Ulysses Sully Jones came to Southern University in 1937 on a scholarship he received from A.W. Mumford. Mumford was the coach for all sports, Athletic Director and Head of the Physical Education department.

Jones's parents, were Marv and George A. Jones along with his siblings, two brothers, Walter and James, and one sister, Mildred. Jones, a native of Richmond, Virginia attended Armstrong High School in Richmond. While attending Armstrong, he earned all-star honors in football and basketball.

At Southern University, his football career included playing center for the Southern University Cats and was rated as one of the best centers in the Southwest Conference. He was also chosen as one of the several outstanding pivot men in the country and received second team rating on the Courier’s All American Eleven.

Jones played his last football game as a member of Southern University’s football team on December 7, 1940 against Xavier University. The score was 28-0 with Southern winning. He was an All-American football player, and captain of the football team in his senior year at the university.

In the late 20s and 30s, Jones played football with persons such as Ralph W.E. Jones, former President of Grambling; Alex Haysbert, Supervisor of equipment and property in the athletic department, and Horace Moody, Director of Intramurals. Others included Walter Austin, Head of Research and Planning at Southern University in New Orleans, Dr. James Peters, Director, Rehabilitation for the State of Connecticut, and C.H. Chapman, Registrar.

In his last year as a student-athlete at Southern, he became an All-Conference basketball player, and was co-captain of the basketball team.

Jones graduated from Southern University in 1942 with a Bachelor’s degree in health and physical education. He also received his Master’s degree in personnel administration and guidance in higher education from New York University.

In 1950, Jones became an official member of the Southern University family as the Dean of Men. In 1967, he was appointed full-time Director of Athletics.

Jones served from 1952-1968 as an advisor to the Student Senate. During his tenure as Dean of Men, he started the Men’s Federation.
One of the first publications on campus was called the Male Call, which was printed by the Men’s Federation.

Jones also introduced and planned the first Coronation of the Miss Southern Pageant. He added his ideas which consisted of planning the Coronation and the Ball. He also introduced the method of compensating the President of the Student Council by paying all his fees and providing him $50.00 a month in allowance, food and board in a dormitory.

Jones along with the late Dr. Rodney Higgins introduced student elections through state voting machines. It was the first time students were allowed to use state voting machines.

Student Government Day was another spectacular movement of Dean Jones. This day was the day that all student leaders would relieve the administrators, faculty and maintenance staff from their duties for 24 hours.

Dr. Henry Wiggins, Chair of the Mass Communications department came to Southern upon retirement from the Army. He was 38 years old and the oldest student on campus. Wiggins received his first job as a student council member and he maintained and operated South Hall as a mature student with an Army background. Wiggins stayed with Jones until he received his Bachelor of Arts and his Master of Arts degrees.

Jones indicated during his tenure that Founders’ Day had diminished and there was a noticeable lack of interest and enthusiasm among students, faculty and the community since the 60s. Prior to the 1960s Founders’ Day was a week-long festivity and the faculty, administration, students and the community had a major involvement in Founders’ Week. Students would have the day off to come to the different programs throughout the day.

Jones was a long-time affiliate with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). He served as President and Vice-President of the Southwestern Athletic Conference, and the Chairman of District No. 30 of the NAIA.

The dormitory “Ulysses S. Jones Hall” [Freshman/Males] on Southern’s campus is named in his honor.

Jones, Ulysses S. Personal Papers. Archives and Manuscripts Department, John B. Cade Library, Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.


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