

History

Stillman, authorized by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States in 1875, held its first classes of six students in the Fall of 1876 and was chartered as a legal corporation by the State of Alabama in 1895. At the time, the name was changed from Tuscaloosa Institute to Stillman Institute. The institute was a concept initiated by Dr. Charles Allen Stillman, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa.

The following are significant dates in the College's history:

1881 – Tuscaloosa Institute purchased and built a home at 1008 21st Avenue, now the site of the Stillman Heritage House.

1898 – The old Cochrane homestead and 20 acres of land were purchased.

1922 – Stillman Institute became coeducational.

1927 – The junior college was added.

1929 – The building was erected for the Nurses Training School and the Hospital.

1937 – The Junior College division was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

1941 – The High School Division was discontinued.

1948 – The Hospital and Nurses Training Center were closed. Also, on May 5, 1948, the name of the institution was changed to Stillman College.

1951 – The first four-year class graduated.

1953 – Stillman was accredited as a four-year college by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

1961 – Stillman was admitted to membership in the United Negro College Fund.

1991 – The College's address changed to 3601 Stillman Boulevard when portions of Ninth and Fifteenth Streets were named Stillman Boulevard.

1998 – Stillman established the Harte Honors College.

1999 – Stillman reorganized academic affairs into four divisions: Arts and Sciences, Education, Business and the Library; and Stillman wired the entire campus via fiber optic cable.

2001 – The College launched a wireless access computer system.

2002 – Stillman received the National Innovation in Technology Award presented by Apple Computers.

2004 – Stillman received its first-ever ranking among top tier schools by U.S. News and World Report.

2006 – Stillman expanded its offering of degrees to 13 with the addition of journalism and nursing.

2010 – The College was named 1 of the 15 Most Wired College Campuses by U.S. News and World Report.

2013 – Stillman expanded its offering of degrees to 15 with the addition of chemistry and criminal justice.

2015 – Stillman became a smoke-free campus to maintain its healthy campus initiatives.

2019 – The College received national recognition by the Colleges of Distinction for the integrity of its individualized and engaging education; and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges approved Stillman College to offer distance education.

2019 – Stillman College was approved for reaffirmation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

2020 – Mid-spring semester, Stillman College moves all instruction to online and digital modes in response to the spread of COVID-19.

2021 – The College implements a return to campus policy concerning its classroom instruction amid COVID-19 precautions.

2023 – Stillman College holds the distinction of becoming the first Historically Black College with a university-based cybersecurity clinic under the Consortium of Cybersecurity Clinics.

The College has had eight persons to hold the title of President since the title of the head of the institution was changed from principal in 1929.

- Dr. A.L. Jackson, 1929-1947
- Dr. Samuel Burney Hay, 1948-1965
- Dr. Harold N. Stinson, 1967-1981
- Dr. Cordell Wynn, 1982-1997
- Dr. Ernest McNealey, 1997-2013
- Dr. Peter E. Millet, 2014-2016
- Dr. Cynthia Warrick, 2017-2023
- Dr. Yolanda W. Page 2023-Present

Proud of its rich and diverse heritage, Stillman today is an accredited, coeducational, liberal arts college that is committed to excellence in both scholarship and service. In addition to a rigorous, innovative curriculum, the College has enhanced and expanded its physical environment. Stillman's expansive physical plant now includes 25 buildings. Other new facilities are in the developmental stages as part of the College's plan to complete its "sense of place". With a focused vision, Stillman celebrates its past as it advances confidently into the future, preparing students for a different world.