

THE FRONTRUNNER

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



Honors Dean's Welcome



Fall 2016 will be remembered among Honors College alumni, students, and staff as a groundbreaking semester for fundraising in the Honors College. In preparation for rolling out fundraising initiatives, we have been getting to know our Honors alumni by inviting them to on-campus and off-campus events, meeting with them in clusters in their cities, communicating through email, social media, and newsletter, about the many activities being hosted in Honors. Alumni engagement goes hand-in-hand with student engagement. Because we want Honors alumni to support our young scholars, we must communicate effectively with them to demonstrate that their investment in students in the Honors College is worthwhile and will help the college to

graduate students on time and with high honors. Through student engagement, we can provide the best education possible at TSU, namely provide an Ivy League education at an urban, public institution. At present, the college promotes an Ivy League flavor to attract high academic profile students who are often recruited by prestigious universities. Our young scholars choose the Honors College precisely because of the enrichments provided, such as this semester's Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana, the Model United Nations trip to Japan, the Lively Arts Program, (where students attended the symphony, the ballet, the theatre, and live concerts with Beyoncé and Smokey Robinson), the seafood boil mixer for Honors alumni and current students, the public lectures delivered by outstanding TSU faculty on an array of stimulating topics, and the Undergraduate Research and Creative

Activities Symposium showcasing 76 Honors College students from across disciplines. The Honors College provides these experiential learning experiences specifically to transform the lives of students. To sustain this vision for the college, it is imperative that the college makes fundraising a priority with goals. To meet our goals, we have embarked on a full-scale effort with a strategic plan to build our scholarship fund. We invite TSU alumni, especially graduates of Honors, corporate sponsors, and community and church leaders to support some of the best and brightest students at TSU. Over time, these students will improve our graduation rate, will go out and do great things in the world, and will happily support their beloved alma mater.

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HONORS ORIENTATION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College held its semi-annual Orientation and General Assembly on Saturday, August 20, 2016, with a make-up session on Tuesday, August 23, 2016. On Saturday, the incoming Fall 2016 class enjoyed a hot breakfast while Honors engaged them in cohort-building activities and the sharing of personal stories of significant life events. The new Honors cadre is comprised of 20 freshmen, 10 new continuing TSU students and two new transfer students. Many hailing from the Houston area and other cities in Texas, and several from outside of Texas, all 32 recruits are exceptionally gifted, high-achieving students. The students also had the opportunity to

tour the Honors facility, including the popular student-friendly Honors Lounge, the recently updated state-of-the-art computer lab, the technology-outfitted auditorium, and the Honors staff's suite of offices.

After a sumptuous lunch that included the new recruits as well as the returning students, Honors held a general assembly that incorporated both groups. This session focused on reinforcing the core values of the Honors College, which are scholarship, character, service, and leadership, as well as a reiteration of the expectations of the scholars. Students

acknowledged that in order to remain in good standing, 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 Honors student organizations. The continuing students also had an opportunity to share their experiences with the freshman cohort and commit to serving as mentors to these new incoming students.



HONORS ARTS & ENRICHMENT SERIES

In keeping with its mission to educate students broadly and to expose them to experiences outside of their normal environments, this fall Honors took enrichment to a new level with an “enriched” events calendar that was packed with an eclectic lineup of concerts and shows ranging from ballet to Beyoncé!

Honors Scholars were invited to put their names into a ballot box to “win” tickets to some of the most exciting events and performances in Houston, including: a play, *The Burnin’*, a neo-spiritual a capella musical; Beyoncé’s *Formation Tour* in Houston; the Houston Ballet’s per-

formance of *Madam Butterfly*; Smokey Robinson in concert at Jones Hall; *Sassy Mamas* at The Ensemble Theatre; and a *Violin Concerto* by the Houston Symphony Orchestra, led by Greek violin virtuoso Leonidas Kavakos at Jones Hall.



HOMECOMING 2016: “REMEMBER THE TIMES!”

Homecoming festivities began in full swing starting at the beginning of the week of October 17, 2016. TSU alumni, students, family and friends came together for a week-long celebration and the stress of the midterms melted away! On Wednesday, October 19, the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College Royal Court was presented at the Miss TSU Coronation. In addition to Mr. and Miss Honors College

(Bradley Iwe, senior; Kierra Patton, senior), Mr. and Miss Honors Sophomore (Dorian Fernandez, Anaya Valentine), and Mr. and Miss Honors Freshman (Jordan Davis, Vicki Nicole Taylor), Honors had royalty all across campus: Mr. and Miss TSU Sophomores, Braxton Branick and Darlise Goodlow; Miss Professional Pharmacy, Abreah Ash (senior/P3); Miss Jesse H. Jones School of Business, Ashan-

ti Phelps (junior); Miss Entertainment Recording & Industry Management, Josie Deese (sophomore); and Miss Delta Sigma Theta, El’Lohna Jones (junior). The 2016 Homecoming Parade, which began at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday the 22, was a fitting finale as this year the Homecoming Parade returned “home” to

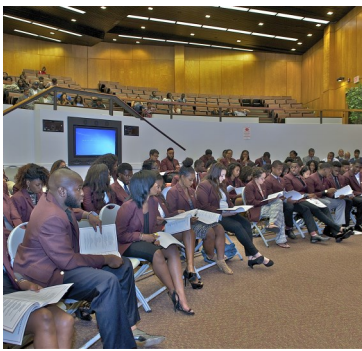


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HONORS COLLEGE INDUCTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY 2015



On October 3, 2016, the Honors College celebrated academic excellence at our annual Induction and Awards Ceremony, held in the College of Education auditorium. The Honors College proudly added 32 new outstanding students to its community of life-long learners. Students inducted into Honors ranked among the top students from their high schools. The freshman class entered TSU with an average GPA of 3.72, 1190 on the SAT (Math & Critical Reading), and a 25 on the ACT.



