

THE FRONTRUNNER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALUMNI, STUDENTS, AND FRIENDS OF THE THOMAS F. FREEMAN HONORS COLLEGE



Honors Dean's Welcome



We are very pleased to launch *The Frontrunner: The Newsletter of the Alumni, Students, and Friends of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College*. Our newsletter highlights some of the diverse experiences and enrichment programs we were able to provide our Honors Scholars in Fall 2015, including the first Study Away/ Recruitment Trip to New Orleans.

As we move forward to

strengthen the services that the Honors College provides, it is only fitting that a college named in honor of the cherished Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, one of the greatest debate coaches in American history, should further his efforts and tradition of teaching students to be formidable public speakers. I am very pleased to announce that the **Honors College will be launching a Model United Nations (MUN) program in Spring 2016**. MUN teaches researching, critical thinking, writing, and debating as well as teamwork and

leadership, while focusing on diplomacy and international relations. As members of MUN, students will travel regionally, nationally, and internationally to compete in educational simulations.

Please accept this inaugural issue of *The Frontrunner*, which provides a glimpse of the Honors College staff's commitment to nurture TSU's brightest and best. The Honors College, after all, is a magnet for frontrunners!

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HONORS ORIENTATION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College held its annual Orientation and General Assembly on Saturday, August 22, 2015. For the incoming freshman class, Honors hosted a "new beginnings" session. These new entering students are 18 exceptionally gifted and talented, high achieving stu-

dents hailing from the Houston area, and many Texas cities, as well as other states including Louisiana, Georgia, Illinois, Tennessee, and more. Students had the opportunity to tour the Honors facility, including the recently renovated Honors Lounge, the state-of-the art computer lab with updated

software, the technology-centered auditorium, and the Honors staff's suite of offices.

The golden yellow painted Honors Lounge is furnished with three leather couches for student relaxation, and four high tables where students can eat and study. cont. p5.

HONORS COLLEGE INDUCTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY 2015



September 28, 2015, marked 26 years of stellar service that the Honors College/Program has brought to the Texas Southern University community. The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College proudly began the 2015-2016 academic year by adding 18 new students to the program. The annual Induction and Awards Ceremony was held in the College of Education auditorium. These 18 scholars inducted into Honors were ranked among the top students coming out of their high schools. Their outstanding academic performance has earned them a most coveted spot as an Honors College Scholar. These freshman scholars are largely second-generation college students. They entered TSU with an average GPA of 3.52, 1190 on the SAT (Math & Critical Reading), and a 25 on the ACT. The top three scholars are Malik Currie, a Biology major hailing from Jackson, TN, with a 3.93 GPA; Ibrahim Adeyemi, majoring in Biology, from Sagamu, Ogun State, Nigeria, has the highest SAT score, a 1360 (Math and Critical Reading) and Vu Pham, a Biolo-

gy major from Dallas, TX, scored a 28 on the ACT.

The remaining 15 freshman inductees are Chanel Banks (Dallas, TX), Braxton Branick (Jackson, TN), Victoria Byrd (Norcross, Georgia), Josie Deese (Houston, TX), Dorian Fernandez (Houston, TX), Darlise Goodlow (Florissant, MO), Suzonne Goudeau (Houston, TX), Alexia Ladipo (Houston, TX), Jaida Lewis (Aurora, IL), Olajide Oloruntimilehin (Garland, TX), Bryanna Rhodes (Missouri City, TX), Lorin Shirdon (Manvel, TX), Orlando Sutton (Converse, TX), Amiya Thomas (Palestine, TX), and Pauleaner Williams (West Helena, AR).

The program was well attended by the families and friends of the honorees, as well as faculty and staff. The new incoming 2015 scholars pledged to uphold all the Core Principles of Honors: scholarship, character, service, and leadership. They acknowledged that they must be an example of excellence in all that they set out to do, in their studies, behavior, thoughts, dress and communication. They are recognized as the best the University has to

offer and, as such, they pledged to exert their energies to live up to all that is expected of an Honors College Scholar.

Also recognized and celebrated at the Honors Induction and Awards Ceremony were the Continuing Scholars. These students recommitted to upholding the Honors College pledge of excellence. The top Continuing Scholars are as follows: Omoikhefe Eboime, a sophomore majoring in Computer Science, 4.0 GPA; Ashanti Phelps, a sophomore majoring in Business, 4.0 GPA; Lyton Atinga, a junior majoring in Civil Engineering, 3.93 GPA; Kapil Sapkota, a junior majoring in Biology, 3.93 GPA; Oluwaseyi Fasiku, a senior majoring in Pharmacy, 4.0 GPA; cont. p6.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS FALL LECTURE SERIES

In Fall 2015 the Honors College featured two outstanding faculty at Texas Southern University: Drs. Rochelle Parks-Yancy and Delonia Cooley of the Jesse H. Jones School of Business.

