

# Bernard Becker Medical Library Archives Washington University School of Medicine

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HIGHER EDUCATION  
FOR  
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

A Report of The President's Commission  
on Higher Education

*Volume I. Establishing the Goals*  
*Volume II. Equalizing and Expanding Individual Opportunity*  
*Volume III. Organizing Higher Education*  
*Volume IV. Staffing Higher Education*  
*Volume V. Financing Higher Education*  
*Volume VI. Resource Data*

HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS NEW YORK

- Commissioned by Harry Truman July 1946
- Delivered December 1947
- The critical line: **“federal appropriations (should) be given only to those schools willing to comply (with desegregation)”**

**Highlights of the dissent:**

“disagreed with any recommendation as to the immediate abandonment of segregation”

Desegregation would: “impede progress and threaten tragedy to the people of the South, both white and Negro”

Removal of inequality must be made “within the established patterns of social relationships”



From **St Louis Argus**  
December 1947

In Park White papers Box 10, Folder 9. Bernard Becker Medical Library Archives Washington University School Medicine

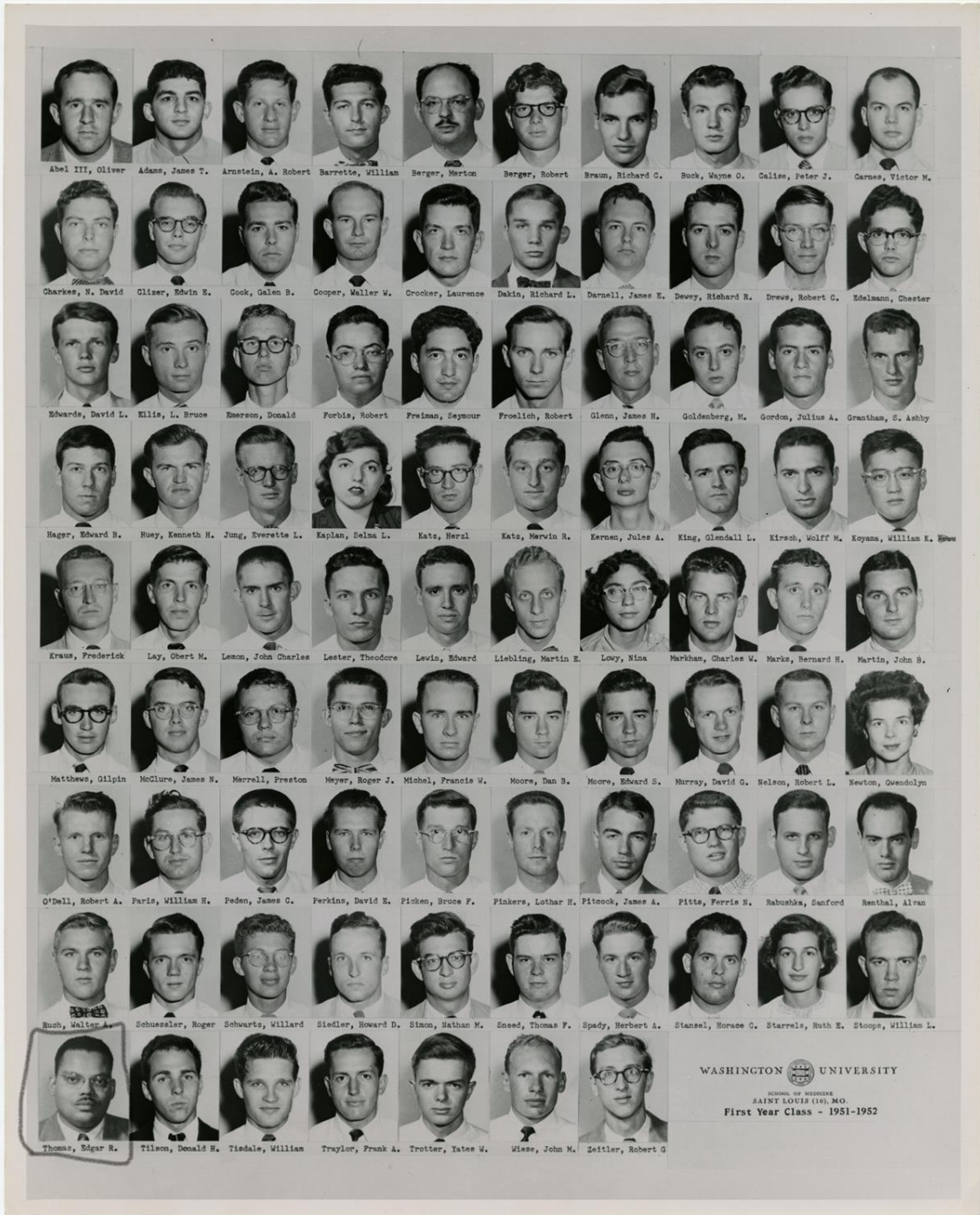
## **African Americans Entering Washington University School of Medicine**

**1947:** WUSM accidentally accepts a Black M.D. to a 3 week continuing education course of Ophthalmology. They don't send him home, and then declare WUSM desegregated

**1951:** The first Black medical student (Edgar Thomas) is accepted but does not graduate

**1958:** The second Black medical student (James Sweatt) is accepted and graduates 1962, the first African American graduate of WUSM

**1968:** The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Black medical students enter WUSM. One transfers, one graduates in 1972, one graduates in 1973



