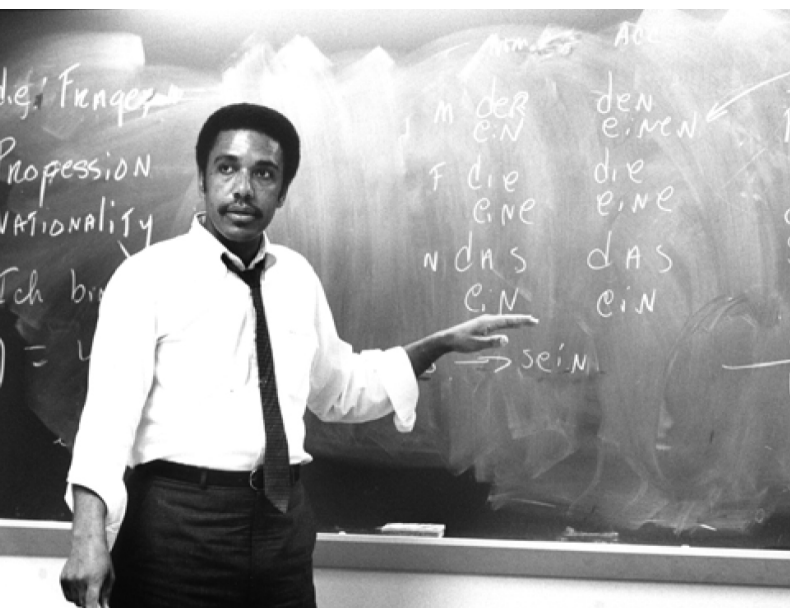
McLeod was soft-spoken and infrequently raised his voice. He concentrated on individuals, and he sought to know people well. After leaving Rice University, he began his teaching career as assistant professor of German at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. He was considered extraordinary in that he was an African-American who had studied German, lived for a time as the local Austrians, and came to Indiana to teach in his “adopted” language.

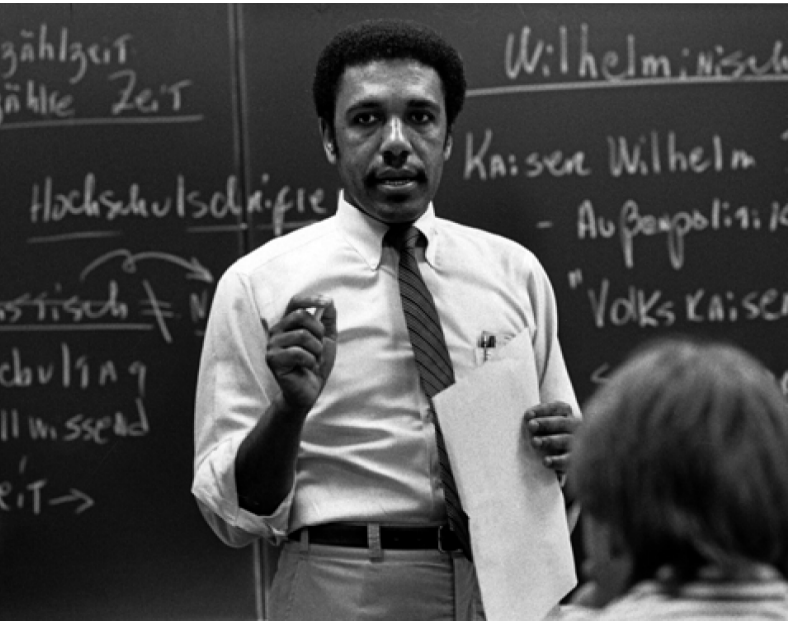


In 1974, McLeod joined the faculty of Washington University St. Louis as an assistant professor of German and Assistant Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Three years later, he became the assistant to Dr. William H. Danforth, Washington University’s 13th chancellor.