Dr. Rochelle Parks-Yancy

On October 5, 2015, the Honors College students experienced a glimpse into the competitive world of job searching. Dr. Rochelle Parks-Yancy, Associate Professor of Management at the Jesse H. Jones School of Business, presented a riveting lecture titled “Winners versus Losers: Who Are You? What Are You Looking For?” She introduced the concept of marketing oneself by creating a brand. The students also received a mini lesson on developing basic interview skills, after which they were asked to role-play various interview scenarios. Dr. Parks-Yancy stressed the importance of knowing one’s own skills and the ability to talk about them. She critiqued the students’ introduction of themselves, and offered valuable insight as she role-played as interviewer. Dr. Parks-Yancy also talked

about “winning moves” which, as she explained, are doing those things that will “benefit you in the long run even if you don’t feel like doing it, or are afraid to do it, or the people around you have told you not to do it.” The Honors Scholars were deeply engaged and enjoyed Dr. Parks-Yancy’s immensely informative lecture.

Dr. Delonia Cooley

On October 26, 2015, Dr. Delonia Cooley, Associate Professor of Marketing at the Jesse H. Jones School of Business, presented a highly engaging and relevant lecture titled “Who’s Watching Who? Should You Be A Social Media Stalker?” The Honors College Scholars were taken on a bumpy ride through the world of social media with its ups and downs, along with its alternate paths and dead-ends. Dr. Cooley informed the students of the importance of their presence on the internet, while cautioning them to also be aware of the kind of image their profiles portrayed to the target audience. She stressed that all those students who wish to embark on careers should

create a LinkedIn profile. She stated that this will be the foundation of their network, and urged students to make contacts that will help them grow and succeed. Dr. Cooley also advised them to ideally have a “Profile A” and a “Profile B,” depending on their target audience. She challenged students to build “social capital” to answer the question, “What is your network worth?” Dr. Cooley’s lecture re-educated the Honors Scholars about social media, a concept that is second-nature to them!



THE 2ND ANNUAL UNIVERSITY/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP MEETING



Recruitment continues to play a very important role in the development of the Honors College. On Thursday, October 8, 2015, Honors hosted its 2nd Annual University/School Partnership Meeting. Invited guests included counselors, advisors, coordinators, principals, deans and other high

school administrators. The purpose of this partnership meeting was to provide high school personnel an opportunity to learn more about the Honors College and to request their assistance in encouraging eligible students to apply not only to the university but, more specifically, to the Honors College.

This round table meeting of minds brought 19 participants from 15 different schools and junior colleges throughout the Houston Metropolitan Area. The topics of discussion included University/School Partnerships; the Honors College application process; Honors College curriculum; academic scholarships, and Honors student

life. The Honors staff reviewed deadlines and Honors criteria (3.5 or higher GPA, a 1200 or higher on the SAT (combination of the Critical Reading and Math scores), and a 26 or higher on the ACT).

The takeaway from this meeting between high school personnel and Honors staff was a commitment to partner on recruiting students to Texas Southern University's Honors College. As a result of this meeting, the Honors staff planned a recruitment schedule that included visits to thirty schools in the Houston Metropolitan Area and 5 schools in New Orleans.

HOMEcoming, A CELEBRATION OF TIGER PRIDE!



Tiger Pride was on full display this year as alumni, students, family and friends of Texas Southern University came together for its annual Homecoming celebration on October 20- 24, 2015. The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College participated in the annual Homecoming Parade, which began at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday the 24th in Downtown Houston. The

Honors College entered two white convertible Ford Mustang cars in the parade: The first car held the Mr. and Ms. Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, Mr. Tommy Quach (senior) and Ms. Sammantha Jimenez (senior), respectively. The second car carried the remainder of the court, Mr. Isaac Cerda (sophomore), Ms. Traumauni Brock (sophomore),

Mr. Orlando Sutton (freshman), and Ms. Darlise Goodlow (freshman). The Honors College staff along with the college Homecoming Court decorated the cars in the TSU colors as they prepared to venture along the parade route. This show of Tiger Pride earned the Honors College the 3rd place prize in the best vehicle-decorating contest.

HONORS ORIENTATION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY *cont.*

The lounge has vending machines, a microwave and refrigerator for student use. The students expressed enthusiasm towards the space designated just for their use.

The Orientation sessions focused on:

- Team building through group talk and activities
- Academic resources, such as where to find study help and tutoring
- Conferencing with the Director of Academic and Student Services, Ms. Renuka Nair, to review their academic requirements such as Core Enhancement Courses (CECs) and the Course Augmentation Proposal (CAPs) Courses
- Upcoming events for Honors, such as the Induction Ceremony, the first Study Away trip to New Orleans, the Frederick Douglass Lecture Series, the 1st Annual Harvest Festival/Thanksgiving Luncheon, the semi-annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium, and the Graduation Recognition Ceremony.

For the continuing students, Honors held a general assembly that incorporated both the returning

class and first-time freshmen. This session focused on cohort building; reinforcing the core values of the Honors College, which are scholarship, character, service, and leadership; and the expectations of its members. Students acknowledged that in order to remain a Thomas F. Freeman Honors College Scholar, a position coveted by many, they must maintain a 3.25 GPA, be registered in and complete a minimum of 15 credit hours per semester, satisfy the Core Enhancements and CAPs requirements, attend a minimum of two Honors sponsored lectures/events per semester, and participate in at least one of the three student organizations.

