

# FREEMAN HONORS



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
Thomas F. Freeman Honors College

Newsletter of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University

Spring/Summer 2021



Meet Some of our Freeman Scholar Athletes (See page 12)

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## Dean's Message



Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard

"Moving forward," despite COVID 19, was our Spring Semester educational challenge. In February, our freshmen were officially inducted into the Honors College; they received a motivational speech from senior Freeman Scholar and 2020-21 Miss Junior, **Mariah Campbell**.

Scholars from across the University were inducted into the Golden Key (GK) International Honour Society while **Dr. Danita Bailey-Samples**, GK Alum, participated in the ceremony. The Society also recognized **Dr. Brian Armstrong**, **Dr. Iris Lancaster**, and me as honorary members.

One of our most exciting events was the 1st Annual Academic Signing Day that was favored by the university community. Five early admits and their families were present to commit to TSU Honors with each student having a four-year scholarship check in hand and university paraphernalia given by the Administration and Office of Marketing.

The College rolled out *The Freeman Research Journal*, a digital journal that houses undergraduate theses (see article below). **Dr. Hector Miranda**, Assistant Dean, is Editor of the Journal.

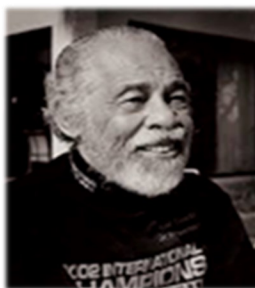
The Spring Tribute, which is usually a luncheon, was in virtual format this year. Our scholars introduced six deserving persons with accolades from the College. This event raised approximately \$10,000.00.

Even though masks and social distancing were the order of the day, the College continued with its Calendar of Events in order to meet its educational challenge.

The College, especially its leadership, is grateful to all contributors who have assisted in its moving forward.

Please enjoy the Spring/Summer 2021 edition of *Freeman Honors*.

Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard



### *The Freeman Research Journal*

Open access journal to undergraduate honors thesis research on science, culture, and the arts, conducted by senior Freeman Scholars of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, Texas.

The Honors College recently launched a research journal named in honor of Dr. Thomas Freeman, its beloved TSU icon. *The Freeman Research Journal*, is a collaboration with the TSU Library Learning Center and bepress™ Digital Commons Network. "The Freeman Research Journal serves as a platform to showcase the scholarly work of Freeman Scholars in science, culture and the arts," according to **Dean Jemison Pollard**.

Freeman Scholars are required to conduct research and write a 40-page thesis plus extensive bibliography during their senior year, under the supervision of an Honors College faculty fellow. After submission to the College, each scholar must present their work before a panel of Honors College faculty. According to **Dr. Hector Miranda**, Assistant Dean of the College and supervisor of the senior thesis, "the thesis experience serves as the gateway to practice critical thinking and writing skills about real world issues and serves as the scholars first publication." The senior thesis is a culmination of the four-year Honors College curriculum.

Approved theses can now be accessed globally at <https://digitalscholarship.tsu.edu/fri/>

Additionally, *Freeman Honors* newsletters from 2012 to the present may be viewed in the journal.

## 1st Annual Academic Signing Day: 5 Top Scholars Commit to TSU Honors!



*Left to right: Kennedy Lee (Lake Ridge H.S., Mansfield, TX), Zoe Russell (Ridge Point H.S., Missouri City, TX), Taylor Tran (Dulles H.S., Sugarland, TX), Rayah Wynn (Manvel H.S., Rosharon, TX) and Alexis Nunley (Trinity H.S., Euless, TX)*



*Newly admitted scholars, Kennedy Lee (left) and Zoe Russell (right) signing their acceptance to the Honors College*



*Freeman Scholar Volunteers (l to r): Janai Minga, Mariah Campbell, Igor Vouffo, Jayla Jefferson and Wuxia Sara Zhang*

