

# FREEMAN HONORS

Fall 2017 Newsletter of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University

December 2017

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## About This Edition

This is the sixth and newest edition of Freeman Honors, the bi-annual newsletter of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University.

Freeman Honors connects the students, faculty and office personnel of the College with its many benefactors and partners in education within the University.

The College anticipates that this connection will reflect and cultivate the relationships in a family whose members are dedicated to maximizing the preparation of College students for service as citizens and as leaders in a global society.



*Lyton Eli Ating'a*

## Fall 2017 Valedictorian is an Honors Scholar

The Valedictorian at the Winter 2017 Commencement at Texas Southern University on December, 16 2017 is a Thomas F. Freeman Honors College scholar. Lyton Ating'a (left), graduates as Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering. The list of Honors College scholars who graduate in the fall of 2017 is on Page 3 of this newsletter.

See December 2017 Graduates -- on Page 3

## Dean's Message



*Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard*

Returning to the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College on October 16, 2017, as the Dean has been a joy in so many ways. The scholars of the 2018 Graduating Class were sophomores when I left in July 2015. I remember all of them as if it were yesterday. The six December graduates have continued their academic development as well as their service learning experiences. One of them, Lyton Atinga, has been named class Valedictorian. As the Honors College continues its progress, I wish to thank those who devoted energetic efforts to this position before me. Our founding Dean, Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, is a genuine inspiration. He and his staff from 2009 to 2011 laid the College's present infrastructure. When I served under Dean Humphrey Regis as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 2011 to 2014, he and our staff introduced the honors classes in the University's general core curriculum. One of his renowned focal points was preparing scholars to appreciate globalization. Both Deans played profound roles in identifying the College's mission. Dr. Elizabeth Brown Guillory served as Interim Dean from 2014 to 2017. I served one year under her leadership. She, along with her staff, brought students' Course Augmentation Proposals (CAPS) experiences to life with academic, creative and internship presentations.

As the College moves forward, several initiatives are now in place: the honors courses have been reinstated; seniors will present a research thesis before graduating; and the Frederick Douglass Lecture series, introduced in 2012, will have a global focus, one with social justice and advocacy as the backdrop. Together, with the help of the honors faculty and staff, students' learning experiences will promote critical thinking skills and provide strong research opportunities as the College prepares its community of scholars to become accomplished independent thinkers, researchers, contributing members of their communities, career professionals, and global leaders.

Please enjoy the fall 2017 edition of Freeman Honors.

Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard

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*Representing the Honors College at the United Nations Day Dinner in Houston were Divonte Lumpkin, Alexis Shavers, Gabriella Tavera, Destiny Riddle, Omoikhefe Eboime and Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard, Fall 2017*

## 2017 United Nations Day

On Tuesday October 24, the Houston Area Chapter of the United Nations Association USA celebrated United Nations Day with an elegant gala at the Junior League of Houston. Top scholars from the Honors College represented the College accompanied by Dean Jemison Pollard. The Honors team were seated at a table that had been reserved for them by Links Inc. Their fellow table-mates were prominent personalities including the General Consul to Haiti and the General Consul to Uganda. The Honors Scholars who attended the gala were: **Destiny Riddle (highest freshman GPA)**, **Gabriella Tavera (highest sophomore GPA)**, **Alexis Shavers (highest sophomore GPA)**, **Divonte Lumpkin (highest junior GPA)**, and **Omoikhefe (Efe) Eboime (highest senior GPA)**. One of the attendees, Destiny Riddle, had

this to say—"The UN Day dinner was a beautiful event filled with vibrant colors and bright smiles. All of us Honors students were thrilled to attend this prestigious event with our Dean. As we entered, all I could see were colors and flags adorning the room. We were seated at a table at the very front so we were able to see the stage clearly. The program included speakers that captivated the audience. There was even a group of children that had their own performance which included speaking in their native languages. An even bigger plus was that the dinner was delicious! Overall, it was a marvelous event, and I was honored to be able to attend."