The continuing students had an opportunity to share their experiences with the freshman cohort and commit to serving as mentors to these new incoming students. Between the morning orientation session and the afternoon general assembly, students enjoyed a lavish lunch and an assortment of afternoon snacks as they mingled with their peers and the staff of the College.

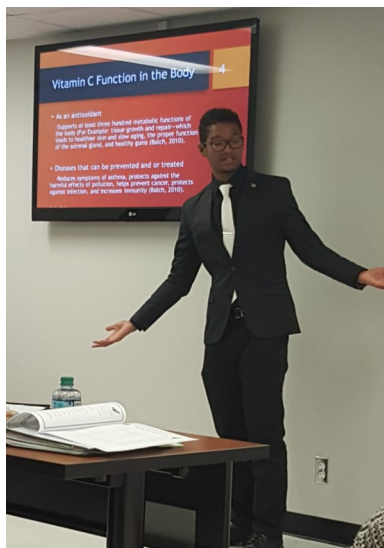


INDUCTION cont.



and LaMonde Howard, a senior majoring in Communications with a 3.97 GPA. The Honors College also showcased 23 additional Continuing Scholars for their exceptional achievements in scholarship and leadership. Following the Induction and Awards Ceremony, the Honors College hosted an outstanding reception for the scholars and their family members for entrusting

their best to Honors, which promises to nurture and keep them fully engaged intellectually, academically, and socially. This special occasion not only highlighted the achievements of our Honors Scholars, but underscores the fact that Texas Southern University fully embraces a culture of academic excellence within the Honors College and across the University.



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES SYMPOSIUM

The Honors College hosted its semi-annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium on December 3, 2015. It was a celebration of academic achievement, scholarly research, and artistic expressions. While the symposium serves as a forum for juniors and seniors who are required to present their research and creative works completed in the course augmentation proposals, freshmen and sophomores are also encouraged to present to their peers. The symposium provides a unique opportunity for Honors Scholars in their undergraduate years to present

their work to an audience, build a network within the Honors community and develop important soft skills in an environment that fosters exchange of ideas and knowledge. With over 33 presenters, there were a total of 38 topics of expression. Individual presentations ranged in topics and content based on the scholars' chosen field of study or their hobbies. Some played the piano or sang and danced; some read poetry and performed spoken word. Others presented papers that they had spent countless hours researching, and there were those that

shared their artistic abilities through paintings and short films. Participants were given 10-15 minutes to present, and the presentations were captivating. The Honors College aims to build an even bigger symposium for Spring 2016 that will include participants from neighboring Honors Colleges. Additionally, the symposium will feature faculty campus wide who serve as mentors to the Honors College Scholars showcased in the symposium.



OH THE PLACES WE'LL GO: AN EXCURSION TO NEW ORLEANS

On November 19, 2015 at 4:30am, the Honors College staff along with 17 Honors College Scholars boarded Gaten's Adventures Unlimited Motor Coach and embarked on the College's first Study Away/Recruitment trip.

Prior to visiting this historic city, Honors staff instructed students on New Orleans culture and supplemented the experience with a study packet and essay assignment as a way to help them think critically about the various sites they were to visit.

During the study away portion of the trip, students experienced the old world charm of New Orleans architecture by visiting sites such as the St. Louis Cathedral; the Jackson Brewery; the Orpheum Theatre for the wake of legendary jazz artist, Allen Toussaint; the affluent Garden District, and the "City of the Dead" also known as St. Louis Cemetery, burial sites of Maria Laveau, Voodoo Priestess of New Orleans, and New Orleans' first African American mayor, Ernest "Dutch" Morial. Scholars enjoyed home grown jazz played in the historic Preservation Hall, a leg-

endary French Quarter shrine to traditional jazz music and musicians. In the French Quarter, Honors Scholars enjoyed browsing through various shops for trinkets and knickknacks and dining on gumbo from The Gumbo Shop and delectable beignets and café au lait from Café Du Monde. Walking the grounds of Destrehan Plantation and touring the "big house" were eye opening experiences for the Honors Scholars. They were inspired by the history of the mansion and learning that it was built in three years by a freedman of African descent, Charles Pacquet, a mulatto carpenter. They were amazed at the talent and precision that went into building this structure that has lasted for 225 years. Following the plantation visit, students basked in the artwork of many talented artists on exhibit at the New Orleans Museum of Art. For the last meal of the day, Honors scholars were treated to one of six of New Orleans' best soul food restaurants, Two Sisters 'N Da East. Generally closed on Saturdays, the owners prepared a special menu and opened its doors solely for

the Honors College.

The grand finale of the trip was a play, "Song of a Man Coming Through," telling the true Louisiana story of convicted murderer, Earnest Knighton, Jr. and the priest, lawyer, and paralegal who reluctantly became his greatest advocates. Produced by the Southern Repertory Theatre, the play was performed at the First Grace United Methodist Church, preceded by steaming bowls of gumbo and soul-stirring gospel music.