During his tenure at Washington University St. Louis, McLeod focused on the tasks at hand and he never lost sight of the students. When people speak about the late James E. “Jim” McLeod, they call him “humble,” “caring,” “warm,” “humane,” “a good listener,” “a moral compass” and a “genius.”

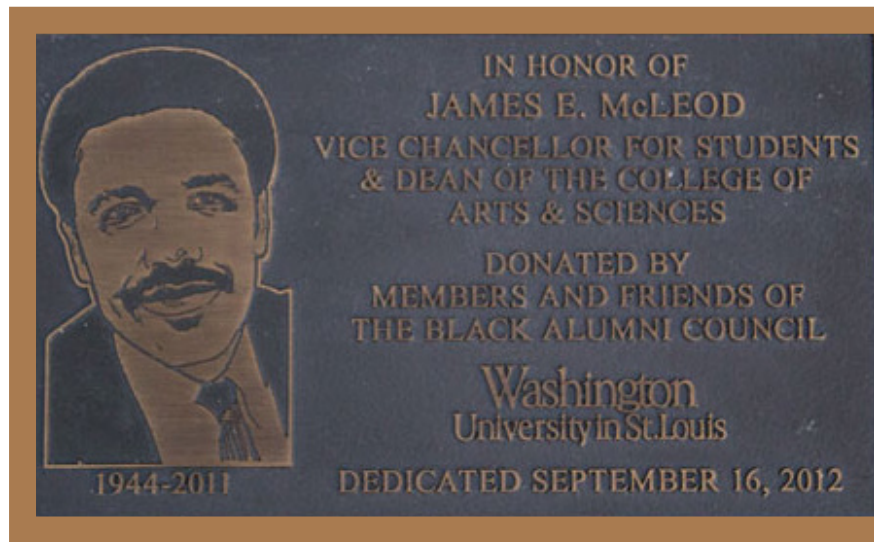
They knew him as a mentor, colleague, teacher, husband, father, trusted adviser and friend. Many Washington University students whose lives he touched – and often changed – during his 37-year career at the university have said, “I hope that I can grow up to be more like him.”



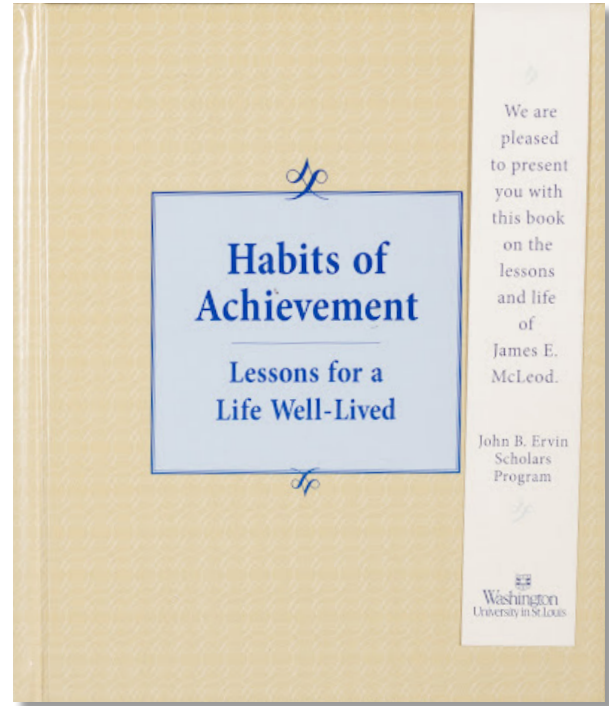


In 2009, Washington University established a scholarship program to honor then-Dean James E. McLeod for his more than 30 years of service to students. Above left, he met with the first cohort of McLeod Scholars: (from left) Ana Solorio (also a Rodriguez Scholar), Michele Hall (also an Ervin Scholar) and Dylan Simonsen (also a Danforth Scholar). Photo: Mary Butkus

Among his most noteworthy awards was the McLeod Scholars Program at Washington University, established in McLeod's honor in 2010. McLeod inspired nearly 800 gifts to endow the James E. McLeod Scholarship. In addition, the class of 2010 donated all funds raised through the senior class gift drive to the McLeod Scholars Program. The first class of McLeod Scholars entered Washington University in 2010 and graduated in 2014.