## Homecoming 2017: Tiger Dynasty Honors Pride

Homecoming week began in full swing on October 9, 2017. TSU alumni, students, family and



*Left to right: Ms. Honors Sophomore Gabriella Tavera, Ms. Honors College Suzonne Goudeau, and Ms. Honors Freshman Destiny Riddle*

friends came together to celebrate TSU's 90-year reign. A week after the application for the Honors Royal Court opened, the Honors scholars elected their royal representatives: Ms. Honors College, Suzonne Goudeau (Junior, Mathematics), Mr. Honors College, Enoch Culliver (Junior, Sport Management), Ms. Honors Sophomore, Gabriella Tavera (Biology), Mr. Honors Sophomore, Devontrell Davis (Entertainment Recording Industry Management), Ms. Honors Freshman, Destiny Riddle (Pre-Pharmacy), and Mr. Honors Freshman, B.J. McCaskill (Political Science). The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College Royal Court was officially presented at the Miss TSU Coronation on Wednesday, October 11. A fitting finale to the festivities was the 2017 Homecoming Parade on Saturday October 14. The Honors Royal Court handed out candy and Honors College trinkets to community members who came out to support the parade.



*Left to right: Mr. Honors Sophomore Devontrell Davis, Mr. Honors College Enoch Culliver, and Mr. Honors Freshman B.J. McCaskill*

## Fall 2017: Honors College Inducts New Scholars in Solemn Ceremony



*Honors Induction and Awards Ceremony, Fall 2017*

On Monday, October 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the College of Education auditorium, the Honors College held its annual Induction and Awards Ceremony, presided by Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory, Interim Dean. Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, founding dean of the Honors College and Distinguished Professor of Forensics, led the 26 freshmen and 37 new continuing students in the Honors Induction Pledge. The new scholars followed and pledged to uphold the five Core Values of the College and live by its Seven Principles for a global society. The Honors upperclassmen were also honored at the ceremony for their achievements in scholarship, service and leadership. In his remarks following the pledge, Dr. Freeman stressed that with the emphasis on the Five Core Values, the College seeks to strengthen them inside, and through the focus on the Seven Principles it also seeks to strengthen them in their relations. Provost Bobby L. Wilson congratulated the new scholars, and others in the Honors family and the TSU community pledged to help them. The event was well attended by families and friends of the scholars in attendance.

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



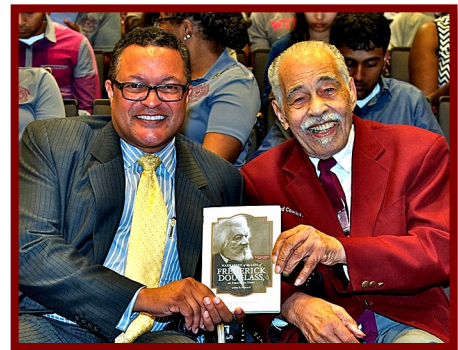
*Michael Koch, HISD, Lanetta Dickens, Graduate Research Asst., and Dean Jemison Pollard*

Dean Jemison Pollard has often thought that if one of the obstacles to a college education and better yet, an honors college education, was the successful completion of the SAT or ACT in our inner city schools, then something should be done to eliminate this obstacle. Thus, she has forged a partnership with HISD, through Mr. Michael Koch, Sr. Manager for College Success. Together they have identified students with a high GPA but average performance on the ACT/SAT on their first try. The high schools targeted are: Wheatley, Kashmere, Worthing, Booker T. Washington, and Jones. Up to twenty Honors College scholars will be divided into smaller groups and will go to one of the schools between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. one to two days per week for one month, leading up to the test date. The honor scholars will help students using the KAHN academy program that has been approved by HISD help build test scores. The next test date is March 10. It has been learned that schools that are not performing up to state standards are faltering in three critical areas: high dropout rate, failure of a sizable number of students who pass STARZ test (state mandated test); and,

few students identified as college ready. The Scholars - in - Training Program is designed to help the college readiness numbers, while demonstrating to the state that these great schools deserve to continue educating students. Ms. Lanetta Dickens, TSU graduate student, who is earning her M.Ed. in the area of Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in reading education, will facilitate the program. Miss Dickens is a graduate research assistant in the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College.