This academic year, Honors welcomed two transfer and 10 continuing TSU students as new recruits.



The new 2016 inductees pledged to uphold all the Core Principles of Honors: Scholarship, Character, Service, and Leadership. They pledged to be examples of excellence in all that they set out to do, and to exert their energies to live up to all that is expected of an Honors College Scholar. The returning Continuing Scholars re-committed to upholding the Honors College pledge of excellence. The top Continuing Scholars are as follows: Vu Pham, a sophomore majoring in Biology, 4.0 GPA; Omoikhefe Eboime, a junior majoring in Computer Science, 3.97 GPA; Lorin Shirdon, a sophomore majoring in

Pre-Pharmacy, 3.96 GPA; Suzonne Goudeau, a sophomore majoring in Mathematics, 3.95 GPA; and Temitope Gbaja, a senior majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering with a 3.92 GPA. The Honors College also showcased 37 additional Continuing Scholars for their exceptional achievements in scholarship and leadership.

Following the Induction and Awards Ceremony, the Honors College hosted a reception for the scholars and their families and thanked the parents for entrusting their best to Honors, which promises to nurture and keep them fully engaged intellectually, academically, and socially.



THE 3RD ANNUAL UNIVERSITY/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP MEETING



Recruitment continues to play a very important role in the development of the Honors College. On Tuesday, November 15, 2016, Honors hosted its 3rd Annual University/School Partnership Meeting. Invited guests included school counselors, advisors, principals, and other high school administrators. This year Honors invited the high school personnel to bring a few of their qualified high-achieving students to the luncheon. This proved to be a great incentive for potential Honors College candidates. The event was a great success with 16 high school personnel representing 14 Houston area

schools, and over 50 of their top students in attendance. The partnership meeting and luncheon provided the attendees an opportunity to learn more about the Honors College, and meet the Honors staff as well as some of our current scholars who are members of the Honors College Ambassadors Association. The topics of discussion included Honors At A Glance and what TSU's Honors College has to offer; Uni-

versity/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 1270 or higher on the new SAT (ERW+M), and a 26 or higher on the ACT).



HONORS DRESS FOR SUCCESS INITIATIVE

On November 1, 2016, Honors launched its Dress for Success Initiative to provide professional attire for Honors Scholars when they go to job interviews or participate in internships, or attend events that require a professional look. A campus-wide message was sent to faculty and staff to donate their gently worn suits, dresses, pants, dress shirts and

blouses, jewelry, shoes, etc. to the Dress for Success Closet housed in Honors. Over 120 items of clothing and apparel have been donated to date. The Closet is open to all TSU students, Honors and non Honors, because we hope to increase our Continuing Student outreach on campus. Every student who benefits from the Closet pledges to help with Honors'

recruiting activities around the city and across the state.



STUDY ABROAD IN JAPAN: THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS IN KOBE, HIROSHIMA, AND KYOTO

Several Honors College Scholars traveled to Japan to participate in an international conference sponsored by the Model United Nations (MUN) on November 19-27, 2016. What is MUN? It is an academic competition that enables students to learn about the United Nations, diplomacy, and international relations, while teaching them researching, public speaking, debating, critical thinking, writing, team-building, and leadership skills. The three young scholars who traveled to Japan included Omoikhefe Eboime (junior, Computer Science major), Dorian Fernandez (sophomore, Biology ma-

ior), and Lorin Shiridon (sophomore, Pre-Pharmacy major). The Honors MUN team performed exceptionally well, staying up late hours researching diplomatic issues surrounding the country assigned to them by the conference: Kenya. The Honors MUN received copies of program booklets and a certificate, both of which acknowledged participation by Texas Southern University.

Before the start of the conference, participants were given guided daylong tours of two major cities in Japan: Kyoto (the former capital of Japan and the site of over 2,000 shrines, tem-

ples, and gardens) and Hiroshima (the city on which the U.S. dropped the Atomic Bomb in retaliation for Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941). The Honors Scholars observed first hand that the Japanese people are incredibly polite, peaceful, patient, and eager to accommodate. Our students also explored the city of Kobe, which rebounded from a major earthquake that occurred 21 years ago. The Honors College offers experiential learning that will be transformative for our young scholars, and the Japan trip is a fine example of such.



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES SYMPOSIUM



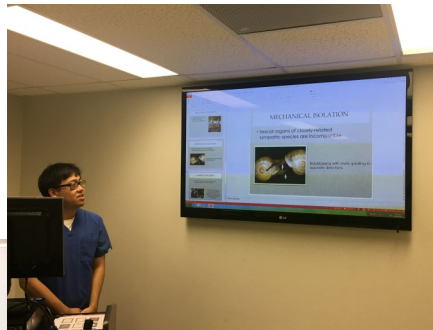
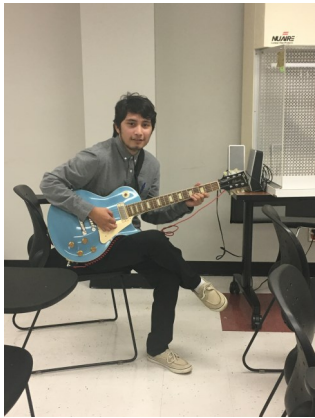
On November 29 and 30, 2016, the Honors College hosted its 4th semi-annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium, showcasing the research and creative works (including students playing the piano and guitar, exhibiting paintings and sketches, singing a cappella, etc.) of 76 students from across disciplines: 29 from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology; 20 from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; 14 from the Jesse H. Jones School of Business; six from the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs; three from the School of Communication; two from the College of Liberal Arts and

Behavioral Sciences, and two from the College of Education.