The Library Learning Center was the scene of the first Honors College annual Academic Signing Day on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Excitement was in the air when family, community and media witnessed five (5) high school scholars commit to the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College for their college education. All five are high-achieving scholars who met the Honors criteria including a 3.5 or higher GPA. During the signing ceremony, the new recruits were welcomed by current Freeman Scholars who are also campus leaders; Freeman Scholars **Janai Minga** (Pharmacy, Miss TSU 2020-21) and **Mariah Campbell** (Journalism, Miss Junior 2020-21 and Miss TSU 2021-22) had special messages for the newly admitted scholars as they shared personal experiences as scholars and campus leaders. Other Freeman Scholars who volunteered as ushers for the event were **Igor Vouffo** (Chemistry, Mister Junior 2020-21), **Brian Martinez** (Accounting, TSU Men's Track & Field), **Cristian Sanchez-Camacho** (Finance, TSU Men's Track & Field), **Ja'Darrian Morgan** (Health Administration, 2020-21 President of Honors College Ambassadors), **Jayla Jefferson** (Pre-Pharmacy, Top Freshman Scholar 2020-21) and **Wuxia Sara Zhang** (Biology, Grad. May '21).

TSU Administration and community members present, were: Interim President **Kenneth Huewitt**, Provost **Kendall Harris**, Dean of the Honors College, **Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard**, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Behavioral Sciences, **Dr. Needha Boutte Queen**, **Dr. China Jenkins** representing the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Vice President of University Advancement, **Melinda Spaulding**, the new scholars' families, media representatives from KHOU and KTSU, and a host of well-wishers.

## About This Edition

Award winning *Freeman Honors*, is the bi-annual newsletter of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University.

The newsletter 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.

## Spring 2021 Opening Meeting

On Saturday, January 23, 2021, the Honors College hosted the Spring Semester Opening Meeting via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. All Freeman Scholars were invited to attend our first virtual get-together for the new semester. **Ms. Renuka Nair** summarized the Honors curriculum requirements and reminded the junior scholars about the Course Augmentation Proposal (CAP) discussing examples of potential topics and projects. **Dr. Hector Miranda** spoke about the Senior Thesis and **Dean Jemison Pollard** discussed the Spring 2021 events calendar, highlighting the importance of attendance at the two Frederick Douglass lectures. Scholars were also informed about the benefits of membership in the Golden Key International Honour Society, housed in the Honors College.



## Freshman Induction Spring 2021



*Third row, left to right: Aaron Daniels, SaMya Simpson, and Chelsea Magee  
Second row, left to right: Herbert Watts, Kennedy Martin, Nya LeDay-Johnson, and Jayla Jefferson  
First row, left to right: Jasmine Patton, Jazlynn Miller, Anoosh Arshad, and Haille Minor*

On Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Learning Center, outside the Honors College suite, 11 freshman students were inducted into the College. Freeman Scholar and Miss Junior 2020-21, **Mariah Campbell**, delivered the keynote speech for the event. Ms. Campbell, a journalism major and the 2021-22 Miss Texas Southern University, spoke candidly about how fortunate she was to have been able to have conversations with Dr. Thomas Freeman, the College namesake. She shared some of the lessons she learned from the legendary debate coach and urged scholars to take advantage of all the resources available to them as Freeman Scholars and to uphold the name of Dr. Freeman, the Founding Dean of the Honors College.

**Dean Dianne Jemison Pollard** led the scholars in the Honors Induction Pledge. The new scholars followed and pledged to uphold the five Core Values of the College: Honesty, Integrity, Community, Creativity and Excellence. The freshman inductees are: **Anoosh Arshad** (Clinical Laboratory Sciences), **Aaron Daniels** (Electrical and Computer Engineering), **Jayla Jefferson** (Pre-Pharmacy), **Nya LeDay-Johnson** (Management), **Chelsea Magee** (Biology), **Kennedy Martin** (Biology), **Jazlynn Miller** (Pre-Pharmacy), **Haille Minor** (Biology), **Jasmine Patton** (Biology), **SaMya Simpson** (Biology), and **Herbert Watts** (Health Studies).

## Frederick Douglass Lecture Series

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.

### Dr. Alvia Wardlaw—February 23, 2021

In celebration of Black History Month, our first lecture for the semester was given by **Dr. Alvia Wardlaw**, director and curator of the University Museum and professor of art history at TSU. Dr. Wardlaw shared with the Freeman Scholars, the importance of recording and preserving our history and culture. She explained that knowing one's history and heritage helps in appreciating the struggles and victories of our ancestors, inspiring us to build on their legacies.