**Entering class of 1951 WUSM**  
 with first African American  
 medical student at WUSM, Edgar  
 Thomas



Bernard Becker Medical Library Archives Washington University School  
Medicine



James L. Sweatt III. First African American graduate  
WUSM, 1962

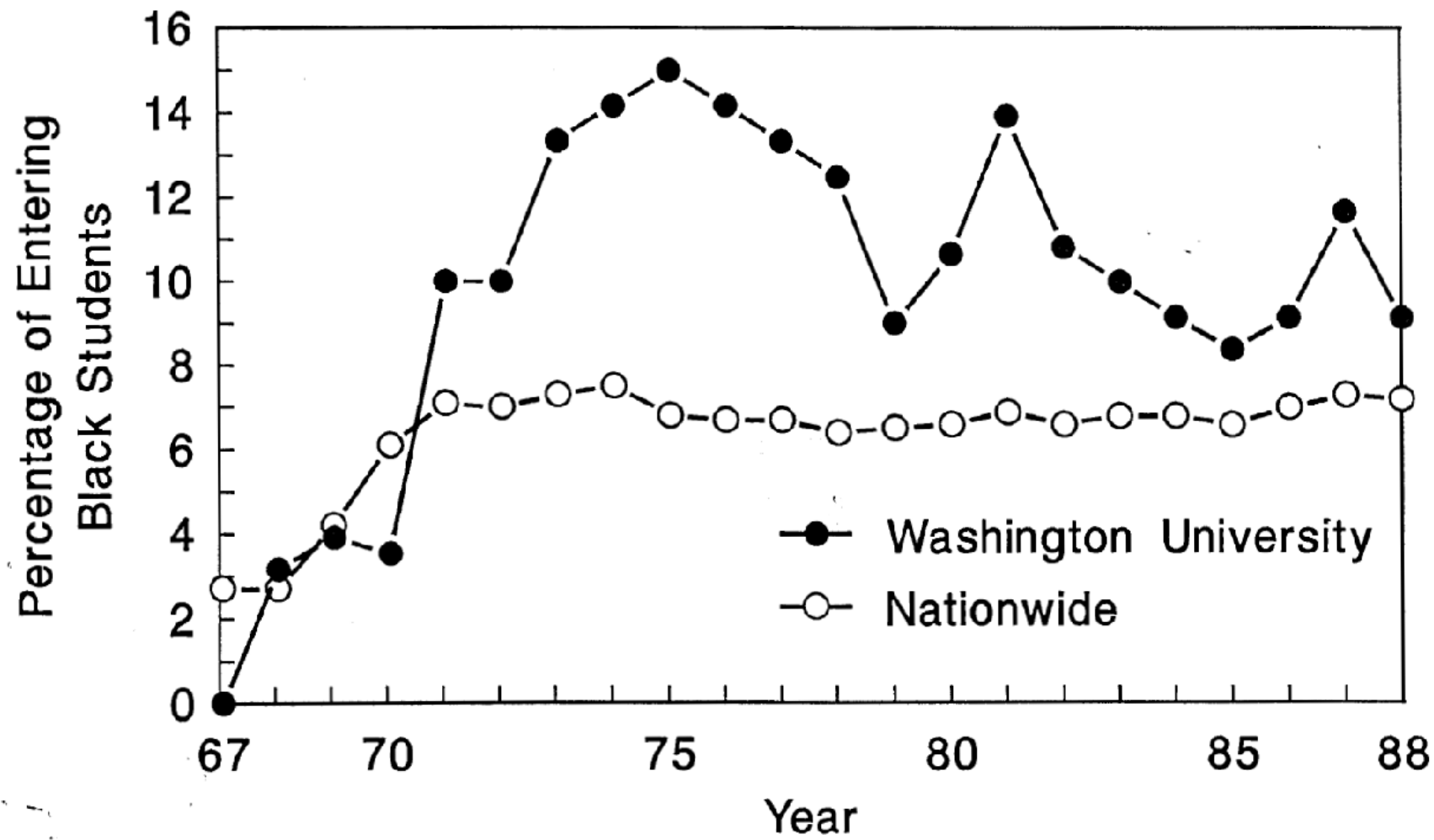
**1967**

**Medical Education is Segregated Nationwide**

**<3% of entering medical students are Black**

**75% of those are in two schools: Howard and Meharry**

**WUSM has no Black students**





What triggered the sudden national surge in Black enrollment in 1968?

Why did national enrollment quickly plateau at 7% (rather than the 12% target)?

How did WUSM so quickly surpass the national average?



**1968 Entering Class WUSOM**  
 The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Black students  
 to enter WUSOM  
 (Julian Mosley, Patrick Obiaya,  
 Karen Scruggs)

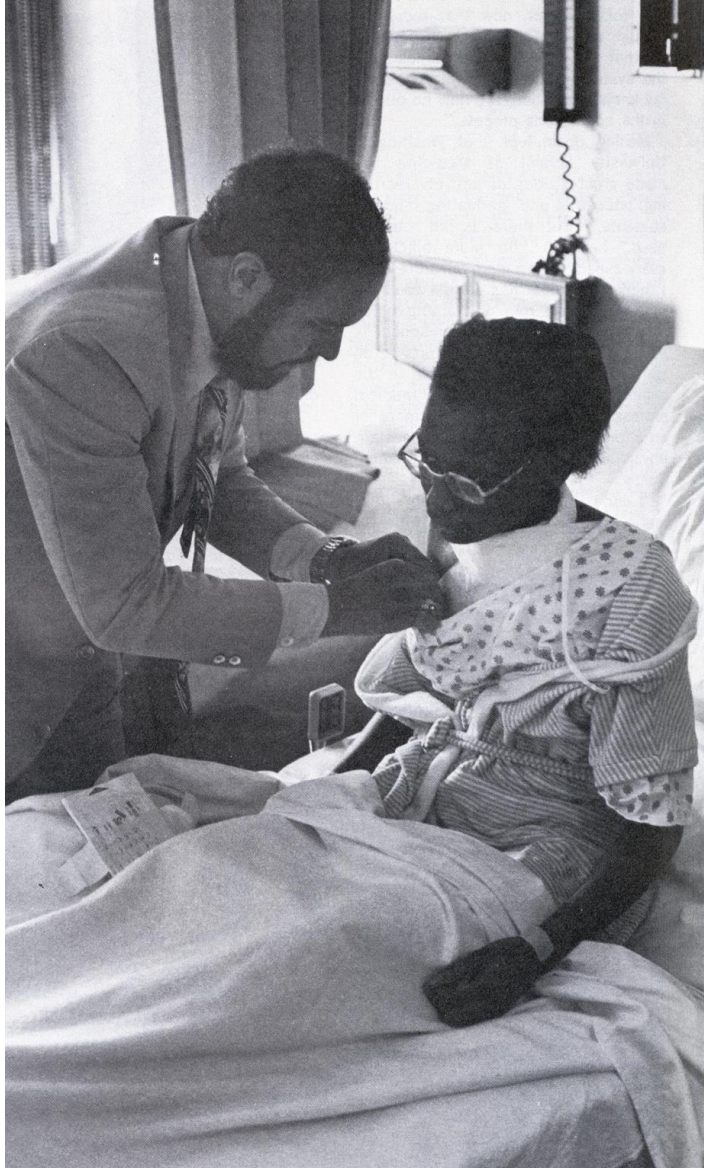


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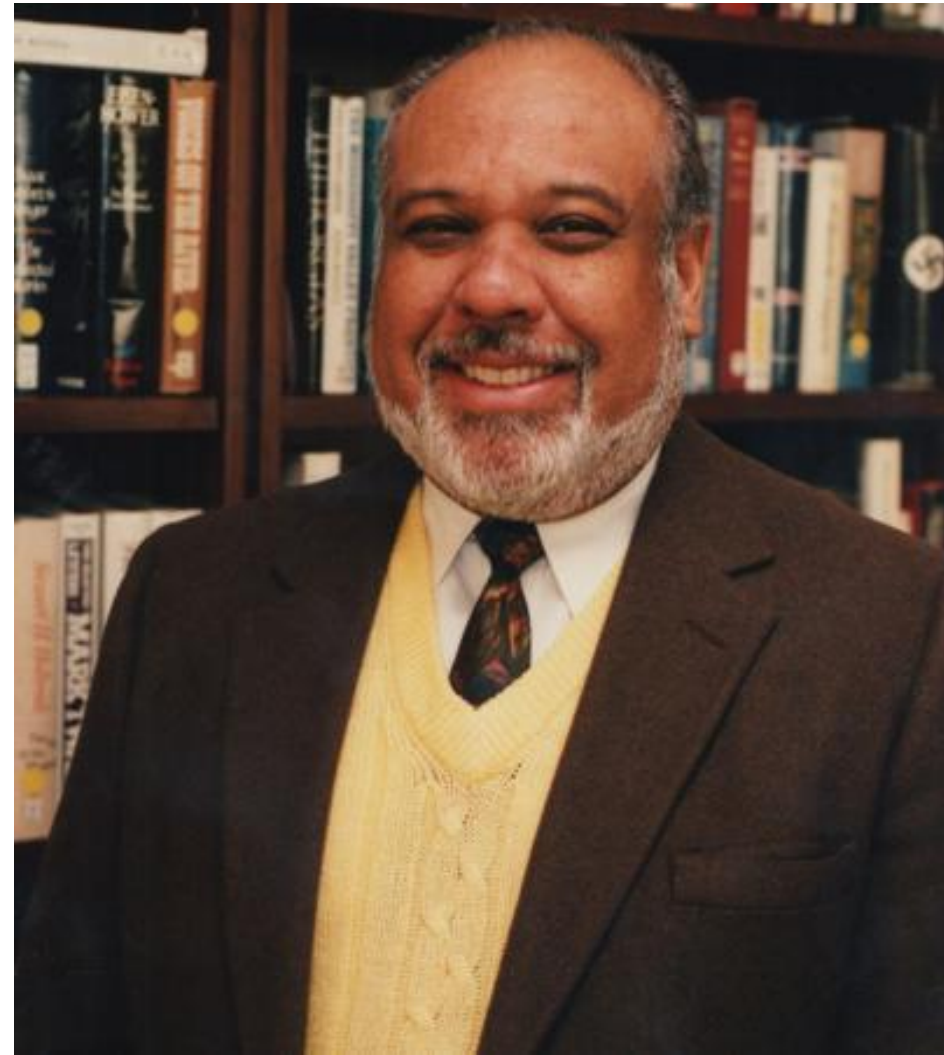