Celebrating academic achievement, scholarly research, and artistic expressions, the symposium serves as a forum for juniors and seniors who are required to present their research and creative works that are completed in the course augmentation proposals, while freshmen and sophomores presented projects from their core enhancements 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.

Presentations ranged in topics and content based upon the scholars' chosen fields of study or their hobbies. Some played the piano or sang and danced; some read poetry and performed spoken word. Some presented papers that they had spent countless hours researching, and others displayed their artistic abilities through paintings and short films. Participants were given 3-5 minutes to present, and the presentations were captivating.



STUDY AWAY TRIP: HONORS CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE

On November 9, 2016, at 10:30 p.m., the Honors College staff along with 23 Honors College Scholars boarded a Motor Coach and embarked on the college's first Civil Rights Pilgrimage and third Study Away/Recruitment trip.

Prior to visiting the historic sites across three states and two time zones, Honors staff instructed students on the African-American struggle for civil rights that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 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.

The civil rights pilgrimage started before the actual travel, with a mandatory book reading of *Why We Can't Wait* by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The book provided a canvas for the emotionally-charged experiences and impressions made by visiting the sites and walking the hallowed grounds that some of the most prominent Civil Rights activists had tread. During the trip, each night Honors staff and the Honors Scholars reflected upon the sites they had seen dur-

ing the day and discussed Dr. King's book as part of the study portion of the trip.

The first city on the itinerary was Atlanta, Georgia, where the scholars visited Dr. King's birth home, the Ebenezer Baptist church, and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. The group was also treated to a performance of *Proof*, a Pulitzer prize-winning play at the Southwest Arts Center. The following morning, the scholars headed to Birmingham, Alabama, where they visited the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Kelly Ingram Park, and the 16th Street Baptist Church. From Birmingham, the scholars were transported to Selma, Alabama, where they experienced walking across the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge. Also in Selma, the scholars visited the Ancient Africa, Enslavement, and Civil War Museum, where the docent and "Bloody Sunday" veteran Ms. Annie Pearle Avery gave them a firsthand account of the non-violent movement that eventually led to the Civil Rights Act. Ms. Avery was the only marcher who was jailed on that fateful

Sunday 51 years ago. The next stop on the pilgrimage took the scholars to Montgomery, Alabama, where they were taken down memory lane at the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, by the effervescent docent, Ms. Wanda Battle. The following morning, the Honors troupe visited the Dexter Parsonage Museum, where tour docent Dr. Shirley Cherry took them back in time to Dr. King's kitchen table and the moment when he "bowed over the kitchen table and prayed aloud." After this, the scholars visited the Rosa Parks Library and Museum where tour docent Mr. Keith Worthington led them on a journey along the Jim Crow South timeline leading up to Ms. Rosa Parks' quiet but resounding "no" when she was asked to give up her seat on the city bus, and her subsequent arrest. Next, the scholars visited the Civil Rights Memorial where they were led on the tour by docent Ms. Kayllin Williams.

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DALLAS/FORT WORTH HONORS ALUMNI-COUNSELOR MIXER



On Sunday, July 10, 2016, the Honors College hosted the Dallas/Fort Worth area alumni and high school personnel at a dinner mixer in Dallas, Texas. The event was well-

attended by counselors, high school administrators and other personnel representing several school districts in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, as well several Dallas-based Honors alumni. This was the first time

that the Honors College was able to bring alumni and counselors together in areas other than Houston, Texas, where the Honors College has a cluster of alumni. Invited guests thanked the Honors staff for an informative and enjoyable event. High school personnel were very impressed by the Honors alumni and indicated that they are eager and excited about partnering with Honors to help spread the good news to their high-achieving students about the advantages of joining

the rapidly growing Honors College at TSU.

Both alumni and high school personnel pledged to help build relationships with Honors with the goal of increasing recruitment and organizing events that will directly benefit students, namely help them to graduate from the Honors College on time and with high honors. To continue the momentum, the Honors College recruited at 36 sites in Fall 2016.

HOMECOMING 2016 cont.

the Third Ward community. The crowds came out in droves to welcome and embrace our Tigers, cheering on all the participants while the Honors royalty gave out candy to the children along the parade. The Honors College entered a red convertible Ford Mustang and a silver Nissan Frontier truck in the parade: The Mustang transported Mr. and Miss Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, and the truck carried the remainder of the Honors court. The Honors College staff along with the college Home-

coming Court decorated the vehicles in TSU's colors and proudly displayed Honors Tigers' pride.