Among her numerous awards and accolades, Dr. Wardlaw is a recipient of the prestigious Fleming Award from the Association of African American Museums (AAAM). She used her expertise on African and African American-focused museums to help design and curate the exhibit, "Something All Our Own: The Grant Hill Collection of African American Art" at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, D.C. Dr. Wardlaw shared pictures and stories from the museum inauguration and spoke about her experience as a consultant during the construction of the NMAAHC.

Program participants were **Ms. Renuka Nair**, who delivered the invocation, **Mr. Ronson Hawkins** (Senior, Theatre) introduced the speaker, and **Dean Jemison Pollard** gave the occasion and delivered the closing remarks.



*Frederick Douglass Lecture featuring  
Dr. Alvia Wardlaw*

### Dr. Merline Pitre—March 24, 2021



*Frederick Douglass Lecture featuring  
Dr. Merline Pitre*

In celebration of Women's History Month, our second lecturer for the semester was **Dr. Merline Pitre**, Professor of History and former dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences.

Dr. Pitre's lecture was titled "Houstonian Women in the Civil Rights Movement." She captivated the interest of the scholars with stories and images of prominent Houston women such as Lulu B. White, Hattie Mae White, and then TSU students Deanna Lott Burrell and Halcyon Sadberry Watkins, who played an integral role in the civil rights movement. Dr. Pitre is a distinguished historian and has taught history at Texas Southern University for over 40 years. She served as the dean of the College of Arts and Science (later named College of Liberal Arts & Behavioral Sciences) from 1990 to 1994, and again from 2000 to 2008. She is the author of numerous books and publications, including "Born to Serve: A History of Texas Southern University."

Program participants were, **Ms. Alexa Romero** (Junior, Administration of Justice) who delivered the invocation, **Ms. Aubri Ford** (Senior, Biology), recited her original poem titled "Salt & Pepper", **Ms. Aliyah Webb** (Junior, Political Science) gave the occasion, and **Ms. Deja Rollins** (Senior, Political Science) introduced the speaker. The Q&A session was facilitated by **Dr. Miranda**, and **Dean Jemison Pollard** delivered the closing remarks.

# Golden Key International Honor Society: New Member Induction



*Third row (l to r): Billy Jalen McCaskill, Omokhuwele Umoru, Clinton Emeh, and Shaun Stevenson  
 Second row (l to r): Torian Parker, Jessica Allagoa, and Terry Gregory  
 First row (l to r): Lauren Bailey, Johnea Edwards, Angela Smith, Camryn Roberts, and Igor Vouffo*

The TSU Chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society (TSU-GK), housed in the Honors College, held its New Member Induction Ceremony on Wednesday March 17, 2021, in the Honors College. Recognized for their student-focused service to the University and their excellence in scholarship and leadership, **Dr. Brian Armstrong, Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard and Dr. Iris Lancaster**, were inducted as Honorary Members. **Dr. Danita Bailey-Samples**, Professor in the College of Education and GK Member (Fisk University), gave the keynote speech and congratulated the new and current members for their achievements.

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. Eight TSU scholars were officially inducted into the chapter: **Jessica Allagoa, Lauren Bailey, Cierra Branch, Terry Gregory, Torian Parker, Shaun Stevenson, Omokhuwele Umoru, and Igor Vouffo.**

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.



*Keynote speaker **Dr. Danita Bailey-Samples** (center) with newly –inducted honorary members **Dean Jemison Pollard** (left), **Dr. Brian Armstrong** (right) and **Dr. Iris Lancaster** (not pictured)*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Honors Spring Tribute (Virtual)

On Saturday, April 10, at 2:00 pm, the Honors College hosted its third annual Spring Tribute, honoring six (6) very deserving persons who have served the College in various ways.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the event was held virtually, via Bluejeans. A commemorative plaque was presented to each honoree before the event. Freeman Scholars who participated in the program were: **Merritt Johnson** (senior/Entertainment Recording Industry Management: mistress of ceremonies), **Janai Minga** (senior/Pharmacy: honoree presentation), **Ja'Darrian Morgan** (senior/Health Administration: honoree presentation), **Dexter Maryland** (junior/Political Science: honoree presentation), **Mark Ddamulira** (senior/civil engineering: violin selection), **Cristian Sanchez-Camacho** (junior/Finance: original poetry recital), **Jessica Al-lagoa** (senior/Biology: honoree presentation), and **Enisha Taylor** (sophomore/Chemistry: honoree presentation).

