

## COMPREHENSIVE VITA

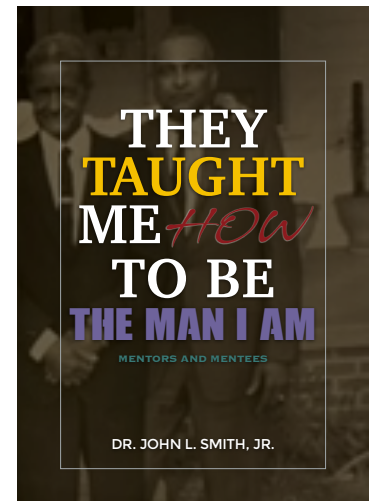
**Dr. John L. Smith, Jr.** served as the twelfth president of Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee (1999-2001), a highly accomplished Southern Regional top tier historically Black liberal arts institution recognized for its retention and graduation rate, percentage of graduates who attend graduate or professional school, and research and Ph.D. recipients in the sciences. During his administrative tenure the University experienced improved academic standing; significant increase in enrollment; enrollment of Merit Scholars; increased National Achievement Scholars; financial stability and credibility; substantial improvements of facilities; increased financial contributions from friends and alumni; enhanced

technology and telecommunications; and greater national visibility. Fisk University progressed from 11th to 8th rank in the *US News and World Report* and continued to be listed in the *Princeton Review*.



During that period, Dr. Smith participated in Leadership Nashville and served as a Board of Trustee member for the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, and served on the Boards of Trustees for Cheekwood Museum of Art and Botanical Garden, the Nashville Symphony, Community Development Corporation of North Nashville, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities, Urban League of Nashville and the YMCA of Greater Nashville. He was appointed by Nashville's Mayor to the Task Force on Affordable Housing and the Community Access Television Committee. He was a member of Nashville's Rotary Club (Paul Harris Fellow), NAACP and University Club.

From 1988 to 1998, Dr. Smith was the Dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of South Florida (USF) with departments in art, dance, music, theatre, and the Contemporary Art Museum and Graphicstudio/Institute for Research in Art. He was the first Black academic Dean for the University, a metropolitan based major research institution of over 50,000 students. His accomplishments while Dean encompassed raising over \$120 million which included three endowed chairs (one an Endowed Chair in African Art), endowed scholarships and programs, and annual academic support funds; department and academic program new and reaccreditations; new academic and support unites; new degree programs including the Masters in Jazz studies; enhanced academic and administrative technology; the unique Center for Arts and Technology; an annual college Graduation Celebration; annual awarding of Professional, Education and Community Activist Alumni Awards; increased student and faculty diversity; weekly lunch/counseling sessions for minority students; special merit and need based financial assistance for minority students; stabilizing and expansion of international exchange and study abroad programs; establishing arts outreach programs to the University Area Community, Boy and Girls Club and West Tampa Elementary School; and arranged for School of Music performances at the Straz Center.



While Dean, Dr. Smith was elected president of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans (the first African American), an organization representing over twenty-three countries, and chairman of the Florida Higher Education Arts Network (the first African American). He served as a member of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges' Commission on the Arts, and on the Boards of Trustees for the Florida Orchestra, Tampa Museum of Art, Hillsborough County Arts Council, and the Florida Cultural Action and Education Alliances.

His USF faculty appointment commenced 1972 (through 1999) as the first tuba professor, subsequently achieving tenure and the rank of Professor of Music. Contributions as faculty include founder and president of the Committee on Black Affairs, co-founder of Project Thrust, a University Black student support program, and president of the Black Faculty and Staff Caucus. His leadership in those roles led to establishing the Institute on Black Life, Project Thrust and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. campus plaza, and increase of Black faculty, students and administrators.

Dr. Smith was appointed faculty and music department chairman at Langston University in 1966 (through 1972) and awarded tenure. As chairman he modified the curriculum making it more African American centered. As chairman of the University's Cultural Program he contracted professional artists for campus presentations. He was also faculty at Grambling State University (1961-62) and Oklahoma City University (adjunct 1966-1972)). In the community he co-founded the Oklahoma City Black Liberated Arts Center and produced three consecutive summer three-day Black Arts Festivals.

Dr. Smith is an accomplished professional musician having served as principal tuba player with the Aspen Music Festival Orchestra (1961), becoming the first African American principal tubist for a professional American symphony orchestra, appointed the first full-time principal tubist for that orchestra. He served six years as principal tubist and first African American full-time appointment with the Oklahoma City Symphony (1966-72). He was also principal tubist with the Chicago Community Orchestra, the Florida West Coast Symphony, the Indiana University Philharmonic and Opera Orchestras, and as adjunct with The Florida Orchestra of Tampa. Dr. Smith performed as tuba soloist with the Oklahoma City Symphony, at USF and the University of North Florida, and as a member of various chamber and jazz ensembles. His musical contributions have also included serving as music director and conductor for instrumental ensembles.

Dr. Smith's academic and professional preparation and milestones include the Bachelor of Music Education from Lincoln University, Missouri (1955-59), the Master of Music Education and the Performer's Certificate (the first awarded a tubist) from Indiana University (1959-61) where he performed as tubist with the distinguish IU Faculty Brass Quintet, and the Doctorate of Musical Arts (DMA) from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (completed 1979). Post-doctoral study was accomplished at Harvard University's Institutes for Educational Management and the Seminar for New University Presidents, and through professional tuba

performance study with William Bell, principle tubists for the New York Philharmonic and Arnold Jacobs, principal tubists for the Chicago Symphony.

He is the recipient of many civic, social and educational honors including Outstanding Young Men of America, University of Missouri-Kansas City's Alumni Achievement Award, the Tampa/Hillsborough County Human Rights Award and a UNCF award recipient; Honors memberships include Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Kappa Lambda, Golden Key National Honor Society and the National Music Society; and awards and honors from the University of South Florida. He is a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (Orpheus Award recipient). He received an honorable discharge for four-years of service in the US Navy (1962-66).

Dr. Smith's professional travel includes several countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, South America and the Caribbean, and the countries of New Zealand and Canada. He is married to Juel Shannon Smith, PhD, the father of seven children, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren.