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## About This Edition

The award winning *Freeman Honors*, is the bi-annual newsletter of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University. It connects the students, faculty and office personnel of the College with its many benefactors and partners in education within the University.

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 in a global society.

## Retirement of the Dr. Thomas F. Freeman Papers and Books



L to r: Dr. Freeman, Mrs. Sarah Haiying Li and Mrs. Freeman

The Honors College celebrated the official retirement of the Freeman Papers and Books on June 27, 2019, which also marked the 100th birthday of its Founding Dean, **Dr. Thomas F. Freeman**.

The event was held in the Exhibit Room of the Robert J. Terry Library .

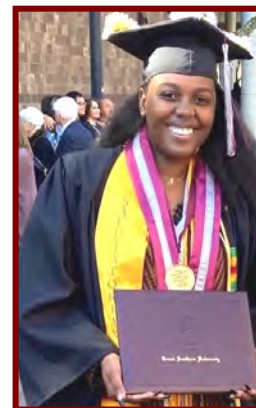
**See Freeman Papers and Books -- on Page 2**

## Fall 2019 Salutatorian is Thomas F. Freeman Scholar Ashlynn McCall

The Salutatorian at the Fall 2019 Commencement at Texas Southern University on December 14, 2019 is a Thomas F. Freeman Honors College scholar. **Ashlynn McCall** graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Biology and a GPA of 3.92. Ashlynn aspires to be a medical doctor and plans to take the Medical College Application Test this spring upon graduation. The Honors College wishes her well.

The list of Honors College scholars who graduated in the Fall of 2019 is on Page 10 of this newsletter.

**See December 2019 Graduates -- on Page 10**



*Ashlynn McCall*

## Dean's Message



*Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard*

The Fall 2019 semester began with Alumna **Dr. Cherry Gooden** speaking at the Fall Dinner and ended with the Honors Graduation Ceremony. Senior Freeman Scholars were presented with the newly designed stoles fashioned with a gold medallion that states "Honors College" attached. In between those two landmark events were a host of trips, awards, accomplishments, research and honors classes that all align with our mission to provide challenging courses, enhancement experiences, intellectual engagement and research opportunities.

Please enjoy this edition of the award winning *Freeman Honors*. (The *Freeman Honors* newsletter received recognition from the

National Collegiate Honors Council in 2018).

Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard

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## Freeman Papers & Books (continued from Page 1)



*Dr. Freeman seated next to the Freeman Exhibit assembled by Dean Jemison Pollard and RJT Library Staff Ms. Conchetta Fields*

The program, presided over by **Dr. Janice Peyton**, Director of TSU Libraries, started with the retiring of the Thomas F. Freeman Papers and Books. **Dr. Freeman** officially handed over the ceremonial items to the Heartman Collection Archivist, **Mrs. Sarah Haiying Li**.

After the ceremony, the College celebrated Dr. Freeman's 100th birthday with cake and music.

Other program participants included

Freeman Scholar **Alexis Shavers**, **Dean Jemison Pollard**, **Dr. Rasoul Saneifard** and **Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts**. Music was provided by Freeman Scholar and gifted musician **Daniel Kuddabujja**.

The event was well attended by Dr. Freeman's family, TSU administrators and staff, students including members of the TSU Debate Team and Honors College Freeman Scholars, and numerous well wishers from the community.



*Standing l to r: Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts, Prof. Dorris Robinson, Dr. Alvia Wardlaw, Mrs. Sarah Haiying Li, Atty. Sandra Fullerton, Hon. Teta Banks and Dean Jemison Pollard. Seated: Dr. and Mrs. Freeman*

## Fall 2019 Retreat

The Honors College welcomed the Freeman Scholars to a new school year with the annual Fall Retreat held in the C.S. Lane building on Saturday, September 7, 2019. **Mr. Shandon Neal** kicked off the retreat with an interactive ice breaker that promoted team building and collaboration among the new and returning members of the College.

After the icebreaker, the scholars were divided according to their classes into breakout sessions facilitated by **Dean Jemison Pollard**, **Dr. Hector Miranda**, **Ms. Renuka Nair** and **Mr. Shandon Neal**. During the breakout sessions freshman scholars discussed their majors and why they selected their major with the Dean, sophomores discussed campus organizations and time management with Mr. Neal, the juniors discussed research topics for their course augmentation proposals, and the seniors received an in-depth look into the senior thesis with Dr. Miranda and were assigned their faculty fellow mentors.

Honors College faculty members, **Dr. Michon Benson** (Department of English) and **Dr. James Herbst** (Department of History) briefly addressed the scholars and spoke about tips for a successful academic year. After lunch was served, the scholars received the Fall 2019 calendar with all required activities.

The Honors Fall Retreat is a required event for Freeman Scholars.