Others on the program, were **Shandon Neal** (invocation), **Hon. Teta Banks** (greetings), **Renuka Nair** (introduction to the speaker), and **Dean Jemison Pollard** (the occasion and closing remarks).

**Keynote speaker**

  
**Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts**  
HONOREE  
Honors College Advisory Board

  
**Judge Sharon Burney**  
HARRIS COUNTY JUSTICE  
OF THE PEACE,  
PRECINCT 7, PLACE 2

  
**Dr. Mayur Desai**  
HONOREE  
Honors College Faculty Fellow

  
**Atty. Sandra Fullerton**  
HONOREE  
Honors College Advisory Board

  
**Dr. Shirlette Milton**  
HONOREE  
Former Interim Dean of College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences

  
**Dr. Janice Peyton**  
HONOREE  
Retired Executive Director of Library Services

  
**Prof. Dorris Ellis Robinson**  
HONOREE  
Honors College Faculty

Keynote speaker, **Judge Sharon Burney**, challenged our Freeman Scholars to look at future studies as a means to move in the direction of global and political diversity. She spoke on the growing challenges that face the next generation and encouraged the scholars to do their part in securing a better future for themselves and for generations to come.

The Spring Tribute serves as a fundraiser for the Honors College, for the 2020-21 year. Over \$10,000 was raised and benefits programs in the Honors College.

## Spring 2021 Virtual 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. On November 10 and 11, 2020, the Honors College hosted its semi-annual Undergraduate Research and Internships Symposium, showcasing the interdisciplinary research and internship activities of 17 Freeman Scholars. Due to the pandemic, the symposium was held virtually via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra.

### Jessica Allagoa

BIOL 441/ Dr. Shishir Shishodia

*"Effect of Indoor Pollution on Human Health"*

### Cierra Branch

AJ 302/ Prof. Cajetan Ihe

*"The Politics and Implications of the Restoration of Justice"*

### Aimy Burrows

HSCR 360/ Dr. Victor Yeldell

*"The Effect of AIDS on the Human Body"*

### Mariah Campbell

Internship/Hearst Magazine

*"The Reality of Freelance Writing: An In-depth Look"*

### Aaron Daniels

ENGR 310/ Prof. Boma Afiesimama

*"Introduction to Project Management Using Technology"*

ECE 332/Dr. Shahryar Darayan

*"Microprocessors: Design and Architecture"*

### Mari Davison

MATH 430/ Dr. Cher Crockett

*"The Influence of Ancient Mathematical Systems on Modern Times"*

### Aubri Ford

BIOL 347/ Dr. Jason Rosenzweig

*"The Science behind Diaphragm Kinematics"*

### Carolina Ana da Graca

MKTG 306/ Dr. Anthonia Allagoa-Warren

*"Benefits and Pitfalls of Planning In Business Management"*

### Emmanuel Joshua

CS 342/ Dr. Maribel Handy

*"Flow Charts in Computer Science: Mechanics and Applications"*

CS 415/ Dr. Khalid Kamel

*"The Future of the Use of Mobile Devices in the Workplace"*

### Daniel Kuddabujja

PHARM 442/Dr. Willie Capers

*"Use of Muscarinic Cholinergic Receptor Agonists and Peripheral Antagonists for the Treatment of Schizophrenia"*

### Desmonae McCloud

FIN 302/ Dr. Adriana Fernandez

*"The Effects of the Great Depression and Recession on Today's Financial Market"*

### Deja Rollins

POLS 440 / Prof. Melinda Kovac

*"The Social Construction of the Body"*

### Shaun Stevenson

Internship/Houston Methodist Hospital

*"Research on Site-directed Mutagenesis with Dr. Daniel Kiss"*

### Lauryn Stovall

MKTG 306/ Dr. Jakeon Koo

*"Integrated Marketing Communications"*



## SENIOR THESIS MAY 2021

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

### Maya Davis

Degree: B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Science  
Thesis Title: *The Bombay Blood Group-How Does it Fit in the Human Blood Group?*  
Advisor: **Dr. Monica Rasmus**