Runway Extraordinaire: A Fashion Show and Silent Auction Event

On Sunday, October 9, 2016, the Honors College hosted its first fundraising event: *Runway Extraordinaire*, a fashion show/silent auction to help raise money for scholarships for our deserving Honors Scholars. TSU's beloved and devoted alumna Mrs. Georgia Provost, of Provost & Associates, played a major role in recruiting distinguished political, religious, and corporate leaders to serve as models for the fashion show. The participant list featured several prominent members of the Houston community, and many of our very own members of the Honors Support Team, Honors Faculty Fellows and Honors Scholars. Amongst the models were Texas State Representative Ron Reynolds, Esq. and his wife Dr. Jonita Reynolds; Reverend Bishop Boulden; retired law-enforcement officer, Mr. Rickey Spivey; publisher of the Houston Forward Times, Ms. Karen

Carter Richards; retired HISD principal, Dr. Davetta Daniels; business owners, Ms. Cheryl Armitage and Mrs. Jenee Pierre-Raven; HISD Trustee, Ms. Wanda Adams; Honors Support Team members, Mr. Gregory Williams, Mr. Louis Edwards, Ms. Yvette Barker, and Ms. Diane Nicholson-Jones; Honors Faculty Fellows, Professor Austin James, Dr. Katherine Vukadin, Dr. Jesse Esparza, and Dr. Monica Rasmus; and Honors Scholars, A.J. Davis, Darlise Goodlow, Suzanne Goudeau, Dorian Fernandez, Vincent Fisher, Lizzy Omosebi, Efe Eboime, Aaron Dallas, and Lorin Shirton; and Graduate Research Assistant, Joselyn Guevara. For the Silent Auction, over 20 local businesses in the Houston area donated items and services to the Honors College.

Models and guests enjoyed

great food and music while helping toward a greater cause. Through its debut fundraiser, Honors was able to raise student scholarships for the brightest and the best at TSU.



HONORS FALL FREDERICK DOUGLASS LECTURE SERIES

The Honors College began its Fall 2016 Lecture Series on November 17. Invited lecturers for this academic semester included TSU professors Dr. Jahmario Williams, Dr. Daniel Vrinceanu, Dr. Jason Oby, Dr. Jesse Esparza, and Dr. Uche Ndefo. All leaders in their fields of study, each delivered lectures that encouraged deep thought and prompted engagement with audience members.

The first lecturer in the Fredrick Douglass Lecture Series was **Dr. Jahmario Williams**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology. His presentation, "Solving Differential Equations Using Laplace Transforms," involved solving initial value problems in differential

equations using the well known Laplace Transform. Dr. Williams also used Laplace to solve some integral equations and integral differential equations and defined how Laplace transforms to reduce a differential equation to an algebra problem.

Dr. Daniel Vrinceanu, Associate Professor of Physics in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology presented a lecture titled "The Discovery of Gravitational Waves 100 Years after Einstein's Prediction." He explained the importance and significance of the recent discovery of gravitational waves by the LIGO collaboration. One hundred years after Einstein's theoretical prediction, the announcement of direct detection of

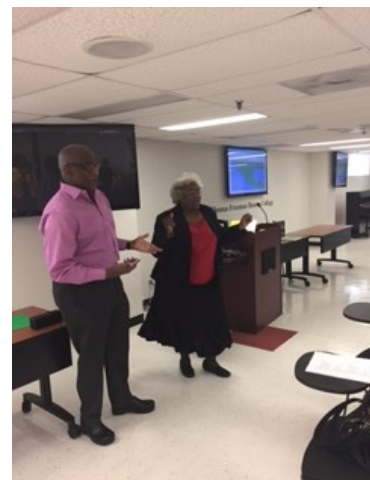
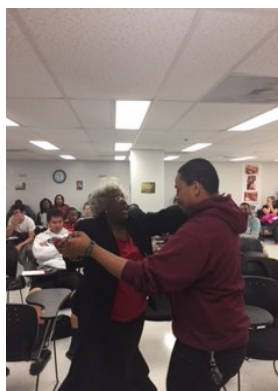
gravitational waves for the first time marks the beginning of a new era in the study of the cosmos.

On November 28, **Dr. Jesse Esparza**, Assistant Professor of History in the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, presented a lecture titled: "The Discipline of History and Historical Preservation." He spoke about the efforts to engage students through digital history with an emphasis on primary sources and historical preservation.

On November 30, at 10 a.m., **Dr. Jason Oby**, Professor of Music and chairperson of the Department of Music in the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, where he is also assistant dean, along with **Ms. Joan Hubert**, presented "What Comes Around Goes Around-1830-2016: African Slaves and their Impact on the

Music and Culture of Mexico," with music, dance and plenty of audience participation. Students rose from their seats to learn the "La Bamba" and thoroughly enjoyed learning the musical history of Mexican culture.

Dr. Uche Ndefo, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, presented the findings of a project sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) on Medication Therapy Management, which was implemented by TSU in collaboration with Westat (a research company) and Spring Branch Health Centers (a Federally Qualified Health Center).



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Honors Faculty Fellow: Prof. Austin Allen James



Professor Austin James, instructor of English in the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, is a new addition to the Honors Faculty Fellows. Prof. James has published two books and is currently working on two more. He is a poet and a gifted multimedia artist. This academic year marks Prof. James’

fifth year at TSU. Earlier this fall, he served as one of our models for the *Runway Extraordinaire* fashion show and donated his artwork for the silent auction portion of the fundraiser. Prof. James’ enthusiasm and energy is highly contagious. He enjoys engaging his Honors Scholarmatees in lively discus-

sions on career options and entrepreneurial ventures, and often challenges them to look ahead to where they see themselves after graduation. While helping Honors recruit high-achieving high school students, he explains the benefits of an honors education and the many programs that TSU offers.