*Dr. James Herbst addressing the Freeman Scholars at the Fall Retreat*



## The Annual Honors Fall Dinner

The three boulders to move out of the way for success in college and life were addressed by the Key-note Speaker, **Dr. Cherry Ross Gooden**, at the annual Fall Dinner on September 17, 2019. Dr. Gooden walked around the Tiger Room in the Sterling student Life Center speaking to the Freeman Scholars who had all eyes on her. The boulders to recognize are procrastination, time management and distractions. Dr. Gooden is a retired professor and former chair of the Curriculum and Instruction Department in the College of Education. Also, she served as the director of GUAC (General University Academic Center).

As the Freeman Scholars were all dressed up for the occasion, they witnessed several Junior scholars receiving Gray Honors College Blazers as recognition of completing two years of honors requirements.



*Dr. Cherry Ross Gooden (left) with Freeman Scholar Ms. Ana Gonzalez*



### *2019 Junior Blazer Recipients*

*Front row left to right: Sneha Thomas, Kiara Chatman, Siete Richardson, Destiny Riddle, Shadman Shaikh, and Noemi Perez*

*Back row left to right: B.J. McCaskill, Chukwudalu Ononenyi, Clinton Emeh, Joseph Castelli, and Bose Anifowose*

Senior scholars who completed all requirements through their Junior year received a “Scholar” lapel pin. The senior Freeman Scholars who earned their senior pin are: **Vivian Adeoye, Janik Alexander-Smith, Henry Bautista, Julian Black, Vincent Fisher, Ana Gonzalez, Giraude Griffin, Tylar Larkins, Chinedu Maduekwe, Ashlynn McCall, Olajumoke Omosobi, Eniola Otukoya, Leslie Pineda, Kiya Reeves, Mariela Rodriguez, Godswill Sam, Kei Takahashi, Gabriella Tavera, Raissa Teta, and Christina Vital.**

The climax of the evening was the Induction Ceremony for eleven (11) new continuing scholars and four (4) transfer scholars. **Dean Jemison Pollard** administered the oath. The Freshmen class will be inducted in February 2020 after successfully completing one semester of college level work.

Participants on the program included: **Ms. Eniola Otukoya** (senior, Biology), **Ms. Ana Gonzalez** (senior, Interdisciplinary Studies), **Mr. Shandon Neal**, **Dr. Hector Miranda**, and **Ms. Renuka Nair**.

Musical selections were played by Freeman Scholars, **Mark Ddamulira** and **Daniel Kuddabujja**.

The Fall Dinner serves as the first official event on the Fall 2019 calendar after the Honors College Retreat.



### *Fall 2019 Inductees*

*Front row left to right: Jessica Allagoa, Angela Smith, Sara Zhang, Maya Davis, Sara Shirdon, Aimey Burrows, Ronson Hawkins and Alexis Praytor*

*Back row left to right: Devon Wrighting, Merritt Johnson, Farhan Ahmed, JoirDon Karl Nicholas, Desmonae McCloud, and Bashir Kalyesubula*

## Fredrick Douglass Lecture Series

The Frederick Douglass Lecture Series is a required attendance event for the Honors College Freeman Scholars. Two lectures are presented each semester and each has a community and/or global focus.

### Dr. George Kieh—October 1, 2019

**Dr. George Kieh Jr.**, Dean of the Barbara Jordan Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, shared his thoughts on the current political climate in the U.S. with his lecture titled *“Citizen Engagement and Democracy within the United States.”*

His objective for the lecture was to point out key issues regarding citizen engagement. Dr. Kieh talked about the lack of citizen participation and inclusion. He is an advocate for the involvement of citizens in the implementation and creative process of government policy, stating there should be more inclusion. Dr. Kieh noted that the nature of the government determines how much a citizen can engage. The democratic government in the United States, he said, makes it easier for citizens to engage in comparison to in countries with a dictatorship or a totalitarian government. According to Dr. Kieh, “an engaged citizen should find the area in which their life experiences and skills could be useful.” He emphasized that citizen engagement is a group effort, and that we can all contribute some way and somehow. Dr. Kieh’s rhetoric is very encouraging. His call to action inspired the Freeman Scholars to be engaged citizens, appreciate their civil liberties and use their right to vote as citizens.



*Frederick Douglass Lecture featuring  
Dr. George Kieh*

**Ms. Desmonae McCloud** (Sophomore, Finance), delivered the invocation, **Ms. Alexis Shavers** (Senior, Biology/Pre-Medicine) delivered the occasion, **Ms. LaTeryka Hudson** (Junior, Administration of Justice) introduced the speaker.

### Dr. Jesus Esparza—November 12, 2019



*Frederick Douglass Lecture featuring  
Dr. Jesus Jesse Esparza*

**Dr. Jesus Jesse Esparza**, Assistant Professor of History, spoke to the Freeman Scholars about the life of the average Hispanic living in the 1800s to present day America. His lecture, titled *“Foreigners on Their Own Land: American Nativism and the Politics of Citizenship,”* fully engaged the scholars with a timeline that showcased the difficulties of being a Hispanic in the land of the free.

Dr. Esparza shared thoughts about the recent trials that Hispanics face, many of which involved mistreatment by government officials. Scholars were informed about the current state of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (I.C.E.) tactics such as separating families, holding immigrants in private facilities, restricting their access to lawyers and/or family members, and committing brutalities such as rape. Dr. Esparza also highlighted the fact that countless Latinos and Latinas who have served this country in the military, were deported after their service. He touched upon the Obama Administration’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy which was responsible for the creation of I.C.E. However, Dr. Esparza assured us that there are ways to help. As humans, we must feel a sense of responsibility to help our brothers and sisters to defend themselves against injustice. He encouraged the scholars to know their rights and shed light on injustice, so that we can advance along a path of justice and equality for all with no limitations to race or background.

**Ms. Renuka Nair**, delivered the invocation, **Mr. Brian Martinez** (Freshman, Accounting) delivered the occasion, **Ms. Deja Rollins** (Freshman, Political Science) introduced the speaker, and **Dean Jemison Pollard**, delivered the closing remarks.



## TSU-Golden Key Induction Ceremony



*Left to right: Destiny Riddle, Cora Scott, Nekea Easterling, Mariah Campbell, Angela Smith, Clinton emeh, Camryn Roberts, Johnea Edwards-Marks (back), Kei Takahashi, Best Okpamen, Ms. Renuka Nair and Mr. Shandon Neal, advisors. Not pictured, Provost Kendall Harris, New Honorary member*

The TSU Chapter of the Golden Key International Honor Society (GK-TSU) recently held its New Member Recognition and Honorary Member Induction Ceremony on Thursday September 26, 2019, in the Thomas f. Freeman Honors College. The

Honors College, which houses the chapter, hosted the ceremony in its new home in the new Library Learning Center. The event was well attended by the new members and their family and friends. Invited speakers were Retired Chair of the TSU English Department and former Director of the chapter, **Dr. Betty Taylor-Thompson**, and former chapter advisor **Mrs. Linda Coach-Riley**. Recognized for his student-focus and impactful academic leadership, **Provost Kendall Harris** accepted the invitation to be inducted as an Honorary Member.

Golden Key is the world's largest collegiate honor society, dedicated to Academics, Leadership, and Service. Membership into the Society is by invitation from the national office in Atlanta, only to the top 15% of universi-



*Honorary member Dr. Kendall Harris with TSU-GK advisor Ms. Renuka Nair*



*Dr. Betty Taylor-Thompson (left) and Mrs. Linda Coach-Riley (right)*

ty sophomores, juniors, and seniors, as well as top-performing graduate students in all fields of study, based solely on their academic achievements. Ten scholars were officially inducted into the chapter. The chapter officers are: **Ms. Angela Smith**, President; **Ms. Destiny Riddle**, Vice President; **Ms. Johnea Edwards**, Secretary.

Ms. Renuka Nair and Mr. Shandon Neal serve as chapter advisors.

## 2019 United Nations Day



*Left to right: Dean Jemison Pollard, Clinton Emeh, Noralis Rodriguez-Santiago, Alexis Shavers, Janai Minga and Shaun Stevenson*

The United Nations Association Houston hosted their annual gala on United Nations Day, October 24, 2019.

It was a grand event filled with vibrant colors, bright smiles, and delectable food. Freeman Scholars **Alexis Shavers** (Senior, Biology, Honors Ambassadors-President), **Janai Minga** (Junior, Pre-Pharmacy, Miss Honors College), **Clinton Emeh** (Junior, Biology, Mister Honors College), **Noralis Rodriguez-Santiago** (Freshman, Biology, highest incoming GPA) and **Shaun Stevenson** (Freshman, Biology, highest participation in community service), represented TSU and the Honors College, and were thrilled to attend such a prestigious event with **Dean Jemison Pollard**. The gala was held at the Houston Junior League, which was aptly decorated with flags from all around the world. Honors College scholars, along with the dean, shared a table with international students from Prairie View A&M University and former mayor of Prairie View, the **Honorable Frank Jackson**. Both groups were honored to be the only Historically Black Colleges and Universities represented at this high profile international event. The program was beautiful and included speakers that captivated the audience. The Honors College scholars are grateful to have had the opportunity to attend.

Special thanks to the **Honorable Teta Banks**, President of the United Nations Association-USA and member of the Honors College Advisory Board, for generously sponsoring the schol-

ars' tickets to the event through the Texas Spring Cypress Links, Inc. organization.