Karen Scruggs. First female African American graduate  
WUSM 1973

St Louis Post Dispatch



Bernard Becker Medical Library Archives Washington University School Medicine



Julian C. Mosley. Second African American graduate  
WUSM 1972

May 1969

REPORT OF THE STUDENT COMMITTEE ON MINORITY STUDENT ADMISSIONS

A student committee on minority student and disadvantaged student admissions to Washington University Medical School has been formed. Two meetings of the committee were held during March. In addition, representatives of the committee have met with both Dr. Herweg and Dr. Wessler.

The student committee encourages the SPANSED committee to consider the following suggestions:

- \* 1. Consider the often inferior preparative education afforded these students in devising equitable admissions criteria which emphasize ability and desire to become a physician in addition to previous academic achievement.
- \* 2. Actively recruit medical students from disadvantaged groups on both college and high school levels.
- \* 3. Offer sufficient financial aid to these students, if needed, to cover all living expenses. A possible student fund-raising drive is described.
- \* 4. Set up adequate tutorial and advising systems so that these, as well as all medical students, may successfully complete their medical education.
- \* 5. Arrange for summer fellowships at the medical center for disadvantaged college and high school students, with remedial tutorials and/or free course work at the main university campus in the summer session.
- \* 6. Consider the possibility of expanding the present four year curriculum to 5 or 6 years when needed by these students.
- \* 7. Arrange for a co-ordinator for the program to see to its successful initiation.
- \* 8. Actively try to improve the medical school's presently poor relations with the local black community and especially with black physicians.
- \* 9. Contact the Philadelphia Committee for Black Admissions and consider entering into its application pool.

NOTE: An expanded and more detailed discussion, of each suggestion by which an asterisk (\*) has been placed, is enclosed.

Richard Brodsky, Co-Chairman  
Julian Mosley  
Allan Rappaport, Co-Chairman  
Karen Scruggs  
for the Student Committee

**Recommendations from 1st year students** to improve recruiting and retention of underrepresented minorities. **May 1969**  
Richard Brodsky, Julian Mosley, Allan Rappoport, Karen Scruggs

How did WUSM so quickly surpass the national average?

It listened to students.

Who did the listening?



John Herweg Associate Dean  
Student Affairs 1965-1990



Robert (Bob) Lee, Asst Dean  
Minority Student Affairs 1972-1992

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What triggered the sudden national surge in Black enrollment in 1968?



Lyndon Johnson signs the Medicare Social Security Amendments  
Independence MO, July 30, 1965  
Harry Truman receives the first Medicare card

## From Truman's Message to Congress about health care. Nov 19, 1945

"We are a rich nation and can afford many things. But ill-health which can be prevented or cured is one thing we cannot afford."

"In the past, the benefits of modern medical science have not been enjoyed by our citizens with any degree of equality. Nor are they today. Nor will they be in the future--unless government is bold enough to do something about it."

"Under the plan I suggest, our people would continue to get medical and hospital services just as they do now--on the basis of their own voluntary decisions and choices. Our doctors and hospitals would continue to deal with disease with the same professional freedom as now. There would, however, be this all-important difference: whether or not patients get the services they need would not depend on how much they can afford to pay at the time."

Truman library <https://www.trumanlibrary.org/publicpapers/index.php?pid=483&st=&st1=>

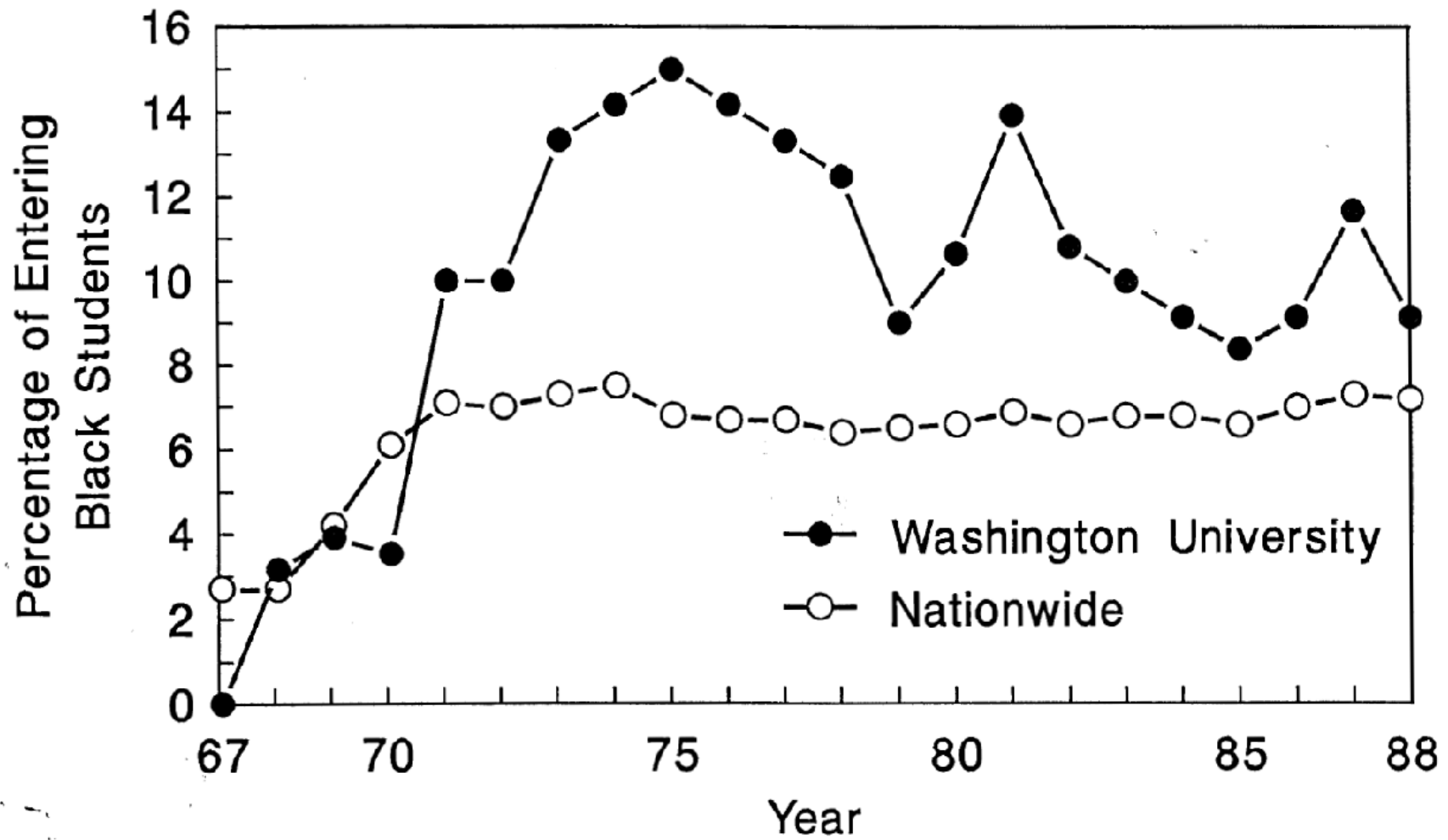
The American Medical Association (AMA) launched a spirited attack against the bill, capitalizing on fears of Communism in the public mind. The AMA characterized the bill as "socialized medicine", and in a forerunner to the rhetoric of the McCarthy era, called Truman White House staffers "followers of the Moscow party line".

