

FREEMAN HONORS

Vol. 2, No. 1 FLL 2013 Newsletter of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University

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ABOUT THIS EDITION

This is the fourth and newest edition of Freeman Honors, the semesterly newsletter of Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University.

Freeman Honors connects the students, faculty and office personnel of the College with its many benefactors and partners in education within the University and external communities.

The College anticipates that this connection will reflect and cultivate the relationships in a family whose members are dedicated to maximizing the preparation of College students for service as citizens and as leaders of our new Age of the Global.

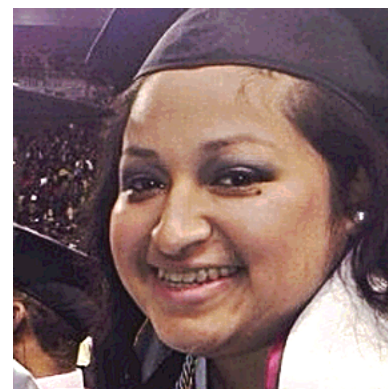
Fall 2013 Valedictorian and Salutatorian Were Freeman Honors College Scholars



The Valedictorian and the Salutatorian at Commencement at Texas Southern University in December, 2013 were scholars in the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College.

The achievement comes after the Salutatorian at Commencement in May of 2013 was one other scholar in the Freeman Honors College.

In Fall 2013, the Valedictorian was Biology major Brenda Kariuki (left), Summa Cum Laude, and the Salutatorian was Music major Cris-



tina Vasquez (right), Summa Cum Laude. Both were College scholars.

In Spring 2013, the salutatorian was the Chemistry major and Honors Scholar Eugene Boakye Ansa.

All three students entered the unit after it made the transition from the Frederick Douglass Honors Program to the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College in the summer of 2009.

The list of Honors College scholars who graduated in the fall of 2013 is on Page 3 of this newsletter.

Dean's Message: Promise of FS 102

The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College will offer the gateway course FS 102 under its own umbrella for the first time in the spring of 2014.

This development represents an important milestone, since it allows the College to design the course specifically as a highly focused introduction to the multiple facets and integrated components that make up its program.

It also provides the College with the opportunity to place its own stamp on the relationships its scholars understand, appreciate and live out between the program and others in the University, the Academy, and the world.

It especially provides the opportunity for the College to cultivate early in the scholars the central ideas and skills in the program. These include the themes of Interdisciplinarity; the concurrent location of subjects in Local, National and Global contexts; and Ethics, Aesthetics and Philosophy in the Age of the Global. They also include the application of writing and multimedia skills in communication, and the cultivation of the Core Values and Seven Principles of the College. Scholars apply these elements in courses, internships, research/creative/professional projects, and other experiences.

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Scholars Receive Prestigious Opportunities



Freshman Lisa Nuñez Wins Summer NASA Internship

One of the newest scholars in the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College family has started her tenure at the College with the securing of a prestigious opportunity.

The scholar, freshman and Biology major Lisa Nuñez, received an offer of an internship at the NASA Science and Technology Institute (NSTI) for Minority Institutions, a program at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

In the program, under the supervision of Dr. Alamelu Sundaresan, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at Texas Southern University, Nuñez and other interns will conduct research with scientists at NASA and with scholars in such fields as science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The interns in the highly prestigious program scheduled for the summer of 2014 also will undergo professional development training in leadership, networking, and scientific communication and presentation, among other areas.

We congratulate Ms. Nuñez, and look forward to her role as a leader and model, both in her studies at our College and as an alumna of the College and our University.



Quach to Present Paper at NAAAS Conference

The National Association of African American Studies (NAAAS) and Affiliates has accepted for presentation at one of its coming conferences a scholarly paper that junior, Biology major and Thomas F. Freeman Honors College scholar Tommy Quach co-authored.

NAAAS has decided that Quach will make the presentation on Sequencing the Complete Mitochondrial Genome of the Palawan Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron napoleonis* and Phasianidae Phylogenomics at its February 10-15, 2014 conference in Baton Rouge, LA.

