



How it was in 1956

It was May 12, 1956, and New Jersey State Teachers College at Trenton was celebrating its centennial. Elsewhere in America, Eisenhower was running for a second term, racial tensions were rising over segregation, and Dr. Jonas Salk developed a polio vaccine. On the campus, while enrollment (1,509 that spring) was beginning to rise beyond the capacity of the physical plant, it was a relatively quiet period. An active alumni body was the driving force behind a well-attended Centennial Homecoming, highlighted by breaking ground for its gift to the College of the Alumni Meditation Chapel. Other events that day included an open house (at which Miss Vernetta Decker naturally was the

hostess), parade, pageant, original play, and award ceremonies on the steps of Green Hall late in the day. This photograph captures the moment, we believe, when everyone joined in singing the Alma Mater with Quimby's Prairie and Roscoe L. West Library in the background. Today, almost 50 years later, we're celebrating our Sesquicentennial for an entire academic year, with the next major event taking place on Founders' Day, February 8–9, 2005. We'd love to see you there.