## The Scholars-in-Training Program: A partnership between HISD and the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College

Maya Angelou once said, "When you learn, teach. When you get, give." During the Fall 2019 semester, the Honors College extended its Scholars in Training program to provide mentorship to Houston Independent School District including charter schools. The Scholars-in-Training program consists of Freeman Scholars assisting high school juniors and senior scholars with their college entrance exams, which include the ACT and SAT. The goal of the program is to assist inner city high school scholars boost their standardized test scores. The Freeman Scholars who signed up and were trained for the program in Fall 2019 are: **Shaun Stevenson, Janai Minga, Devon Wrighting, Jamel Joliviet, and Daniel Avila**. Young Women's College Preparatory School, a Houston area charter school, identified over 30 high school scholars in need of help with raising their standardized test scores and who have signed up to participate. The Honors College would like to thank the Freeman Scholars for volunteering their time for the Scholars-in-Training program.



*Left to right: Dean Jemison Pollard, Ms. Sarah Sejoro Graduate Research Assistant, and Mr. Michael Koch, HISD Coordinator*

The Scholars-in-Training program is facilitated by the Honors College graduate research assistant **Sarah Sejoro**, and will be conducted each fall and spring semester.



## Honors Research and Recruitment Trip to New Orleans



*Dean Jemison Pollard (second from left) and Freeman Scholars, with Prof. Carolyn Duell Wistrand (fourth from right) and students from Dillard University*

Twenty-two Freeman scholars from the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, along with **Dean Jemison Pollard** and **Mr. Shandon Neal**, program coordinator, visited New Orleans on their fall semester Research and Recruitment Trip, in November 2019. While there, they shared research with students from Dillard University. Research presentations included: *Impact of Genetic Counseling in Medicine* (**Vivian Adeoye**, senior), *AMPs and their Impact on the Gut Microbiota* (**Eniola Otukoya**, senior), and *MYB Family: Differentiation within Members of the MYB's in Breast Cancer Cells and Patient Samples* (**Gabriella Tavera**, senior).

While in New Orleans they visited Xavier University and toured the art exhibit, *The Spirit of Art in the African Diaspora*, in the Gallery. The scholars met with students in Xavier's honors program, the Exponentials, and their director, **Dr. Ja'Wanda Grant**.

The recruitment phase of the trip took them to Warren Easton High School and St. Augustine High School. The Freeman scholars, who wore their Honors blazers, spoke of the benefits of being a part of the Honors College to juniors



*Freeman Scholars at Warren Easton High School*



*Dean Jemison Pollard (seated left) and Ms. Danetta Honore (seated right) with Freeman Scholars and St. Augustine students*

and seniors who had a 3.5 or higher GPA. Presently, there are two freshmen Freeman scholars from St. Augustine, which is a prestigious all-male school.

The Freeman scholars were treated to lunch at the historic Dooky Chase's Restaurant and had a chance to meet the daughter and son of the owners who are now deceased. **Mrs. Stella Chase Reese** and **Edgar "Dooky" Chase, III** spoke to the scholars about how the restaurant was a safe haven for the Freedom Riders in the '60s and was one of the few restaurants that was opened to African Americans in the 40s and 50s and was listed in the Green Book. Each scholar had a chance to take a photo with the Chases. Before leaving the city, the Freeman scholars were treated to a luncheon cruise on the Steamboat Natchez.

While in New Orleans, **Dean Jemison Pollard** also attended several of the sessions at the 54th National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Annual Conference. She served as an adjudicator for the NCHC National Newsletter Competition for 2019. (The "*Freeman Honors*" newsletter won second place in 2018 for the Best Faculty/Student Newsletter.)

# Honors College Recruitment in the Houston Area

## Community College Honors Program Day

As part of the University enrollment drive, the Honors College hosted several Houston area community colleges that have an Honors program, in Fall 2019. Honors program directors and prospective transfer students were invited to a special presentation by the Honors College, highlighting the benefits of continuing an honors undergraduate education. **Dean Jemison Pollard** along with the Honors staff and Freeman Scholar **Daniel Avila**, addressed the community college honors program directors from Houston Community College, Lone Star College and San Jacinto College, showcasing the honors curriculum, the research and the various enrichment opportunities afforded by the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College. The event ended with a lunch for the invited guests and students.



*Community College Honors Program directors (l to r): Dr. Eddie Weller (San Jacinto), Prof. Daniel Flores (Houston Community College), Dr. Maria Donaire-Cirsovius (Lone Star), and Prof. Brian Kyser (Lone Star)*

## Honors Charter School Day



*Left to right: Dean Jemison Pollard, Dr. Hector Miranda, Ms. Nicole Gonzales, Freeman Scholar Daniel Avila, and Mr. Shandon Neal*

The Honors College organized outreach activities catered towards Houston area charter schools in the Fall 2019 semester. The outreach was a success as we were able to connect with some exemplary schools, including the Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy (YWCPA). The Honors staff and Freeman Scholars met with **Ms. Nicole Gonzales**, college readiness staff at YWCPA, to share information about the invaluable benefits afforded to Freeman Scholars, including a challenging Honors curriculum, as well as research and travel opportunities. YWCPA has multiple locations all around the state of Texas. The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College goal is to promote academic success, attract some of the best students, and promote Texas Southern University and the Honors College all over Texas and the United States.