## Kenneth B. Morris Challenges Scholars to Keep the Movement of Equality Going in the 21st century

Kenneth B. Morris was the guest lecturer for the Frederick Douglass Lecture Series in the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College on November 7 in the Public Affairs Building. Mr. Morris, the great, great, great, grandson of Frederick Douglass and the great, great, grandson of Booker T. Washington, shared his family history and how the families of two of the most notable African American figures in history were brought together through marriage. Morris highlighted the life of both Douglass and Washington to a very attentive group of Honors College scholars, as well as, other TSU students, faculty and the Houston community. Also, in the audience were Dr. Rasaul Sanifred, Interim Associate Provost, and Dr. Michael Sollars, Chairperson of the Department of English. Program participants included: Dr. Merline Pitre, who wrote her dissertation on Frederick Douglass, spoke on the importance of Douglass to American History. Also, on the program were Dr. Gloria Batiste Roberts, Director of the award winning TSU Debate Team, who delivered the invocation,



*Frederick Douglass Lecture featuring Mr. Kenneth B. Morris, the great, great, great grandson of Frederick Douglass and great-great grandson of Booker T. Washington, along with Founding Dean Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, holding the book "The Narrative of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave" written by Frederick Douglass, Bicentennial Edition, 1818-2018*



*Back left to right: Raissa Teta, Kalifa Kelly, Shandon Neal, staff, Oluwaseyi Odiyeye, Orin Summers, David Anderson, Chuck Ononenyi, McKenzie Jones, Crystal Okoro, Clinton Eneh, Dean Jemison Pollard, Reine Yandouma, BJ McCaskill, Alusine Davis, Devonne Robinson, Malik Currie, Bose Anifowose, Delight Onyejebu, Alexis Shavers, Feven Gebremariam, Jimara Thomas.*

*Second row left to right: Oge Okafor, Tylar Larkins, Mariela Rodriguez, Kei Takahashi, Destiny Riddle, Kayli Smith, Julius Wilson, Mr. Kenneth B. Morris, Suzonne Goudeau, Jaida Lewis, Kiara Chatman, Shadman Shaikh, Kayla Gregory, Gabriella Tavera, Siete Richardson, Sneha Thomas.*

*Front row seated left to right: Anish Patel, Precious Oguonu, Renuka Nair, staff, Ashlynn McCall, Ana Gonzalez, Noemi Perez, Christina Vital, and Calvin Chukwuka*

with greetings by Miss Honors College, Suzonne Goodeau. Mrs. Alane Lillie, President of the Texas Spring Cypress Chapter of the Links Inc., also extended greetings, and the occasion was given by Sr. Political Science major, Julius Wilson.

The Links Chapter purchased 250 copies of the bicentennial edition of the book, Narrative of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, written by Frederick Douglass. Mr. Morris signed the books and presented one to each scholar present and other TSU students. Among those present in the audience were members of the Links, Inc.; Dr. Virgil Wood, scholar and civil rights activist; and the Honorary Teta Banks, former President of the United Nations Association.

The evening ended with Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, founding dean of the Honors College, delivering powerful closing remarks.

## Creative Expression

*"My struggle knows many faces*

*my people know many places*

*as I watch another family bury their son nephew brother*

*I shed a tear because I know there will be another*

*appropriate our culture and gentrify our hood*

*white wash our books, make babies think white is good*

*libraries empty but waiting for jordans for hours*

*when will our black kids learn knowledge is power.*

*they keep telling us slavery is a thing we should forget*

*how can we move forward when we bear the scars from the whip?"*

- BJ McCaskill

Freshman, Political Science, Chicago IL

## December 2017 Honors College Graduates



*Left to right: Knubian Gatlin, Temitope Gbaja, Ashtyn Duncan, Dr. Thomas Freeman, Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard, Jasmine Pitre, Lyton Ating'a, and Amiya Thomas*