### JoirDon Karl Nicholas

Degree: B.S. in Health, Kinesiology & Sports Studies  
Thesis Title: *Advertising to Children and the Long-term Effects of Obesity on Health Equity*  
Advisor: **Dr. Iris Lancaster**

### Mark Ddamulira

Degree: B.S. in Civil Engineering and Physics  
Thesis Title: *Learning the Chain Fountain in Steady State Motion*  
Advisor: **Dr. Daniel Vranceanu**

### Chukwudalu Ononenyi

Degree: B.S. in Biology  
Thesis Title: *The Role of PRDX6 Expression in Chemosensitization of Breast Cancer Cells to Plant-based Compounds*  
Advisor: **Dr. Hector Miranda**

### Clinton Emeh

Degree: B.S. in Finance  
Thesis Title: *Detrimental Effects of COVID-19 on Patients with Diabetes: History, Problems and Solutions*  
Advisor: **Dr. Mayur Desai**

### Siete Richardson

Degree: B.A. in Entertainment & Recording Industry Management  
Thesis Title: *The KPOP Phenomenon: Effects on the Present and Future of the Music Industry and Culture*  
Advisor: **Dr. Christian Ulasi**

### Ronson Hawkins

Degree: B.A. in Theatre  
Thesis Title: *The Use of Drama to Help Children Build Confidence and Self Image*  
Advisor: **Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard**

### Shadman Shaikh

Degree: B.S. in Biology  
Thesis Title: *COVID-19: A General Pathological Outlook*  
Advisor: **Dr. Ayodotun Sodipe**

### Daija Lovejoy

Degree: B.S. in Biology  
Thesis Title: *The Biology of Substance Addictions and Promising Solutions*  
Advisor: **Dr. Hector Miranda**

### Angela Smith

Degree: B.B.A. in Finance  
Thesis Title: *The W-Index: The Impact of Society on Women on a Quest for Upward Mobility*  
Advisor: **Dr. Claudius Claiborne**

### Ja'Darrian Morgan

Degree: B.S. in Health Administration  
Thesis Title: *The Lack of Healthcare and Healthcare Leadership Triggers Disparities within Transgender Community*  
Advisor: **Dr. Monica Rasmus**

### Jimara Thomas

Degree: B.S. in Computer Science  
Thesis Title: *An Analysis of Vulnerabilities and Solutions in IOT Devices*  
Advisor: **Dr. Yi Qi**

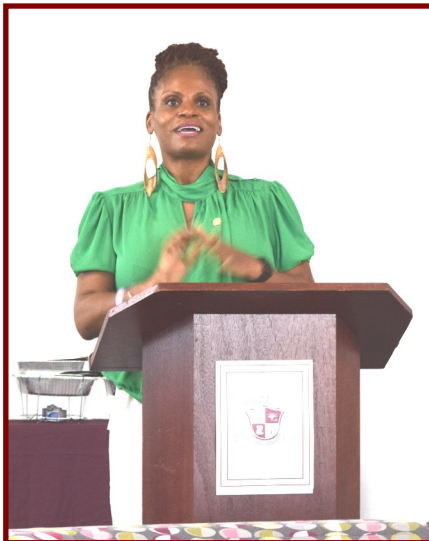
## Call to Alumni: Make Contact with the Honors College

We are continually updating our database of Honors alumni at Texas Southern University. The database includes information on those past students who have been in the Honors College, Frederick Douglass Honors Institute, 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 our front desk at 713.313.6725.