<https://www.trumanlibrary.org/anniversaries/healthprogram.htm>

What triggered the sudden national surge in Black enrollment in 1968?

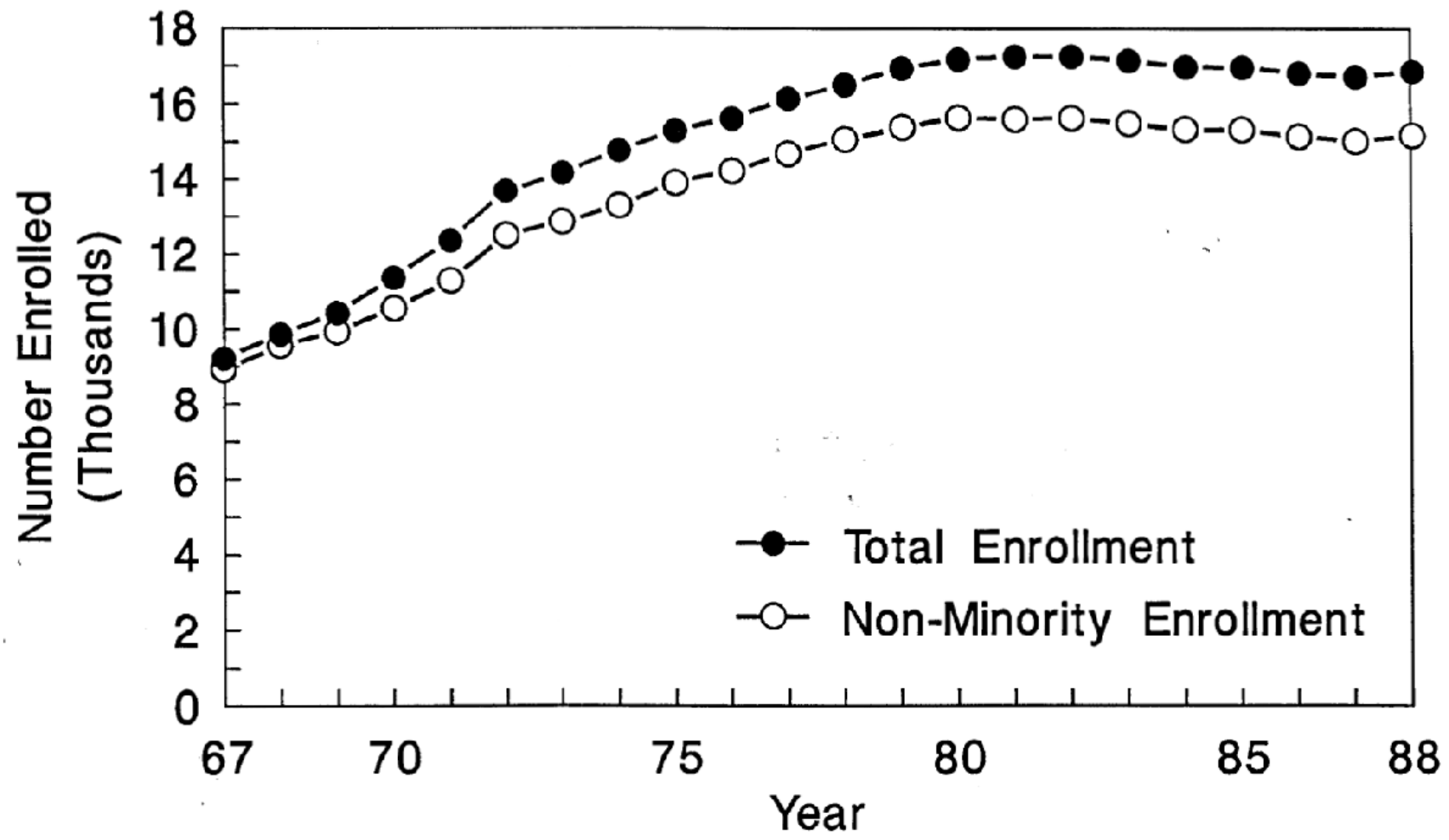
The creation of Medicare in 1965.

AAMC publishes ethnic enrollment numbers in 1967.



Why did national enrollment quickly plateau at 7% (rather than the 12% target)?

- 7% is a “natural limit”?
- Because the overall growth in enrollment plateaued?
- Univ California vs Bakke? (started 1974, decided 1978)





# Events in desegregation of the medical school

- 1891 WUSM founded (1896 Plessy vs Ferguson)
- 1910 Flexner Report
- 1914 WUSM and Barnes Hospital move to Central West End
- 1947 WUSM “desegregates” by accidentally accepting a continuing education MD
- 1947 Harry Truman’s “Higher Education for American Democracy”. Wash Univ dissents
- 1951 Entry of first African American medical student (Edgar Thomas)
- 1958 Entry of second African American medical student (James Sweatt)
- 1962 James Sweatt III graduates – the first African American graduate of WUSM
- 1965 Medicare/Medicaid Bill passed and signed
- 1967 AAMC publishes ethnicities of medical school enrollment
- 1968 Third, Fourth, Fifth African American medical students enroll
- 1969 Report of the Student Committee for Minority Enrollment
- 1971 WUSM exceeds national average of African American matriculation from 1971 on
- 1972 James Mosley graduates – the second African American graduate of WUSM
- 1973 Karen Scruggs graduates – the first African American female graduate of WUSM

# Events described in the WashU website

From: <https://libguides.wustl.edu/wustl-faq/deseg>

**1947:** School of Medicine and School of Social Work open admissions to African Americans.

**1948:** Graduate School of Arts and Sciences opens admissions to African Americans.

**1949:** All remaining graduate programs except Dentistry open admissions to African Americans.

**1950:** School of Dentistry opens admissions to African Americans.

**Fall 1952:** All undergraduate programs are opened to African Americans. The first African-American undergraduates entered the University in the Fall of 1952.

**1953:** Athletic programs are desegregated. Muriel LeGrand Givens, a University College student, is the first African American football player for the university.

**1954:** All residence halls, support services, and extracurricular activities were desegregated.



*The Washington University Board of Directors, 1950. Washington University Archives.*



*Judy Saul, a freshman from Memphis,*

From: Amy M. Pfeiffenberger Democracy at Home: the struggle to desegregate Washington University in the postwar era.