Quach developed the paper with Dr. Hector C. Miranda, Jr., Associate Professor of Biology and Interim Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs at the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, and Dr. Daniel Brooks, Curator of the Vertebrate Zoology of the Houston Museum Natural Science Center.

The research that spawned the paper received funds from the Center for Bionanotechnology and Environmental Research (CBER) of the NASA-University Research Council, and the Summer Undergraduate Research Program of the College of Science and Technology at TSU.

Honors College Congratulates Fall 2013 Graduates

The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College congratulates the scholars (in addition to the “Val” and “Sal”) who graduated in the fall of 2013:

Beatrice Gonzales, BA, Psychology, Cum Laude; **Elizabeth La Bella**, BS, Dietetics, Cum

Laude; **Haruna Kibirige**, BS, Computer Science, Cum Laude; **Ermanique Davis**, BBA, Accounting, Cum Laude; **Fabian Limones**, BBA, Accounting, Cum Laude; **Azalea Hall**, BS, Administration of Justice, Magna Cum Laude; **Mi-**

chael Mitchell, BS, Administration of Justice, Cum Laude; **Corie Phillips**, BA, Journalism, Cum Laude; **Tanesha Graham**, BS, Administration of Justice.

Most completed their degrees in four years or less. Very well done!

Honors College Inducts New Scholars in Solemn Ceremony



The scholars the Honors College inducted included many first-time-in-college freshmen (above).



The inductees also included students (above) who were continuing in, or transferred into, TSU.

There were palpable lumps in the throats of many members of the incoming class of Thomas F. Freeman Honors College scholars when they underwent their induction into the College on December 3, 2013.

Many of the 54 freshmen and 17 continuing and transfer students especially seemed to shudder as they followed Dr. Thomas F. Freeman and pledged to uphold the five Core Values of the College and live by its Seven Principles for the Age of Globalization and Globalism.

And several of them seemed to take more time than one would have thought they needed, and appeared to

be nervous and to have difficulty, as they showed their sense of kinship by attaching the College pins on to the lapels of each other.

But they seemed to display a certain joyous, even though somewhat tense, excitement as they celebrated their formal entry into the College at the reception that came after the induction ceremony.

In his remarks, Dean Humphrey A. Regis stressed that with the emphasis on the Core Values the College sought to strengthen them inside, and through the focus on the Seven Principles it also sought to strengthen them in their relations.

He also promised the students that the observance of Five Values, the upholding of the Seven Principles, the practicing of the themes in the College and the mastery of their specialties will prepare them better than courses in their majors only to become full citizens and accomplished leaders in the new “age of the global.”

Provost Sunny E. Ohia congratulated the new scholars, and others in the Honors family and the TSU community pledged to help them.

That was in the presence of the many parents, siblings or friends of scholars who were at the induction.



Asante “Raises” Level of “Discourse” at TSU

Dr. Molefi Kete Asante, the very prominent and eminent authority on African American Studies as well as World African Community Studies, challenged scholars in the Honors College and members of the University and general communities to be grounded in the study of the millennia-old history and heritage of African peoples and apply today one of their tried and tested philosophies.

After a review of the currents and highlights of the history and heritage, Asante cautioned all People of African Descent to claim only those elements in human history to which they indeed should lay claim.

He also declared that the African peoples may claim the “moral compass” that has guided life and living

in the Nile Valley and in other parts of the Continent for millennia, the philosophy of MAAT.

He proposed that while the Seven Principles of MAAT seem to be interpretations of it from scholars, the philosophy and the Principles must guide human beings in the era of globalization. The principles include Truth, Justice, Propriety, Harmony, Balance, Reciprocity, Order.

The lecture was followed by several questions from Honors College Scholars and answers from Asante, who received thanks on behalf of the College and University from senior, Public Relations major and Honors College scholar Erica Blue.

Former TSU Debate Coach Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, after whom the

College receives its name, said the lecture served to “raise the level of discourse” at TSU on issues that are critical in the age of globalization.

Honors Scholars Marcus Esther (pictured above at left) and Chinonso Ezeudu (not pictured) made dramatic presentations on Africa before the lecture by Dr. Asante (at right).