Honors Support Team: Ms. Eva Pickens



Ms. Eva K. Pickens, Associate Vice President for University Advancement, is responsible for the image, branding, communications and marketing at Texas Southern University. She is also the University Spokesperson, having to her credit 25 years of

professional experience in the public and media relations industry. She previously served as an award-winning daily newspaper reporter at the *Opelousas Daily World*, a *New York Times* subsidiary, where she earned several writing awards for investigative reporting, feature writing

and special edition profiles. Ms. Pickens earned a bachelor’s degree in Journalism from Southern University in three years and graduated *summa cum laude*. The Honors College is fortunate to have Ms. Pickens as a member of its Honors Support Team,

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Honors Alumni: Dr. Willie Capers, II



Dr. Willie Capers, II, is the Vice-Chair of Clinical and Administrative Services and Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Administration of Health Sciences in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (COPHS) at TSU. He received a Doctor of Phar-

macy degree from Texas Southern University in 2001, a Master’s degree in Business Administration from Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas, in 2010, and completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and a PGY2 Pharmacy Administration Residency with

Aurora Health Care, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 2002 and 2003, respectively. Previously, Dr. Capers was employed by Excel Healthcare Group, Inc., St. Bernard’s Healthcare, and The Methodist Hospital System.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT cont.

Honors Scholar: Ms. Darlise Goodlow

Darlise Goodlow, a sophomore Marketing major with a minor in Visual and Performing Arts at TSU, has an overall GPA of 3.81. She is an active member of the TSU Yearbook Team, the TSU Dance Company, and holds the title of Miss Sophomore 2016 at TSU. Hailing from St. Louis, MO, Ms. Goodlow graduated in the top 10% of her class from McCluer North High School. Last academic year, as a member of the Honors Chautauqua Program, she researched and portrayed the life of Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, while also serving as the president of the Honors Research and Creative Ac-

tivities Association and maintaining a GPA of 3.83. Ms. Goodlow is also a gifted artist and a passionate dancer. Her hard work and dedication to academic success has earned her important honors thus far. She was invited to portray Barbara Jordan during TSU's Honors Day Convocation Ceremony, April 27, 2016, where she received recognition for being on the President's List, the Dean's List, and the Honor Roll. Ms. Goodlow has also traveled as an ambassador for the Honors Chautauqua Program. Accompanied by her fellow team members, she impressed high school personnel as well as students

in New Orleans, LA, Corpus Christi, TX, and Greensboro, NC. The Honors College is proud to honor such an outstanding scholar.



LAGNIAPPE DAY: Honors Alumni & Students Seafood Boil and Mixer

On Friday October 21, 2016, amongst the many celebrations that took place on campus during Homecoming Week 2016, the Honors Seafood Boil and Mixer brought Honors alumni and current scholars together in an informal setting under a tent outside

the Honors College. Generously co-sponsored by the Office of the President, the event was well-attended by our alumni and students, along with several members of the Honors Faculty Fellows as well as the

Honors Support Team. Great food, music and camaraderie was enjoyed by all.



HFF AND HST SEMESTER KICK-OFF LUNCHEON



On Friday, August 19, and Friday August 26, 2016, the Honors College hosted a luncheon for the Honors Faculty Fellows (HFF) and the Honors Support Team (HST). The meeting afforded an opportunity for the Honors staff as well as the HFFs and HST members to get acquainted/reacquainted with one another and to discuss the vision and the goals of the Honors College. This academic year, prominent members of TSU's brilliant faculty and outstanding staff have joined/returned to the

Honors College. Our newest HFF members include: Dr. Jesus Jesse Esparza (Assistant Professor of History in the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences), Dr. Erica Casimere (Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology), Professor Austin James (Visiting Instructor in the Department of English), Dr. Daniel Vrinceanu (Associate Professor of Physics in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology), Dr. Monica L. Rasmus (Assistant Pro-

fessor in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the Director of the Program in Health Administration), Dr. Jahmario Williams (Assistant Professor of Mathematics in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology), and Dr. Uche Ndefo (Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences).

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GIVING MADE EASY: HONORS ROLLS UP ITS SLEEVES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS



This fall, the Honors College made a full-scale effort with four initiatives to reach its fundraising goals for the 2016-2017 academic year. In October, the college hosted the very successful *Runway Extraordinaire*: Fashion Show and Silent Auction. Starting in July, the college began reaching out to local churches for scholarship donations. Two churches graciously responded to the call in November. Two alumni of Texas Southern University, Pas-

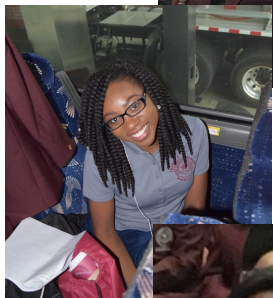
tors Asa Sampson, Sr., and Asa Sampson, Jr., of Hopewell (Temple) Missionary Baptist Church, gave a donation to Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory, interim dean of the college. Pastor Sampson, Sr. noted that this was the first time TSU had ever asked his church for support. "This is a brave and bold move and one that will garner support because Texas Southern University has educated many members of our congregation. They will want to give back to

their beloved alma mater. TSU has given so much to me; I am honored to help raise scholarships for deserving Honors College Scholars," noted Pastor Sampson Sr. who beamed when he announced to the congregation that Dr. Thomas F. Freeman had been his professor and mentor many years ago.