## Honors In Search of a Few Good Scholars!

Fall 2019 TSU Scholars’ Night



*Freeman Scholars Chukwudalu Ononenyi (far right) and Janai Minga (second to right) talk to prospective students.*

*September 26, 2019*

Houston Academy of International Studies (HAIS)



*Freeman Scholars and (HAIS) alums Keara Dixon (far left) and Meia Holley (second to left) speak to current HAIS seniors*

*October 11, 2019*

Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy



*Dr. Hector Miranda and Ms. Renuka Nair attended YWCPA’s College Awareness Week*

*November 14, 2019*



## Fall 2019 Undergraduate Research and Internships Symposium

On November 18 through 20, 2019, the Honors College hosted its semi-annual Undergraduate Research and Internships Symposium, showcasing the interdisciplinary research and internship activities of 30 junior Honors scholars. Celebrating scholarly research and internship experiences, the symposium serves as a forum for junior level scholars to present their work that is completed in the course augmentation proposals (CAPs). The presentation topics and content are based on the scholars' chosen fields of study. Participants were given 10-15 minutes to present their topics.

Below are three presentations from the Fall 2019 Symposium.

**KIARA CHATMAN: “Marketing Tendencies and their impact on Consumer Behavior”**  
(MKTG 306, Dept of Marketing, Professor: **Dr. Claudius Claiborne**)

In the field of marketing, reports of offensive language and/or depictions in advertisements and even products, are not uncommon. These problems usually occur due to a lack of cultural sensitivity. Cultural sensitivity is a set of skills that enable us to learn about and understand people who are different from ourselves, thereby becoming better able to serve them within their own communities. This research project details the detriment that cultural insensitivity can cause and provides possible solutions to overcoming this phenomenon. Solutions include, a list of common signs of cultural insensitivity and mistakes to watch out for, along with guidelines for hiring a culturally diverse team specifically designed to meet cultural sensitivity standards.



*Kiara Chatman*  
(Finance)



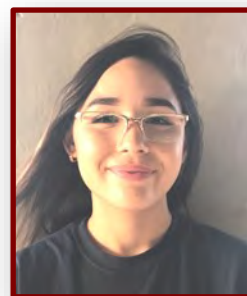
*Sneha Thomas*  
(Pharmacy)

**SNEHA THOMAS: “Mental Disorders and Their Effects on Brain Structure and Function”**  
(PHARM 426, Dept. of Pharmaceutical & Environmental Health Sciences, Professor: **Dr. Ya Fatou Mbye**)

Mental disorders alter a person's thinking, feeling, and behavior. This research focused on major depressive disorder and schizophrenia. Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) is a mood disorder that causes individuals to constantly feel sad and lose interest in day to day tasks. Schizophrenia causes an increase in symptoms of hallucinations, delusions, and reduced feelings. In addition, this disease decreases the size of the brain's hippocampus, frontal lobe, and occipital lobe. Although there is no cure to these diseases, there are pharmacological and behavioral treatments used to alleviate the symptoms. Overall, mental disorders come in many forms, can affect any race, age, or gender, and have the capability to cause severe changes to the brain.

**MARIELA RODRIGUEZ: “The Re-emergence of the Measles Virus in 2019”**  
(BIOL 347, Dept. of Biology, Professor: **Dr. Jason Rosenzweig**)

Measles, a highly infectious endemic disease, was once eradicated in the early 2000s. However, it has reemerged in recent years due to unvaccinated individuals serving as reservoirs for this virus to continually be present. In 1998, an article published in the prestigious medical journal, *The Lancet*, British doctor Andrew Wakefield, falsely linked the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine to autism. Evidence from this research found people were misinformed about potential side effects of the vaccination. Anti-vaccination groups continue to sway parents against vaccinating their children, thus putting the general population at risk and diminishing herd immunity, causing a public health crisis. In 2019 cases of measles increased three-fold due to religious beliefs and social pressure. In 2014, data deduced over 13,592 personal belief exceptions were submitted to schools opting out of recommended vaccinations coinciding with the measles outbreak in Disneyland. In Texas alone, the exemptions grew from 2,300 in 2013 to 64,000 just in 2016. The most recent outbreak in New York has led to stronger vaccination policies and possible fines and/or jail time for parents who fail to vaccinate their children, citing child negligence.



