



MARIAH CAMPBELL

74th Miss Texas Southern University

Freeman Scholar, Journalism major and Graduating Senior

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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.

Honors Retreat 2021



L to r: Sneha Thomas, Sarah Shirdon, Kenchesia Nickerson, Keyonia Daniels and Alexa Romero



Mr. Rodney Cox

As the first college-wide meeting for the 2021-22, Freeman Scholars and Honors staff gathered to welcome the new academic year on Saturday, August 28, 2021.

The retreat was held in the Tiger Room of the Student Center and featured guest speakers **President Lesia Crumpton-Young**, **Mr. Rodney Cox** (Honors Advisory Board Member, Honors alum and Director of Pharmacy at the Memorial City Memorial Hermann Health System), **Mr. John Robinson** (Director at the Houston Area Urban League), **Ms. Sofia Hernandez** (Education Specialist at the Houston Area Urban League), and **Ms. Linda Okoli** (Career Coordinator at TSU Career & Services Center).

Dean's Message

Greetings,

A new year and a new President of Texas Southern University, together with the message of transformation, the university, including the Honors College, sense a definite change is in the air. As a college we are embracing that change and are ready to move forward transforming lives together.

President Crumpton-Young met with the Honors College team to learn more about our program. She offered ideas about increasing enrollment and pledged to assist the College with more scholarships for incoming freshmen. We embraced the idea for recruitment that had been done at her previous university, and initiated our first Scholars Preview Weekend.

A highlight of the Fall 2021 semester was the annual Fall Dinner in which the transfers and new continuing students became Freeman Scholars. The keynote speaker, Dr. Lillian Poats, acting provost and former dean of the College of Education, delivered a motivational message that was well received by those in attendance.

Thank you to all persons whose contributions helped to move the Honors College forward.

Please enjoy the Fall 2021 issue of Freeman Honors. Please enjoy reading about the accomplishments of our Freeman Scholars, as well as our other calendar of events activities.

Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard



Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard

The Honors Fall Induction and Recognition Ceremony



2021 Transfer & New Continuing Inductees

Front row left to right: Zaporah Milow-Watson, Baileigh Robinson DaMazia Gaines, Provost Lillian Poats, Alyss Kerl, Melvira Teufack, Keyonia Daniels, Jalen Jackson, Nadiya Joseph and Janiya Chapman
Back row left to right: Oswald Omoijiade, Kamryne Ayers, Nicholas Taylor, A'Marie Smith, Ileyana Hall, Javion Cox, Xavier Hearne, Ravyn Louis, Devansh Chadha (not pictured here) and Dean Jemison Pollard.

On Wednesday, September 9th, the Honors College held the annual Fall Dinner in the Tiger Room of the Student Center. In this yearly celebration of academic excellence, attendees were treated to a wonderful meal and inspirational thoughts by **Dr. Lillian B. Poats**, Acting Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at TSU.

Thirteen new continuing scholars and three transfer scholars were inducted into the College. **Dean Jemison Pollard** administered the oath. In recognition for their commitment to the Honors curriculum and core principles, continuing Juniors were awarded blazers and cardigans, and seniors were awarded senior pins.



Blazer Recipients Tannard Darensburg, Jr. (left) and Dexter Maryland (right)



Blazer Recipient Shaun Stevenson with Dean Jemison Pollard

The Honors Fall Induction and Recognition Ceremony (contd.)



2021 Cardigan Recipients

*Left to right: Blake Melton, Cierra Branch, Carolina Ana da Graca, and Cristian Leonardo Camacho—Sanchez
Not pictured: Ariana Alexander, Donjana Allgood, Avery Chatman, Rathea Hersi, Alexa Romero, Cameron Steel,
Lauryn Stovall, and Aliyah Webb*



2021 Senior Lapel Pin Recipients with Dean Jemison Pollard

*Left to right: Mariah Campbell, Aubri Ford, Emmanuel Joshua, Keara Dixon, Jessica Allagoa, Igor Vouffo, Chukwudalu Ononenyi and Merritt Johnson
Not pictured: Camryn Roberts, Lauren Bailey, Desmonae McCloud, Mark Ddamulira, Taylor Adams, Sarah Shirdon*

Honors Goes Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness



L to r: Igor Vouffo and Farhan Ahmed



Serena Enemodia



Freeman Scholars with Frederick Douglass lecturer Dr. Carla Brailey

During the month of October, the Community Outreach committee canvassed the TSU campus community to raise funds for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As a college-wide initiative, all scholars, faculty and staff were asked to wear pink to the Frederick Douglass lecture on October 20, 2021. Over \$600 raised during this campaign were donated to the Sisters Network Inc., a Houston-based organization, committed to increasing local and national attention to the devastating impact of breast cancer on the African American community.