During their time in New Orleans, the Honors staff and Honors Scholars visited five high-performing high schools to recruit students: Warren Easton Charter High School, Lusher Charter School, Benjamin Franklin High School, St. Augustine High School, and Patrick Taylor Science and Technology Academy. The Honors Scholars represented the

cont. p15.



FACULTY FELLOWS CORNER

The Honors College Faculty Fellows Profile

As an Honors College we are dedicated to making the student experience as full and rewarding as possible. With that, the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College has engaged award-winning, internationally renowned Honors Faculty Fellows to mentor Honors students. This team of Fellows is comprised of faculty from a variety of disciplines across the TSU campus.

For more information on the Faculty Fellows' responsibilities, please visit:

<http://www.tsu.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/honors-college/faculty-fellows.php>

Featured in this issue are Drs. Katherine T. Vukadin and Jason Oby.

Dr. Katherine Vukadin



Professor Katherine Vukadin of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law is in her second year as an Honors Faculty Fellow, where she enjoys making connections between high school students, counselors, and the Honors College. This semester, she attended a

college night at Bellaire High School and met with small groups of students and high school counselors at Bellaire High School and Energized for STEM Charter School. When meeting with students, she explains the benefits of an honors education and the

many programs that Texas Southern University offers.

Professor Vukadin also met this fall with current Honors freshmen to discuss careers in law and how the rigorous analytical requirements of TSU Honors also prepare them well
cont. p16

Dr. Jason Oby



Dr. Jason Oby, professor and chairperson of music, was appointed this fall as the Interim Assistant Dean of Student Enhancement and Learning in the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences. In his role as Honors Faculty Fellow, Dr. Oby serves as

a mentor to Honors Scholars and actively participates in recruiting new students to the Honors College. This fall, Dr. Oby visited four area high schools. He is also in his second year of service on the Honors College's Admissions/Scholarship Committee,

where he serves along with three other Honors Faculty Fellows and the dean. While serving in his administrative capacities and teaching, Dr. Oby served as Artistic Director of the Houston Ebony Opera Guild, where he staged and performed in cont. p16.

HONORS SUPPORT TEAM CORNER

The Honors Support Team is comprised of goodwill ambassadors committed to “making things happen” for the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College. They promote the ideals of the college by generously giving of their time, talents, and creative problem-solving skills. The team includes select faculty and staff at Texas Southern University who have demonstrated an interest in and commitment to Honors education. For this issue, we are featuring two individuals that have truly given time and attention to helping and supporting the Honors College this past academic semester. Mrs. Marilyn C. Square, Executive University Registrar, and Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director of Admissions are both exceptional in all that they do in their respective positions here at TSU as well as the roles they play as Honors Support Team members.

Mrs. Marilyn C. Square

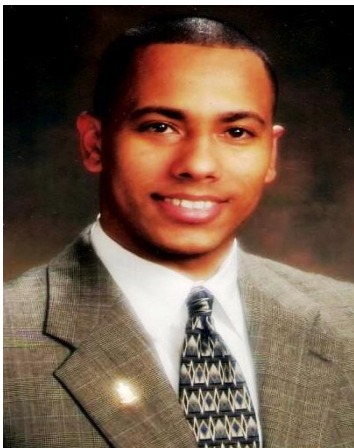


Mrs. Marilyn C. Square, a member of the Honors Support Team, has offered immeasurable assistance to the Honors College over the past two years in her capacity as Executive University Registrar. While she is the Chief Records Officer of the University, she makes herself readily

available to answer the many questions Honors staff directs to her. She was particularly helpful to new staff in Honors this past fall in offering training on various software applications and programs. She works extremely long hours supporting the entire University, yet she has

been accessible to the Honors staff sometimes as early as 7:00a.m. or as late as 7:00p.m. We pay tribute to Mrs. Square for more than 25 years of service to TSU and for the “in the trenches” support that she provides for the Honors College.

Mr. Brian Armstrong



Mr. Brian Armstrong, a member of the Honors Support Team, has been one of the college’s strongest supporters for the past two years. Recently, when the Honors College led Honors Scholars on the first Study Away/ Recruitment Trip, Mr. Armstrong in his capacity as Executive Director of

Admissions, graciously helped to underwrite the trip. Mr. Armstrong’s partnering with the Honors College has enabled the college to recruit high-performing students from across the nation. Several of his major achievements at TSU include the merging of the Office of Recruitment and Office of

Admissions to increase efficiency and productivity; the creation of new recruitment events—Preview Weekend, Scholars Night, Middle School Day; the establishment of a university-wide recruitment council; the training of admissions staff on financial aid processes and applications to better assist new

cont. p16.

SNAPSHOTS: NEW TO HONORS

Ibrahim Adeyemi, born in Lagos, Nigeria, was named the best science student at Remo Secondary School, in Ogun State, and the overall best graduating student in his class. He is majoring in Biology and aspires to be a surgeon in the future. In his free time, Ibrahim enjoys playing soccer.