Another blessing in the form of a generous donation came to Honors in late November,

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SNAPSHOTS: NEW TO HONORS



**Ayowunmi (Ayo) Ad-
eleke** is an international student from Lagos, Nigeria. He is a Mechanical Engineering major transferring from University of Texas-El Paso. Ayo has taken part in the Mathematics Association's Math Challenge tournament where he achieved three gold awards, twice scoring highest in his class.

Kelsey Akarue is a sophomore and a continuing student at Texas Southern University. She hails from Houston, Texas, and graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugar Land. Kelsey is currently a pre-pharmacy major and plans to attend pharmacy school and pursue a career in pharmacy.

**Henry Alexander Bau-
tista**, born in Houston, Texas, is a Salvadorian at heart. He graduated from Aldine Senior High School and is committed to becoming the first to graduate from college in his family, to be the first in his family to graduate with honors, and to maintain a GPA of 3.25 or higher. Henry is a first time freshman and is majoring in Administration of Justice.

Morgan Blalock hails

from Pascagoula, Mississippi, and as a first-time freshman at Texas Southern University, she is majoring in Pre-Pharmacy. A few of her academic achievements include being in the top 10% of her graduating class, and being one of four students selected to her high school's Hall of Fame.

Enoch Culliver is a continuing student at Texas Southern University. Hailing from Omaha, Nebraska, Enoch graduated with honors from Creighton Preparatory High School. He is a junior pursuing Sport Management. Having achieved several academic awards, maintaining his grades and being a student athlete, Enoch is most proud of being a part of the Texas Southern University baseball team.

Aaron Fitzgerald Dallas, II, born in Cypress, Texas, hails from a family of TSU alumni. He is a sophomore and a continuing student at Texas Southern University, who graduated from Langham Creek High School, was a member of the football, basketball and track teams, and was selected to the National Society of High School Scholars. He

is currently pursuing a major in Business Marketing and holds an overall GPA of 3.9.

Alusine "AJ" Davis, born in Louisiana, spent the last seven years of his life in Houston. He graduated from Jack Yates High School ranking number five in his class with a 3.98 GPA. At Jack Yates, AJ participated in baseball, basketball, football, student government, and the Math/Numismatic Club. A first-time freshman at Texas Southern University, AJ is majoring in Engineering.

Jordan Davis, born in Plano, Texas, graduated from Plano East Senior High School with Honors and a 3.9 GPA. Jordan was a member of his high school marching band, concert band, and drum line where he received many area and regional competition awards. Jordan is majoring in Biology and aspires to become a Pharmaceutical Scientist after earning a doctorate.

cont. p16

SNAPSHOTS: NEW TO HONORS *cont.*

Vincent Fisher was born in Houston, Texas, and was raised in Missouri City, Texas. He graduated from Dawson High School earning a silver medal on the National Spanish Exam. As a first-time freshman at Texas Southern University, Vincent is majoring in Electrical Engineering.

Marlene Garza is a junior and a continuing student at Texas Southern University where she is a Radio, Television and Film major with a minor in Spanish. Marlene aspires to pursue a career in Communications Administration, where she can develop and write for an agency.

Darrion Gray, born and raised in Arlington, Texas, graduated from Mansfield Timberview High School. He is a first-time freshman majoring in Radio, Television and Film. Darrion plans to pursue his career goal of becoming a sports broadcaster.

Giraude Griffin, born and raised in Houston, Texas, graduated from Pasadena Memorial High School where he received a certificate for perfect attendance and several academic achievement awards, including an award for being

an outstanding math student. As a first-time freshman at Texas Southern University, Giraude is majoring in Business Administration.

Deja Henderson is a sophomore and a continuing student at Texas Southern University. She hails from Houston, Texas, where she graduated from Bellaire High School in 2015. Deja was a member of the choir throughout her high school career while maintaining a minimum 3.75 GPA. She is currently majoring in Accounting.

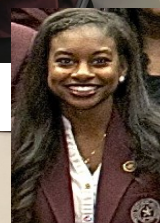
Jamalia Henry is a continuing student at Texas Southern University. Although born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, Jamalia's family relocated to Houston, Texas, due to Hurricane Katrina. She graduated from Carl Wunsch High School with two diplomas, completing high school with a 3.8 GPA. Jamalia is currently a sophomore majoring in Marketing at Texas Southern University.

Shantona Jackson hails from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she graduated *cum laude* from Wood-

lawn High School with an overall GPA of 3.62. Her academic accomplishments were recognized by the state and municipal school boards for maintaining a 3.5 GPA or higher each year. Shantona is a first-time freshman and is majoring in Biology/Pre-Medicine.

Kalifa Kelly is from Lawrenceville, Georgia, where she graduated from Collins Hill High School and completed two years of college at the University of West Georgia. Amongst her many accolades she includes being the Vice president of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society and Ambassador for the Advanced Academy of Georgia. Kalifa is majoring in Chemistry/Pre-Medicine.

Ngoc Dieu Thi Lam, born in Vietnam and recently relocated to the United States, graduated from Jane Long Academy where she received both her high school diploma and an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. As a first-time freshman at Texas Southern University, Dieu is majoring in Pre-Pharmacy.



cont. p17.

SNAPSHOTS: NEW TO HONORS



Tylar Larkins, born in Frisco, Texas, graduated *cum laude* from Lone Star High School. Tylar was an active participant with the National Honor Society. As a first-time freshman at Texas Southern University, Tylar has chosen to major in Biology/Pre-Medicine.

Alexis Lowe, born in Mountain Home, Idaho, on a military base and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, graduated from City High Middle, an International Baccalaureate School. She is the mother of one year old Zayden. As a first-time freshman at Texas Southern University, Alexis is majoring in Political Science and plans to pursue a career in law.