The Honors College Ambassadors (HCA), is the student organization that represents the Freeman Scholars among the TSU campus organizations, and seeks to engage the scholars with activities within the College as well as on and off campus. The HCA is comprised of four committees: Mentorship, Community Outreach, Recruitment and Social Media. Each committee chair works with the HCA president and the Honors College staff to plan out the semester and include community service projects, campaigns to increase the College presence on and off campus, recruit and train Freeman Scholars to represent the College at recruitment events, and increase freshman engagement via peer mentoring.

HONORS COLLEGE STAFF



Dean Jemison Pollard



Dr. Hector Miranda



Ms. Renuka Nair



Mr. Shandon Neal

Homecoming 2021: A Transformational Celebration



*2021 Honors College Royalty
Miss Honors College, Lauren Bailey and Mister Honors College, Shaun Stevenson*

Homecoming 2021: Coronation



Miss Texas Southern University 2021-2022

Freeman Scholar **Mariah Campbell** (senior, Journalism) was crowned the 74th Miss Texas Southern University at the annual coronation held during Homecoming Week.

Mariah is a proud native of Longview, Texas. Her work in journalism has awarded her the opportunity to interview celebrities like Dionne Warwick and the cast of Black-ish. Mariah has been published in Cosmopolitan magazine which landed her an interview with Oprah Winfrey. At TSU, she serves as an active student leader through the Honors College, the Royal Court, and Campus PALS.

Upon graduation, Mariah plans to work in the entertainment industry and hopes to become an author and motivational speaker to encourage those struggling with low self-esteem. Mariah also serves as the President of the TSU Chapter of Golden Key International Honour Society. She is a graduating senior and is currently working on her senior thesis titled *“The Beautiful Black Butterfly: Overcoming Rejection, Depression and Low Self-Esteem.”*

The Honors College congratulates Mariah!

Miss Freshman TSU 2021-2022

Freeman Scholar **Rayah Wynn** (freshman, Biology) was crowned the 2021-22 Miss Freshman at the coronation, during Homecoming Week.

Rayah hails from St. Louis, Missouri. She finished her first semester in college with an impressive GPA while being actively engaged on campus. She was officially inducted as a Freeman Scholar at the Spring Freshman Induction.

Upon graduation, Rayah plans to continue her education and attend dental school and pursue a career in orthodontics.

The Honors College congratulates Rayah!



Mister and Miss Honors College 2021-2022



Lauren Bailey (senior, Biology) hails from Temple, Texas. In addition to being a Freeman Scholar, Lauren is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, the NAACP, the Minority Association for Pre-Health Students (MAPS), Campus PALS and the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. Lauren is working on her senior thesis which examines environmentally friendly and green options for end of life processes. Upon graduation, Lauren plans to attend Texas Woman’s University to pursue a master’s in Healthcare Administration.

Her long-term goal is to improve facility efficiency and quality for patients while enhancing communication between administration and healthcare staff. As a healthcare administrator, she plans to improve the way society deals with providing the best quality of care.

Shaun Stevenson (senior, Biology) hails from Mansfield, Texas. Since he embarked on his journey at TSU, Shaun has not fallen short of excellence in achievement. On campus he is the current Vice President of External Affairs in the Student Government Association and a Fall ‘21 initiate of the Delta Theta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Shaun loves giving back to the community on and off TSU campus, and has made it one of his top priorities since freshman year. Upon graduation, Shaun aspires to attend medical school where he will pursue his MD/PhD. His long-term career goals are tackling diseases that affect minority communities and establishing a medical school at Texas Southern.



The Honors College congratulates Shaun Stevenson and Lauren Bailey, the 2021-2022 Mister and Miss Honors College!

Homecoming 2021 (contd.)



Left to right: Dr. Hector Miranda, Dean Jemison Pollard, Graduate Assistant Ms. Aliah Pinder, Ms. Renuka Nair, Graduate Assistant Bryan Clarke and Mr. Shandon Neal

Homecoming Office Display



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 or 713.313.1180 or the Honors College front desk at 713.313.6725.

Homecoming 2021 (contd.)

HONORS COLLEGE ANNUAL ALUMNI MIXER

The second annual Homecoming Mixer was held on Friday, October 1, 2021, in the Honors College.

The following alumni attended: David Anderson, LaQuinton Armbrister, Enoch Culliver, Dorian Fernandez, Tori Jiles, Precious Zite Oguonu, Eniola Otukoya, Shahrazad Polk and Anaya Valentine.