Gateway Heritage, Winter 1989

## Events in desegregation of Washington University (main campus)

- 1853 – founded by an abolitionist. Blacks accepted until 1890's. No formal policy statement
- 1945 – sued by city of St Louis and NAACP for shielding real estate from taxes
- 1946 – students invite Paul Robeson and A. Philip Randolph to speak
- 1947 – Medical school declared “desegregated” when a Black ophthalmologist is mistakenly accepted for a 3 week course
- 1947 – Donation to Law School rejected because it required desegregation (donation goes instead to St Louis University)
- 1947 – Truman’s “Higher Education for American Democracy” says “federal appropriations (should) be given only to those schools willing to comply (with desegregation)”. Arthur Holly Compton, WU chancellor and member of the study, leads the dissent saying they “disagreed with any recommendation as to the immediate abandonment of segregation”
- 1949 – Student Committee for the Admission of Negroes (SCAN) formed at WU
- 1949 – Students vote 77% in favor of admission of African Americans
- 1951 – 130 faculty join students in protest
- 1951 – Vice Chancellor responds “the generally different aims and objectives of segregated schools would seriously hamper the Negro students in successful pursuit of an education at the University”
- 1952 – Board desegregates WU without explanation

**From: Amy M. Pfeiffenberger Democracy at Home: the struggle to desegregate Washington University in the postwar era. Gateway Heritage, Winter 1989**

# Report of the Superintendent

To the Trustees of Barnes Hospital.

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor to present herewith, as Superintendent, the first Biennial Report of Barnes Hospital.

I am pleased to report there has been a steady increase in the number of patients cared for since our opening day, December 7, 1914, also a greater development in the efficiency of the organization.

The Hospital was opened December 7, 1914, with twenty-six patients which we took over from the Washington University Hospital. Our first fiscal year was closed December 31, 1915, so that the report of the first year really covers a period of 390 days, the 25 days remaining in December, 1914, and the 365 days in 1915, making a total of 390 days.

During the first year there was a slow but constantly increasing number of patients treated in the Hospital. The average number of patients during this period was 94. During the second year, from January 1 to December 31, 1916, there was also a steady gain, the average number being 115, an increase of 21 in number and a percentage of 22.

During the second year a number of wards and departments were opened, which have added greatly to our capacity and facility for the treatment of patients. The third floor of the Private Pavilion was opened, giving us fifteen additional rooms for private patients, making a total of 42 rooms available in our Private Pavilion.

The Department of Hydro and Mechano Therapy and the Department of Metabolism were opened. The Dental and Barany examination rooms were also opened during the past twelve months. On the following pages will be found a detailed account of the activities of the various services, giving the number of patients treated, their diseases, and such other information as is usually given in annual reports.

Respectfully,

CHARLES E. BAUR,

*Superintendent*

# Nationality of Patients

	1915	1916
American . . . . .	1334	1744
Negroes . . . . .	187	193
German . . . . .	145	116
Russian . . . . .	124	118
Austrian . . . . .	35	35
Irish . . . . .	32	16
Italian . . . . .	27	48
English . . . . .	26	19
Greek . . . . .	19	12
Hungarian . . . . .	11	17
Bohemian . . . . .	6	4
Scotch . . . . .	4	4
French . . . . .	4	8
Swiss . . . . .	3	5
Roumanian . . . . .	5	7
Bulgarian . . . . .	3	12
Canadian . . . . .	2	5
Norwegian . . . . .	2	....
Swedish . . . . .	1	7
Polish . . . . .	1	2
Spanish . . . . .	1	....
Mexican . . . . .	1	1
Turkish . . . . .	1	3
Servian . . . . .	1	....
Syrian . . . . .	1	....
Prussian . . . . .	1	....
Slavish . . . . .	1	....
Dutch . . . . .	1	1
Finnish . . . . .	1	1
Portuguese . . . . .	....	1
Welsh . . . . .	....	2
Egyptian . . . . .	....	2
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>2383</b>

From first annual report:  
Barnes Hospital, 1916

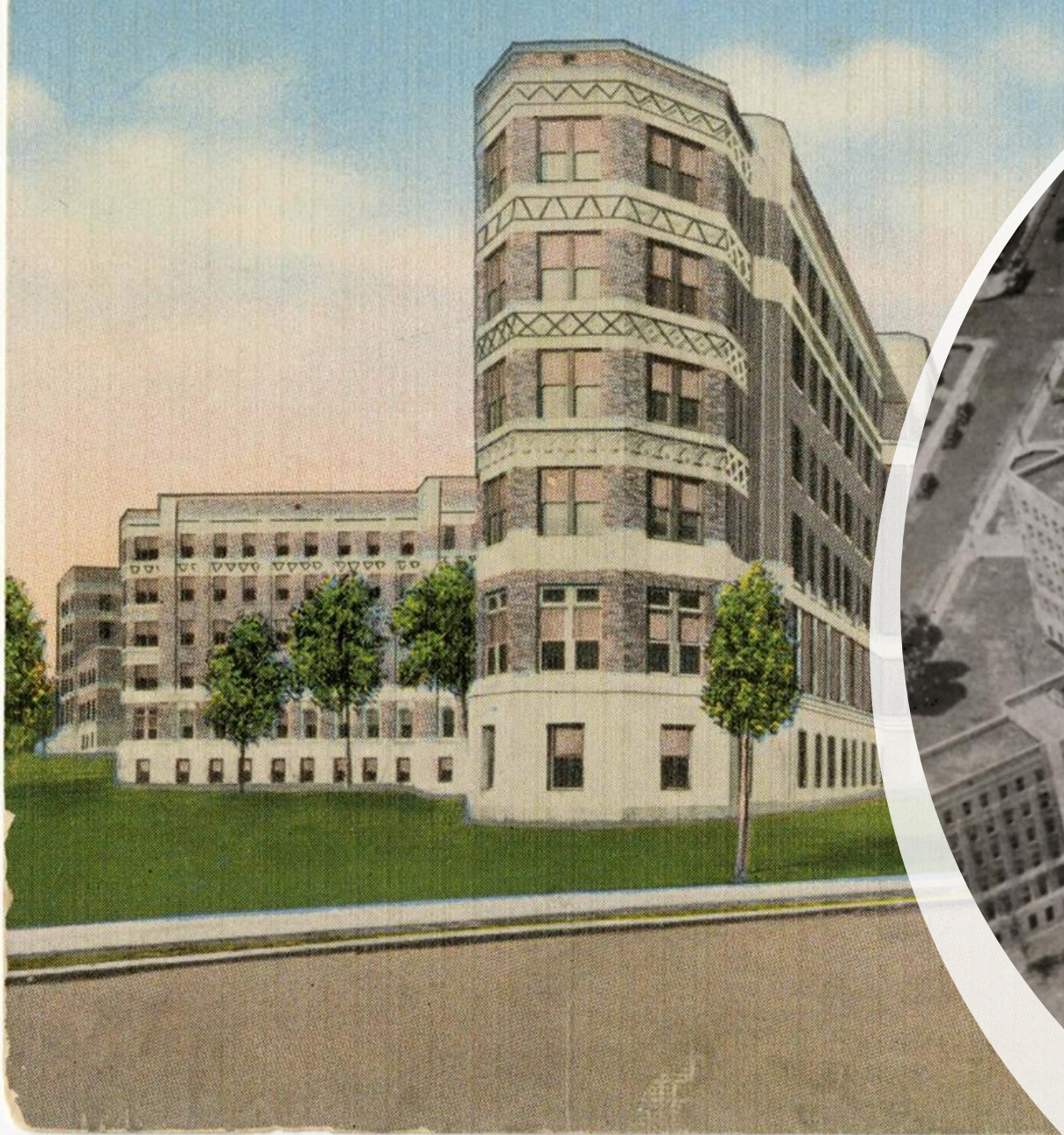
In 1914, it was evident to all black physicians that certain inequities were prevalent in the City of St. Louis' tax system. All citizens, black and white, paid taxes utilized to support the St. Louis public hospital system; however, black doctors were not given equal status in the city hospital. They were forced into the role of assistant, and their patients were housed in dingy basement quarters.