## May 2021 Honors College Graduates



*Third row (l to r): Lorin Shirdon, Clinton Emeh, and Ja'Darrian Morgan  
Second row (l to r): Jimara Thomas, Wuxia Sara Zhang, Mariela Rodriguez, and Ronson Hawkins  
First row (l to r): Angela Smith, LaQuinton Armbrister, Dean Jemison Pollard and Shadman Shaikh*



*Keynote Speaker, Dr. Iris Lancaster*

On Tuesday, April 27, 2021, the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College celebrated its 13 Spring 2021 graduates, who had successfully completed the Honors curriculum requirements including the senior thesis, at a luncheon with the graduates. **Dean Jemison Pollard** presided over the Honors Graduation Recognition Ceremony/ Luncheon held on the third floor of the Library Learning Center. May 2021 PharmD candidate and Freeman Scholar **Lorin Shirdon** shared his Honors College journey, starting as a freshman in Fall 2015, and reflected upon the numerous opportunities and friendships afforded to him as a Freeman Scholar. Honors Faculty Fellow and Honors English faculty **Dr. Iris Lancaster** delivered inspirational thoughts with those present, offering invaluable advice to the graduating scholars on their next steps as Honors alumni and global citizens. 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 special Honors College stole, a certificate of completion, as well as TSU Alumni memorabilia as tokens of appreciation. The May 2021 graduates are: **LaQuinton Armbrister** (Aviation Science), **Maya Davis** (Clinical Laboratory Science), **Clinton Emeh** (Biology), **Ronson Hawkins** (Theatre), **Daija Lovejoy** (Biology), **Ja'Darrian Morgan** (Health Administration), **JoirDon Nicholas** (Health Studies), **Siete Richardson** (Entertainment & Recording Industry Management), **Shadman Shaikh** (Biology), **Lorin Shirdon** (Pharmacy), **Angela Smith** (Finance), **Jimara Thomas** (Computer Science), **Wuxia Sara Zhang** (Biology).

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

## Freeman Scholar Athletes Highlights



Freeman Scholar and Health Studies major, **JoirDon Karl Nicholas** played forward and helped the TSU Men's Basketball team win the Southwestern Athletics Conference (SWAC) championship in Spring '21.

JoirDon transferred to TSU and joined the Honors College from Stephen F. Austin University in Fall 2019. He is a senior graduating in May 2021 and 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!

## Freeman Scholar Athletes Highlights (contd.)

Meet the Freeman Scholar athletes from the cover page:



**Nora Rodriguez**  
Junior, Biology  
TSU Softball



**Devansh Chadha**  
Junior, Finance  
TSU Golf



**Aubri Ford**  
Senior, Biology  
TSU Softball



**Dan Lerma**  
Junior, Industrial Technology  
TSU Track and Field



**Nya LeDay-Johnson**  
Sophomore, Management  
TSU Softball



**Cristian Sanchez-Camacho**  
Junior, Finance  
TSU Track and Field



**Janiya Chapman**  
Junior, Biology  
TSU Volleyball



**A'Marie Smith**  
Sophomore, Biology  
TSU Golf

## Honors College Alumni Highlight

### Creative Expression

“Run”

*The feeling of a distant  
run*

*Can be a quite peculiar  
one*

*Step by step, breath by  
breath*

*Sure, you're at the door  
of death*

*It is not the run that I like  
I much more enjoy a hike*

*But there is something  
unique to a run*

*One that reaches beyond  
just fun*

*Maybe it's the rhythmic  
beat of feet hitting ground*

*Maybe it's the breaths  
that drown all other sound*

*It could be the freedom of  
not caring who's around*

*It could be the racing  
speed of my heart as it  
pounds*

*Whatever it is  
the feeling stays  
long after*

*And when I start again  
it's that feeling that's  
sought-after*

- Aubri Ford  
(Senior, Biology)

The Honors College honors **Mr. Rodney Cox, BS Pharm, M.S.** for his service to the College as an alum of the Frederick Douglass Honors Institute and a member of the Honors College Advisory Board.

Mr. Cox was an active member of the TSU Debate Team. He received his B.S. in Pharmacy at Texas Southern University and M.S in Pharmacy Administration from the University of Houston where he continues to serve as adjunct faculty to both Universities.

Mr. Cox currently serves as the Director of Pharmacy at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center for Memorial Hermann Health System in Houston, Texas. He was recently elected the President Elect Designee for the Texas Society of Health System Pharmacists.

Mr. Cox is a strong advocate for community engagement, and is the co- lead of Memorial Hermann's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Community Council.



### Freeman Scholar Highlight

**Chukwudalu Ononenyi** is a senior Biology major. Born in Nigeria and graduating from Thurgood Marshall High School in Missouri City, Texas, Chukwudalu was inducted into the Honors College as a freshman in 2017.