*Mariela Rodriguez*  
(Biology)

## December 2019 Honors College Graduates



*Standing (l to r): Godswill Sam, Ashley Stoneham, Olajumoke Omosobi, Dorian Fernandez, Eniola Otukoya, Ashlynn McCall (Salutatorian), Tylar Larkins, Chinedu Maduekwe, and Kei Takahashi*



*Fall 2019 Graduate  
Christina Vital*

On Tuesday December 3, 2019, the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College celebrated its Fall 2019 graduates, who had successfully completed Honors curriculum requirements, including the senior thesis, at a luncheon with family and friends of the graduates. **Dean Jemison Pollard** presided over the Honors Graduation Recognition Ceremony/Luncheon held in the Library Learning Center, the new home of the Honors College. Honors Faculty Fellow and Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Music Education, **Dr. Tanya Allen**, delivered inspirational thoughts with those present. She offered invaluable advice to the graduates as they prepare to embark upon their next chapter in life as Honors alumni and global citizens. December 2019 Class Salutatorian and Freeman Scholar, **Ashlynn McCall**, shared thoughts about her journey through TSU and the Honors College. She reflected upon what motivated her to stay focused on her goals and always aim to succeed regardless of distractions and minor failures.

The luncheon and ceremony concluded with **Dean Jemison Pollard** leading the graduation pledge. The graduates pledged to continue to uphold the core values of the Honors College (Honesty, Integrity, Community, Creativity, and Excellence). Each graduate was honored with the newly designed Honors College stole, a certificate of completion, as well as TSU Alumni memorabilia as tokens of appreciation.

The December 2019 graduates are: **Dorian Fernandez** (Biology), **Tylar Larkins** (Biology), **Chinedu Maduekwe** (Maritime Transportation Management Security), **Ashlynn McCall** (Biology), **Olajumoke Omosobi** (Aviation Science Management), **Eniola Otukoya** (Biology), **Godswill Sam** (Political Science), **Kayla Smith** (Business Management), **Ashley Stoneham** (Administration of Justice), **Kei Takahashi** (Art), and **Christina Vital** (Health Studies).

Congratulations to our graduates as they embark upon the next chapter in their lives.



*Fall 2019 Graduate  
Kayla Smith*



*The newly designed Honors Graduation Stole*



## SENIOR THESIS DECEMBER 2019

The Honors College congratulates all graduating scholars who successfully completed their senior thesis:

### Tylar Larkins

Degree: B.S. in Biology  
Thesis Title: *An Evaluation of the Coregulation of MyB and the Neuroprotective Effects of MCB on Ischemic Stroke*  
Advisor: Dr. Hector Miranda

### Godswill Sam

Degree: B.A. in Political Science  
Thesis Title: *Plato's Ideal Society: An Intricate Analysis of Plato's Republic and its Consequential Effect on Modern Political Society*  
Advisor: Dr. David Baker

### Chinedu Maduekwe

Degree: B.S. in Maritime Transportation and Security Management  
Thesis Title: *The Impact of Maritime Environmental Violations Committed within Nigeria*  
Advisor: Dr. Yi Qi

### Kayla Smith

Degree: B.B.A. in Business Management  
Thesis Title: *How E-Commerce is on the Rise*  
Advisor: Dr. Mayur Desai

### Ashlynn McCall

Degree: B.S. in Biology  
Thesis Title: *Inhibition of Serine One-Carbon Metabolism Reduces Pro-Inflammatory Response*  
Advisor: Dr. Hector Miranda

### Ashley Stoneham

Degree: B.S. in Administration of Justice  
Thesis Title: *The School-to-Prison Pipeline Uncovered*  
Advisor: Dr. David Baker

### Olajumoke Omosebi

Degree: B.S. in Aviation Science Management  
Thesis Title: *Possible Uses of Drones in Airport Operations*  
Advisor: Dr. Yi Qi

### Kei Takahashi

Degree: B.A. in Art  
Thesis Title: *Japanese Paper and Paper Conservation*  
Advisor: Dr. Tanya Allen

### Eniola Otukoya

Degree: B.S. in Biology  
Thesis Title: *The Gut Microbiota, Function and its Impact on Health and Disease*  
Advisor: Dr. Hector Miranda

### Christina Vital

Degree: B.S. in Health Studies  
Thesis Title: *Childhood Obesity: Understanding the Causes and Consequences of Familial and Environmental Influences*  
Advisor: Dr. Collette Bloom

*"The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College Formula:*

*Effective Leadership + Supportive Honors Faculty/Staff = Scholar Success!"*

## Creative Expression

“2020”

By: Alexis Lowe  
(Senior, Political Science)

