

Charles Oliver Receives Kappa Alpha Psi Lifetime Achievement Award

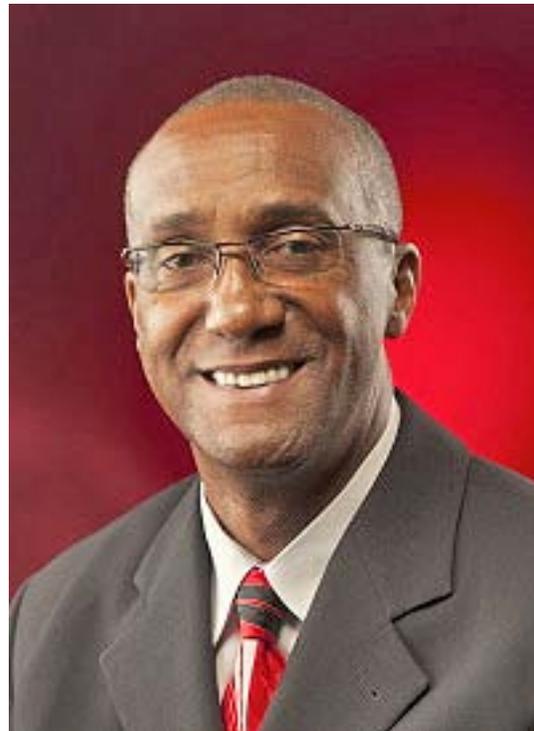
Knoxville, Tennessee

During recent homecoming activities at Troy University, Charles Oliver AKA Coach O, was presented with the Lifetime Achievement award for Troy Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Oliver was a member of the Theta Phi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, where he was one of 20 brothers of the charter line that brought the first black fraternity to the Troy State campus.

Coach O was recently inducted into the Inaugural Troy University Sports Hall of fame. Oliver, who only began running track as a senior at Jordan High School in Columbus, Ga., won a state championship that season in the 400-meter dash, but it was through a common acquaintance that he popped up on the radar of John Anderson, Troy State's track and field coach at the time.

Oliver won the 1976 NAIA National Championship in the 400-meter dash and still holds the Troy school record in the event with a blistering time of 45.74 seconds. He also placed fifth at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Austin, Texas, that season in the 440-yard dash.

After his career at Troy State, Oliver was ranked among the top-10 in the country by Track & Field News in 1974, 1976 and 1980.



Oliver returned to Troy State in 1980 as a graduate assistant track and field coach, and was named the program's head coach a season later. Before he left Troy State in 1988, Coach O's teams won seven Gulf South Conference track championships, Oliver was named Coach of the Year seven times and 26 athletes won All-America honors.

Coach O's success attracted the attention of the University of Tennessee where he was on the staffs that won National Championships as a track and field assistant coach and as a member of the football event management staff.

Oliver's roots in Troy are still prominent today as he currently sponsors the Coach O Cross Country Invitational and the Coach O Track & Field Invitational each year at Troy.

He is also a successful businessman, founding Bags by Coach O in 1989, and is heavily involved in supporting grassroots track and field programs for kids.

Oliver now resides in Knoxville, Tenn., where he manages Coach O Enterprises (Bags by Coach O, Coach O Registration, Coach O Event Management) Oliver and his wife Jessie have two sons, Charles III and Alexander, a daughter in law, Denise and a grandson, Kristian.