Dalu, as he is known on campus, is the Residential Assistant in the University Towers, the primary housing for TSU freshmen. Seen as a leader and an advocate for his peers, Dalu is highly involved on campus. He is a member in several organizations including, the Health Occupations Students of America (H.O.S.A) and the Minority Association for Pre-health Students. Dalu serves as the chair of the Recruitment Committee in the Honors College Ambassadors and consistently assists with the college's recruitment efforts: taking part in many of the research and recruitment trips the college has taken to various cities; sharing his experiences of being a Freeman Scholar and collegiate athlete.

Despite a challenging year, Dalu, has maintained his grades and will be graduating magna cum laude in December 2021. He completed his senior thesis entitled "*The Role of PRDX6 Expression in Chemo-sensitization of Breast Cancer Cells to Plant-based Compounds.*" After graduating, he plans to attend St. George University School of Medicine in Grenada and work toward earning an MD. Dalu hopes to give back and serve the minority communities as an orthopedic surgeon. The Honors College congratulates Chukwudalu!



## Honors College Staff Highlight

### Creative Expression

“Hope”

*What is Hope?*

*Hope is what drives salmon up the stream when all is pushing them back.*

*Hope is what gets you out of bed each morning.*

*Hope is what helps us have confidence to do something that you're unsure about.*

*Hope is what drives this country.*

*Hope is what drives the world.*

*Nothing can happen without hope.*

*No inventions, no revolutions and no one will take chances.*

*Without HOPE, we would all be nowhere.*

- Merritt Johnson  
(Senior, Entertainment Recording Industry Management/ Political Science)

The Honors College honors **Ms. Renuka Nair, M.A.** for her service to the College as a member of the Honors College staff.

Ms. Nair serves as the Director of Academic and Student Services in the College. Her principal role is to serve as an advocate for the Freeman Scholars. In that capacity, she provides leadership, direction, and assistance to the scholars, with advisement, records management, as well as personal and/or career counseling. Ms. Nair advises scholars, ensuring they are in compliance with the Honors College curriculum. She works closely with junior scholars and facilitates the Honors College Undergraduate Research and Internships Symposium at the end of each semester. She is responsible for assisting with the college assessment and strategic planning.

Ms. Nair serves as the advisor for the Honors College Ambassadors Organization. She is also the instructor of the Honors Freshman Seminar for the first-year Honors Scholars.

Ms. Nair holds a B. S. in Biology and Psychology from the University of Toronto, Canada, and an M.A. in Clinical Community Psychology from TSU.



## Honors College Faculty Senate Representative

**Dr. Audrey Player**, Assistant Professor of Biology in the College of Science and Technology at Texas Southern, teaches general biology courses and since the summer of 2012 has maintained a research laboratory at TSU.

Dr. Player has previously taught Honors biology courses and has served on the senior thesis panel. Recently, she and two Freeman Scholars published a scholarly article titled “*Preliminary characterization of IL32 in basal-like/triple negative compared to other types of breast cell lines and tissues*” in the BMC Research Notes journal.

Dr. Player earned an undergraduate degree in biology from the University of North Texas (Denton TX) and a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Science from Wright State University (Dayton Ohio). Her postdoctoral studies, which focused on characterization of the genomics of skin cancers, were done at the University of California (San Francisco, CA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH in Bethesda, MD).

Dr. Player currently represents the Honors College in the Faculty Senate. The Honors College salutes Dr. Player for her unwavering support and service to the College!



## Scenes from Spring/Summer 2021



*Freshman inductees stating the Induction Pledge*



*Judge Burney holding her plaque from the Spring Tribute*



*Freeman Scholar Lorin Shirdon (PharmD. '21) addressing fellow Spring '21 Honors graduates*



*Freeman Scholar Ronson Hawkins (B.A. Theatre '21) with his thesis mentor Dean Jemison Pollard*



*Academic Signing Day: New recruits with TSU Administration*

# FREEMAN HONORS

## HONORS COLLEGE CORE VALUES

HONESTY, INTEGRITY, COMMUNITY, CREATIVITY AND EXCELLENCE

## The Scholar



**Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman**  
**1919—2020**



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thomas F. Freeman Honors College