The audience included TSU Provost Sunny E. Ohia, three members of the external advisory board of the College (the Friends of the Honors College), and members of the Texas Southern University, University of Houston and general communities.

Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts of the Debate Team and the Honors College at TSU served as the moderator of the September 24, 2013 lecture.

Houston-Area Professionals Advise Scholars in Lecture Series

Three Houston-area professionals emphasized the major themes in the Honors College, and advised Honors scholars on the transition from the classroom to the work place, in presentations in the Fall 2013 Lecture Series of the College.

The presenters were Chemical IT Manager Ronald McElrath of ExxonMobil, member of the Friends of the Honors College advisory board, and Criminal Investigator Eric Carr and Police Investigator Bruce Owdley of the Financial Crimes Unit of the Houston Police Department.

McElrath on October 29 addressed the College theme that stresses the concurrent location of subjects in local, national and global contexts.

He described the integration of elements in industry and commerce by explaining how products such as the iPhone are produced in China from components originating in a number of parts of the world - such as Africa, Europe, and Asia.

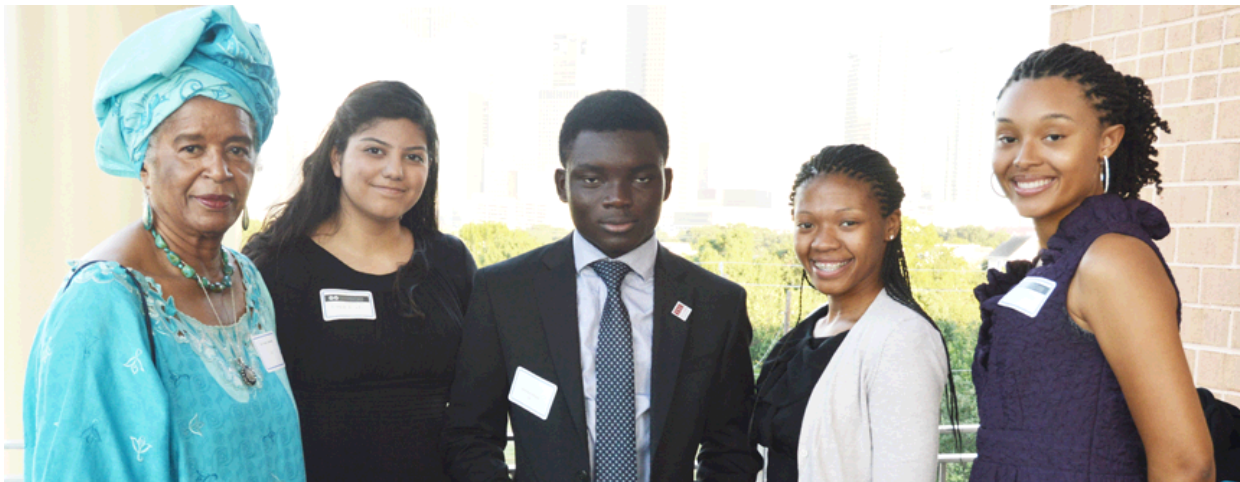
He stressed that the person who occupies his position must communicate with colleagues in local, national and international environ-

ments through intermediaries who speak different languages or through the command of several languages.

Carr and Owdley on November 19 spoke on Interdisciplinarity in Law Enforcement and Detective Work, especially how the detective applies biology, physics, business, psychology and computer science in the investigation of financial crimes.

Carr and Owdley stressed the critical importance of comprehensive and integrative academic excellence in preparation for success in criminal justice and law enforcement.

Scholars, “Friends,” Dean Observe United Nations Day



For the second successive year, scholars at the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College joined scores of internationalists in the annual observance of United Nations Day.

Freshmen Damilare Oliyide and Ailene Rivas, sophomore Marrison Johnson, junior Amber Peters and Dean Humphrey Regis joined College “Friends” Hon. Teta Banks and Ms. Linda Edwards at the U.N. Day

Gala at the Federal Reserve Bank Building in Houston October 24.

The Honors scholars report that the connections they made will help them in the future. Oliyide reported that his connections will help him in a joint venture with his brother.