*Precious Zite Oguonu
with Dean Jemison
Pollard*



*Aliah Pinder with Anaya
Valentine*



*Assistant Dean Miranda
with Eniola Otukoya*



Honors alumni with Dean Jemison Pollard



*L to r: Dorian Fernandez,
LaQuinton Armbrister and Enoch
Culliver*



*L to r: David Anderson,
CBA Shandon Neal and
Dorian Fernandez*

**THOMAS F. FREMAN
HONORS COLLEGE**

Library Learning Center
Suite 302
3100 Cleburne Street
Houston, Texas 77004
Phone: (713) 313-6725
Fax: (713) 313-6772

WEB

www.tsu.edu/honorscollege

Dean

Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard
Voice: 713-313-6720

Email:

Dianne.JemisonPollard@tsu.edu

**Assistant Dean for
Academic Affairs**

Dr. Hector Miranda

Voice: 713-313-6716

Email: Hector.Miranda@tsu.edu

**Director of Academic &
Student Services /
Newsletter Editor**

Ms. Renuka Nair

Voice: 713-313-5029

Email: renuka.nair@tsu.edu

**Program Coordinator/
College Business
Administrator**

Mr. Shandon Neal

Voice: 713-313-1180

Email: shandon.neal@tsu.edu

**Graduate Research
Assistants**

Kaelen King

Email: kaelen.king@tsu.edu

Aliah Pinder

Email: Aliah.Pinder@tsu.edu

Frederick Douglass Lecture Series

**“Convict the Guilty, Clear
the Innocent with Forensic
Science”**

DR. ASHRAF MOZAYYANI

Executive Director, TSU
Forensic Science Learning Lab
Professor of Administration of
Justice, TSU

September 21, 2021



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

**“The Legacy of Barbara
Jordan and the
Importance of Voting”**

DR. CARLA BRAILEY

Vice Chair of the
Texas Democratic Party
Assistant Professor of
Sociology, TSU

October 20, 2021



“The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College Formula:

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

HONORS COLLEGE 1ST ANNUAL PREVIEW WEEKEND



High-achieving High School Seniors Invited to Honors for a Preview of Academics and Student Life in the Honors College

Scenes from the Preview Weekend



President Lesia Crumpton-Young with Honors Preview Weekend participants showing their scholarship offers

The inaugural Honors Preview Weekend was held on Saturday, November 13. We invited twenty- three scholars from high schools across the US to visit our campus for two days and they accepted.

The list of students came from three sources, TSU Scholars Night, Thurgood Marshall College Fund-Fleischer Scholars Summer Academy, and students who applied to the Honors College before November. The agenda included Honors College faculty speaking to their potential majors, the Honors College team discussing the benefits of being in the Honors College, and a trip to the BBVA Stadium to look at our fighting Tigers football game vs Alabama A & M. The highlight of the day was the inspirational message delivered by **Dr. Lesia Crumpton-Young**, our new president, as she handed out scholarships of up to \$14,000 per year, to each of the students attending the Preview Weekend. All students were given one month to accept the scholarship. By December, thirteen scholars had accepted our offer.



Left to right: Dean Jemison Pollard, Graduate Assistant Aliah Pinder, President Crumpton-Young, Mr. Shandon Neal, Ms. Renuka Nair, and Graduate Assistant Bryan Clarke



Left to right: Dr. Willie Capers, Dr. David Baker, Dr. Jesse Esparza, Dr. Mayur Desai and Dr. Erica Cassimere

Scenes from the Preview Weekend (contd.)



Pynk Elzey (left) with her mother



Erin Isabell (right) with family



Morgan Haywood (left) with her mother



*Michael Vouffo (left) with brother and
Freeman Scholar Igor Vouffo*



Kennedi Chambers (right) with family

TSU-Golden Key Chapter:

Meet and Greet with the President



Top row, 1 to r: Ms. Omokhuwele Umoru and Mr. Shaun Stevenson

Second row, 1 to r: Dr. Michon Benson, Dr. Hector Miranda, Mr. Igor Vouffo and Dean Jemison Pollard

Third row, 1 to r: Ms. Lauren Bailey, Ms. Cierra Branch, Mr. Shandon Neal, and Dr. Willie Capers

Front row, 1 to r: Ms. Mariah Campbell, Ms. Renuka Nair, President Crumpton-Young and Ms. Camryn Roberts

Meet and Greet (contd.)

On Tuesday, November 30, 2022, the TSU Chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society hosted a welcome reception for the new TSU President, **Dr. Lesia Crumpton-Young**, a fellow GK member from Texas A & M University. Members, honorary members, TSU-GK officers and advisors welcomed the new president into the Chapter.