Divonte Lumpkin, born in the Southside of Chicago, graduated from Harlan Community Academy ranking number three in his class. He transferred to Texas Southern University from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Divonte is currently majoring in Accounting.

Ashlynn McCall, born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, graduated with high honors from the Pre-Medical Magnet Program at Rancho High School.

She participated in a medical internship class during her senior year and was also a member of the National Honor Society. Ashlynn is a first-time freshman majoring in Biology/Pre-Medicine and plans eventually to become a Pediatric Oncologist.

Holly Janay Mills, born in Dallas, Texas, graduated from the Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy, while completing an Associate of Science degree from Cedar Valley College. Some of her academic achievements include maintaining a 3.75 GPA in both high school and college, ranking number 4 in her high school class and making the President's List at Cedar Valley three times in a row. Holly is majoring in Chemistry with a Pre-Medicine track.

Keyse Harun Musse, a continuing student, was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, but moved to Ethiopia to live with his Somaian relatives. He moved back to the U.S. when he was six, and has since lived in Houston, TX. Keyse is a sophomore at Texas Southern University, majoring in Music Education. He plans to become a professional music conductor.

Ogechukwu (Oge) Suzanne Okafor, born in Fontana, California, graduated from Etiwanda High School. Oge is a gifted pianist and is a first-time freshman at Texas Southern University, majoring in Pre-Pharmacy.

Olajumoke "Lizzie" Omosebi, born in Nigeria, is a continuing student at Texas Southern University. Lizzie is a sophomore majoring in Aviation Science, and aspires to become an airline pilot. She has successfully passed her Private Pilot Written Exam qualifying her to proceed with the Instrument Pilot Rating ground class.

Kiya Reeves, born in Chicago, Illinois, graduated with high honors from Lindblom Math and Science Academy. As a first-time freshman at Texas Southern University, she is majoring in Health Studies.

Alexis Shavers, born in Memphis, Tennessee, graduated from Germantown High School completing the International Baccalaureate program in four years while playing basketball and maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

cont. p18.

SNAPSHOTS: NEW TO HONORS cont.

Alexis is a first-time freshman majoring in Biology with a minor in Chemistry.

Kayla Smith, born in Santa Ana, California, graduated from Mater Dei High. Although recruited by Texas Southern to play soccer, Kayla's priority is her academic achievement. As the daughter of an entrepreneur, Kayla too aspires to become a businesswoman and is majoring in Business Administration with a minor in Business Law.

Torye Smith, born in Beaumont, Texas, graduated *magna cum laude* from West Brook Senior High School. As a first-time freshman, she is majoring in Biology and plans to pursue a career in medicine.

Vicki Nicole Taylor, born in Houlika, Mississippi, currently lives in Lake Jackson, Texas, where she graduated from Brazoswood High School. Nicole is a first-time freshman and is currently majoring in English, with a Teaching Certification concentration.

Anaya Nichelle Valentine was born in Ilesheim, Germany, and has since lived in various places. A self-proclaimed "military

brat," Anaya graduated *magna cum laude* from Samuel Clemens High School in Schertz, Texas. She is a continuing student at Texas Southern University and a sophomore majoring in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. Anaya plans to pursue a career as a Forensic Biologist.

Somone Winn, born in Anchorage, Alaska, spent most of her academic years in Baytown, Texas. She is a continuing student at Texas Southern and a sophomore. Somone is a sophomore and a Pre-Pharmacy major at TSU. She is actively involved in TSU's Pre-Health Professions Club.



CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE cont.

At the Civil Rights Memorial, as the scholars took the pledge to stand up against all discrimination and to speak up for human rights, their names appeared on the Wall of Tolerance. Next stop on the trip was the Tremé Gumbo Festival held in the famous Louis Armstrong Park in New Orleans, Louisiana. The festival featured over 12 different varieties of gumbo, along with live music and local artisans selling their crafty wares. Scholars shopped for trinkets and savored local flavors. The following

morning, the scholars embarked upon a four-hour social justice tour of the Crescent City with Mr. Sakura Koné as their very knowledgeable and highly entertaining tour guide. The tour was truly an eye-opener because Mr. Koné revealed many truths about the real history of New Orleans, with interesting anecdotes and stark visualization. The grand finale of the tour and the civil rights pilgrimage was the visit to the famous Whitney Plantation, the only plantation museum with a focus on slavery and reparations. Here, America's dark past

can be seen through museum exhibits, restored buildings, and hundreds of first-person slave narratives. The scholars gained a unique perspective on the lives of Louisiana's enslaved people.

During their time in Atlanta, Georgia, the Honors staff and Honors Scholars visited the Frederick Douglass High School to recruit students. The Honors Scholars represented the Honors College and TSU with poise and grace. They spoke eloquently about their experiences in Texas Southern's Honors College.



DECEMBER 2016 GRADUATION RECOGNITION CEREMONY

On Friday December 9, 2016, at 6 p.m., the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College proudly celebrated its three Fall 2016 graduates at an intimate gathering that involved best wishes and teary farewells. Although the Graduation Recognition Ceremony, held at Pappas Seafood Restaurant, lasted about two hours, it was both solemn and heartwarming. Each graduate was honored with the special Honors College stole as well as TSU memorabilia as to-

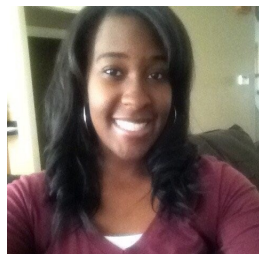
kens of appreciation. Please join us in congratulating our graduates as they embark upon the next chapter in their lives.