On Friday December 1, 2017, at 12 p.m., the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College proudly celebrated its six Fall 2017 graduates at an elegant but intimate gathering with family and friends of the graduates. The Honors Graduation Recognition Ceremony was held in the Heartman Collection in the Robert J. Terry Library. Although it lasted about two hours, it was both solemn and heartwarming. Special guests Drs. Thomas Freeman, the founding dean, Humphrey Regis, former dean, and Monica Rasmus, Honors Faculty Fellow, were in attendance. Dr. Regis stated that this event was especially significant for him as he remembered the graduates from their freshman year when he was still the dean at the Honors College. He inspired the graduates with invaluable advice about the next step in their careers. Dr. Rasmus, spoke to the scholars

about what it means to graduate with honors. Dr. Freeman led the closing of the ceremony with a solemn graduation pledge. The graduates pledged to continue to uphold the core values of the Honors College (Honesty, Integrity, Community, Creativity, and Excellence) and look kindly upon their alma mater by financially supporting their beloved institution. Each graduate was honored with the special Honors College stole, a certificate of completion, as well as TSU Alumni memorabilia as tokens of appreciation. The December 2017 graduates are: Lyton Atinga (Electrical Engineering, 3.91), Ashtyn Duncan (Accounting, 3.44), Knubian Gatlin (Dietetics, 3.46), Temitope Gbaja (Electrical Engineering, 3.89), Jasmine Pitre (Biology, 3.32), and Amiya Thomas (Marketing, 3.73). A hearty congratulations to our graduates as they embark upon the next chapter in their lives.

## Book Review



*Dr. Kimberly Brown and Dean Jemison Pollard*

The Narrative of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Frederick Douglass: Bicentennial Ed. 1818-2018

On Tuesday November 21, 2017, Dr. Kimberly Brown, Professor of History at Texas Southern University, facilitated a book review of the Bicentennial Edition (1818-2018) of "The Narrative of

the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave" written by Frederick Douglass. The event was well-received by all those who attended. Dr. Brown kindled several fires in the minds of the scholars who participated in the book review. The discussions were thought-provoking, making a lasting impression on the attendees.



*Honors scholars with Drs. Rasmus, Brown and Jemison Pollard*

## Fall 2017 Honors Undergraduate Research and Creative Works Symposium

On November 28 and 29, 2017, the Honors College hosted its 6th semi-annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium, showcasing the interdisciplinary research and creative works of 31 junior and senior Honors scholars. Celebrating academic achievement, scholarly research, and artistic expressions, the symposium serves as a forum for upperclassmen to present their research and creative works that are completed in the course augmentation proposals. The presentation topics and content are based on the scholars' chosen field of study. Participants were given 5-10 minutes to present their topics.

Below are three presentations from the Fall 2017 Symposium.

### Radio Astronomy: A Research Opportunity at Texas Southern University



*Precious Zité Oguonu  
(Civil Engineering)*

Victor Migenes Ph.D (Faculty Mentor Dept of Physics)

Stars are more than the celestial bodies that beautify the sky at night. Like all living things, stars have a beginning and an end. The life span of stars differs based on their mass and luminosity. The initial stages of star formation and the late stages leading to death can be studied with radio astronomy techniques as stars do emit low energy photon which is visible in the radio and infrared band of the electromagnetic spectrum: this is where the radio telescope comes into play. Radio astronomy is the branch of astronomy that studies celestial objects that give off radio waves. Through radio astronomy we study astronomical phenomena that often emit radiation which seems "invisible" to our eyes but originates from another portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. For this reason, a small radio astronomy laboratory, consisting of a radio telescope and peripherals, have been installed on the roof of the Spearman Technology Building.