## Creation of City #2, first public hospital for African American patients and physicians

Mayor Henry Kiel was receptive to their problems and, in 1919, ordered all black patients to be transferred to a building at Garrison and Lawton, which had been recently vacated by Barnes Hospital.

The associate staff was composed of black physicians in the community; the visiting staff were faculty members of Washington University. There was much interplay and exchange of ideas between the two medical staffs, which benefited physicians and patients alike.

From: H. Philip Venable & Julian C Mosley  
The Black Physicians in St. Louis (I&II)  
May, June 1986 Metro Medicine



Homer G. Phillips Hospital 1937 to 1979



**Ella Brown RN (2<sup>nd</sup> from left)**  
**Head nurse Homer G Phillips Hospital**  
Pinkie Payne  
Cassandra Smith  
Mattie McAllister  
Brenda Lang



1949

The first African American physicians at WUSM

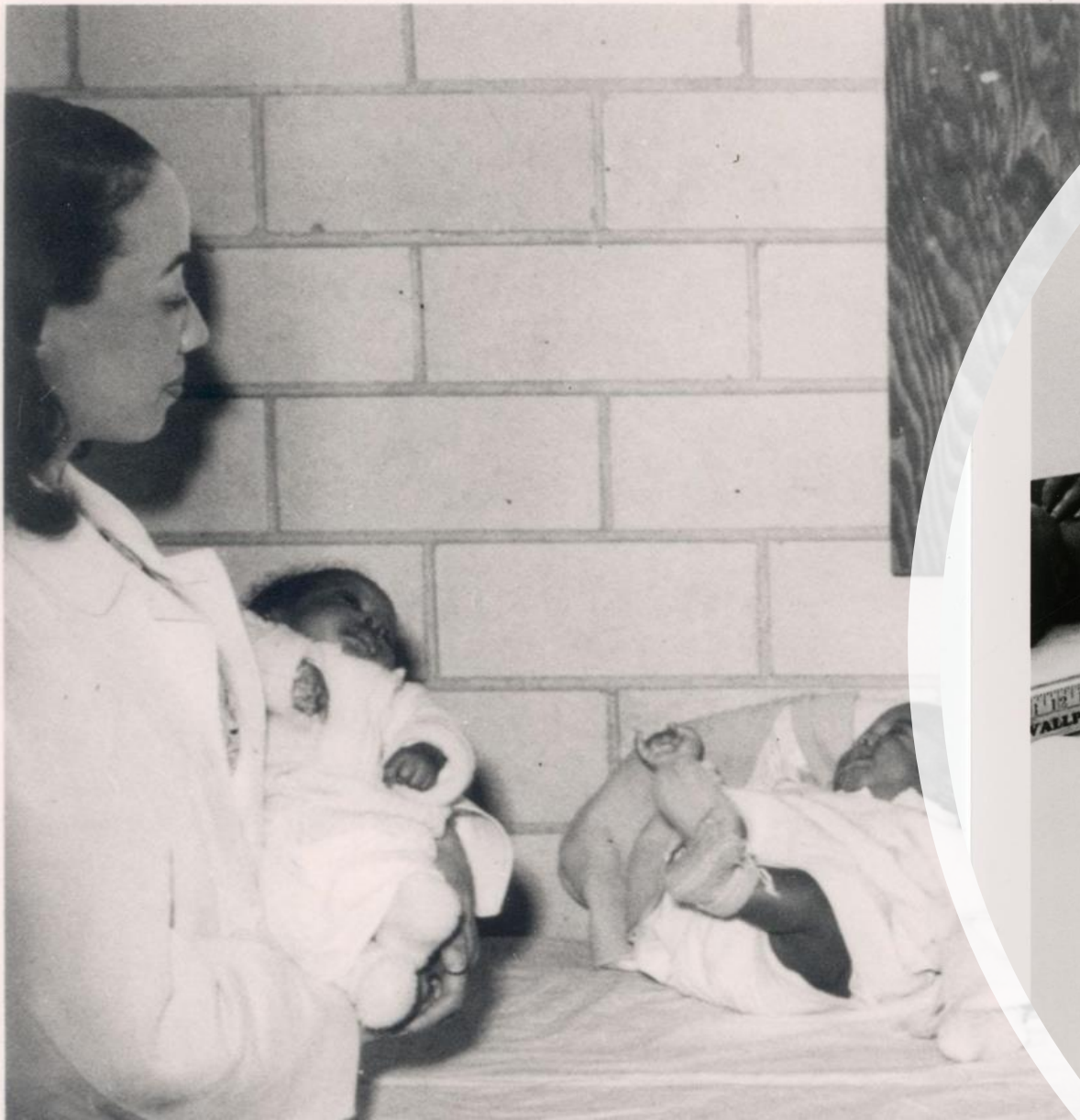
J. Owen Blache (Pathology)

George A. Gaikins (Surgery)

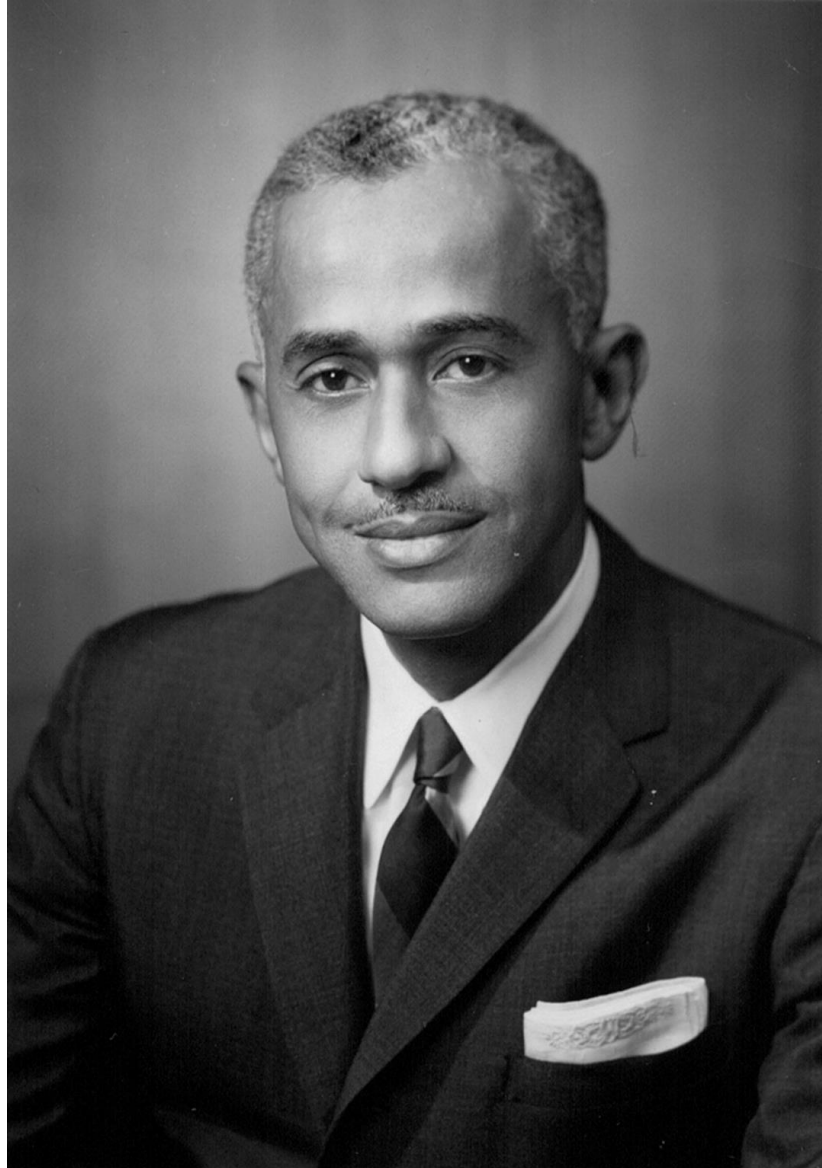
Helen E. Nash (Pediatrics)