Amiya Thomas, born in Bellflower, CA, graduated from Palestine High School as number 10 in her class, receiving five honor cords and was hailed as a distinguished graduate. Amiya is a marketing major with the aim of becoming successful at anything that she chooses to pursue and give back to those in need. In her spare time, Amiya enjoys writing, reading, event planning and publicity.

Braxton Branick, born in Jackson, TN, is the eldest son with a younger brother and sister. While in high school Braxton was a part of the track team, sang in the Gospel Choir, was a Junior Rotarian, and was a Beta Club Senior Class Officer. Braxton is majoring in Biology and plans to go to medical school to become an interventional

radiologist. He enjoys reading, listening to music, watching DBZ, and exercising.

Victoria Byrd was born in Norfolk, VA, is the youngest of five children. At Meadowcreek High School in Norcross, Georgia, Victoria became the president of the Select Choral Ensemble, graduated with Honors, and received the AP Scholar Award with Honors from the College Board. Her hobbies include singing and playing basketball. She is a Music major and hopes to be employed as an artist or a producer for a major label.

Olajide Oloruntimehin, born in Houston, TX, but raised in Garland, TX, is the eldest child with a younger brother and sister. Olajide graduated from Garland High School as a GISD Honors Scholar and lettered in football and baseball. His major is Computer Engineering, but his passion lies in playing baseball at TSU. He enjoys watching YouTube videos and playing video games. Although he would like to play baseball professionally, he knows it is short-lived and knows that “earning my degree is my

number one priority.”

Josie Deese, born and raised in Houston, TX, graduated from Lamar High School where she was head sports photographer, cheer manager and a member of the National Honors Society. She is majoring in Entertainment and the Recording Industry Management in the School of Communication. In her spare time she enjoys listening to music, drawing, photography, and shopping. Josie’s hopes for the future is to own her own recording studio and record label in Houston.

Suzonne Goudeau, born and raised in Houston, TX, has four sisters, and one brother. She is an alumna of Bellaire High School where she was a student-athlete who managed to make the honor roll all four years. She was a part of the youth business institute and captain of the varsity basketball team. Suzonne graduated a Texas scholar and is majoring in Mathematics. She enjoys sports, animals, and loves to laugh. She hopes to someday become an accountant for an oil and gas company.



SNAPSHOTS: NEW TO HONORS cont.

Dorian Fernandez, born in Belize, moved to Houston when he was two. His father continued his education at TSU while his mother worked part time to support the family. Dorian attended Bellaire Senior High School where he was exposed to many different cultures and people from varied backgrounds. He is a Pre-Pharmacy major at TSU.

Jaida Lewis, born in Chicago, IL, has a sister named Briana. In high school Jaida was the Historian for the African American Student Association and the president of the Alumni Mentorship Program. She was also a cheerleader for ten years. Jaida is majoring in Pharmacy and plans to help find cures for diseases like Lupus and Multiple Sclerosis. Her goal in life is to give back to as many people as she can.

Pauleaner Patez Williams, born in West Memphis, TN, later moved to West Helena, Arkansas. She attended Central High School in West Helena, where she was a cheerleader, played volleyball, ran track and was class president in her junior and senior

year. Pauleaner graduated at number 5 in a class of 150 students, and was voted most likely to succeed every year for four years! Her major is Biology and a minor of Chemistry. She hopes to become a Biochemist as well as help with her family's restaurant business.

Darlise J. Goodlow, born and raised in St. Louis, MO, graduated from McCluer North High School in the top 10% of her class. In her senior year, she was the co-captain and spirit officer of the varsity cheer team, club editor and business manager of the yearbook team, a Special Olympics Volunteer, a member of the Spanish Honors Society, and one of the graduation speakers. Darlise enjoys drawing, writing, layout designing, dance, photography, and researching. She is a Marketing major, with a minor in Art.

Malik Currie, born in Jackson, TN, attended North Side High School, where he was a member of the Beta Club, the Spanish Club, the Drama Club, the Climate Club, a former Band Member, the Senior Who's Who, Homecoming

Royalty, and ranked 4/228. He was in the top 10% of his senior class, while taking 15 hours of college credit (Dual Enrollment). He is a Biology major. In his spare time, Malik likes listening to music.

Alexia Ladipo, born in Houston, TX, has one older brother. In high school, she was selected to be on the All-Region, All-State, and All-State Academic teams, and was made captain of the soccer and basketball team during her senior year. Alexia was also the Editor-in-chief for the yearbook, an active participant in the Advancement Leadership Program and the Minion Club. Alexia's major is Health Studies, and she hopes to become a physical therapist contracted to an NFL or NBA team. The things she values most are her religion, family, friends, sports, and future.

Bryanna Rhodes graduated from Hightower High School in three years here in the Houston area. She is a pharmacy major interested in public health reform. She hopes to pursue a career in pharmacy and eventually open her own practice. She aspires to

cont. p12



SNAPSHOTS: NEW TO HONORS cont.

improve the overall public health of the world and to educate people on healthier lifestyles.

Chanel Banks, born in Anchorage, AK, was raised in Brentwood, NY and Dallas, TX. She has a younger sister and a younger brother. In high school, she attended Hampton Preparatory where she was a member of the dance team, soccer team, Honors Society, student council, senior council, and fashion design club. Her hobbies include dancing and fashion designing. She is a political science major.