A commemorative plaque decorates "McLeod's Way," an area dedicated to the late dean on the campus of Washington University St. Louis.



In 2009, James was diagnosed with cancer. After treatment, he continued his work at Washington University and hardly deviated from his schedule. Though his illness returned, he was able to greet the incoming class of 2011 and their parents. He died on September 6, 2011.

As a result of the annual orientation speeches James McLeod delivered to the Ervin Scholars students, a “little” book was compiled by students who attended the speeches and kept notes. *Habits of Achievement: Lessons for a Life Well-Lived* is about James’ life and his approach to living life well.

Copies of the book *Habits of Achievement: Lessons for a Life Well-Lived* can be purchased by calling the Washington University in St. Louis Bookstore at (314) 935-5500. A portion of the purchase price will be donated to the McLeod Scholarship Fund

**Resources:**

Record (WU Paper): [https://source.wustl.edu/2011/09/james-e-mcleod-67/JEM Honors & Award](https://source.wustl.edu/2011/09/james-e-mcleod-67/JEM_Honors_Award) (annual event that changed namesake to JEM): <https://mcleodawards.wustl.edu/james-e-mcleod/>

Ervin Program (JEM founding director): <https://scholarsnetwork.wustl.edu/page/McLeod>

St. Louis Post Dispatch: https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/obituaries/james-mcleod-dies-praised-for-his-gentle-courage-at-wash-u/article_179270f6-5882-5631-9612-57b279c12f84.html

National Public Radio: <https://news.stlpublicradio.org/education/2011-09-07/james-earl-mcleod-obituary-revered-washington-university-dean>

St. Louis American: http://www.stlameric.com/news/local_news/jim-mcleod-pioneering-washington-university-dean-passes-at-67/article_99096b4c-d9ad-11e0-b287-001cc4c03286.html

WU Student Newspaper: <https://www.studlife.com/news/campus-events/2012/09/06/wash-u-to-honor-the-late-james-mcleod-one-year-after-his-passing/>

St. Louis American: http://www.stlameric.com/news/local_news/dr-james-mcleod-named-2008-salute-to-excellence-in-education-lifetime-achiever/article_fdcfb818-36d7-5cf4-8c72-a65f61193cd2.html

St. Louis American: http://www.stlameric.com/news/local_news/jim-mcleod-honored-with-namesake-place/article_5649ddc2-f7d0-11e1-82c1-001a4bc-f887a.html

Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2016/09/mcleod-writing-prize-winners-named/>

Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2012/12/special-place-honors-jim-mcleods-special-way/>

Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2012/09/massey-to-deliver-the-inaugural-james-e-mcleod-memorial-lecture-in-higher-education/>

Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2011/09/a-letter-from-the-chancellor-on-the-death-of-dean-james-e-mcleod/>

Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2012/02/a-guiding-hand/>

Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2011/06/mcleod-scholar-aims-to-contribute-to-society/>

Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2007/09/mcleod-named-an-influential-minority-business-leader/>



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Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2010/05/eliot-society-search-award-given-to-mcleod/>

Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2011/09/jazz-at-holmes-series-to-honor-mcleod/>

Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2012/10/ervin-scholars-25-years-of-excellence/>

Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2013/05/chancellor-wrightons-message-to-the-graduates/>

Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2013/07/habits-of-achievement-book-is-tribute-to-mcleod-and-hiswords-of-wisdom/>

Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2019/04/a-chat-with-the-chancellor/>

Record (WU newspaper): <https://source.wustl.edu/2013/09/mcleod-memorial-lecture-features-ruth-simmons-on-the-power-of-the-liberal-arts-in-higher-education/>