Edward B. Williams (Internal Medicine)

James Whittico, first Fellow (Surgery)



**Dr. Helen Nash.** 1<sup>st</sup> black physician at Children's Hospital (1949). WUSOM Asst Dean Minority Affairs (1993)



Dr. James Whittico



Dr Owen Blache



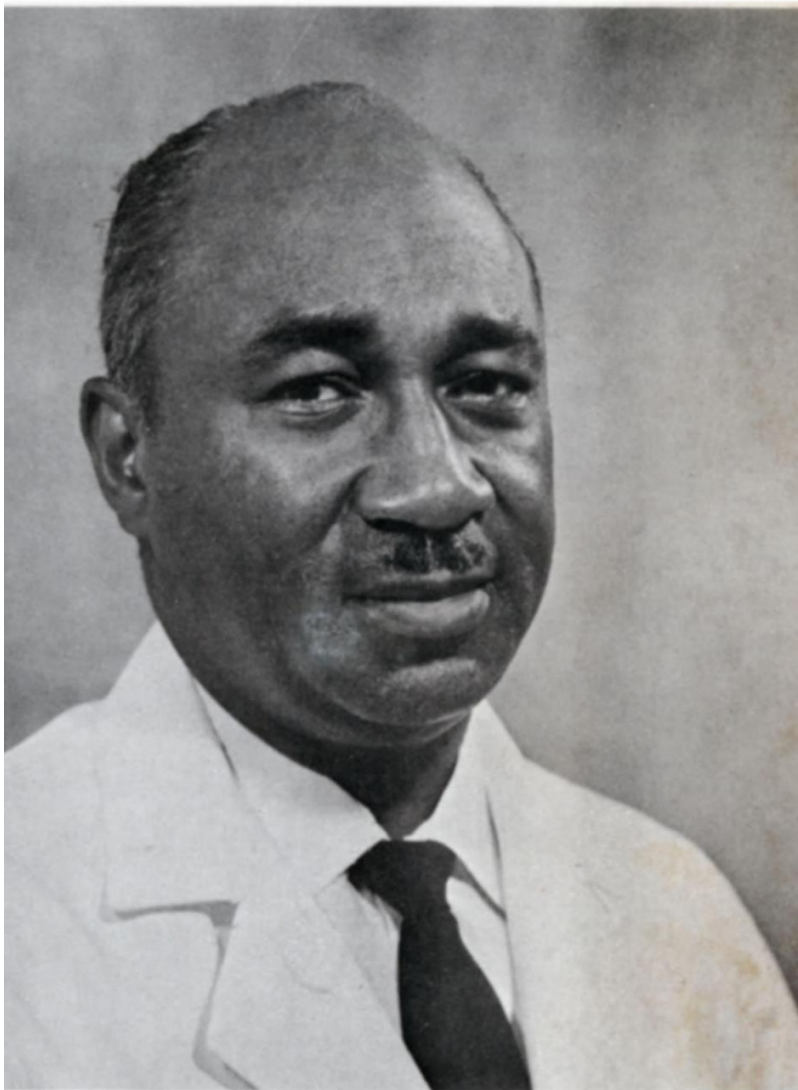
**Park J (PJ) White**  
Pediatrician  
Children's & Homer G  
Phillips Hospitals



Butler Ward, Children's Hospital



**Alexis Hartmann**, Chair Pediatrics  
Children's Hospital



H. P. Venable, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
Asst. Instructor in Clinical Ophthalmology  
Washington University School of Medicine;  
Head and Director, Department of Ophthalmology  
Homer G. Phillips Hospital





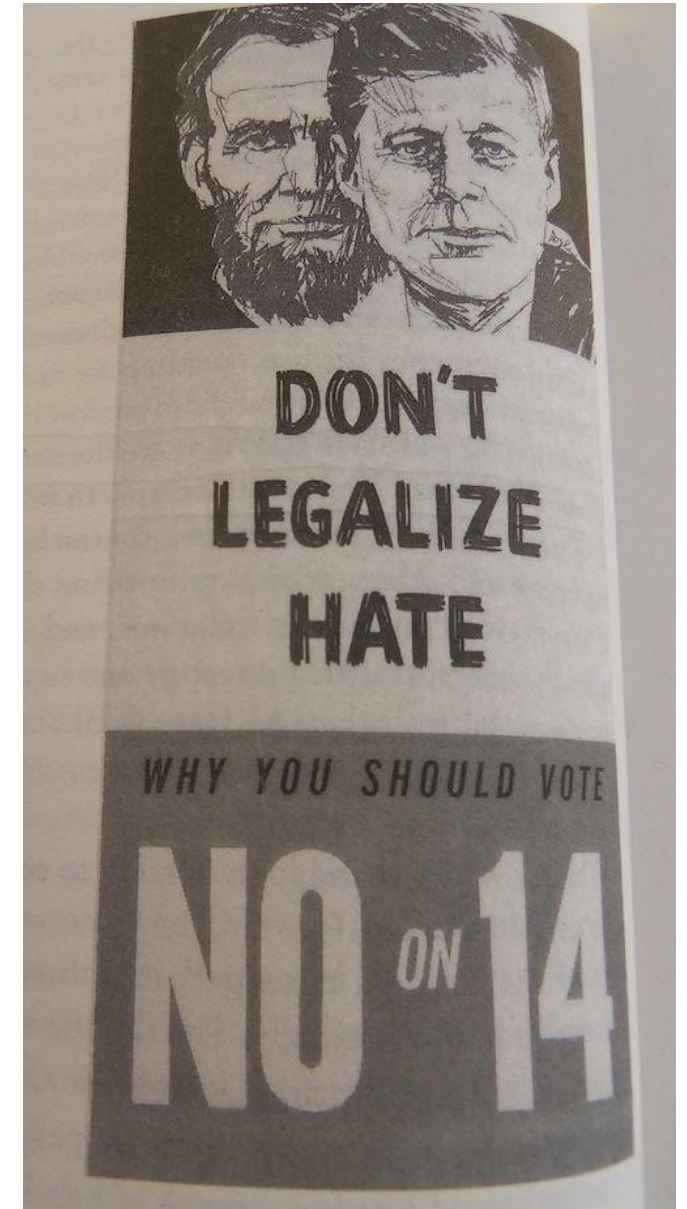
## Civil Rights Along Spoede Road



Proposition 14. Proposed California Constitution amendment.  
Passed 2:1, November 1964

Neither the State nor any subdivision or agency thereof shall deny, limit or abridge, directly or indirectly, the right of any person, who is willing or desires to sell, lease or rent any part or all of his real property, to decline to sell, lease or rent such property to such person or persons as he, in his absolute discretion, chooses.