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 university sophomores, juniors, and seniors, as well as top-performing graduate students in all fields of study, based solely on their academic achievements. The Honors College, which houses the chapter, hosts the New Member Recognition (NMRE) and Honorary Member Induction Ceremony (HMIC) each spring.



The Presidents

*Left to right: 2021-22 Chapter President Mariah Campbell,
President Lesia Crumpton-Young and 2019-21 Chapter President
Angela Smith*



*Left to right: Chapter Vice President Camryn Roberts
Chapter President Mariah Campbell and
Chapter Secretary Omokhuwele Umoru*

Fall 2021 Undergraduate Research and Internships Symposium

Celebrating scholarly research and internship experiences, the symposium serves as a forum for junior level scholars to present their work completed as part of the course augmentation proposals (CAPs). The presentation topics and content are based on the scholars' chosen fields of study. Participants are given 10-15 minutes to present their research.

Donjana Allgood

REU Internship

"Parametrizing Facial Recognition to Enable Recovering from Sniff and Suppress Attacks"

Farhan Ahmed

AVST 351/ Prof. Booker

"The Concord: A Supersonic Wonder"

Mariah Campbell

JOUR 430/ Prof. Kirby

"Social Media and News Literacy"

Devansh Chadha

FIN 301/ Dr. Tai

"Financial Statement Analysis"

Janiya Chapman

POLS 390/ Dr. Perez-Feliciano

"The Timeless Wisdom & Impact of Ancient Philosophers"

Tannard Darensburg, Jr.

Internship

"Behavioral & Psychiatric Disorders Within the Child and Family Spectrum"

Ileyana Hall

COMM 330/ Dr. Duncan

"The Importance of Vision in Setting and Achieving Goals"

Rathea Hersi

PHAR 426/ Dr. Fatou Mbye

"Pharmacology and the Treatment of Mental Health"

Kester Iwelumor

AJ 411/Prof. Koen

"The Evolution of the United States Prison System"

Jaina Johnson

AJ 301/ Dr. Mupier

"Perspectives on Domestic Violence"

Jamel Jolivet

SPED 309/ Dr. Corbie-Archery

"Health Impairments and Education"

Haleigh Malveaux

BIO 454/ Dr. Hollomon

"The Evaluation of the Development of Cancer in Humans"

Brian Martinez

MGMT 300 / Dr. Yancy-Parks

"How to Corporate: Effective Salary Negotiate"

Dexter Maryland

POLS 330/ Dr. Mangum

"Understanding the Role of Gender in Politics"

BJ McCaskill

POLS 420/Prof. Robinson

"Politics and the City of Chicago"

Blake Melton

BIOL 340 / Dr. Hillar

"What is SaRs-CoV-2?"

Judnie Michel

Internship

"The Biological and Psychological Impacts of COVID-19 on the Senior Population"

Nora Rodriguez-Santiago

Internship

"Understanding the Role of Myosin-10 Isoforms In Brain Metastasis Associated with Lung Adenocarcinoma"

Alexa Romero

CI 334/Prof. Lee

"Police Brutality and the Criminal Justice System"

Cameron Steel

RDG 302/Dr. Benford

"The Impact of Introducing LGBTQ Literature in EC-6 Curriculum"

Shaun Stevenson

Internship

"Research on Site-directed Mutagenesis"

Melvira Teufack

BIOL 347/Dr. Rosenzweig

"Rheumatoid Arthritis"

Lauren Wells

PHAR 426/Dr. Ohia

"Disorders of the Nervous System"

Merci Wilson

SOCW 346/Dr. Chapelle-Friday

"A Study of Human Behavior and Teen Suicide"

SENIOR THESIS DECEMBER 2021

Keara Dixon

Degree: B.A. in Political Science

Advisor: **Dr. David Baker**

Thesis Title: *Investigating corruption amongst uniformed police officers in local police departments*

Sarah Shirdon

Degree: B.A. in Psychology

Advisor: **Dr. Iris Lancaster**

Thesis Title: *Gender norms and their impact on society*

Camryn Roberts

Degree: B.A. in Music

Advisor: **Dr. Tanya Allen**

Thesis Title: *Methods utilized for music education and their effectiveness on learning*

Fall 2021 Honors College Graduate Recognition Luncheon

Freeman Scholars who completed the Honors College curriculum received a certificate of Graduation with Honors Distinction, along with the Honors Stole and medallion and other gifts. Congratulations to our Fall 2021 graduates!