*A new year, a new decade.*

*A time of reflection, a time of new commitments.*

*A new year, a new decade.*

*A time of self improvement, a time of new dedications.*

*A new year, a new decade.*

*A time of determination, a time of new accomplishments.*

*A new year, a new decade.*

*Time to focus. Time to finish.*

*The end of the road is near, and the new beginning you fear.*

*A new year, a new decade.*

*Time to reach the goals you have long yearned for.*

*Time to cross the stage. Time to say you did it.*

## Freeman Scholar Highlights

### Freeman Scholars Wins Literary Award

Ms. **Judnie Michel**, Freshman, Pre-Pharmacy major, was the Fall 2019 recipient of the **Clarence and Flora Ware Memorial Writing Award** presented by TSU’s English Department. According to **Prof. Tiffany Ware**, Director of the TSU Writing Lab, Judnie’s paper titled “*Middle Child vs. STOOPID*” reflected the mission of the writing lab and the award’s namesake--- Ms. Ware’s parents. Ms. Ware, along with Judnie’s Honors ENG 131 professor, **Dr. Iris Lancaster**, and Chair of the English Department, **Dr. Michael Sollars**, presented Judnie with a \$75.00 Visa gift card and a Kindle device.

Congratulations, Judnie!



*Left to right: Dr. Iris Lancaster (Honors Faculty, ENG 131 and 132), Ms. Tiffany Ware, Freeman Scholar Ms. Judnie Michel, and Dr. Michael Sollars*

### Freeman Scholars Inducted into the Doctor of Pharmacy Program



*Sneha Thomas*

On Friday, October 12, 2019, Freeman Scholars **Obenifiro Abu**, **Bose Anifowose**, **Destiny Riddle**, **Sneha Thomas** and **Reine Yandouma**, were inducted into the Doctor of Pharmacy Program at the annual White Coat Ceremony held by the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences.



*Left to right: Obenifiro Abu, Bose Anifowose, Destiny Riddle, and Reine Yandouma*

Congratulations to our Professional Year 1 scholars!

### Freeman Scholars Among Winners at the Phillips66 Case Study Competition



*Freeman Scholars Angela Smith (second from left) and Chinedu Maduekwe (right) with fellow team members*

On October 4th, 2019, Phillips 66 hosted their annual Case Competition in Houston. Phillips 66 is passionate about showcasing the talent developed at local HBCU’s and creating more career opportunities for HBCU students. During the competition, students solve a real-world business scenario, present their recommendations in front of a panel of company recruiters and management, and compete for a chance to win \$1,000 in cash prizes. This year, Texas Southern University competed against students from and Prairie View A&M University. The competing teams were given two hours to complete the solution and 10 minutes to present to the judges. The 2019 winning team was comprised of five students from Texas Southern University, including Freeman Scholars **Precious Oguonu**, **Angela Smith** and **Chinedu Maduekwe**.

Congratulations to all participants!



## Staff Highlights

### Dean Jemison Pollard Selected to Judge the National Best University Newsletter Competition at NCHC



Each year the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) holds the Newsletter Contest. In the 2018-2019 academic year, the Spring 2018 edition of *Freeman Honors* won 2nd place for the Faculty/Student-Electronic category, out of 27 entries.

This year, as the dean of a winning newsletter, **Dean Jemison Pollard** was selected to judge the entries for the 2019-2020. She received over thirty (30) newsletters in August 2019 from around the country. Her assignment was to go through each newsletter, Faculty/Student Printed Publication and Student Printed Publication, both electronic and hard copy, and rank them according to the following: Stated purpose is reflected in form and content; form and content is relevant to target audience; content is well written, interesting, and informative; appearance of newsletter (layout, color, type) is compelling; newsletter reflects creativity; and publication has a consistent and tangible “feel” or voice. Also, she was asked to give feedback on strengths and weaknesses.



*The Spring 2018 edition of the Freeman Honors newsletter*

Honors staff, **Dr. Hector Miranda**, Asst. Dean for Academic Affairs and **Ms. Renuka Nair**, Director of Academic and Student Services, assisted the dean.

The Newsletter Awards were presented at the NCHC conference in New Orleans in November 2019. Dean Jemison Pollard attended the conference.

## Honors College Gives Back to the Community



**Thanksgiving Food Drive**

*Back row l to r: Ms. Sarah Sejoro, Mr. Calvin Chukwuka, Dean Jemison Pollard, Mr. Chizara Nwakanma  
Front row l to r: Ms. Renuka Nair, Dr. Hector Miranda, and Mr. Shandon Neal*



**Christmas Toy Drive**

*Left to right: Ms. Renuka Nair, Mr. Calvin Chukwuka, Mr. Shandon Neal, Dean Jemison Pollard, Mr. Chizara Nwakanma, and Dr. Hector Miranda*