Lorin James Shirdon II is originally from South Carolina but moved to Texas during his senior year in high school. He graduated from Manvel High School in Houston in the top 10% of his class. He is also a devoted mission worker for the Christian faith. He is pursuing the Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

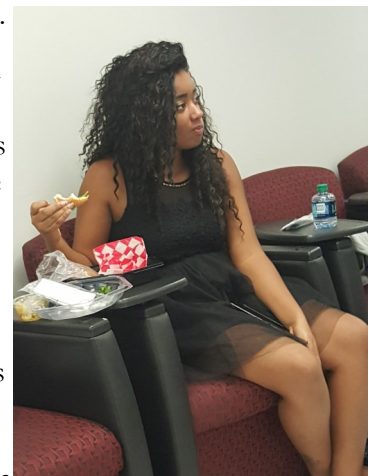
Orlando Sutton, Jr., born in San Antonio, TX, spent most of his life living in Hot Springs, AR. Orlando is oldest out of five boys and has an older sister. He attended two different high schools: Hot Springs High

School in Hot Springs, AR, from ninth to tenth grade, and Judson High School for eleventh through twelfth grade. At Hot Springs High, he was inducted into the National Honors Society and participated on the men's varsity basketball team and track and field. While at Judson, he was in the International Baccalaureate program, and the National Honors Society. He graduated in the top seven percent of his class as number 47 out of 710 students. He is majoring in Biology and plans to become an orthodontist.

ance or modification. Vu is majoring in biology to prepare for medical school. He hopes to become a physician, more specifically an Otolaryngologist.



Vu Pham, born in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, moved to the United States in 2008 with his family. He attended Lake Highlands High School in Dallas, where he graduated in the top 10% of his class. Before moving to Texas, Vu's family lived in Maryland, where he attended middle school, and the first year of high school. He enjoys



playing computer games and tinkering with his computer, whether it is for mainte-



HARVEST FESTIVAL AND THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

Student Engagement is critical to student retention. To ensure that students feel connected, the Honors College sponsored its First Annual Harvest Festival and Thanksgiving Luncheon

On Tuesday, November 22, 2015, Honors staff and student organizations collaborated to decorate the college's various suites, lounges and classrooms in

a beautiful harvest theme, with plenty of flowers, leaves, pumpkins and winter shrubbery. The students enjoyed a series of games, including bowling, knock-down the jars, balloon animation, henna tattooing, photo booth, popcorn stations, guessing jar, ring toss, and so much more. After the games, Honors Scholars gathered to hear stories told by

those students who traveled to New Orleans for the study away trip, an activity that bolstered the connection among the new and continuing Honors Scholars. One of the highlights of the festival was the sumptuous Thanksgiving luncheon with all of the trimmings. The festival and luncheon reminded us all of the many blessings we enjoy!



TIGER PRIDE: HONORS ALUMNI CORNER



Ms. Zakiya Larry, a 2006 alumna of the Frederick Douglass Honors Program (now Thomas F. Freeman Honors College), helped manage 450 credentialed media, network media sponsorships and multi-layered coverage at MegaFest 2015, the largest inspirational festival in the world. MegaFest 2015 media outcomes generated 1.2 billion media impressions and \$5 million in equivalent value. Additionally,

she was a speaker at MegaFest 2015 in two different sessions: A “Talk Back” with the actors of the film *War Room* and host of industry expert panel “The Public Face of Faith: The Role and Responsibilities of Public Relations.” Ms. Larry was recently invited to be the keynote speaker in August 2015 for the esteemed organization, Leadership Women (<http://leadership-women.org/>). Ms. Larry will also serve as keynote speaker in January

2016, presenting her signature talk, “Master the Media,” at The W.E.A.L.T.H. Experience, hosted by McLyte’s Hip Hop Sisters Foundation, Prudential, ESSENCE and Centric (<http://wealthexperience.info/>). Ms. Zakiya Larry earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Broadcast Journalism from Texas Southern University’s School of Communication in 2006.

Mr. Perry Miller, a 1990 alumnus of the Frederick Douglass Honors Program (now the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College) recently accepted the position of Chief Operating Officer for the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority in Jackson, Mississippi. Prior to moving to Jackson, Mr. Perry served as General Manager of Houston’s William P. Hobby Airport where he had the responsibility for oversight of a team of hundreds of personnel working to take care of the needs of passengers, pilots, flight attendants, etc. A

native of Chicago, Mr. Miller earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Airway Science (1990) and a Master of Science degree in Transportation Planning and Management (1996) from Texas Southern University.



OH THE PLACES WE'LL GO cont.

Honors College and TSU with poise and grace. They spoke eloquently about their experiences in Texas Southern's Honors College.

The Honors College Scholars came back with new insight about the "Crescent City," namely that New Orleans is far more than just a city of festivals and wild, bacchanalian parties.