Keara Dixon and Chukwudalu Ononenyi



Sarah Shirdon



Graduation Stole and gifts



Keara Dixon with Mrs. Dixon

Creative Expression

“The Unexpected Destiny ”

I saw destiny dancing in the living room

With a smile shining to the rhythm, as smooth as water could be.

Moving down the hall and not missing a step,

Coming right on time, unexpectedly on a foreign style,

Moving as freely as air. holding down our heads with fate,

The hidden power to control our tomorrow

But we must wait for her to arrive,

Destiny will leave and come back when it's right

But leave when it must,

Leaving tides and signs behind;

Nevertheless, she is good.

She sits to conversate with clarity in her eyes

Submerge in the darkness of her roots

And don't you forget how good of a friend destiny is.

A circular plot of mysteries, Beginning at the end of every sentence

With a serenity so comforting, so delightful

Time ceases with the touch of her cold hands.

Oh but there she goes!

Leaving without saying a single word.

But soon she'll return,

Dancing oh so gracefully again, And no longer as a stranger.

**By: Cristian Sanchez
(Junior, Finance)**

Congratulations to Salutatorian and Freeman Scholar!



*Dean Jemison Pollard with
Freeman Scholar JoirDon Karl
Nicholas*

Freeman Scholar and Health Studies major, **JoirDon Karl Nicholas** graduated as the class salutatorian at the December 2021 Commencement.

JoirDon transferred to TSU and joined the Honors College from Stephen F. Austin University in Fall 2019. His honors thesis is titled “Advertising to Children and the Long-term Effects of Obesity on Health Equity.”

After graduation, JoirDon aspires to pursue a career in basketball.

Congratulations, JoirDon!

Honors College Staff Highlight

The Honors College honors **Mr. Shandon P. Neal** for his service to the College as the Program Coordinator and College Business Administrator..

Mr. Neal serves as the Program Coordinator and College Business Administrator (CBA) for the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College. He is also the Scholarship Coordinator for the College. Mr. Neal monitors and manages expenditures as the business officer for the College. He keeps records of all monies coming into the College from state and local budgets, to outside awards through fundraising, grants, and private donors. He travels on sponsored trips for scholars so that all expenditures are documented. As the Scholarship Coordinator, Mr. Neal builds strong relationships with the Office of Scholarships, the offices of Financial Aid and Housing, and keeps a record of all scholarships awarded each scholar from Freshman year to Senior year.

A native Houstonian, Mr. Neal holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership/Administration from Prairie View A&M University. He is a committed leader to lifelong learning.



Mr. Shandon Neal

Honors Faculty Highlight



Dr. Obot Ekwere

Dr. Obot Ekwere is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Chemistry in the College of Science Engineering and Technology at Texas Southern University.

Dr. Ekwere teaches the Honors sections of General Chemistry 1 and 2 and serves as a panelist for the Honors Senior Thesis presentations each semester.

Dr. Ekwere earned a bachelor's in Science Education (Chemistry) from the Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria, her master's in Teacher Education (Science Education), and a Ph. D. in Science Education (Chemistry) from the University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

The Honors College salutes Dr. Obot Ekwere for her service to the College!

Freeman Scholar Highlights

Congratulations to Freeman Scholars in Leadership Roles across Campus!

The Honors College is very proud of all the scholars who competed in the various campus elections for the 2021-2022 academic year.

**Media Relations
Coordinator**



Kamryne Ayers
(Radio Television & Film)

**Sergeant of Arms,
Judicial Affairs**



Javion Cox
(Theatre)

**Senator for
Internal Affairs**



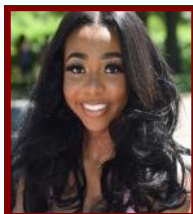
Jalen Jackson
(Biology)

**Junior Class
Senator**



Alyss Kerl
(Sociology)

**Senator for
Academic Affairs**



Ravyn Louis
(Biology)

Attorney General



Dexter Maryland
(Political Science)

**Vice President for
External Affairs**



Shaun Stevenson
(Biology)

Creative Expression

“Love”

*It's love that can
move mountains*

and overcome

obstacles

*it's love that can
change hearts*

and minds

Love

*it's love that'll save
us*

*just as it always
does*

*it's love that makes
the weak, strong*

the feeble, mighty

the frail, invincible

*there is nothing like
love*

*it's capable of doing
the impossible*

lead with love

and you'll be

unstoppable!

By: Aasir Mecca
**(Senior, Political
Science)**

FREEMAN HONORS

HONORS COLLEGE CORE VALUES

HONESTY, INTEGRITY, COMMUNITY, CREATIVITY AND EXCELLENCE

The Scholar



Dr. Thomas F. Freeman

1919-2020



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thomas F. Freeman Honors College