



TSU E-News

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TSU Athletics shines in a new era with big wins



Texas Southern Athletics has had a remarkable year, bringing a total of 13 championship and league titles to campus. TSU earned regular season and tournament titles in men's and women's basketball, a first-ever title in women's golf, and championship trophies in softball and baseball.

Athletics set a new standard of championship excellence in 2014-15, which set the

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Four TSU students selected for summer workshop at Yale



(l-r) – Chanise Epps, Kei Takahashi, Robert Riojas and Michael Marie Thomas

Texas Southern University will be represented by four students at the inaugural HBCU Summer Teachers Institute in Technical Art (STITAH) at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. The Institute will be held June 2-9.

Chanise Epps (sophomore), **Robert Riojas** (senior), **Kei Takahashi** (sophomore) and **Michael Marie Thomas** (junior) were four of 11 students selected in a national search to participate in the professional development course geared toward HBCU students. Dr. **Alvia Wardlaw**, director of TSU's University Museum, mentored the students and will accompany them at the eight-day intensive workshop. Epps, Riojas and Takahashi are art majors and Thomas is majoring in history.

"Texas Southern has a long history of engaging and supporting young artists in their work," Thomas said. "By participating in the Yale STITAH program, I will be able to shine a light on this fantastic legacy and bring more recognition to the university that continues to impact my vision for the future."

This intensive program in art conservation will focus on protecting cultural heritage and includes a tour of the Sterling Memorial Library archives and the African-American Culture walk. Conservation instruction will include art demonstration, examination, technique analysis, research and treatment. Workshop participants will engage in direct instruction, discussions, practicum, and hands-on activities at the British Art Center and Yale School of Art.

Local centenarian recognized for lifetime of service



(l-r) **Randall Rochon**, United Airlines first officer and OBAP board member, **Xavier Samuels**, Houston ACE Academy director, **Azellia White**, and **Albert Glenn**, OBAP chair.

Mrs. **Azellia White**, the first African-American woman to obtain a pilot's license in Texas, received the Aviation Pioneer Award from the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) on May 23. White, who is 103 years old, was lauded for her lifetime of service in aviation.

White learned to fly alongside the famed Tuskegee Airmen, ferried airplanes for the Army Air Corps during World War II, and "barnstormed" with other Black pilots after the war. She and her late husband, Hulon "Pappy" White, who was a Tuskegee Airman, founded Sky Ranch, a flight school and re-fueling station on farmland on Alameda Road.

OBAP partnered with TSU's Aviation Science and Technology Department for an Aerospace Symposium to discuss the future of aeronautics in southeast Texas, airport management opportunities, and avenues to educate the next generation of aerospace professionals.



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stage for teams to win six Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) championship titles and seven league titles in a three-year period. Over 60 student-athletes have graduated during each of the past four academic terms.

"Texas Southern Athletics has indeed come a long way over the course of the past nine years. My goal upon taking over the helm of the program was for TSU to reach a point to where we were competing for championships in all of our sports each and every year," said Dr. **Charles McClelland**, vice president of Intercollegiate Athletics. "We can say we've made those once-lofty aspirations a reality with over half of our programs winning titles or finishing as runner-ups this past year."

Dr. McClelland praised the University's athletics staff, coaches and student-athletes for working tirelessly to contribute to a resurgence of TSU Athletics. He said that everyone deserved full credit for their sacrifices and hard work. Texas Southern has claimed a total of 22 championships in nine years under McClelland's leadership, one-third of the 60 titles won since the inception of intercollegiate athletics at the university.

Head Coach **Mike Davis** and the men's basketball team have become the program's most dominant force in recent years. The team has hoisted championship trophies every year since 2012.

"When I first got to Texas Southern, Dr. McClelland told me two things, that he wanted us to graduate our student-athletes and to compete for championships each and every year," Davis said. "Those are our goals with the start of each new season and we're excited to have been able to live up to our end of the bargain."

Highlights of the 2016-17 season include program milestones for Texas Southern. The women's basketball team won the SWAC Tournament and headed to the NCAA Tournament, and the women's Golf team won the 2017 SWAC Championship and qualified for the NCAA Regionals. Both achievements were the first in University history. Baseball has claimed SWAC titles in two of the past three seasons and the softball team has been crowned champions in three of the last four seasons.

Jhonna Hayes-Perry, women's basketball head coach, **Hank Stewart**, women's golf head coach, **Worley Barker**, head softball coach, and **Michael Robertson**, head baseball coach, all believe that winning is contagious and is part of the culture established at TSU. They attribute their success to having the necessary resources to compete for championships and being able to boast of solid APR scores that have led to a strong student-athlete graduation rate. Stewart said that the teams are "champions on the field and in the classroom."

This spring, the NCAA released the 2015-16 NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR) data, postseason ineligibility and penalty reports for all NCAA Division I institutions as part of its national program. All of the sports programs at Texas Southern either met or exceeded current NCAA standards for the sixth consecutive year and none of TSU's programs will be subject to APR penalties.

TSU participates in national solar energy competition



Texas Southern University and a consortium of 13 other universities are competing for a U.S. Department of Energy grant that will fund solar power projects for low-income households. The group will be competing for a \$1 million award from the Energy Department that has set aside \$5 million for the competition.

The Department of Energy estimates that about half of American households do not have roofs in adequate condition for solar panel installation. Also, cost has been a major barrier to the installation of residential solar panels, which can cost thousands of dollars.

TSU will work with the other universities over the next 18 months to develop business plans for community solar projects in Houston. The consortium will develop plans to create training for installation jobs, a critical piece of the competition due to the growth in solar in the U.S. Two percent of job growth in 2016 was in the solar industry, according to the Solar Foundation.



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