“I oppose the segregation initiative. I oppose it because it sugar-coats bigotry with an appeal to generalities we can accept, while ignoring the specific problem that confronts us.” California Attorney General Stanley Mosk, 1964



## Some Further Readings

- The Black Physicians in St. Louis (I&II) H. Philip Venable & Julian C Mosley. Metro Medicine May, June 1986
- Democracy at Home: the struggle to desegregate Washington University in the postwar era. Amy M. Pfeifferberger. Gateway Heritage, Winter 1989
- A Legacy of Caring: the History of Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Candace O'Connor. Foundation of Barnes Jewish Hospital 2017
- The Power to Heal: Civil Rights, Medicare, and the Struggle to Transform America's Health Care System. David Barton Smith. Vanderbilt University Press 2016
- A More Beautiful and Terrible History: the Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History. Jeanne Theoharis. Beacon Press 2018
- Truman's speech on health to Congress, Nov 19, 1945 <https://www.trumanlibrary.org/publicpapers/index.php?pid=483&st=&st1=>
- Homer G. Phillips hospital. Johnson AS (2003) J Nat Med Assoc 95:483-8 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12856914>) H. Phillip Venable (1961) J Natl Med Assoc. Nov; 53(6): 541-555 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2642069/>) <http://impact.nmanet.org/wordpress/the-history-of-homer-g-phillips-hospital>
- James Sweatt III MD. [https://www.google.com/search?q=James+Sweatt+III+first+in+class&rlz=1C1GCEU\\_enUS820US821&oq=James&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j69i59j0l4.7834j0j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=James+Sweatt+III+first+in+class&rlz=1C1GCEU_enUS820US821&oq=James&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j69i59j0l4.7834j0j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)
- Julian C Mosley MD. <https://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/obituary-julian-cedell-mosley-jr-md-worked-open-doors-washington-u-medical-school#stream/0>  
[https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/obituaries/dr-julian-mosley-influential-surgeon-at-washington-university-med-school/article\\_1011d3ff-2c66-522f-a8af-75ebf6737413.html](https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/obituaries/dr-julian-mosley-influential-surgeon-at-washington-university-med-school/article_1011d3ff-2c66-522f-a8af-75ebf6737413.html)
- Karen Scruggs MD. page 20 in: <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/70380270.pdf>
- Helen Nash MD. <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/stltoday/obituary.aspx?n=helen-elizabeth-nash&pid=160328581> <https://source.wustl.edu/2012/10/obituary-helen-e-nash-pioneering-pediatrician-91/> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen\\_Elizabeth\\_Nash](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen_Elizabeth_Nash)
- James Whittico MD. [http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local\\_news/pioneering-physician-and-surgeon-dr-james-whittico-jr-passes-at/article\\_cb41624a-a705-11e8-b068-9b2ec478d484.html](http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local_news/pioneering-physician-and-surgeon-dr-james-whittico-jr-passes-at/article_cb41624a-a705-11e8-b068-9b2ec478d484.html) [http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local\\_news/year-old-doctor-retires/article\\_334f341c-eeda-11e4-a144-2b97b9745160.html](http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local_news/year-old-doctor-retires/article_334f341c-eeda-11e4-a144-2b97b9745160.html)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Whittico\\_Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Whittico_Jr.)
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- Park J. White MD. <http://beckerexhibits.wustl.edu/oral/transcripts/white.html>
- The Venable house and racial zoning. State v. Weinstein (<https://www.leagle.com/decision/1959728329sw2d3991708>). Rothstein R (2014) The Making of Ferguson. Economic Policy Institute (<https://www.epi.org/publication/making-ferguson/>). [https://www.newspapers.com/clip/11199535/venable\\_house\\_1956/](https://www.newspapers.com/clip/11199535/venable_house_1956/)
- Univ California v Bakke [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regents\\_of\\_the\\_Univ.\\_of\\_Cal.\\_v.\\_Bakke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regents_of_the_Univ._of_Cal._v._Bakke)
- AAMC Data Book <https://www.aamc.org/data/databook/>

Slides not used

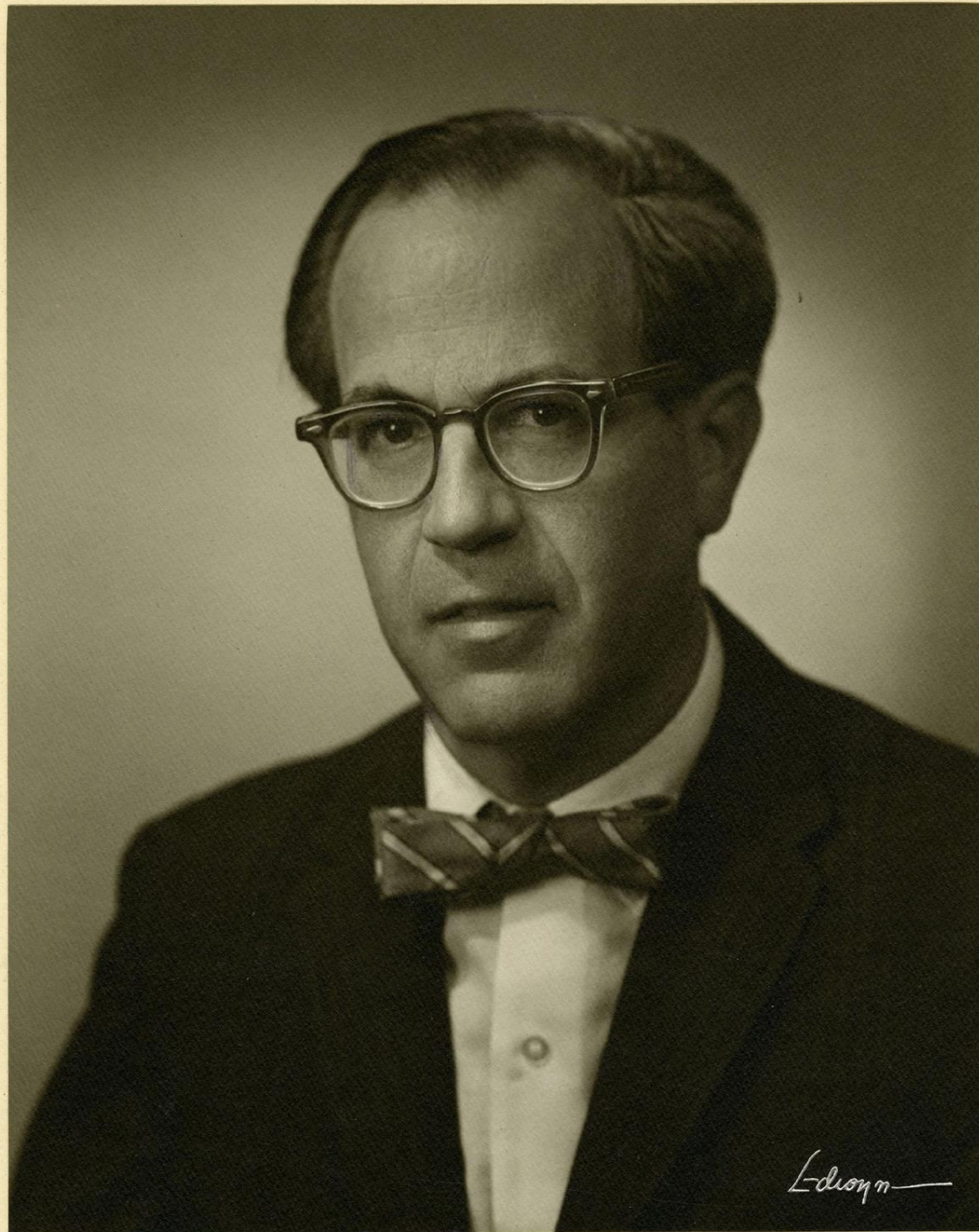
## **ARTICLE IV—COMPOSITION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**This Association shall consist of members who shall be members of the component county medical societies to which only white physicians shall be eligible who have been certified to the headquarters of this Association and whose dues and assessments for the current year have been received by the Secretary. (As amended 1938.)**

Article IV of Missouri State Medical Association  
Circa 1945 (from Park White papers)



Evarts Graham



Bill Landau