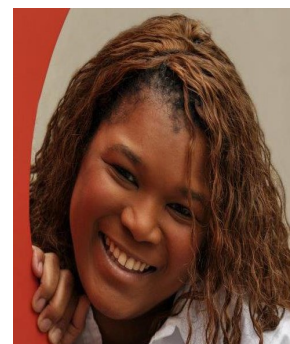
*CONTINUING HONORS SCHOLAR*

LaMonde Howard is a senior Speech Communications major, telecommunications minor at Texas Southern University. In addition to being an Honors College Scholar, Ms. Howard is a President's Leadership Scholar, a General University Scholarship recipient, and a former UAV—Urban Academic Village mentor. She currently has a 3.97 GPA and is active in several student organizations on campus. Also, Ms. Howard brings over 25 years of work experience in corporate

America and as a business owner.

Ms. Howard is a wife and mother of three. While enrolled at TSU, she has experienced many life challenges including unemployment, homelessness, car repossession, and marital problems, among other issues. She has consistently maintained focus and success in academic achievement, which she shared with her peers when she lectured in Spring 2015 in the Honors College's inaugural "Great Thinkers Speakers Series."

Ms. Howard plans to attend graduate school in pursuit of an MFA in Screenwriting and to continue to write screenplays for film and television.



Dr. Vukadin cont.

for law school. At Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Professor Vukadin is in her seventh year teaching legal writing, appellate litigation, and health law. Her current projects include an article on the Affordable Care Act and the second edition of her book, *Legal Analysis: 100 Exercises for Mastery*, co-authored with Professor Cassandra Hill, also of Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

Dr. Oby cont.

two concerts since August; coached student performers at the SACSCOC convention at the George R. Brown Convention Center; arranged for a group of students to perform in Beijing, China, in Spring 2015, and prepared students to perform the opening concert at Deluxe Theater on December 18, 2015. Dr. Oby inspires our Honors Scholars with his capacity to offer outstanding service in so many roles.

Mr. Armstrong cont.

to better assist new and prospective students, and the development of a Transfer Center to maximize services provided to prospective transfer applicants. Currently, he is working to align the Office of Admissions, Office of International Student Affairs, Office of the Registrar and the University Testing Center to be a cohesive unit to effectively serve prospective and enrolled students. Mr. Armstrong works equally hard for the entire University, but we in the Honors College believe we are special to him.

Honors College Recruitment 2016-2017

Targeted Profile of Honors Recruits for 2016-2017

An ACT of 26 or higher or an SAT (Math and Critical Reading) of 1200 or higher, combined with a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Application Process

All applicants must submit (a) a complete application, (b) copies of their transcripts, (c) a 750 to 1000-word essay (approximately 3 to 4 pages, with a central theme and supporting details) in which they respond to the question, "Who Am I?" (d) copies of their SAT and/or ACT score reports, and (e) three letters of support – on the school's letterhead – preferably from their teachers in English, mathematics and any science.

Deadlines: High School Seniors

Early Admission: December 1, 2015

Regular Admission: March 2, 2016

Late Admission: June 1, 2016

For more information on Honors visit our website:

Website: <http://www.tsu.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/honors-college/>



DECEMBER 2015 GRADUATION RECOGNITION CEREMONY

On Monday December 7, 2015 at 6 p.m., the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College proudly celebrated its seven Fall 2015 graduates at an intimate gathering that involved best wishes and teary farewells. Although the Graduation Recognition Ceremony, held at Pappas Seafood Restaurant, lasted no more than two hours, it was both solemn and heart-warming. Graduates were

honored with the special Honors College stoles as well as TSU memorabilia as tokens of appreciation. Please join us in congratulating our graduates as they

embark upon the next chapter in their lives.



Profile of Fall 2015 Graduates

Ysamar Alonso graduated with a B.A. in Spanish and a minor in Health Studies. Her overall GPA is 3.81. Ms. Alonso plans to return to TSU in the fall to pursue a master's degree in Human Performance.

Keshun Hudson graduated with a B.S. in Health Administration from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. His overall GPA is 3.35. Mr. Hudson plans to continue his training in the health care field through physical therapy and medical coding and billing.

Sammantha Jimenez graduated with a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies (Curriculum and Instruc-

tion) from the College of Education. Her concentration is EC-6. Her overall GPA is 3.68. Ms. Jimenez will be returning to TSU next fall as she pursues her master's degree in Education.

Joel Matthews graduated with a B.S. in Biology from the College of Science Engineering and Technology. His overall GPA is 3.74. Mr. Matthews aspires to continue his education in the medical field and pursue a career in health care.

Kingsley Onyeiwu graduated with a B.A. in Art. His overall GPA is 3.80. Mr. Onyeiwu plans to return to TSU in the future as a professor of Fine Art.

Domanique Outing graduated from the College of Science Engineering and Technology with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. Ms. Outing plans to pursue a career as a medical doctor. Her overall GPA is 3.28.

Lynnell Payne graduated with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. Her overall GPA is 3.37. Ms. Payne plans to open a community center in the future where children can have access to mentors, organized activities and build a love of learning, while creating lifelong relationships.