## Scenes from Fall 2019



*Janai Minga and Clinton Eneh on the COSET float during the Homecoming Parade*



*2019-2020 Miss and Mister Junior: Kiara Chatman and B.J. McCaskill*



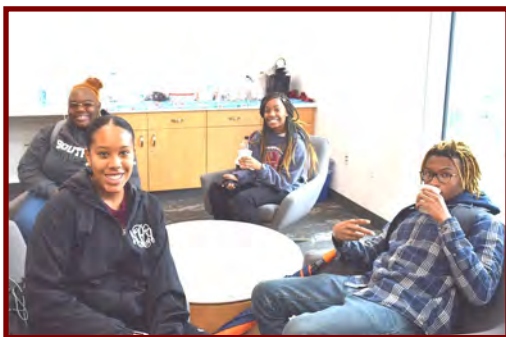
*Honors College Homecoming Alumni Mixer: Dorothy Robinson (left) and Kalifa Kelly (right)*



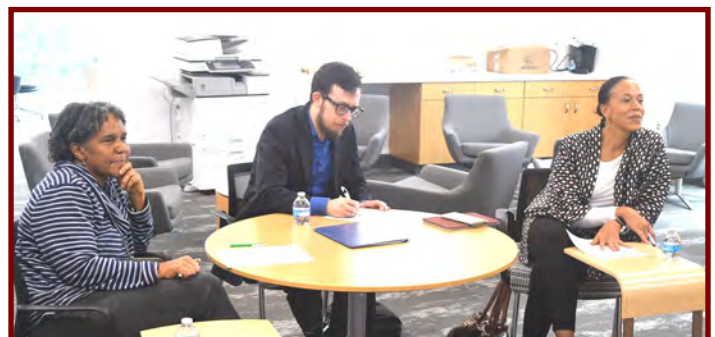
*Freeman Scholars and Honors staff on Research and Recruitment trip to New Orleans, LA*



*Honors Faculty Meeting left to right: Dr. Michon Benson, Prof. Robinson, Dr. James Herbst, Prof. Victoria Amaku, Ms. Renuka Nair, and Dr. Hector Miranda (front)*



*Freshman Cocoa & Cookies!  
Freshmen scholars, left to right: Jerriah White, Nora Rodriguez, Destiny Smith, and Jamel Jolivet*



*Senior Thesis Panelists left to right: Dr. Audrey Player, Dr. James Herbst, and Dr. Michon Benson*



## Scenes from Fall 2019 (continued)



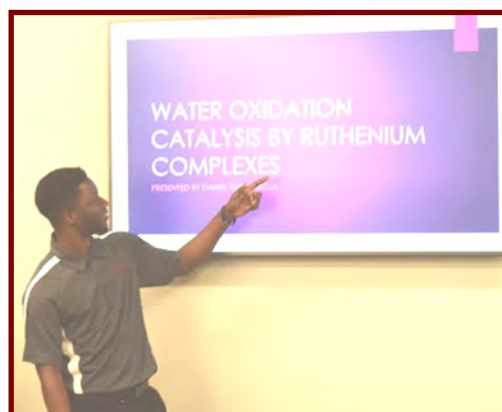
*Birthday Celebration!  
Dr. and Mrs. Freeman (seated) with Freeman Scholars  
and members of the TSU Debate Team*



*Dean Jemison Pollard (right) with other attendees at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference in New Orleans, LA*

## Call to Alumni: Make Contact with the Honors College

We are continually updating our database of alumni of honors units at Texas Southern University. The database includes information on those past students who have been in the Honors College, Frederick Douglass Honors Program, and other honors activities or units that may have preceded them. If you are one of these alumni, please provide the information to the Honors College by contacting **Mr. Shandon Neal**, at [Shandon.Neal@tsu.edu](mailto:Shandon.Neal@tsu.edu) or 713.313.1180 or **Mr. Chizara Nwakanma** at 713.313.6725.



*Daniel Kuddabujja presenting at the Fall Honors Research & Internships Symposium*

## Christmas and Holiday Cheer – Honors Style

The annual Honors College Christmas party on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, once again brought together the Freeman Scholars and Honors staff to ring in the holiday season with fun, music and games. After an impromptu game of musical chairs, **Mr. Shandon Neal** tickled the scholars' funny bone with his ever popular Honors style BINGO. Scholars were challenged to trivia and questions about the college and the university. Trivia items included recap of required Honors curriculum terms and standards, past Frederick Douglass lectures and some fun interactive moments that have occurred since our Fall retreat in September.

There were gifts, refreshments and music. Everyone had a great time before leaving for the winter holidays.



*Honors Staff  
Shandon Neal, Dean Jemison Pollard, Renuka Nair,  
and Chizara Nwakanma*

# FREEMAN HONORS

## HONORS COLLEGE CORE VALUES

HONESTY, INTEGRITY, COMMUNITY, CREATIVITY AND EXCELLENCE

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thomas F. Freeman Honors College