### Effects of Dietary Fatty Acid Composition in a High Fat Diet: A Research Opportunity at University of Texas-EI Paso (UTEP)



*Dorian Fernandez  
(Biology)*

Sudip Bajpeyi Ph.D (Faculty Mentor, UTEP)

High fat diets (HFD) are linked to the development of obesity and type 2 diabetes (T2D). Excess lipid accumulation in muscle has been shown to disrupt insulin signaling and in turn, contribute to insulin resistance. Replacement of saturated fatty acids in HFD, with unsaturated (mono- and poly- unsaturated) fatty acids has been shown to reduce risks for insulin resistance, obesity, and T2D. The purpose of this study was to determine the effects of high fat diets differing in fatty acid composition on skeletal muscle glycogen content, lipid content and mitochondrial content.

Male Sprague Dawley rats were fed a high fat western style diet (21% fat by weight) for 9 weeks to induce obesity, then divided into one of three HFD groups for an additional 6 weeks; a control group followed a 15-week chow diet (CD). The 6-week treatment diets included a fatty diet rich in: mixed fat (WD), monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA), or polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA). After 15 weeks, glycogen, mitochondria, and lipid contents were measured in extensor digitorum longus muscle using immunohistochemistry staining techniques and quantified with ImageJ software. 15 weeks of a high fat Western-style diet resulted in significantly greater glycogen. In conclusion, a 15-week Western-style high fat diet resulted in greater skeletal muscle glycogen content compared to a control diet, but did not affect lipid or mitochondria contents. A high fat diet rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids resulted in lower skeletal muscle mitochondria content compared to a high fat diet rich in monounsaturated fatty acids and a control chow diet.

## Symposium (continued)

### Analysis of HBCU Data Using Tableau Software

Dr. Richard Taylor (Faculty Mentor, Dept. of Information Technology)



*Jamalia Henry  
(Marketing)*

This semester I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Taylor in Information Technology. I wanted to do my CAP Presentation over something that interests me. Throughout the semester, other students & I worked with a software called Tableau. Originally, the software was used for exploring, visualizing, and analyzing databases but now it's become much more than that. Research originally began at Stanford University and was founded by Chris Stolte who specialized in Information Technology in the early 2000's. Tableau allows you to create charts over data in Excel and more. From there, once transporting to Tableau, one can create graphs, stories, charts, etc. It has been proven and said that every four year years, everything college students have learned throughout their core span now becomes inaccurate because of technology. However, with this software, once the information is processed, the software automatically updates it overtime which is definitely a plus and a great asset to technology, the business economy, and more.

## Honors College Christmas Party

On Friday December 1, 2017, the Honors College hosted its first annual Christmas Party for the Honors Scholars in the C.S. Lane building. Almost 70 students participated in the festivities. The gathering brought students from all majors and classes together as they enjoyed a camaraderie that is unique to the Honors College— high achieving students taking time to savor the upcoming holiday season. Dean Jemison Pollard initiated rounds of games that



*Holiday cake!*

got the scholars thinking



*Honors College Staff  
Dean Jemison Pollard, Renuka Nair,  
Shandon Neal, Theresa Jibunor,  
Chizara Nwakanma, and Lanetta Dickens*



*Playing themed games*



*Good food and good times!*

and laughing. There were gifts for all in attendance. The festive menu included sandwiches, pasta and meatballs, along with eggnog and wassail. For dessert, as renowned chef Julia Child once said “a party without cake is just a meeting,” there was cake!

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

We are continually updating our database of alumni of honors units at Texas Southern University. The database includes information on those past students who have been in the Honors College, Frederick Douglass Honors Program, and other honors activities or units that may have preceded them. If you are one of these alumni, please provide the information to the Honors College's Program Coordinator, Mr. Shandon Neal, at shandon.neal@tsu.edu or 713.313.1180. You also may provide the information to the Honors College Graduate Research Assistant, Ms. Theresa Jibunor at 713.313.6725.

# FREEMAN HONORS

## HONORS COLLEGE CORE VALUES

HONESTY, INTEGRITY, COMMUNITY, CREATIVITY AND EXCELLENCE

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PLACE  
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