MEET THE HONORS COLLEGE STAFF

Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory is Interim Dean of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, a position she has held since Summer 2014. She is responsible for recruiting, retaining, and graduating some of the most intellectually gifted students from across the nation and around the world.

Prior to May 2015, Dr. Brown-Guillory served as Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic and Faculty Affairs for six years at Texas Southern University. As Associate Provost, she collaborated with senior leadership to synergistically link academic affairs to non-academic units. She served as the University's

liaison to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and oversaw the development and assessment of academic programs.

Prior to joining TSU, Dr. Brown-Guillory was employed as Professor of English for twenty-one years at the University of Houston (UH). She has over the course of her career at four different institutions won five teaching excellence awards, published four books, ten plays, and numerous scholarly articles as well as delivered over 200 lectures and/or performances nationally and internationally. Dr. Brown-Guillory holds a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in English with thirty-five years

of experience as a theatre scholar and practitioner.



Ms. Renuka Nair is the Director of Academic and Student Services in the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University. As the Director of Academic and Student Services, Ms. Nair's principal role is to serve as an advocate for the Honors Scholars. In that capacity, she provides leadership, direction, and assistance to the Honors Scholars, with academic advisement, records management, as well as personal and/or career counseling. She is responsible for assisting with curriculum development and oversight of the minors housed in the Honors College. Ms. Nair investigates Honors students' academic concerns and addresses student questions related to academic matters. She monitors all Honors students to

ensure completion of Honors enrichment core courses for freshmen and sophomores and course augmentation proposals (CAPs) for juniors and seniors. She also oversees the Honors College's undergraduate research and creative activities, including organizing the annual Undergraduate Research/Creative Activities Symposium in spring semester. Additionally, she is responsible for assisting with assessment in the Honors College. Ms. Nair works collaboratively with the Honors College's Director for Outreach and Engagement in designing, implementing, and managing the Honors Internship Program and the Honors Service Learning Program. Ms. Nair oversees Honors student organizations as well as oversees excursions to the theater,

the symphony, museums, STEM experiences, study away, study abroad, etc. She collaborates with the Office of Admissions in evaluating admissions portfolios of Honors prospects and with the Office of Student Affairs in developing and assessing programs for student retention. Ms. Nair has spent more than 15 years in the field of education, and shares the TFF Honors College passion for student success and achievement. Having lived in various parts of the world, including India, the Middle East and Canada, she brings a global perspective to her advisement. 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.





Mr. Shandon P. Neal is the Assistant to the Dean/Program Coordinator for the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College. In this role, Mr. Neal provides executive support for the dean while managing the day-to-day operations of the office. He assists the Dean of the Honors College by screening and prioritizing mail/phone calls, planning and scheduling meetings and appointments, and making travel and guest arrangements. Mr. Neal researches and writes memos, analyzes documents, and prepares research reports for the college as necessary. He assists the dean in managing the Honors admissions process. He is also responsible for evaluating programs, managing projects, editing and preparing correspondence, and represent-

ing the Honors College at assigned events, all of which round off a myriad of responsibilities in his quest to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in the operation of the Honors College. His routine duties also include monitoring and managing expenditures, thus functioning as the business officer for the college. Additionally, within the Honors College he works collaboratively with the Director of Academic and Student Services in staffing student activities, including local field excursions, study away and study abroad programming. He also works with the college's Director of Outreach and Engagement to provide creative ways of drawing students to the Honors space for a myriad of events and lectures

designed for enrichment of Honors students and for campus-wide enjoyment and appreciation. Mr. Neal is responsible for building strong relationships with the Office of Scholarships, the Office of Financial Aid, and Housing to ensure that Honors Scholars enjoy a smooth transition to campus and that they remain worry free about such matters. 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. As a committed leader to lifelong learning, he plans to complete a terminal degree (an Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership with a focus on Higher Education.



Ms. Desa M. D. Weathers is the Director of Outreach and Engagement in the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College. As Director of Outreach and Engagement, Ms. Weathers has several major responsibilities. She is charged with planning a variety of events that will foster engagement of currently enrolled students in the Honors College. While working to build Honors as the intellectual and social hub of the campus, she simultaneously assists with establishing and maintaining strong ties to public and private schools, businesses, industry, churches, etc. She works collaboratively with middle and high school personnel, including counselors, principals, deans of curriculum, assistant superintendents, etc., to create

a pipeline of high performing students for the Honors College. Additionally, Ms. Weathers assists with corporate fundraising and private donor relations in an effort to provide scholarships for Honors College students. Her outreach work positions her to work collaboratively with the Honors College's Director of Academic and Student Services in designing, implementing, and managing the Honors College's Internship Program and the Honors College's Service Learning Program. She is responsible for planning and overseeing fundraising events, ceremonies, special events, and receptions hosted by the Honors College. She is also responsible for a

host of other activities, including production of the Honors College newsletter, brochures, flyers and all marketing/PR materials. Ms. Weathers holds a Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree in Counseling Education from Texas Southern University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education with a concentration in Children's Studies from Brooklyn College-CUNY. Ms. Weathers is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Curriculum and Instruction at TSU.

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