Scholars noted that in his address, USA Director Josh Randle of the Duke of Edinburgh Award program emphasized that philanthropists to-

day do not have to be rich, and may make contributions in many ways, even at the check-out counter.

The photograph shows College “Friend” Edwards and scholars Rivas, Oliyide, Peters and Johnson.

The office of Hon. Banks, Friend of the College and President of the United Nations Association of the Houston area, planned and executed the U.N. Day celebration.

Honors Becomes “Inaugural Member” of the “Duke of Edinburgh” Program

The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College scholars who in October 2013 celebrated United Nations Day also represent the College in the inaugural implementation of the Duke of Edinburgh Program in Texas.

The scholars - Ailene Rivas and Damilare Oliyide (freshmen), Marrison Johnson (sophomore) and Amber Peters (junior) - will receive advice on their participation from Dr. Candy Ratliff, Assistant Dean for Student Services in the College.

Hon. Teta Banks, the initiator and organizer of the Houston area Duke Program, President of the U.N. Association of Houston, and a “Friend” of the College, called the Program “outstanding,” and said it encourages

young people to excel in areas like “community service, special skills and talents, physical recreation, and adventurous journey.”

The College sees the participation of its students in the Program as consistent with two of the three themes in the academic and co-curricular experience it provides - the simultaneous location of subjects in local, national and global context; and ethics, aesthetics and philosophy in the age of the global.

The College anticipates that the reports from its participants in the program will stimulate the inclination in its scholars to expand their horizons to include participation in a variety of global opportunities.

Ron McElrath Joins “Friends” of College



The newest member of the College advisory board, Friends of the Honors College, is Mr. Ronald McElrath, the Chemical IT Manager at ExxonMobil in the Houston area.

See Page 4 for a story about him.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: <http://www.tsu.edu/honorscollege>

Scholar Ezra Roy Presents Special Mask to College

Honors College scholar, art major and senior Ezra Roy exhibited several works of art he completed in a proposal course in which he met the requirements of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College.

Roy then staged the exhibition at the end of the spring of 2013 after he had completed ten masks on canvas to meet requirements for ART 321, which he took with Professor Lenard Brown.

After the exhibition in April, Roy presented one of the masks, which he fashioned when he was one of the first students of the College to com-



plete a Proposal course to meet its requirements, to Dean Humphrey A. Regis of the College.

The College requires its students to complete four proposal courses - one outside the major, two in the major, and a capstone that may be an internship or a research, creative or professional project.

The requirement applies to those students who started in the College in or after the fall of 2011, whether they entered as freshmen, continuing students or transfer students.

Roy was the second scholar to present art work to the College.

Dean, Scholars in College Edit *Liberated Academics*



Dean Humphrey Regis said he is pleased that his collaboration with members of the Honors College family and the Texas Southern University community resulted in the publication of his latest book.



The TSU academics and one colleague edited *Liberated Academics in Studies of Caricommoners*, and the dean published it with his alma mater, the Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School in Saint Lucia, to

mark of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the school.

The editors included Dr. Candy H. Ratliff, Assistant Dean for Student Services in the College; Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts, the Interim Coordinator of Student Services and Community Relations in the College; Mr. Emmanuel Nwachukwu, a graduate student in communication and an assistant in TSU's Teaching and Learning Excellence Center; and Dr. Leroy Lashley, professor of English at Miami-Dade College in Florida.

The book has 12 old works from Dr. Regis, 3 new works from him, and 3 works from other scholars. It concludes with a proposal from Dr. Regis that the Caribbean attain "creolism" that is marked by equity and equality among its heritages and so could be a model for "globalism."

Call to Alumni: Make Contact with the "College"

We at the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College are working on a database of alumni of honors units at Texas Southern University.

The database will include information on those past students who have been in the Thomas F. Free-

man Honors College, Frederick Douglass Honors Program, and other honors activities or units that may have preceded them.

If you are one of these alumni, provide the information to the Honors College's Business

Administrator, Ms. Linda Coach-Riley, at coach_if@tsu.edu or 713 313 7458.

You also may provide the information to the Honors College Student Assistant, Ms. Maria Tavera, who is at 713 313 6724.