Profile of Fall 2016 Graduates



Imani Bass graduated with a B.S. degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She is a California resident. Her overall GPA is 3.62. Imani plans to continue her education and pursue a career as a traveling Nurse Practitioner.



Kierra Patton graduated with a B.S. degree in Health Studies from the College of Education. Her overall GPA is 3.67. Ms. Patton plans to continue her training in health care and eventually pursue a career as a Physical Therapist.



Donisha Sowell graduated with a B.A. degree in Entertainment Recording Industry Management and a minor in Business Administration from the School of Communication with an overall GPA of 3.68. Ms. Sowell plans to continue her training through alternate teacher certification and pursue a career in elementary education

IN THE SPOTLIGHT cont.

Eva Pickens cont.



which is comprised of goodwill ambassadors committed to “making things happen” for the college. They promote the ideals of the college by generously giving of their time, talents, and creative problem-solving skills. Ms. Pickens is not only one of

the most accessible staff members at TSU, but she moves with deliberate, highly professional, focused energy to move the machine. She has worked collaboratively with the Honors College to raise funds for scholarships.

Ms. Pickens expertly directs resources to assist us with spreading the word about the many activities going on in the Honors College to supplement the efforts of the traditional colleges on campus.

Dr. Willie Capers, II cont.



Dr. Capers is the type of alumnus that any university would be proud to call one of theirs. Since earning his doctorate at TSU, Dr. Capers has dedicated himself to his alma mater. Students in the Honors College praise him as an outstanding teacher who cares

deeply about their growth and wellbeing. “We love Dr. Capers!” is a constant refrain from some of our brightest COPHS students who make up about 25% of our total population in Honors. Not only does Dr. Capers delight in

mentoring our Honors Scholars, he also recently made a substantial donation to the Honors College for scholarships. The college celebrates Dr. Capers’ dedication and commitment to the Honors College, and we consider him family.

Honors College Recruitment 2016-2017

Targeted Profile of Honors Recruits for 2017-2018

An ACT of at least 26 or an SAT (ERW+M) of at least 1270, combined with a minimum GPA of 3.5.

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) where 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.

Deadlines: High School Seniors

Early Admission: December 1, 2016
Regular Admission: March 1, 2017

Late Admission: June 1, 2017
For more information on Honors visit our website:

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



KICK-OFF LUNCHEON cont.



Our HST member list reads like the “who’s who” at TSU! Our newest additions include: Ms. Keisha L. David (Associate Vice President/CHRO for Human Resources & Payroll Services), Mr. Louis W. Edwards (Treasurer/ Associate Vice President of Treasury and Budget), Mr. Gregory Williams (Executive Director of Procurement Services), Ms. Yvette Barker (Director of Residential Life & Housing), and Mr. Timothy Rychlec (Executive Director of Facilities). At both HFF and HST luncheons, faculty and staff joined

together to discuss the Dean’s new plans for the Honors College and innovative ways to take Honors to the next level. In a round table setting, participants shared ideas about the various ways they would contribute toward the college’s new fundraising efforts and the steps the member of the HFF plan to take to participate in and increase its recruitment efforts. Dr. Brown-Guillory announced several new fundraisers that the college planned to roll out this academic year: a Fashion Show/Silent Auction,

a request to local pastors to donate to Honors College scholarships, establishing a fundraising board, and a student driven fundraiser.

The ultimate aim of these meetings was to bring all new and returning members of the HFF and HST up to speed and onboard with the rapid developments at the Honors College.



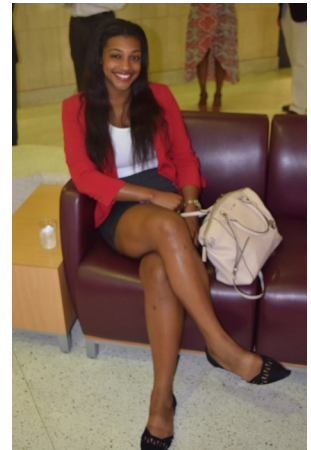
GIVING MADE EASY cont.

from Windsor Village United Methodist Church, led by Reverend Kirbyjon H. Caldwell. Interim Dean Brown-Guillory worked closely with Associate Pastor Suzette Caldwell who also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for The Prayer Institute, a non-profit community-based organization that prays for the Houston metropolitan area and teaches people how to pray. Pastor Caldwell's enthusiasm and commitment is evident in her comment, "TSU is extremely important to the Houston Community, and we are blessed to have it as part of the fabric of the Greater Houston Area."

The Honors College embarked upon a third major fundraising initiative this semester, namely the establishing of a fundraising board, the Honors College Donor Relations Council. Four supporters of TSU's Honors College have accepted an invitation to sit on the council and have agreed to donate \$5,000 each with commitments to raising additional funds. The college plans to host an installation of council members in spring.

To close out the semester, the Honors College launched a student-driven fundraiser. Honors Scholars are set to sell items

from a catalog to family and friends over the holidays. For every 10 items they sell, they are entitled to choose a gift of their choice from the catalog. The student who sells the most items will win a special prize. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be split 60/40 between Maredy Fundraising Company and the Honors College. The students are eager to help raise funds because they understand that they will be the beneficiaries of these efforts. They are already looking forward to another study away trip in spring!



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